October 27, 2026

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 2027-2028 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** 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.

The referral process should ensure equitable access to services and/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. Services should promote the resiliency of youth and families in communities that are disproportionately impacted by the social determinants of health (SDoH),

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

- IDD/neurodiverse social and therapeutic groups, mentoring and/or respite programs
- Behavioral health services for young children 0-10 years old – i.e. play therapy, sand tray
- Acute mental health needs (First Episode Psychosis, Suicide Ideation, etc.)
- Social determinants of health – housing, early education, childcare, food, minority status (i.e Spanish speaking, Orthodox Jewish, LGBTQIA)
- Integrated Health programs
- Specialized Childcare for youth with behavioral health needs

- Specific Spanish speaking services and/or groups
- Services to address ACEs in children
- Services to address youth that suffer from eating disorders
- Services that support parenting needs
- 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
- Services for youth 18 and older (i.e. housing, independent living skills, vocational, etc.)

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 on pages 11 in this RFP.

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 goals of this RFP is to develop and/or increase the availability of resources to Ocean County youth and their families, to promote the resiliency of youth and families in communities that are disproportionately impacted by the social determinants of health (SDoH), 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 Due Dates

- 10/27/2026 2027-2028 CRD Fund RFP Issued
- 11/5/2026 (Thursday, 2pm) Bidder's Meeting/Q&A
- 12/18/2026 (Friday by 12pm) RFPs Due to OPC
- 1/7/2027 (Thursday, 2pm) RFP Presentations
- 2/12/2027 Local CRD Fund RFP selection due to CSOC
- 5/14/2027 CSOC issues CRD Funding Approval
- 7/1/2027 CRD Funded Projects implementation

Bidders Meeting/Q&A: 2:00pm Thursday, November 5, 2026

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. The meeting will be recorded and shared at: https://www.oceanpartnership.org/partners/#memorandum

Microsoft Teams
Join: https://teams.microsoft.com/meet/287015001090788?p=GilqH7Y8FlKphMQHFI
Meeting ID: 287 015 001 090 788
Passcode: yZ2HE7hp

Proposal Submission Deadline: 12:00 PM Friday, December 18, 2026

Proposals received after this deadline will not be considered for funding. All proposals shall include the information listed in ***Appendix I – 2026-2027 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 Thursday, January 7, 2027

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 12, 2027 based on the approval of the OPC Board Trustees. CSOC anticipates CRD funding approval will be provided by May 14, 2027. RFP timelines are subject to change. Disbursal of funds and program implementation is anticipated for July 1, 2027. 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:
DCF/CSOC Contacts - Wyndee.Davis@dcf.nj.gov; Dale.Mooney@dcf.nj.gov; Lisa.Billotti@dcf.nj.gov

Distribution:
OPC Community Provider List
Ocean County CIACC Member List & Weekly Newsletter
Ocean County Human Services Advisory Council Member List & Weekly Newsletter
Ocean County Youth Services Commission Member List
Ocean County Homeless Prevention and Assistance Coalition Member List

Websites:
www.oceanpartnership.org
www.oceanresourcenet.org
https://www.prlog.org/13043896-ocean-partnership-for-children-issues-request-for-proposals-for-community-resource-development-funds.html
https://philanthropynewsdigest.org/
https://www.facebook.com/oceanpartnership
https://www.linkedin.com/company/ocean-partnership-for-children
https://www.instagram.com/oceanpartnership/

Appendix I – 2027-2028 Ocean Partnership for Children Community Resource Development Funds Application

Legal Name of Organization:

Mailing Address:

Contact for this Proposal:

Telephone:

E-Mail:

1. Needs Statement:
   - Understanding needs of Ocean 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 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:
   - Activities and services to be provided during the funding period, and those to commence beyond the funding period;
   - Specific implementation plan, informed by a qualified purveyor of that best practice, promising practice, and EBP particularly around fidelity to the model when applicable;
   - 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

- Bidders must demonstrate a reasonable plan that outlines relevant strategies to pursue funding after the grant period, and that include leveraging existing community capacity.
- Agency history and proven fund-raising ability and donation procurement are acceptable proof of sustainability when combined with a current plan.
- Strong affiliations with larger well established community resources can be provided as a source of sustainability strategies.

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 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
- ☐ 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 has been funded by Ocean CRD funds in the past
- ☐ CARI Check Attestation Form (Appendix V- page 14)

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.

Awarded agency(ies) will be required to obtain CARI checks on all staff that will provide direct service to youth under the age of 18 years old and provide a CARI check certification form to the CMO stating all checks have been completed and all staff that will participate have met the CARI requirements.

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

Completed proposals are due: **12:00pm Friday, December 18, 2026**
Submit proposals to: Katie Colhoun
kcolhoun@oceanpartnership.org

Proposals sent after 12:00pm Friday, December 18, 2026 and/or incomplete will not be considered for funding.

Appendix II - Community Resource Development Funds Request for Proposal

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

1. Ocean County DHS Needs Assessment 2025
2. Ocean County 2025 Point In Time Report
3. Ocean County Overdose Response Plan 2024
4. Ocean County Alcohol and Drug Comprehensive Plan 2024-2027
5. Ocean County Human Services Advisory Board Needs Assessment 2025

Other potential data sources not referenced above:

- DCF Children's InterAgency Coordination Council (CIACC) Dashboards
- DCF Commissioner's Dashboard
- DCF Rutgers Data Hub and Portal
- DCP&P Dashboard
- Kids Count: New Jersey Kids Count | Advocates for Children of New Jersey (acnj.org)
- Autism NJ

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

APPENDIX IV – Exclusionary Criteria

- CRD funds are not intended to purchase items for specific individuals or families. All purchased items must be equitably accessible to all participants and relevant to the program content.
    - EX; gift cards, personal bills, electronics etc.
- CRD funds cannot be used for capital expenditures, including the acquisition or maintenance of fixed assets such as land, buildings, vehicles, and equipment not directly related to the provision of the service.
- Families cannot incur any cost or fees when receiving CRD funded service
- Initiation of services cannot be dependent on procurement of unsecured funding and/or partnerships that are not yet established.
- Funds cannot be used to pay for services currently being funded by DCF or other sources.
- Administrative costs are allowable – but must be reasonable and outlined in detail within the budget.
- operations of the program cannot be directly funded by the work and contributions of participating youth and families it serves – without appropriate compensation for hours worked.
- Services provided directly through CRD funds cannot also be billed through Medicaid or other established funding sources such as private insurance – causing payment duplication

APPENDIX V: CARI INSTRUCTIONS AND CERTIFICATION FORM

Rationale and Process for CARI checks

Any agencies funded by DCF, are subject to the Child Abuse Record Information (CARI) background check requirement mandated by N.J.S.A. 9:6-8.10f. As of **October 1, 2019**, the CARI Online Application System is available to DCF affiliated agencies to create an account and submit CARI applications. Please review the following information regarding the Online Application System and submission of your CARI applications for CRD 27 award recommended agencies.

Some agencies may have an existing structure that already requires they submit CARI checks as part of their current operations or based on a separate law that preceded N.J.S.A. 9:6-8.10f. If that is the case, they do **NOT** need to submit additional CARI applications under this law. Please ask them to provide the CARI certification form within this document that states all staff who will work in direct contact with youth under 18 years of age have passed the CARI requirements.

Steps to register for CARI checks

When CMO identifies an agency as the potential CRD awardee they will direct the awardee to follow the process as listed below.

1. The applicant will register as a business with the State of NJ and receive an Employee Identification number (75.00 fee) and a tax ID number. The step by step process is provided at https://business.nj.gov/ where you can both register your business to receive your EIN and receive a tax ID number.
2. Once these numbers have been assigned, please visit https://www.njstart.gov/bso/ to create a record, and acquire a vendor identification number. (150.00 fee)
3. The final step will be to follow the instructions and register with the CARI unit and submit for CARI checks (see below).
4. CARI will notify the agency if their staff are clear or if they need to be terminated. CARI will require a signed verification that the unapproved staff are no longer with the organization.
5. Once the agency has completed this process, they will submit the CARI Certification form to the CMO, as it will need to be included in the submission of the Proposal and recommendation to CSOC.
6. (Certification form is included at the end of this guidance)
7. Fees associated with the registration process for CARI may be included in the agencies budget proposal.

Accessing the CARI System

To access the CARI Online Application System, each agency will need to set up a facility account by visiting https://www.njportal.com/dcf/cari . Agencies will identify an administrator to create and maintain the facility account, and who will be responsible for submitting and receiving CARI applications and results. The above-mentioned website will prompt the identified administrator to “Create a New CARI Account” and will provide tutorials for setting up the facility account. When creating an account, select “Department of Children and Families – Community Partners” from the drop-down selection of Program/Application Types. To set up a CARI account, the agency administrator will then need to provide their agency’s Vendor Identification Number, which is the letter “V” followed by 8 digits.

Next, the administrator will be prompted to create a My New Jersey account username. This will be the username and password used by the account administrator to log in to the Online Application System moving forward.

The Online Application System will allow the account administrator to invite agency staff to complete an online CARI form and to check the status of submitted applications. Employees will be able to complete the electronic

CARI application through an emailed link, or on-site at the agency. The employee can complete the application using a personal computer or smart phone; however, the email invitation link
will expire after two weeks. All completed CARI checks are returned through the Online Application System, and the results will be emailed directly to the facility account administrator.

Time frames and next Steps

Once submitted CARI checks are expected to be completed within a week. Once an agency's CARI checks are completed and clear, please send the checks to kcolhoun@oceanparntership.org and the recommended proposals for funding with all required documents and the CARI check certification form along with the recommended proposal will be submitted to CSOC. Should the OPC be notified by a potential awardee that they have staff who didn't meet the CARI requirements and this will jeopardize their ability to move forward, OPC will notify CSOC to meet and discuss next steps.

CRD CARI CHECKS ATTENTATION FORM

By my signature below, I attest I am authorized to sign this document on behalf of my organization. I agree that as of this date below my organization has met all the requirements of the CARI check process. Should my agency acquire any additional staff during this CRD award period, that staff will be required to submit CARI checks and be approved by the CARI unit.

If any staff within this organization are found to be ineligible for employment under this grant by the CARI Unit, they will be separated from the agency as per CARI policy.

Signature: Date:

Printed Name:

Organization name:

CMO Name: