

### **3.5 — Capacity-Building: Improve the Capability of New Jersey’s Behavioral Health Care System to Meet and Respond to the Mental Health and Dual Diagnosis Needs of Individuals with I/DD and their Families**

ADVISORY: Request for Funding Proposal

Date: December 7, 2023

Contact: [grants@njcdd.org](mailto:grants@njcdd.org)

The New Jersey Council on Developmental Disabilities (NJCDD) announces a funding opportunity of up to \$225,000 (excluding required match) over 18 months for a qualified entity to develop project(s) designed to improve the capability of New Jersey’s behavioral health care system to meet and respond to the mental health and dual diagnosis needs of individuals with I/DD and their families, including those in urban and rural areas of the state.

In accordance with Goal 3, Objective 2 in NJCDD’s Five Year State Plan for 2022–2026, the NJCDD is currently accepting applicants to propose:

Projects that will provide information, and develop and deliver training, for healthcare/community organizations to provide wraparound patient support and/or navigator support for children and adults with I/DD and behavioral concerns.

#### **Who Should Apply?**

Families, providers, advocacy organizations, schools, health care providers, and policymakers with content area expertise and experience are encouraged to apply.

Applicants must submit full project proposals to NJCDD within the established timeline of this announcement (see the timeline below). Applicants are required to complete NJCDD’s Grant Proposal Form, Budget, and Budget Narrative. These documents are available at [www.njcdd.org/applying-for-a-grant/](http://www.njcdd.org/applying-for-a-grant/).

Applicants are strongly encouraged to review the Council’s Effective Grant Writing Guide and NJCDD Grant Budget Instructions, also available at [www.njcdd.org/applying-for-a-grant/](http://www.njcdd.org/applying-for-a-grant/). These documents will help applicants ensure that proposals comply with established guidelines. The selected applicant will be required to complete state and federal assurances. These documents are available for your review at: <https://njcdd.org/state-and-federal-certificates-and-assurances/>.

#### **QUESTION PERIOD**

NJCDD will hold an Applicant Question Period from December 11–27, 2023. All questions must be submitted in writing to [grants@njcdd.org](mailto:grants@njcdd.org) by 5 P.M. on December 27, 2023. Answers to questions will be posted to the NJCDD’s website at [www.njcdd.org/applying-for-a-grant/](http://www.njcdd.org/applying-for-a-grant/) by January 8, 2024.

#### **DEADLINE FOR PROPOSAL SUBMISSION**

- 1) Electronic submission of the full proposal must be received by NJCDD not later than February 12 at 2 P.M. EST. Send to [grants@njcdd.org](mailto:grants@njcdd.org)

- 2) TWO HARD COPIES of each proposal must be received by NJCDD not later than February 12 at 2 P.M. EST. Hard copy proposals must be submitted/physically delivered to the following address.

NJ Council on Developmental Disabilities  
c/o Grants  
20 West State Street, 6th Floor  
PO Box 700  
Trenton, NJ 08625-0700

APPLICANTS ARE STRONGLY ENCOURAGED TO DELIVER ELECTRONIC COPIES and HARD COPIES IN ADVANCE OF THIS DEADLINE.

E-signature is acceptable. Proof of delivery is strongly encouraged.

Late proposals CANNOT be considered and will not be scored. There are no exceptions.

**NJCDD FY-2024 Grants Timeline: Start Date Q3**

Notice of Funds Available	December 7, 2023
Applicant Question Period	December 11 - 27, 2023
Question Deadline	December 27, 2023 by 5 P.M. EST
Posted Answers to Questions Submitted	January 8, 2024
Proposal Submission Deadline	February 12, 2024 by 2 P.M. EST
Award Notification	Not later than March 15, 2024
Contract Period	April 1, 2024–September 30, 2025

**2024 RFP 3.5.1 — Capacity-Building to Improve the Capability of New Jersey’s Behavioral Health Care System to Meet and Respond to the Mental Health and Dual Diagnosis Needs of Individuals with I/DD and their Families, including those in Urban and Rural areas.**

**NJCDD Council 5-Year Plan Goal 3 — Capacity Building**

All New Jersey residents with I/DD and their families will have increased information and support they need to access the services and supports they need to live, work, and learn in the community with independence.

**Objective 5:**

By 2026, in collaboration with families and community agencies, NJCDD will provide information and support projects designed to improve the capability of New Jersey’s behavioral health care system to meet and respond to the mental health and dual diagnosis needs of individuals with I/DD and their families, including those in urban and rural areas of the state.

**Background and Statement of Need**

The mission of NJCDD is to assure that individuals with I/DD in New Jersey, and their families, participate in the design of and have access to needed community services, individualized supports, and other forms of assistance that promote self-determination, independence, productivity, integration, and inclusion in all facets of life through culturally competent programs. One of the ways in which the NJCDD accomplishes this is through the support of projects aligned with its mission and identified as goals in its Five-Year State Plan.

Through its 5 Year planning process, NJCDD has identified a need to build the capacity of New Jersey’s health care system by funding a qualified entity to develop and deliver training for healthcare/community organizations to provide wraparound patient support and/or navigator support for those with I/DD and behavioral concerns.

In its position paper on Health Care Access, NJCDD affirms that:

*All people, including people with intellectual and/or developmental disabilities (I/DD), should have timely access to high quality, comprehensive, network adequate, geographically and physically accessible, affordable, appropriate health care that meets their individual needs, maximizes health, well-being, and function, and increases independence and community participation.*

*The health care system must be aligned to principles of nondiscrimination, comprehensiveness, continuity, appropriateness, cultural/linguistic competence, and equity. Health care professionals must have training, practical experience, and familiarity to provide care to people with I/DD. Both comprehensive public and private health insurance must provide for necessary health care without regard to the nature or severity of disability, pre-existing conditions, or other health status. A great majority of individuals with I/DD rely completely on Medicaid/Medicare for their healthcare needs; these healthcare systems are critical to them.*

*People with I/DD may have difficulty communicating their needs and making healthcare decisions without support. It is critical that health care providers respect and include the voices of supported decision makers, including family and provider agencies.*

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, people with disabilities face a higher risk of having certain health conditions and behavioral characteristics such as smoking, obesity, and high blood pressure. People with disabilities are also more likely to rely on public health programs and be uninsured than the general population, and are overly represented among people experiencing depression. A recent study found that over 40% of a cohort of 1,318 adults with I/DD were diagnosed with four or more comorbidities, including 18% diagnosed with anxiety disorder and 17.8% with depression.<sup>(1)</sup>

Rimmer JH, Hsieh K. Longitudinal Health and Intellectual Disability Study (LHIDS) on obesity and health risk behaviors. Proceedings of the Lifespan Health and Function of Adults with Intellectual Disabilities: Translating Research into Practice, State of the Science Conference, Bethesda, MD (2011)

### **The Goals of the Request for Proposal (RFP)**

1. Healthcare/community organizations will have information and knowledge needed to provide wraparound patient support and/or navigator support for children and adults with I/DD and mental health challenges.
2. Children and adults with I/DD and mental health/behavioral challenges, and their families, will have access to wraparound patient support and/or navigator support.

The desired short-term and long-term outcomes are that community agencies and other stakeholders have information about best practices in supporting and serving children and adults with dual diagnosis and mental health needs; and that New Jersey's behavioral health care system is more responsive to the needs of children and adults with I/DD who have dual diagnosis and mental health needs, especially in urban and rural areas.

### **Who Should Apply?**

Entities with content-area expertise are encouraged to apply.

Eligible applicants include, but are not limited, to:

1. Private for-profit and not-for-profit organizations.
2. Healthcare organizations/clinicians.
3. Institutions of higher education.
4. State, county, or local government entities, including schools.
5. Other organizations that may contribute to the success of the project team, including consultants, business, and civic organizations.

The credentials of the organization(s) and the CV of the person(s) to be engaged in this work must be described and attached to the proposal.

The Council encourages proposals from two or more collaborating organizations. All partnerships/collaborations and interagency coordination must have a letter of agreement from the other party/parties unless they are submitted as a joint application.

**Applications must:**

1. Demonstrate the capacity to develop and deliver training programs designed to integrate mental health services, including emergency care, diagnostic assessment, and treatment, with a range of services typically associated with community-based health care.
2. Demonstrate how their proposal will allow children and adults with I/DD and behavioral challenges and their families to receive coordinated, wraparound care and follow along services.
3. Demonstrate that their program will be brought to urban and rural areas of NJ.
4. Demonstrate that community agencies and other stakeholders will have information about best practices in supporting and serving those with dual diagnosis and mental health needs.
5. Demonstrate a solid understanding of the current barriers and challenges.
6. Have the resources and demonstrated capacity to carry out the work described in their proposal.
7. Demonstrate cultural and linguistic competency, and the ability to reach, support, and engage diverse and historically-underserved communities, including individuals who are Black and Hispanic.
8. Describe how data will be collected to measure success, (i.e. attendance records, curriculum and training materials, pre- and post-surveys, personal stories, and experiences).
9. Describe how the proposal is based on best practices.
10. Demonstrate the sustainability of the effort through other resources.
11. Describe how work will be carried out in a COVID-aware/COVID-safe manner.
12. Demonstrate a solid understanding of the NJCDD and its needs.
13. Include an itemized budget reflecting careful stewardship of public funds.

*NOTE: Funds cannot be used to supplant other government funds. A 25% non-federal match of proposed funding is required.*

**Implementation Targets/Deliverables:**

1. Training materials and curriculum.
2. Training provided at not less than six (6) health care/community organizations including those in urban and rural areas of the state.
3. Training for at least ten (10) staff/health care providers/clinicians at each site of the six (6) sites, for a total of not less than sixty (60) providers/clinicians.
4. Comprehensive written plan for maintenance/expansion of this work, and dissemination of training materials/curriculum after the close of this funding.