



Transgender Suicide Prevention RFP Questions and Answers

1. Catchment Area – would this program design be expected to serve the city as a whole or state as a whole? Or would we be able to present a program that focuses specifically on Northern Manhattan?

ANSWER – Program catchment area is per the discretion of the applicant. Applicants must describe the region/catchment area that the CTYMHS-SP Program will serve in the Population section of the RFP Proposal Narrative, Section 6.2.a.

2. We have a prototype for rural area. If we partner with all counties and define and build the model/process year one in Greene County, spread the model from 2nd to 5th years for close to Greene to farthest Counties for LGBTQIA. Would this be an acceptable proposal? Who else is applying?

ANSWER – Program catchment area is per the discretion of the applicant. Applicants must describe the region/catchment area that the CTYMHS-SP Program will serve in the Population section of the RFP Proposal Narrative, Section 6.2.a.

Per RFP Section 3.2 Debriefing, OMH will not offer ranking, statistical, or cost information of other proposals until after the NYS Office of the State Comptroller has reviewed all awards under this RFP.

3. This is an eligibility question. We are a non-profit provider of outpatient MH and SUD treatment and services. We are not grass roots or led by members of the focus population. The following language from the RFP is causing us to question our eligibility:
 - “Applicant Missions must include providing outreach and support to the focus population in this RFP, preferably with a Suicide Prevention focus.”
 - “OMH is announcing the availability of funds for a non-profit agency(ies) or tribal organization(s) that is **led by, staffed by**, and supporting TGNCNB individuals through youth suicide prevention programming.”

- “OMH will provide funding for this program operated by a “grass roots” or community wraparound agency.”
- “...program will be required to establish partnerships with a behavioral health provider agency to facilitate access to treatment services for individuals who need them.”

Can you tell us whether we are or are not eligible to apply?

*ANSWER - Applicants must meet the eligibility criteria included in RFP Section 2.7, Eligible Agencies **and** propose programs that serve the Transgender, Gender Non-Conforming, and Non-Binary (TGNCNB) focus population of this RFP as described in Section 1.3. Per RFP Section 4.3 Process for Awarding Contracts, priority will be given to proposals with TGNCNB leadership or staff. If no passing proposals are received from organizations with TGNCNB leadership or staff then the award(s) will be made to the highest scoring applicant without TGNCNB leadership/staff.*

If the agency meets the eligibility criteria for applicants included in RFP Section 2.7, Eligible Agencies, as well as the eligibility criteria for Behavioral Health Providers included in RFP Section 5.2.2 Partnership with Behavioral Health Provider, and has the capacity to fulfill the objectives and responsibilities for CTYMHS-SP Programs as described in RFP Section 5.2, then the agency may submit a proposal describing how it will internally facilitate access to treatment services between its CTYMHS-SP Program and its qualified behavioral health services provider. Rather than submit an MOU/statement of support as outlined in 6.3(g), the applicant must justify how this model is more beneficial to the TGNCNB youth and young adults to be served by the Program.

4. We are trying to decipher the amount of funding we can apply for through this funding opportunity and the number of awards that will be made across the state. There seems to be conflicting information in the RFP between Sections 1.2 and 5.4. If you could please clarify the funding available for award(s) and if possible, the anticipated number of awards?

*ANSWER – One **or** multiple CTYMHS-SP Programs will be awarded until a total of \$1M in annual funding is awarded. Total CTYMHS-SP funding will not exceed \$1M annually. Should the process for awarding contracts outlined in Section 4.3 identify an awardee that does not receive the maximum of \$1M annual funding available, then the next highest scoring applicant will be awarded until a total of \$1M in annual funding is awarded to CTYMHS-SP applicants. Applicants proposing to solely serve individuals within the five boroughs of New York City can apply for up to \$500,000 in annual funding, for a maximum award of \$2.5M over a 5-year contract. Applicants proposing to serve individuals in Rest-of-State can apply for up to \$1M in annual funding, for a maximum award of \$5M over a 5-year contract.*

5. As an awardee of the Suicide Prevention in Diverse Youth RFP, are we eligible to apply for this RFP?

ANSWER - Yes, an organization can apply for the current “Connecting Transgender, Gender Non-conforming and Non-binary (TGNCNB) Youth to Mental Health Supports – Suicide Prevention”

RFP if they were awarded via the “Suicide Prevention Programs for Hispanic/Latino, Black/African American, Asian American/Pacific Islander, American Indian/Alaskan Native and LGBTQI+ New York Youth and Young Adults” RFP last year. Note that the organization must propose a distinct program and/or program site to serve TGNCNB youth and young adults and may not request duplicate funding for the previously awarded program.

6. On page 23, the RFP mentions an evaluation of program implementation. Will this evaluation be done by a third-party? If so, has OMH already determined an evaluator for this effort, or will this be an upcoming solicitation?

ANSWER – The New York State Office of Mental Health will conduct the program evaluation.

7. Regarding the budget, it is understood that the total allocation is \$1 million annually. How many awards does the agency intend to make? What is an appropriate request amount?

ANSWER – One or multiple CTYMHS-SP Programs will be awarded until a total of \$1M in annual funding is awarded. Total CTYMHS-SP funding will not exceed \$1M annually. Should the process for awarding contracts outlined in Section 4.3 identify an awardee that does not receive the maximum of \$1M annual funding available, then the next highest scoring applicant will be awarded until a total of \$1M in annual funding is awarded to CTYMHS-SP applicants. Applicants proposing to solely serve individuals within the five boroughs of New York City can apply for up to \$500,000 in annual funding, for a maximum award of \$2.5M over a 5-year contract. Applicants proposing to serve individuals in Rest-of-State can apply for up to \$1M in annual funding, for a maximum award of \$5M over a 5-year contract.

Applicants have the discretion to request award amounts commensurate with the scope of work they propose. Per RFP section 1.1, the goal of the award(s) is to cover wide reaching efforts throughout the state via one or multiple awardees. Amounts requested should match this goal.

8. If an agency was awarded the Suicide Prevention Grant (Special Populations) last year, can the agency apply for this opportunity/RFP as well?

ANSWER – Yes, an organization can apply for the current “Connecting Transgender, Gender Non-conforming and Non-binary (TGNCNB) Youth to Mental Health Supports – Suicide Prevention” RFP if they were awarded via the “Suicide Prevention Programs for Hispanic/Latino, Black/African American, Asian American/Pacific Islander, American Indian/Alaskan Native and LGBTQI+ New York Youth and Young Adults” RFP last year. Note that the organization must propose a distinct program and/or program site to serve TGNCNB youth and young adults and may not request duplicate funding for the previously awarded program.

9. Can applications be submitted for both of the current Suicide Prevention RFPs, or is it one or the other?

ANSWER – Yes, an organization may apply to the “Connecting Transgender, Gender Non-conforming and Non-binary (TGNCNB) Youth to Mental Health Supports – Suicide Prevention”

RFP as well as the “Connecting Youth to Mental Health Supports – Suicide Prevention” RFP. If applying to both RFPs, the organization must propose a distinct program and/or program site to serve TGNCNB youth and young adults and may not request duplicate funding for the same program proposed in the application for the “Connecting Youth to Mental Health Supports – Suicide Prevention” RFP.

10. We are located in the Western region where there are 19 counties. Should the RFP serve all 19 counties or can we concentrate locally to Tompkins and surrounding Counties? Are MOUs required with County mental Health Departments?

ANSWER – Program catchment area is per the discretion of the applicant. Applicants must describe the region/catchment area that the CTYMHS-SP Program will serve in the Population section of the RFP Proposal Narrative, Section 6.2.a.

There is no requirement for awardees to have MOUs with county departments of mental health.

11. We would like to utilize remote technology as part of the service provided. Is remote technology an appropriate application for the services you are seeking?

ANSWER – Yes, CTYMHS-SP Programs have the discretion to provide treatment-adjacent services as in-person, remote, or a combination based on what will be most beneficial for the TGNCNB youth to be served. Applicants must describe how these treatment adjacent services will be offered in the Description of Program section of the Proposal Narrative, Section 6.3.c.

12. Are there any considerations or concerns related to promoting and/or partnering with our Behavioral Health program within our organization?

ANSWER – If the agency meets the eligibility criteria for applicants included in RFP Section 2.7, Eligible Agencies, as well as the eligibility criteria for Behavioral Health Providers included in RFP Section 5.2.2 Partnership with Behavioral Health Provider, and has the capacity to fulfill the objectives and responsibilities for CTYMHS-SP Programs as described in RFP Section 5.2, then the agency may submit a proposal describing how it will internally facilitate access to treatment services between its CTYMHS-SP Program and its qualified behavioral health services provider. Rather than submit an MOU/statement of support as outlined in 6.3(g), the applicant must justify how this model is more beneficial to the TGNCNB youth and young adults to be served by the Program.

13. The target population states underserved youth and young adults up to age 24. Would there be a requirement to include participants aged 17 and under, or will individuals solely between the ages of 18 and 24 be allowable?

ANSWER – Applicants have the discretion to serve subpopulations of the transgender, gender non-conforming, and non-binary youth (TGNCNB) population, including by age. In the Population

section of the Proposal Narrative, Section 6.2.b. applicants should articulate the demographic information of TGNCNB youth/young adults to be served by the Program, including their age range. In Section 6.2.c.2, applicants must project the demographics of TGNCNB youth/young adults to be served by the Program each year over the 5-year contract, including by age group.

14. Is there a specified target number of participants per month, per year, or for the entire contract period that we are required to include?

ANSWER – There is no minimum required number of participants to be served. However, in the Population section of the RFP Proposal Narrative, Section 6.2.c.1, applicants must provide estimates of how many TGNCNB youth/young adults will be served by the CTYMHS-SP Program over the 5-year contract, inclusive of those who are questioning/struggling with gender identity. Applicants proposing to serve more youth will be evaluated accordingly in the Population section of the proposal narrative.

15. Is it permissible to allocate a portion of the funding to hire one of the specified required positions (5.3 Staffing/Personnel Requirements), or must these positions already exist prior to the application?

ANSWER - Yes, awardees may use the funding to fill staffing needs.

16. Can cisgender male and female youth and young adults be served with these funds?

ANSWER: Refer to RFP section 1.3 Focus Population/Eligibility Criteria. These funds are intended to support underserved youth and young adults up to age 24 years residing in NYS identifying as Transgender, Gender Non-Conforming, and Non-Binary (TGNCNB), inclusive of those who are questioning/struggling with gender identity. Mandatory CTYMHS-SP treatment adjacent services as described in RFP Section 5.2.1 may involve collaterals such as family members/key support systems, and allies, including cisgender male and female individuals. However, these collaterals are not considered CTYMHS-SP service recipients.