

State of Vermont

Department of Mental Health 280 State Drive, NOB 2 North Waterbury, VT 05671-2010

http://mentalhealth.vermont.gov/

Agency of Human Services

[phone] 802-241-0090 [fax] 802-241-0100 [tty] 800-253-0191

RFGA 110: Mental Health Block Grants

Special Project Funds

TO: Applicants and Interested parties FROM: Department of Mental Health (DMH)

DATE: May 3, 2024

RE: RFGA Questions and Responses

ISSUE DATE: 04/01/2024

QUESTIONS DUE: 05/02/2024, 4:30pm ET

RFP RESPONSES DUE BY: 05/10/2024, 4:30pm ET

1. What is the age range considered for "young adults"?

- a) The intent is to focus on the transition aged youth (or young adults) who would benefit from the proposed project and addressing an unmet need for that group. With the proposal you can define the need/target ages of population to benefit from the project.
- 2. Re the Mental Health Block Grant, we are wondering under training and Program Support for Home-based CRT Providers whether there is any place for language videos that address this training?
 - a) The RFGA for mental health block grant funds is accepting applications for work both within the specialty areas called out in the RFGA or other projects that would fit the parameters of the block grant for individuals with Severe Mental Illness and/or youth with a Severe Emotional Disturbance as outlined by the federal mandates associated with these funds. If an applicant wanted to include work with another agency to meet their intended goal, in this case providing support to homebased CRT providers, they could include that in their application.
- 3. I'm looking to verify if the application an applicant is looking to submit, is to follow section 4 in the RFGA? Or is there an online portal?
 - a) Please follow the instructions in the RFGA. There is no online submission form.
- 4. Is the applicant briefing also to talk to applicants about this grant proposal and to learn more?
 - a) The applicant briefing will be an opportunity for us to review the RFA and answer questions that come up.
- 5. We were curious if it is possible to see scoring sheets from last years applicant pools for those awarded.
 - a) This is a new RFGA opportunity, so we do not have documentation to share. The evaluation criteria are included in the RFGA.

- 6. When could applicants plan to hear back on their proposal if grant agreements go out in June and applications are due May 10th?
 - a) We plan to review and make some decisions by the end of the month. Agreements may not be able to start right on June 1st, but we will work with awardees to plan based on their proposed work plan. The June language is intended to show that we could start in June or later but not sooner.
- 7. What wouldn't the Mental Health Block Grant not cover as far as expenses go? Our project looks to implement a "Therapy Pod", a custom-built structure that is movable and would be partnered with a middle/high school to create private space for youth to connect with counselors for mental health services. But would this grant cover contractors' expenses (their time) or would this grant only look to cover materials needed for the grant project?
 - a) Exclusion criteria are provided in section 2.7 of the RFGA. The grant should only propose work related to the grant project.
- 8. Does this grant cover indirect costs as well?
 - a) Applicants may include the *de minimis* 10% indirect in their budget plan or provide documentation for a calculated Federal indirect rate that may be used.
- 9. Price Schedule (Sec. 4.6): It says the proposal must include a funding proposal. To just double check, this section is asking applicants to layout a budget proposal and include that into the application?
 - a) Yes. The detailed budget can be up to a maximum of \$50,000.