



Youth Suicide Prevention RFP Questions and Answers

1. Page 4 of the RFP identifies that 5 awards were made in 2022. Can you please identify who received the 5 awards from the 2022 procurement?

*ANSWER – The following organizations 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 in 2022:*

*Brooklyn Community Service*

*Comunilife*

*NYC Health & Hospitals-Elmhurst*

*RISE Life Services*

*VNS Health*

2. Is a partnership between two (2) or more agencies required as a component of this RFP? If an agency can provide all required Objective 1 – Treatment Adjacent Services and also provide Objective 2 – Behavioral Health Services within their agency, is a partnership still a requirement?

*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 CYMHS-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 CYMHS-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 youth and young adults in the focus populations to be served by the Program.*

3. This is in reference to the sentence “Applicants can submit a proposal to one or both of the CYMHS RFPs, but can receive only ONE award.” Can an agency be a lead applicant on one CYMHS RFP submission and a partner/subcontractor on the other CYMHS RFP, even if both

applications are awarded? Or, is an agency only allowed to be listed on one CYMHS RFP, either as a lead applicant or a partner/subcontractor?

*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. If applying to both RFPs, an agency may be listed as lead applicant on one application and partner/subcontractor on the other. The language of the sentence “Applicants can submit a proposal to one or both of the CYMHS RFPs, but can receive only ONE award” is to be disregarded as it does not apply to this RFP. It is language from another RFP that was carried over into the template used for this RFP.*

4. 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.*

5. From the RFP – Grantees will be required to facilitate a mix of tailored, evidence-based, evidence-informed and/or innovative programming and partner with an identified behavioral health provider to facilitate access to treatment services for individuals who need them.

Can the grantee be the behavioral health provider?

*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 CYMHS-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 CYMHS-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 youth and young adults in the focus populations to be served by the Program.*

6. Is there a goal for the MWBE, and will there be a form available to document it?

*ANSWER – There are no MWBE goals associated with this procurement.*

7. Can an agency submit an application for both of the Suicide Prevention RFPs currently available or just 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.*

8. For Region 1 – NYC, can the program funding be limited to one county (borough)?

*ANSWER – Program catchment area within a Region is per the discretion of the applicant. Per RFP Section 1.2 Allocation of Programs, CYMHS-SP programs may serve up to the maximum number of counties in each NYS OMH Region as described in Table 1 in Section 1.2 of the RFP. In the Population section of the RFP Proposal Narrative, Section 6.2.a, applicants must describe the region/catchment area that the CYMHS-SP Program will primarily serve, including counties.*

9. Are there more recent State statistics – 2020 stats do not include COVID’s impact.

*ANSWER – The Centers for Disease Control (CDC) recently released the results of the Youth Risk Behavior Surveillance System (YRBSS) for the years 2011-2021 which include the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on middle school and high school students. You can find the full report [here](#).*

*For the latest NYS and County rates of suicide mortality and self-inflicted injury hospitalization please access the [NYS Community Health Indicator Reports Dashboard](#).*

10. In Section 6.7 – Financial Assessment, the note states that funds cannot be used for construction costs to house/locate the program. Can grant funding be used for minor renovations of a leased space and for other start-up activities including the purchasing of furniture, vehicle, equipment? Will there be a separate pot of money for start-up?

*ANSWER – There is no additional start-up funding for this program. Awardees can use their funding to cover start-up and phase-in activities, including furniture and equipment. These funds cannot be used for Capital Improvements or purchase/lease of a vehicle.*

11. The address for the proposed program site is pending – can we put TBD for street address with a known city and zip code?

*ANSWER – Note per RFP Section 5.3.1, CYMHS-SP programs must provide services in dedicated spaces that are designed to promote openness, cleanliness, comfort, safety, and social connections; and in accessible locations (e.g., near public transportation, in buildings that are mobility accessible, that allow entry on evenings/weekends). Applicants must describe this in the Implementation section of the Proposal Narrative, Section 6.4.e and 6.4.f and should note if their program site street address is TBD.*

12. Can the grant funds be used to support an existing but unfunded program?

*ANSWER – Yes.*

13. For the Long Island region, is it expected that the awarded agency serve both Nassau and Suffolk County? Or can we focus on one?

*ANSWER – Program catchment area within a Region is per the discretion of the applicant. Per RFP Section 1.2 Allocation of Programs, CYMHS-SP programs may serve up to the maximum number of counties in each NYS OMH Region as described in Table 1 in Section 1.2 of the RFP. In the Population section of the RFP Proposal Narrative, Section 6.2.a, applicants must describe the region/catchment area that the CYMHS-SP Program will primarily serve, including counties.*

14. On question 6.1 b & c, can b & c be the same person?

*ANSWER – Yes.*

15. On 6.1b, is this expected to be the clinical person?

*ANSWER – Per RFP Section 6.1.b, applicants should identify the management-level person responsible for coordinating/leading efforts to reduce disparities in access, quality, and treatment outcomes for marginalized populations.*

16. On 6.1c, is this expected to be an administrative person?

*ANSWER – Per RFP Section 6.1.c, applicants should identify the management-level person responsible for coordinating/leading efforts to ensure incorporation of feedback from participants in services in continuous agency improvement. Information provided should include the individual's title, organizational positioning and their planned activities for coordinating these efforts.*

17. On the budget, under administrative, is it 15% of the total budget? Or is it 15% of Direct Costs?

ANSWER – *Per RFP Section 6.7a, administrative costs cannot exceed 15% of the total budgeted costs.*

18. Is there a preference for serving a whole region versus individual counties within a region?

ANSWER – *Program catchment area within a Region is per the discretion of the applicant. Per RFP Section 1.2 Allocation of Programs, CYMHS-SP programs may serve up to the maximum number of counties in each NYS OMH Region as described in Table 1 in Section 1.2 of the RFP. In the Population section of the RFP Proposal Narrative, Section 6.2.a, applicants must describe the region/catchment area that the CYMHS-SP Program will primarily serve, including counties.*

19. Are performance measures tied to financial penalties is not met?

ANSWER – *There are no financial penalties for performance measures that are not met. However, per RFP Section 4.3.2, there are a number of factors that may result in the contract being reassigned. This includes, but is not limited to, failure to maintain staffing requirements, failure to refer clients to behavioral health services, or poor performance outcomes. A contractor will be provided notification if there is need for reassignment.*

20. We are a behavioral health company. Do we still need to partner with another agency?

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 CYMHS-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 CYMHS-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 youth and young adults in the focus populations to be served by the Program.*

21. Would the preventative caseworker be equal to a family specialist?

ANSWER – *Applicants are required to describe the proposed staffing resources, experience and qualifications needed to support the CYMHS-SP program. Per RFP Section 5.3.2 Staffing, at least one staff member must have training and/or experience as a family specialist. Relevant experience may include working directly with family members/key support systems, providing family education and supportive services, engaging the family in referrals and treatment arrangements, etc.*