

# Opioid Treatment Program (OTP) Service Continuity Project (SCP) II: Frequently Asked Questions

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## December 2015

These Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) about OTP SCP II are provided as a resource to potential project applicants.

### 1. General Webinar Questions

**Q: Will the PowerPoint presentation slides from the December 9<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> informational webinars be made available?**

A: Yes, a PDF of the slide deck was distributed to all registered attendees following both webinars. In addition, the slide deck will be posted to the SAMHSA website.

**Q: Did I have to attend an informational webinar to be eligible to submit an application?**

A: No. Webinar attendance is not mandatory to submit an application. However, those who were not able to attend one of the webinars live are strongly encouraged to view one of the webinar recordings (links to webinar recordings will be disseminated through the OTPDemo listserv).

**Q: Who can I contact with additional questions about the webinar and/or the project?**

A: Additional questions should be directed to Dina Passman, SAMHSA Public Health Advisor, at [otpdemo@feisystems.com](mailto:otpdemo@feisystems.com).

### 2. Project Timeline & Overview

**Q: What is the objective of this service continuity project?**

A: SAMHSA's objective is to facilitate patients' ability to share specific opioid treatment information in cases of care discontinuity in a manner that is sensitive to privacy concerns under 42 CFR Part 2 regulations, through an HIE organization. The project focuses on the exchange of OTP client information related to dosing, along with associated patient demographic information (in order to confirm the client's identity).

**Q: How many project teams will be funded?**

A: SAMHSA will fund one project team.

**Q: How will the winning applicant team be selected?**

A: A review committee will be convened to review the applications.

**Q: Is this a multi-year grant award?**

A: No. The grant award is for fiscal year (FY) 2016 only. Applicants should present their solution without the expectation of receiving a follow-up award from SAMHSA or FEi.

**Q: What level of funding will be provided to the awardee to fund the project?**

A: The selected project team will be awarded an as-yet-to-be determined amount (funded through 9/17/16) to reimburse costs incurred by the HIE (or organization with similar capabilities) awardee and participating OTPs.

**Q: When will the Request for Proposals (RFP) be made available?**

A: The RFP will be made available in early January 2016.

**Q: How can I access the RFP/application once it is released?**

A: Once released, the project application will be disseminated to all individuals who registered for or attended an informational webinar. In addition, the project application will be posted on the SAMHSA website.

**Q: Did SAMHSA fund a similar project last year?**

A: Yes, last year SAMHSA funded OTP SCP I. That project was successful and is now completed. Resources from last year's project will be available to this year's awardee.

**Q: How is this year's project different from last year's project?**

A: This year's project differs in the following ways:

- Includes new use case for non-emergency service disruption.
- Increase from connecting at least two (2) OTPs to connecting at least four (4) OTPs.
- Applicants must demonstrate an existing need to share information among OTPs.
- Awardee technology partners are not required to have current capability to produce/process Continuity of Care documents (CCDs), but must plan to develop this capability during the project.
- Project will include direct patient engagement.
- Awardee will have access to OTP SCP I resources and lessons learned.

**Q: Should the project awardee anticipate any benefits in addition to the monetary award?**

A: FEi Systems will offer tailored technical assistance and training to the awarded team. The awardee will also have access to the resources that were created during last year's project.

**Q: When are electronic submissions of project applications due?**

A: Project applications will be due in mid-February 2016. Consult the RFP for the official due date.

**Q: Will applicants be responsible for designating tasks/roles to their project team?**

A: Yes, applicants are required to outline tasks and funding levels in their applications. These responsibilities will be finalized with SAMHSA and FEi as part of the project kick off process. Consult the RFP for more instruction.

**Q: When will the winning awardee be selected and notified?**

A: The winning awardee will be announced in early March 2016. Consult the RFP for the official selection and notification date.

**Q: Are there limitations regarding use of the funding?**

A: The funding can be used for development and implementation costs, including hardware and software. The funding cannot be used for out of state travel.

### 3. Project Eligibility

**Q: Who is eligible to submit an application?**

A: HIEs and OTPs are eligible to submit applications. All applicants must include a participating HIE organization and OTPs as part of their solution.

**Q: Are both state and regional/local HIEs eligible to apply?**

A: Yes, both are eligible to apply for and win the award.

**Q: Is the project focused solely on OTP client dosing, i.e. no other clinical services?**

A: Yes, the project focuses on the exchange of information related to dosing.

**Q: What types of patient demographic information will be transmitted along with the dosing information?**

A: The exact demographic data to be transmitted have not yet been finalized. However, likely variables include the client's name, date of birth, and a unique identifier.

**Q: Do the OTPs need to use different EHR systems?**

A: The project requires the utilization of multiple separate (unique) systems that are not currently interoperable. Use of EHRs is not a requirement for project applicants (e.g., OTPs may use medication management systems (MMS) capable of communication with a HIE). The systems can be from the same vendor, however.

**Q: What integration work will be required for the project?**

A: The following integration work will be required:

- Integration of HIE Infrastructure with OTP Provider EHR and/or MMS;
- Integration of Consent Management Solution with HIE Infrastructure; and
- Integration of Consent Management Solution with OTP Provider EHR and/or MMS.

**Q: Are organizations that were involved in last year's project eligible to participate in this year's project?**

A: Yes, they are eligible; however, priority will be given to organizations that were not involved in last year's project in order to further increase technical capacity throughout the country.

**Q: Can an organization be the provider for more than one of the four OTPs?**

A: Yes. The requirement is for the number of individual OTPs (i.e. treatment sites), not the number of organizations.

**Q: Can interested OTPs apply by themselves or must they be part of a project team?**

A: Applications must include a complete project team. We encourage you to work with your local, regional, or state regulatory officials, such as your State Opioid Treatment Authority (SOTA), if you require assistance in finding partner organizations.

#### 4. Content2Share Questions

**Q: Is use of the 'Consent2Share' (C2S) tool required for this project?**

A: No, use of Consent2Share is not required for this project; it is an example of software that could be used during the project. If the HIE uses alternative consent software, that can be used as well. C2S was discussed as it is already developed, useable, and customizable.

**Q: Will preference be given to applications that utilize C2S technology? How much detail must be included in the application about use of a consent tool other than C2S?**

A: No, preference will not be given to applications that propose use of C2S software. However, the applicant will be required to go into significant detail about the consent software that will be used.

**Q: Is there a fee to utilize the C2S software?**

A: No, there is no fee to utilize the C2S software. C2S is an open-source software tool. More information about C2S is available at <http://obhita.github.io/Consent2Share/>.

#### 5. Role of FEi Systems as Project Implementation and TA Lead

**Q: What is the purpose of the subcontract with FEi Systems? How will subcontract awards be administered to the awarded applicant team?**

A: The funding for this project award will be transferred to the awardee team through a subcontract with FEi Systems. The funding is being derived from the Behavioral Health Information Technologies and Standards (BHITS) contract, for which FEi Systems is the prime contractor.

**Q: What services will FEi Systems be providing?**

A: In addition to administering the subcontract with the awarded applicant team, FEi Systems will provide general technical assistance support based on the awardee team's requests and needs.