



October 26, 2023

Dear Community Provider,

Families & Community Together (FACT) provides care management services to children and youth experiencing emotional, behavioral, developmental, intellectual, and substance use needs, and their families. As part of our contract with the New Jersey Children’s System of Care (CSOC), FACT has access to limited funds designated for one time use by community organizations to promote and develop new, additional, and/or unique resources addressing an unmet or under- served need in Union County.

This letter serves as a “Request for Proposals” (RFP) to develop and/or increase the availability of community-based resources to Union County youth experiencing emotional, behavioral, developmental, intellectual, and substance use needs, and their families.

A maximum total of \$67,697.70 is available to fund one or more projects. Funding is to be used for expansion or creation of resources available to Union County youth experiencing emotional, behavioral, developmental, intellectual, and substance use needs, and their families. All types of projects that result in the expansion or creation of community-based resources will be considered with preference given to those programs that address needs related to:

Behavioral Health Services for youth

- Expansion of outreach & awareness of available services (1)
- Education for emergency responders when encountering individuals with cognitive, physical, and behavioral health needs (1)
- Increase in school based behavioral health services and resources (1)
- Support navigating services (1)
- Child and adolescent psychiatrists (1)
- Transportation to services (1)
- Decrease waitlists (1)
- Behavioral health disparities among diverse groups including racial and ethnic groups, young adults, women, and the LGBTQIA community (3)
- Stigma associated with mental health diagnosis and treatment, particularly among African Americans and Latinos (3)

- More trauma informed care for agencies (4)
- Community level intervention and prevention efforts include strengthening economic support to reduce financial strain, addressing stress from experienced racial discrimination, promoting social connectedness, and supporting persons at risk for suicide. (4)
- Communication strategies focusing on promotion of health services and culturally and linguistically tailored prevention messaging regarding practices to improve emotional well-being. (4)
- Services for youth under 11 years old

Substance Use Services

- Expansion of outreach & awareness of available services (1)
- Transportation to services (1)
- Senior and caregiver education on prevention, substance use disorders, warning signs, treatment and supporting for those in recovery (8)
- Alcohol, Marijuana, Heroin, Tobacco and Electronic Nicotine Delivery Devices, prescription medication all identified as priorities for prevention, education, and treatment (8)
- Effective youth prevention education programming from pre-school through older adults (8)
- Lack of Medicaid adolescent substance use providers – outpatient, IOP – especially in the southern portion of Ocean County (8)
- Early intervention program to identify youth at risk of developing a need for clinical substance use treatment (8)
- Services for children of incarcerated parents (4)
- Grief groups for children with parents/guardians that overdosed (4)

Individuals with Disabilities (Physical, Developmental, and Intellectual)

- Transportation to services (1)
- Day and After-school Programming (1)
- Wellness and physical activities
- Available supports and respite for consumers and family members (1)
- Crisis counseling and psychological first aid for behavioral health crisis counseling (1)
- Services for Intellectual / Developmentally Disabled youth, especially in languages other than English. (1)

Health & Wellness

- Highlight the importance of health and wellness, and its benefits to mental wellbeing.
- Addresses diet and exercise/fitness
- Yoga and meditation

Arts, Music, and Recreation

Programs that support youth interests and creativity to support healthy outcomes, and family and community interactions.

- Sports programs
- Music and instrument lessons
- Music production and engineering
- Arts (painting, drawing, sculpture, ceramics, etc.)

This funding solicitation reflects current needs of youth served by Union County's Children's System of Care and the NJ Children's System of Care Community Resource Development (CRD) funding guidelines. Collaborative applications that maximize the impact of these limited funds are encouraged as well as projects that include family participation.

The overall goal of this RFP is twofold:

1. to develop and/or increase the availability of resources to Union County youth and their families, and;
2. to increase positive outcomes for youth experiencing emotional, behavioral, developmental, intellectual, and substance use needs.

All awards are contingent on the sufficiency and availability of CSOC funding.

Final decisions regarding grant awards will be at the discretion of the CSOC.

All proposals with attachments shall include the following information specific to this solicitation and will be evaluated based on the "Rating Scale" included with this announcement.

1. Needs Statement:

- An explanation of the proposed activity(ies) or service need(s) referencing the needs assessment outcomes and identified areas of need in Union County;

- Understanding needs of Union County youth with emotional, behavioral, developmental, intellectual, and substance use needs especially in regard to Medicaid and Evidence Based Practices (EBPs), promising practices, or best practices, where applicable;
- Understanding of referral needs for all NJ Children’s System of Care Partners;
- General and specific knowledge of cultural competencies necessary to be successful in Union County.

2. Description of Agency and History of Service to Youth and Families:

- Organizational capability to initiate and sustain current and proposed programs, preferably Evidence Based Practices (EBPs), promising practices, or best practices, where applicable.

3. Description of Service(s) to be funded:

- Specific implementation plan, informed by a qualified purveyor of that best practice, promising practice, and EBP particularly around fidelity to the model when applicable;
- Activities and services to be provided during the funding period, and those to commence beyond the funding period;
- Background, qualifications, and justification of organization to provide work as part of this proposal;
- Agreement to serve Medicaid-eligible youth and their families;
- Agreement to serve all eligible NJ Children’s System of Care youth (No eject - No reject);
- The effective period or term of the service or activity.

4. Anticipated Outcomes

- Sustainability plan. All projects must demonstrate sustainability after initial funding. Demonstrate that the service is sustainable after the end of the effective term and provide a plan outlining relevant strategies. Please describe how these services will continue in the future, including plans for third party reimbursement and/or client fees;
- Defined anticipated quantifiable deliverables, level of service, and/or outcomes;
- Affirmation of required periodic fiscal and or program reports to demonstrate compliance with the bid requirements.

5. Evaluation Methods

- Evaluation of practice or program adherence/fidelity/effectiveness and participation in ongoing outcomes research, if applicable, to the practice or program proposed;
- Documentation of a quality assurance effort and outcomes monitoring plan.

6. Budget

- Exact amount of funds requested and detailed budget for the expenditure of these funds.

RFP Timeline: Submission Deadline: Friday, January 5, 2024 @ 5:00pm.

Proposals received after this deadline will not be considered for funding.

The preferred method for submission for the Request for Proposal is a Word or PDF document save the file with your agency name and attachment via email sent to feliciaf@factnj.org and anthonyc@factnj.org. To ensure email delivery, please text/call and or leave a phone message at 908- 803-6051 that the proposal was sent.

CRD/RFP Application Timelines:

- CRD Funds Community Q&A: November 15, 2023
- CRD Funds Community Q&A #2: November 22, 2023
- Proposal Review Panel Meeting: January 17, 2024
- Proposal Review and scoring: January 24, 2024
- Proposal Review and scoring final meeting: January 31, 2024

Selected applicants may be invited to present their proposals. Proposals will be evaluated by a review team consisting of members of the Union County CIACC, FACT management and Board members. Due to time constraints and the volume of applications, not all proposals may be selected for presentation.

Proposal(s) are anticipated to be recommended to NJ-CSOC by February 5, 2024, based on the approval of the FACT COO and CEO. RFP timelines are subject to change. Disbursement of funds and program implementation is anticipated for Spring 2024-25. The program is expected to run for no longer than twelve (12) months, commencing from the actual date of funding.

Please feel free to contact me at 908-803-6051 if you have any questions. Your consideration of this request is greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,



Felicia Frazier

Director, Community Engagement & Resource Development
Families & Community Together (FACT)

cc: Anthony Cameli, Chief Executive Officer, Families & Community Together (FACT)