

Safety Net Program for at Risk Youth Project

Concept Paper

Overview

In 2018, the average overdose mortality rate in New York City (NYC) was 20.5 deaths per 100,000 residents. Staten Island residents had the second highest rate of overdose deaths with 31.5 deaths per 100,000. Three out of the four neighborhoods in Staten Island have higher rates of overdose compared to the NYC average. From 2017 to 2018, the number of overdose deaths increased among residents of Staten Island.¹

Like many parts of New York City, Staten Island has been deeply affected by the opioid epidemic. The NYC Department of Health and Mental Hygiene (DOHMH) is committed to ending this epidemic using a multipronged strategy including supporting providers across the substance use disorder continuum of care.

One strategy to delay or eliminate substance use in youth and young adults is by engaging them in the community based early intervention model called Transition to Independence Process (TIP)². The TIP model was developed at the University of South Florida and focuses on five transition domains: Employment and Career, Education, Living Situation, Personal Effectiveness and Wellbeing, and Community Life Functioning. Through the TIP model, the following wrap around services are provided to youth and young adults, ages 16-24: case management, vocational and mental health counseling, referrals and linkages, opportunities for civic engagement, computer training, GED and college preparation, vocational training, internship, entrepreneurship and job placement. Additionally, the skills and expertise of Life Coaches are used to engage the youth and young adults. This model will provide a safety net for youth and young adults, ages 16-24, who are at risk of and/or are using substances as they begin to navigate their way into adulthood.

¹ Nolan ML, Mantha S, Tuazon E, Paone D. Unintentional Drug Poisoning (Overdose) Deaths in New York City in 2018. New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene: Epi Data Brief (116); August 2019.

² Clark, H. B., Karpur, A., Deschênes, N., Gamache, P., & Haber, M. (2008). Partnerships for Youth Transition (PYT): Overview of community initiatives and preliminary findings on transition to adulthood for youth and young adults with mental health challenges. In C. Newman, C. Liberton, K. Kutash, & R. M. Friedman. (Eds.). The 20th Annual Research Conference Proceedings: A System of Care for Children's Mental Health: Expanding the Research Base (pp. 329-332). Tampa, FL: University of South Florida. The Louis de la Parte Florida Mental Health Institute, Research and Training Center for Children's Mental Health.

Purpose of the Proposed RFP

DOHMH proposes to issue a Request for Proposals (RFP) to identify a substance use disorder contractor who can operate a program in Staten Island. The contractor would have had previous experience in employment and career support; navigating the educational system; addressing living situations; working on interpersonal relationships, emotional and behavioral wellbeing, and communication skills; and addressing daily living habits, leisure activities, and community involvement. The program would assist youth and young adults (ages 16-24) living in Staten Island, who are at risk of and/or are using substances, in making a successful transition to adulthood.

The Goals of the RFP

The goals of the RFP will be to:

1. Support a program on Staten Island that uniquely offers the TIP model for youth and young adults (ages 16-24) who are not candidates for substance use disorder treatment, but who would benefit from engagement and wrap around services that are more intensive than traditional prevention services and that prevent substance use initiation.
2. Engage youth and young adults with services that will help them develop competencies and skills that promote self-sufficiency, self-reliance, and personal growth, as well as professional development and referrals to clinical support services. The goal is to provide these competencies and skills to program participants to prevent substance use initiation.

Program Information

The Contractor will engage in a full range of strength-based integrated services that utilize the TIP model to address the developmental, vocational, and social-emotional needs of youth and young adults (ages 16-24) on Staten Island to prevent the initiation of substance use. The Contractor will recruit youth and young adults, via community outreach, and assess if these services are appropriate. For program participants under the age of 18, the Contractor will require that a parent/legal guardian sign a service agreement before participation in services. Services for program participants will include a Career Club, educational support and employment support, and socialization opportunities organized by the Contractor. The Contractor will also collect data around connecting the youth and young adults to education and employment. Program information is defined more specifically below:

1. **Intake Process** - the contractor will recruit youth and young adults and provide an intake process that includes academic assessment, screening (i.e., CRAFFT (Car, Relax, Alone, Forget, Friends, Trouble) individualized planning, and immediate intervention if necessary.
2. **Career Club** – the contractor will support youth and young adults by running a Career Club. The Career Club will offer youth/young adults the opportunity to develop and access a network from which they will learn about possible jobs, receive feedback to assess individual job search experience, and obtain specific knowledge on how individual strengths and challenges can affect employment.

3. **Educational Supports** - Contractor will assess the educational needs of each program participant and then develop individualized strategies to encourage self-determination and engagement. The contractor must have computers available onsite for youth and young adults to utilize in order to complete homework assignments, write papers, develop resumes, and apply to college. Life Coaches should be available to support the youth and young adults in this process.
4. **Employment Supports** - Contractor will provide Life Coaches who will work with program participants around job readiness. Life Coaches are required to have a BA/BS in a Social Services/Human Services Field as well as experience working with youth and young adults and their families. They will meet youth and young adults either at the office or in the community to provide professional development coaching, including, but not limited to:
 - Assist in creating and editing a resume
 - Look into competitive and supportive employment (depending upon participant)
 - Identify a job prospect
 - Help program participants purchase clothes for an interview
 - Teach youth and young adults presentation skills
5. **Socialization Opportunities** - Contractor will organize events for youth and young adults that are substance-free and focus on developing healthy relationships with other youth and young adults in the program. These events will give participants a chance to cultivate positive interpersonal relationships. Events may include, but are not limited to dinner at a local restaurant, ice-skating, going to the movies, etc.
6. **Data Collection** - Contractor will collect and report data on a regular basis and throughout the term of the contract in these three areas:
 - Connecting participants to education
 - Connecting participants to employment
 - Successful referrals of program participants to assess for treatment (if needed)

Proposed Term of Contract

The anticipated start date for this contract is January 1, 2021. The minimum contract term is six (6) years, subject to funding availability.

Procurement Timeline

It is anticipated that the RFP issuance date would be in Winter 2020 with an approximate proposal due date in early Spring 2020. Expected award decisions would be made by early Summer 2020.

Planned Method of Evaluating Proposals

DOHMH anticipates that proposals will be evaluated based on proposers' relevant experience; approach to the scope of services; approach to program monitoring, data management, and reporting; organizational capacity, including proposed staffing plan; and proposed approach to budget management.

Anticipated Funding and Proposed Payment Structure



February 2020

The anticipated funding amount is up to \$300,000 per year, \$1,800,000 for the six (6) year contract term, subject to availability of funding. The agency anticipates that the payment structure will be performance based, with payments tied to the achievement of specific deliverables.

Use of HHS Accelerator

To respond to the forthcoming **Safety Net Program for at Risk Youth RFP**, vendors must be appropriately qualified in the City's Health and Human Services (HHS) Accelerator System. The HHS Accelerator System is a web-based system maintained by the City of New York for use by its human service Agencies to manage procurement.

Only organizations with approved HHS Accelerator Business Application and Service Applications for one or more of the following service areas will be eligible to propose:

- **Substance Abuse Services**
- **Preventative Services**
- **Outreach**
- **Life Skills**
- **Medical**

To submit a Business and Services application to become eligible to apply for this and other CCS RPs, please visit <http://www.nyc.gov/hhsaccelerator>.

Contact Information/Deadline for Questions/Comments

Comments are invited by March 23, 2020. Please email rfp@health.nyc.gov and indicate **Safety Net Program for at Risk Youth Concept Paper** in the subject line of the email. Alternatively, written comments may be mailed to the following address:

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