



October 27, 2023

Dear Community Provider,

Ocean Partnership for Children, Inc. (OPC) 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), OPC 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 Ocean County.

This letter serves as the 2024-2025 Community Resource Development Funds “Request for Proposals” (RFP) to develop and/or increase the availability of community-based resources to Ocean 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 Ocean County youth experiencing emotional, behavioral, developmental, intellectual, and substance use needs, and their families.

Please note that only projects offered **in-person** to youth and families will be considered.

Services/supports should be equitably accessible to all youth and families with the identified needs. The referral process should ensure equitable access to services or supports for the youth and families that are eligible to receive them and the access process should be free from any form of discrimination.

Based on specific needs identified in Ocean County, projects that address the following areas will be given particular consideration:

- IDD/neurodiverse social and therapeutic groups
- IDD/neurodiverse mentoring and/or respite programs
- Behavioral health services for young children 3-10 years old – i.e. play therapy, sand tray, Al's Pals (therapeutic, psychoeducation, socialization)
- Acute mental health needs
 - First Episode Psychosis Program
 - Suicide - therapeutic groups, support groups
- Social determinants of health – housing, early education, childcare, food, minority status (i.e Spanish speaking, Orthodox Jewish, LGBTQIA)
- Integrated Health programs
- Services that support parenting needs
- Specialized Childcare for youth with behavioral health needs



- Specific Spanish speaking services and/or groups.
- Services to address ACEs in children.
- Prevention services for youth that have parents/guardians suffering from or deceased due to addiction.
- Services to address youth that suffering from eating disorders.
- Evidence-based behavior parent training treatment for young children with emotional and behavioral disorders that places emphasis on improving the quality of the parent-child relationship and changing parent-child interaction patterns.

While all types of projects that result in the expansion or creation of community-based resources will be considered, projects are required to address the identified needs cited from Ocean County Needs Assessments & Data Sources in Appendix III listed below:

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 including strengthening economic supports to reduce financial stain, addressing stress from experienced racial discrimination, promoting social connectedness, and support 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)

Domestic Violence

- Expansion of outreach & awareness of available services (1)
- Transportation to services (1)
- Reduction of associated stigma (1)

Individuals with Disabilities (Physical, Developmental, and Intellectual)

- Transportation to services (1)
- Day Programming (1)
- 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)

Housing

- Expansion of outreach & homelessness prevention services to increase awareness of available services (1)
- Increased availability of affordable housing (1)

Food Insecurity

- Foods that meet specialized dietary needs (1)
- Expanded business hours to increase access to food services (1)
- Reduction of stigma associated with accessing government assistance programs (i.e. SNAP, food pantries, free or reduced lunches at school) (1)

Healthcare

- Transportation to healthcare services (1)
- Long waitlists (1)
- Awareness of available services (1)
- Integrated behavioral and physical healthcare programs (3)
- Programs that address social determinants of health (3)



Childcare

- Transportation to childcare services (1)
- Affordability and availability (1)
- Childcare, before, and aftercare for special needs youth (1)

This funding solicitation reflects current needs of youth served by Ocean 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: to develop and/or increase the availability of resources to Ocean County youth and their families; and 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 CSOC.

RFP Timeline

(see also Appendix III – 2024-2025 Ocean CRD Funding Timeline)

10/27/2023	2024-2025 CRD Fund RFP Issued
11/16/2023 (Thursday, 2pm)	Bidder’s Meeting
12/8/2023 (Friday by 12pm)	RFPs Due to OPC
1/4/2024 (Wednesday, 2pm)	RFP Presentations
2/5/2024	Local CRD Fund RFP selection due to CSOC
4/17/2024	CSOC issues CRD Funding Approval
7/1/2024	CRD Funded Projects implementation

Bidders Meeting: 2:00pm Thursday, November 16, 2023

The meeting will be held virtually. This is an informational meeting where all questions regarding this solicitation will be addressed at this time. The meeting is not mandatory but attendance is strongly encouraged.

[Click here to join the meeting](#)

Proposal Submission Deadline: 12:00 PM Friday, December 8, 2023

Proposals received after this deadline will not be considered for funding. All proposals shall include the information listed in ***Appendix I – 2022 Ocean Partnership for Children Community Resource Development Funds Application*** and will be evaluated based on the ***Appendix II - Community Resource Development Funds Request for Proposals Rating Scale***. Incomplete proposals will not be considered for funding. The preferred method for submission for the Request for Proposal is a Word or PDF document attachment via email sent to: kcolhoun@oceanpartnership.org To ensure email delivery, please leave a phone message at 732.202.1585 ext. 142 that the proposal was sent.

Proposal Review Meeting: 2:00 pm Wednesday, January 4, 2024



Selected applicants may be invited to present their proposals. Proposals will be evaluated by a review team consisting of members of the Ocean County CIACC and Ocean Partnership for Children. 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 Monday, February 5, 2024 based on the approval of the OPC Board Trustees. CSOC anticipates CRD funding approval will be provided by April 17, 2024. RFP timelines are subject to change. Disbursal of funds and program implementation is anticipated for July 1, 2024. 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 732.202.1585 ext. 142 if you have any questions. Your consideration of this request is greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,

Kathryn Colhoun, LCSW
Director of Community Resources and Advocacy
Ocean Partnership for Children, Inc.

cc: Maria Roussos, OC CIACC
Board of Trustees OPC
Wyndee Davis, DCF Children's System of Care Assistant Director, Community Based Services
Jennifer Holder, DCF Children's System of Care System Partner Lead
Dale Mooney, DCF Children's System of Care CMO System Liaison

Distribution:

OPC Community Provider List
OC CIACC Member List
OC Human Services Advisory Committee
OC Mental Health Board

OC Professional Advisory Committee
OC Youth Services Commission
Post: www.oceanpartnership.org
Post: www.oceanresourcenet.org



Appendix I – 2024-2025 Ocean Partnership for Children Community Resource Development Funds Application

Legal Name of Organization _____ Date of Request _____
Mailing Address _____
Contact for this Proposal _____
Telephone _____ Fax _____ E-Mail _____
Address and Phone (if different from above) _____

1. Needs Statement:
 - Understanding needs of Ocean County youth with emotional, behavioral, developmental, intellectual, and substance use needs especially in regards 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 Ocean County.

** Important - Please cite data sources. Data sources referenced in this RFP and recommended data sources are listed in Appendix III. Data sources are not limited to those listed in Appendix III. **
2. Description of Agency and History of Service to Youth and Families:
 - Organizational capability to initiate and sustain current and proposed program, 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, 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.

The following must be included with this application:

- List of Board Members
- Set of recent financial statements (at least six months)
- List of other program funding sources, including any funding from DCF
- Indicate if agency is currently applying for CRD funds in another county
- Indicate if your agency/program been funded by Ocean CRD funds in the past

Note: There may be further information required before a cooperative agreement can be executed.

Assurance of equitable access of the services/supports to the identified population:

Services/supports should be equitably accessible to all youth and families with the identified needs. The referral process should ensure equitable access to services or supports for the youth and families that are eligible to receive them and the access process should be free from any form of discrimination.

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

Completed proposals are due:
Submit proposals to:

12:00pm Friday, December 8, 2023
Katie Colhoun
kcolhoun@oceanpartnership.org

*****Proposals sent after 12:00pm Friday, December 2, 2022 and/or incomplete will not be considered for funding.*****



Appendix II - Community Resource Development Funds Request for Proposals Rating Scale

Needs Statement - 20 points

- ✓ Are the needs of the community that this proposal aims to address well-articulated and based on reliable sources of information and data?
- ✓ Do the needs cited in the proposal coincide with the criteria for usage of funds targeted to agencies serving youth and families experiencing serious emotional, behavioral, developmental, intellectual, and substance use needs?
- ✓ Does the needs address development of new services where service expansion is necessary because services cannot be secured through an existing agency; or, service availability is non-existent?
- ✓ Do the needs cited in the proposal coincide with service need priorities identified by local planning bodies?
- ✓ 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 Ocean County.

Description of Agency and History of Service to Youth and Families - 15 points

- ✓ Is the agency well equipped and experienced providing services to youth and families who are experiencing emotional, behavioral, developmental, intellectual, and substance use needs?
- ✓ Is the agency duly prepared to operate the service or program element for which funding is applied?

Description of Service(s) or Program Element to be Funded - 20 points

- ✓ Is the description of the service(s) or program element well-articulated, reasonably attainable and based on best practice models?
- ✓ Is the service(s) described relevant to the statement of need?
- ✓ Is there a clear plan on how to implement and start/expand the program?
- ✓ Is there a description of the organization's background, qualifications, and justification to provide work as part of this proposal;
- ✓ Include an agreement to serve Medicaid-eligible youth and their families; all eligible NJ Children's System of Care youth (No eject - No reject)?
- ✓ Include effective period or term of the service or activity?
- ✓ Assurance of equitable access of the services/supports to the identified population?

Anticipated Outcomes - 15 points

- ✓ Are the anticipated outcomes quantifiable deliverables, level of service, and/or outcomes realistic, measurable, observable, and verifiable?
- ✓ Are the outcomes relevant to the need(s) that the program aims to address and the services to be provided?
- ✓ Does the project demonstrate sustainability after initial funding?



Evaluation Methods - 10 points

- ✓ Does the proposal describe how services will be evaluated, including how case activity will be monitored and accountability will be assured?
- ✓ Is there adequate description of administration and programmatic and fiscal oversight of the program or service?
- ✓ Does the proposal acknowledge the obligation to provide reports of activity to Ocean Partnership for Children, Inc.?
- ✓ 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
- ✓ Affirmation of required periodic fiscal and or program reports to demonstrate compliance with the bid requirements

Budget - 20 points

- ✓ Is a complete and clear budget included?
- ✓ Is the budget reasonable based on established rates for services and the amount of funds available?
- ✓ Does the budget account for all staff, supplies, and services included in the description of service(s) or program element to be funded (either through fund request or match by other funding source)?
- ✓ Are other funding sources cited viable to be applied as a match to community resource development funds?
- ✓ Is the service for which funding is requested clearly a new service/program element or expansion of services/programs not otherwise funded by another source?



Appendix III – Ocean County Needs Assessments & Data Sources

- [Ocean County DHS Needs Assessment 2020](#)
- [Ocean County DART Community Assessment](#)
- [Community Health Needs Assessment – CMC 2019](#)
- [Ocean County Health Department Community Health Improvement Plan](#)
- [Ocean County Overdose Fatality Review Program Annual Report 2020](#)
- [Ocean County 2023 Point In Time Report](#)
- [2021 Substance Abuse Overview Ocean County](#)
- [Ocean County Alcohol and Drug Comprehensive Plan 2020-2023](#)
- [Ocean County Human Services Advisory Board Needs Assessment 2023](#)

* A complete list of the Ocean County Needs Assessments can be found at:

<https://www.oceanpartnership.org/ocean-county-needs-assessments/>

Other potential data sources not referenced above:

- [CIACC Dashboards](#)
- [DCF Commissioner’s Dashboard](#)
- [DGP&P Dashboard](#)
- [DCF Rutgers Data Hub and Portal](#)
- [NJ DOH COVID Data Dashboard: New Jersey COVID-19 Data Dashboard \(nj.gov\)](#)
- [Kids Count: New Jersey Kids Count 2020 | Advocates for Children of New Jersey \(acnj.org\)](#)
- [Autism NJ](#)



Appendix IV – 2024-2025 Ocean CRD Funding Timeline

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