

RFGA115**Infant, Early Childhood and Family Mental Health Consultation**

TO: Bidders and Interested Parties
FROM: Department of Mental Health (DMH)
DATE: May 20, 2024
RE: RFP Questions and Responses

ISSUE DATE: 05/09/2024

QUESTIONS DUE: 05/20/2024, 4:30pm ET

RFP RESPONSES DUE BY: 06/07/2024, 4:30pm ET

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1. **We are interested in offering consultation, education and consultation services to programs providing afterschool care and summer programming for children within the public school systems. These programs are also underserved and supported and are challenged by children presenting with significant emotional, social, and behavioral needs. These children are usually age 5 and above. Would we be able to provide this service for children of school age range? Would we need to focus on children eight and under?**
 - a. Through this RFGA, the Department of Mental Health (DMH) is interested in building the capacity of Infant, Early Childhood and Family Mental Health Consultation for children *through age eight* and their families across Vermont's Early Childhood system as a strategy to promote inclusion in the classroom and reduce suspension and expulsion. This may also include but is not limited to providing training to teachers and staff in early childhood systems such as afterschool care and summer programming on trauma-responsive strategies within these settings and education of parents/caregivers who are seeking knowledge on child development, trauma, social and emotional learning.
 2. **Could WE share of the grant between two Howard center programs: ECFMH program serving children/families birth through 5 and family and community programs serving children/families 5 and over?**
 - a. The grant could be shared by multiple programs within your organization, however services funded through the grant must be focused on children only through age eight, their families and early childhood providers/teachers/systems.
 3. **Could we utilize funds to provide evidence-based psychoeducational groups to parents at their children's childcare programs?**



- a. Yes, education of parents/caregivers who are seeking knowledge on child development, trauma, social and emotional learning is an allowable activity through this grant.

4. Can you please clarify if this RFGA115 is for Mental Health, DA's, specifically?

- a. The state is interested in proposals from qualified applicants to build capacity for IECFMH consultation within Vermont's Early Childhood system as a strategy to promote inclusion in the classroom and reduce suspension and expulsion. For the purpose of this RFGA, qualified applicants are not exclusive to Designated Agencies. Qualifications include capacity to provide training on trauma-responsive strategies within early education settings and education of parents/caregivers who are seeking knowledge on child development, trauma, social and emotional learning. Per section #2 of the RFGA, these services are not intended for intensive or long-term mental health treatment services, or as treatment services delivered in a non-natural setting. In addition to other applicant requirements listed in section #2.5 of the RFGA, proposals must clearly demonstrate that the services proposed contribute to building capacity, quality and/or expand reach to populations not currently being served by IECFMH consultation.

5. Can the PCC network apply for this RFGA?

- a. Yes, Networks such as the PCCN can apply.

