



Request for Proposal
Questions and Responses

Request for Proposal: Improving Youth Behavioral Health Outcomes in Boston through Behavioral Health Workforce Expansion

Proposal Due Date Extended: 3/13/2023, 9:00 AM EST

Q1: Can one organization submit multiple applications as long as they represent distinct and separate projects? Please advise.

A: A vendor may submit multiple applications to support a specific service under the RFP. Or the vendor may submit 1 RFP and detail only the services they can support under the RFP. The vendor may state reason for not supporting the entire RFP.

Q2: As we look to build our response and budget, we wanted to know how many providers you anticipate supporting. We have multiple internal and partnership-based behavioral health workforce pipeline projects. I read in the RFP that the amount and number of contracts is tied to the number of qualified proposals, however, a rough request range or knowing how many organizations you expect to support would help ensure our response and its goals maximize a potential award.

A: We are anticipating supporting 1 – 3 applicants. The number of applicants will depend on the proposals received, scopes and budgets given the amount of funding in this RFP.

Q3: Two additional questions came up in conversation with one of our partners. The proposal references high school aged youth and says students. Would programs that support young adults (18-26) who are out of school to enter the behavioral health workforce be eligible? For example, training young people with lived experience to enter the field as a peer mentor. Additionally, would programs that expose undergraduates who are undecided on their field of study to the behavioral health field be eligible?

A: The focus of the RFP is for people 18 years and older who plan to enter the behavioral health workforce upon completion or graduation of their training program. Currently enrolled high school students are not the focus of this RFP. Young adults would be eligible to receive support for programs that would allow them to enter the behavioral health workforce, and to start working in a behavioral health role, which may include programs for undergraduates.

To clarify, the RFP states on page 4: "The vendor would work in tandem, and coordinate with, work being done within BPHC to support programs that develop, implement, and disseminate enrichment programs for high school age youth who may pursue certificate, graduate, and

undergraduate training in behavioral health roles" - this is in reference to the vendor coordinating, when appropriate, with internal BPHC programming which reaches high school aged youth, and is not about the applicant developing programming for high school aged youth. In the RFP the term 'students' references any person who is in an academic or certification program.

Q4: What ages/level of students can the grant funding support? Is it only high school? Can the grant support middle school, undergraduate, or graduate students instead of or in addition to high school students?

A: The grant funding can support students ages 18 years and up- including recent graduates of high school, undergraduate and graduate students. This grant funding is not intended to focus its reach on currently enrolled high school-aged students.

Q5: The RFP says "proposal must show that participants are willing to work in community behavioral health settings in the City of Boston upon graduation/completion of certificate." Does working for a behavioral health nonprofit located in Boston suffice to meet this requirement?

A: Working for a behavioral health nonprofit in Boston is sufficient to meet the requirement, as long as the organization maintains a priority of serving populations living within Boston who have been marginalized (students from culturally, linguistically, racially, and otherwise diverse backgrounds: LGBTQ+, persons with disabilities, formerly unhoused, immigrant or first generation, formerly incarcerated, etc.).

Q6: Do programs proposed need to operate year-round?

A: It is ideal that the programs operate year-round to be able to meet the current behavioral health needs of Boston residents, especially to enhance access to behavioral health services for priority populations in Boston, particularly youth.

Q7: Are there any requirements around training and certification?

A: Training and certification must be aligned with fields that are creditable and can be integrated into provider and community-based settings for example, paraprofessionals in behavioral health fields (i.e., mental health specialist certification, peer counselor certification (NCPS), recovery coach certification (CARC), etc.).