

Addendum 2

State of Connecticut Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services

RFP # DMHAS-OSU-Harm Reduction Centers RFP-2024

The Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services (DMHAS) is issuing **Addendum 2** to the **Harm Reduction Centers RFP**.

A. Additional Questions and Answers – The following are DMHAS responses to the questions received during and after the Bidder’s Conference.

In the event of an inconsistency between information provided in the RFP and information in these answers, **the information in these answers shall control**.

1. **Question:** Please clarify what you mean by “private provider organizations” in eligibility section on page 5.

Answer: These are organizations that have received a non-profit status as 501C3.

Refer to Section I. B. 6. Eligibility (Page 5) of the Legal Notice below:

6. Eligibility. Private provider organizations (defined as non-state entities that are either nonprofit or proprietary corporations or partnerships), CT State agencies, and municipalities are eligible to submit proposals in response to this RFP. Individuals who are not a duly formed business entity are ineligible to participate in this procurement.

Pursuant to C.G.S. §17a-676, and in accordance with federal grant requirements for use of this funding, the Department may only award contracts for the services requested herein to private nonprofit organizations or Connecticut municipalities. Eligible respondents are private provider organizations (defined as non-state entities that are 501(c)(3) nonprofit corporations or partnerships with principal place of business in Connecticut) or Connecticut municipalities.

2. **Question:** Is this limited to healthcare/behavioral health providers?

Answer: These are organizations that have received a non-profit status as 501C3.

3. **Question:** Please clarify eligibility - is a health district, which is a unit of government, eligible to apply?

Answer: As long as the eligibility requirements are met.

Refer to Section I. B. 6. Eligibility (Page 5) of the Legal Notice below:

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4. **Question:** Please clarify the expectation regarding the minimum number of unique individuals to be served annually on pages 9 and 13. The population of New London is much smaller than the population of New Haven and Waterbury – will the New London location be held to the same 1,000-person expectation?

Answer: 1000 annual visits roughly averages 20 per week which is the minimum expectation for total visits in a low-barrier drop in Harm Reduction Center.

5. **Question:** Is the purchase of naloxone allowed?

Answer: Yes.

6. **Question:** Is the purchase of drug testing supplies allowed?

Answer: Approved drug testing supplies will be allowed.

7. **Question:** Please explain what you mean by a “recovery-oriented training program” on page 10.

Answer: Proposers should list certifications and trainings they will require for hiring of peer staff. For currently employed peer staff, their experience should be listed and resumes provided.

8. **Question:** Please explain the type of clinical/medical staff you expect a location to have. Is there a specific license or level of education you are looking for in this requirement?

Answer: The specific clinical/medical staff chosen for a proposal are at the discretion of the Proposer.

9. **Question:** Please clarify the language that “peer staff should not engage in clinical or medical duties” on page 11. Does this mean that peer staff may not administer basic wound care, first aid, HIV testing or other services that are typical for many peer roles?

Answer: Peer staff should not engage in routine duties that the clinical/medical staff at the Harm Reduction Center staff are trained and able to perform.

10. **Question:** Are construction/build-out costs to outfit or update a space allowed?

11. Question: In the Proposal Submission Overview it is specified that attachments other than the required Appendices or Forms are not permitted. On page 9 of the RFP it says that preference may be given to proposers with letters of support from the municipality and surrounding businesses, but letters of support are not included in the list of required Appendices on page 38/39. Please clarify if these letters will be accepted and if so where in the proposal they should go.

Answer: Letters of Support from municipalities and surrounding business are welcome.

Refer to Section III. A. 5. Attachments (Page 13) of the Legal Notice below:

5. Attachments. Attachments other than the required Appendices or Forms identified in the RFP are not permitted and will not be evaluated. Further, the required Appendices or Forms must not be altered or used to extend, enhance, or replace any component required by this RFP. Failure to abide by these instructions will result in disqualification. All attachments should be included in VI. Appendix.

12. Question: The Scope of Services; Bullet (c) Direct Services proposes Harm Reduction first aid as a required level of service. Must this service be provided on the same site as the Harm Reduction Center?

Answer: Yes.

13. Question: What data will be collected from people who use the Harm Reduction Center?

Answer: The Provider will be given report templates with prompts for the necessary reporting requirements. The Proposer has an opportunity to share other metrics and data they plan to collect.

14. Question: Are these the Harm Reduction Centers Public Act 23-97 and if so must they include all the basic support services (laundry, showers, etc) reflected in that legislation when they open? Can grant funds be used to modify existing spaces to include those services?

Answer: Yes- Proposals with laundry and shower facilities embedded in the centers are welcome. They are not required.

**DATE: 8/8/2023
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