



**Mental Health Services
Oversight & Accountability Commission**

**REQUEST FOR INFORMATION (RFI)
RFI_SFRF_MHSSA_1**

**STATE FISCAL RECOVERY FUNDS (SFRF)
MENTAL HEALTH STUDENT SERVICES ACT (MHSSA)
PROGRAM SUPPORT**

Issued: October 21, 2021

Response Requested: November 10, 2021

I. Background

As part of the American Rescue Plan Act (APRA), the Mental Health Services Oversight and Accountability Commission (MHSOAC) was allocated State Fiscal Recovery Funds (SFRF) to issue grants in support of partnerships between counties and schools pursuant to the Mental Health Student Services Act (MHSSA) to address the impact of COVID-19 on Mental Health Services.

Counties/cities (Counties) eligible to participate have voiced concerns about being able to write an application and apply for the grant, develop a compliant MHSSA/federal program, and operate the program during the term of the grant over a span of 4-5 years, given the impacts of COVID-19 in hiring qualified staff and contractors.

An excerpt of the applicable sections of the MHSSA is provided in Exhibit 1.

II. Objective of the RFI

The objective of this RFI is to find potential consultant firms (vendor) who could provide contracted services to the Counties in regard to the federally funded MHSSA program. The information would be used to create a list of vendors who provide services in each of the eligible Counties in California. The Counties could then use the list to procure services to assist them with their MHSSA programs. The Counties would have the responsibility for contracting with any vendor for services.

The MHSOAC has no liability or responsibility in contacting you directly, or contracting for actual services, although it will forward your responses to this RFI to the Counties. Given the short time frames associated with this grant opportunity, your response is required no later than November 5, 2021.

The skill sets the Counties seek are:

- A. Grant Writer
- B. Project Management
- C. Program Development and Planning
- D. Project Governance
- E. Federal Programs
- F. MHSSA Program - Services
- G. MHSSA Programs – School programs (Onsite/Offsite)
- H. MHSSA Programs – Staffing (Counselor/Psychologist/Clinicians)

The Counties eligible to apply for this grant are:

Alameda County	Del Norte County	Merced County	San Joaquin County
Alpine County	El Dorado County	Mono County	Sierra County
Berkeley City	Inyo County	Napa County	Siskiyou County
Butte County	Kings County	Plumas County	Stanislaus County
Colusa County	Lassen County	San Benito County	Tri-City*

** Tri-City is composed of Claremont, La Verne, and Pomona cities*

III. Information Requested

The following information is requested from each vendor responding to this RFI, which should be displayed on the attached spreadsheet (Attachment 1):

A. Vendor Information

1. Firm Name
2. Firm Mailing Address
3. Firm Representative Name
4. Firm Representative Phone Number
5. Firm Representative E-mail Address
6. DUNS number as issued by Dun & Bradstreet
 - i. Note – A DUNS number is not required at the time of submitting the response to this RFI. A DUNS number will be required if subsequently a county procures services from your firm. This is a requirement of receiving payment using the federal funds.

B. Brief narrative of the services your firm offers

C. A list of skill sets offered by your firm in line with the stated objectives

1. Do not list any skill sets outside of the stated objective in this RFI
2. The MHSOAC reserves the right to not include any skill set in the potential vendor list that does not support the stated objectives of this RFI

D. County in which you provide services

1. Identify by county where you are able to provide services
2. In addition, by county, state if you are able to provide your services on-site

IV. Key Action Dates

EVENT	DATE/TIME
Release RFI	October 21, 2021
Questions Due	October 28, 2021, by 4:00 pm
Responses to Questions	November 2, 2021
Due Date for Submitting RFI	November 10, 2021, by 4:00 pm

Submit questions to:

MHSOAC@MHSOAC.CA.GOV

Include in the subject line: RFI_SFRF_MHSSA_1

V. Responses

Responses shall include:

- Cover Sheet, signed by an authorized representative of your firm
- Attachment 1, Response Template (in Excel)

Submit your responses to the RFI electronically to:

MHSOAC@MHSOAC.CA.GOV

Include in the subject line: RFI_SFRF_MHSSA_1

Responding to this RFI does not guarantee a contract, nor even that you will be contacted by a County. Nor does it imply that you will become part of a “pool” of potential service providers for future programs funded by MHSOAC. The Counties will be solely responsible for contacting vendors and procuring any services they need for a grant program.

ATTACHMENT 1
RESPONSE TEMPLATE

Attachment 1 is in a separate Excel file (RFI_SFRR_MHSSA_1 Attachment 1)

Please respond using this template and submit template in its Excel format

EXHIBIT 1
MENTAL HEALTH STUDENT SERVICES ACT
(Excerpt)

WELFARE AND INSTITUTIONS CODE - WIC

CHAPTER 3. Mental Health Student Services Act [5886- 5886.]

(Chapter 3 added by Stats. 2019, Ch. 51, Sec. 67.)

(a) The Mental Health Student Services Act is hereby established as a mental health partnership grant program for the purpose of establishing mental health partnerships between a county's mental health or behavioral health departments and school districts, charter schools, and the county office of education within the county.

(b) The Mental Health Services Oversight and Accountability Commission shall award grants to county mental health or behavioral health departments to fund partnerships between educational and county mental health entities. Subject to an appropriation for this purpose, commencing with the 2021–22 fiscal year, the commission shall award a grant under this section to a county mental health or behavioral health department or another lead agency, as identified by the partnership within each county that meets the requirements of this section.

(1) County, city, or multicounty mental health or behavioral health departments, or a consortium of those entities, including multicounty partnerships, may, in partnership with one or more school districts and at least one of the following educational entities located within the county, apply for a grant to fund activities of the partnership:

(A) The county office of education.

(B) A charter school.

(2) An educational entity may be designated as the lead agency at the request of the county, city, or multicounty department, or consortium, and authorized to submit the application. The county, city, or multicounty department, or consortium, shall be the grantee and receive any grant funds awarded pursuant to this section even if an educational entity is designated as the lead agency and submits the application pursuant to this paragraph.

(c) The commission shall establish criteria for awarding funds under the grant program, including the allocation of grant funds pursuant to this section, and shall require that applicants comply with, at a minimum, all of the following requirements:

(1) That all school districts, charter schools, and the county office of education have been invited to participate in the partnership, to the extent possible.

(2) That applicants include with their application a plan developed and approved in collaboration with participating educational entity partners and that include a letter of intent, a memorandum of understanding, or other evidence of support or approval by the governing boards of all partners.

(3) That plans address all of the following goals:

(A) Preventing mental illnesses from becoming severe and disabling.

(B) Improving timely access to services for underserved populations.

(C) Providing outreach to families, employers, primary care health care providers, and others to recognize the early signs of potentially severe and disabling mental illnesses.

(D) Reducing the stigma associated with the diagnosis of a mental illness or seeking mental health services.

(E) Reducing discrimination against people with mental illness.

(F) Preventing negative outcomes in the targeted population, including, but not limited to:

(i) Suicide and attempted suicide.

(ii) Incarceration.

(iii) School failure or dropout.

(iv) Unemployment.

(v) Prolonged suffering.

(vi) Homelessness.

(vii) Removal of children from their homes.

(viii) Involuntary mental health detentions.

(4) That the plan includes a description of the following:

(A) The need for mental health services for children and youth, including campus-based mental health services, as well as potential gaps in local service connections.

(B) The proposed use of funds, which shall include, at a minimum, that funds will be used to provide personnel or peer support.

(C) How the funds will be used to facilitate linkage and access to ongoing and sustained services, including, but not limited to, objectives and anticipated outcomes.

(D) How the partnership will collaborate with preschool and childcare providers, or other early childhood service organizations, to ensure the mental health needs of children are met

before and after they transition to a school setting.

(E) The partnership's ability to do all of the following:

(i) Obtain federal Medicaid or other reimbursement, including Early and Periodic Screening, Diagnostic, and Treatment funds, when applicable, or to leverage other funds, when feasible.

(ii) Collect information on the health insurance carrier for each child or youth, with the permission of the child or youth's parent, to allow the partnership to seek reimbursement for mental health services provided to children and youth, where applicable.

(iii) Engage a health care service plan or a health insurer in the mental health partnership, when applicable, and to the extent mutually agreed to by the partnership and the plan or insurer.

(iv) Administer an effective service program and the degree to which mental health providers and educational entities will support and collaborate to accomplish the goals of the effort.

(v) Connect children and youth to a source of ongoing mental health services, including, but not limited to, through Medi-Cal, specialty mental health plans, county mental health programs, or private health coverage.

(vi) Continue to provide services and activities under this program after grant funding has been expended.

(d) Grants awarded pursuant to this section shall be used to provide support services that include, at a minimum, all of the following:

(1) Services provided on school campuses, to the extent practicable.

(2) Suicide prevention services.

(3) Drop-out prevention services.

(4) Outreach to high-risk youth and young adults, including, but not limited to, foster youth, youth who identify as lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, or queer, and youth who have been expelled or suspended from school.

(5) Placement assistance and development of a service plan that can be sustained over time for students in need of ongoing services.

(e) Funding may also be used to provide other prevention, early intervention, and direct services, including, but not limited to, hiring qualified mental health personnel, professional

development for school staff on trauma-informed and evidence-based mental health practices, and other strategies that respond to the mental health needs of children and youth, as determined by the commission.