

Bringing Recovery Supports to Scale (BRSS) Policy Academy

Solicitation for Applications to Implement Local Mini-Grants to Foster Peer Integration

1. Overview

The BRSS Policy Academy, comprised of representatives from The NYS Offices of Alcoholism and Substance Abuse Services (OASAS), Mental Health (OMH); and Department of Health (DOH); and peer advocacy organizations, (Mental Health Empowerment Project, Coalition NY and FOR-NY); Optum Health managed care; mental health and substance abuse providers; housing advocates and peers; is pleased to announce the availability of funds to support capacity building for local integration of peer recovery supports within 4 communities in NYS. The goal is to support projects that will assist in realizing the BRSS vision: *New York State will have a recovery-based wellness system in which peer-peer services will be universally accessible, integrated within a collaborative environment of shared experience and recognized as valuable and equitably reimbursed.* BRSS is seeking brief proposals for support from local networks to assist in developing a capacity for peer services integration within substance abuse and/or mental health programs. Twenty thousand (\$20,000) has been budgeted for this solicitation to fund 4 projects up to \$5,000 each project. All projects should expect to be completed no later than May 1, 2014.

II. Eligible Projects

BRSS would like to fund projects that demonstrate the application of innovative models of peer integration within treatment and/or recovery substance use disorder and/or mental health programs or that demonstrate the development of a local community capacity to implement innovative models of peer integration. Applicants should focus on one of the following:

- Creative projects related to addressing identified needs in the local community (such as projects focused on youth, families, veterans, older adults, education/vocation, health, etc.) through peer services;
- Development of a viable and sustainable local coalition that includes managed care entities, substance abuse and mental health providers and peers to support peer services integration;
- Development of a grass-roots networking model to bring peers together to organize for systems transformation;
- Development of local peer leadership to advocate for peer services integration;
- Conduct of a community readiness assessment for the integration of peer services inclusive of the communities' strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and barriers to peer services integration;
- Development of a partnership with an academic institution to facilitate the capacity to develop and submit grant applications for support for peer services integration;
- Conduct of a community recovery prevalence survey;
- Conduct of a community need assessment survey regarding the needs of individuals in recovery within an identified community;
- Conduct of a brief demonstration project on the integration of peers within specified programs;

- Conduct of training needs assessment for community leaders in order to develop support for a Recovery Oriented System of Care within a specified community;
- Utilization of peers to facilitate enrollment of their peers in Medicaid, health exchanges and private insurance as required under the federal ACA.

III. Eligible Applicants

Peer-led initiatives associated with recovery or addiction and mental health treatment; non-profit housing organizations; academic institutions; managed care entities and peer advocacy organizations interested in developing peer services for community-wide integration are encouraged to apply. Each Peer-led initiative may only submit one application, and must demonstrate that there is collaboration and consensus among the involved organizations; and that peers were involved in the development of the application and will be involved in the implementation of the proposed project. Applications for funding must be accompanied by a letter from the peer-led initiative and lead organization with statements from partnering organizations indicating their support for and/or involvement on the project. Applicants will be contracting with the Research Foundation for Mental Hygiene and will be required to complete a W-9 as well as a fully executed contract prior to the awarding of funds.

IV. Submission Requirements

Interested applicants should submit a 3-5 page typed proposal that must include the following items:

- Description of the innovative peer-led services model, if applicable; or description of the peer networking activity(s) that will assist the peer community to develop networking opportunities where peers may gather to disseminate information with each other, identify and share local resources and develop systems advocacy platforms to impact the systems of care; (10 points)
- Description of the current capacity or readiness of the community to implement the integration of peer services; (10 points)
- Rationale for the selection of the proposed project; (10 points)
- Implementation Plan that identifies and describes the program (s) that will be the focus of the project; target population to be the focus of the project; specific leaders that will be involved; target dates for execution of the project; identification of external resources required by the project; and procedures to ensure regular and effective communication among all partnering organizations. (20 points)
- Project management/Organizational Capacity-description of an individual(s) that will be responsible for managing and implementing the project, their qualifications and past experience on a project related to the proposed project; examples of organizational readiness to implement the proposed project. (10 points)
- Goals and Objectives-identify the specific goals of the project and a listing of measureable objectives for each goal identified. Proposals should identify expected outcomes of the project and may include process evaluation components. (20 points)
- Budget-the total amount of support requested with a description of how this support will be utilized. Identify the types and amounts of in-kind resources that will contribute to the project. (10 points)

- Sustainability-include a descriptive plan for continuation of the project's goals to sustain the community's momentum for the integration of peer services. (10 points)

V. Reporting Requirements

Successful applicants will be expected to provide written monthly updates on their progress or barriers to progress. All projects must submit a final report in writing that includes a summary of the project's goals, implementation plan, activities conducted, identified barriers to implementation, accomplishments and next steps.

VI. Application Instructions

Applicants should submit one original and three copies to the BRSS Team Lead, Lureen McNeil on or before cob December 30, 2014.

Address proposals to:

Lureen McNeil

501 7th Ave.

New York, New York 10018

Copies only may be emailed to LureenMcNeil@oasas.ny.gov

Questions may be directed to Susan Brandau, BRSS Team Coordinator at Susanbrandau@oasas.ny.gov or by calling 518-485-2107.

VII. Prohibited Expenditures

The following activities are expressly prohibited by The Center for Social Innovation (C4), the grantor to OASAS that is acting as an agent for CSAT:

- Direct mental health or substance use treatment, services, or care.
- Any activity that violates local, State, or Federal laws or the terms of SAMHSA contract with C4 for the operation of the SAMHSA BRSS TACS project
- Payment for professional services not directly related to the proposed activities that support the BRSS TACS project.
- Costs for the creation of new organizations.
- Fundraising.
- Indirect costs/institutional overhead (indirect costs are those not readily identifiable with a particular cost objective but necessary to the general operation of a nonprofit organization and the conduct of the activities it performs).
- Sub-granting or re-granting (pass-through awards).
- Lobbying activities.
- To supplant funding for programs or activities that is currently funded.