

Region 6 Behavioral Healthcare

Request for Letters of Interest

Substance Abuse Prevention and Treatment Block Grant FY23

INTRODUCTION

Region 6 Behavioral Healthcare, a political subdivision of the State of Nebraska, has the statutory responsibility for organizing and supervising comprehensive mental health and substance abuse services in the Region 6 service area which includes Cass, Dodge, Douglas, Sarpy and Washington counties in eastern Nebraska.

Region 6, one of six behavioral health regions in Nebraska, along with the state's regional centers, make up the state's public mental health and substance abuse prevention system, also known as the Nebraska Behavioral Health System (NBHS). Region 6 is governed by a board of county commissioners, who are elected officials from each of the counties represented in the Regional geographic area. The Regional Governing Board (RGB) is under contract with the Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS), the designated authority for administration of mental health and substance abuse programs for the state.

Each RGB appoints a Regional Administrator (RA) to be the chief executive officer responsible to the RGB. The RGB also appoints an advisory committee for the purposes of advising the RGB regarding the provision of coordinated and comprehensive behavioral health services within the Region to best meet the needs of the general public. In Region 6, the Behavioral Health Advisory Committee (BHAC) is comprised of 10 members including consumers, concerned citizens, and representatives from other community service systems in the Region.

REQUEST FOR LETTERS OF INTEREST

The purpose of this Request for Letters of Interest (RFL) is to seek qualified, interested coalitions or fiscal agents for coalitions to engage in negotiations regarding the development and provision of primary prevention services for alcohol, tobacco and other drugs in Cass, Dodge, Douglas, Sarpy and Washington Counties in Nebraska.

The Substance Abuse Prevention Block Grant is intended to fund efforts that demonstrate the knowledge of and experience in the implementation of primary prevention programs and services that are directed at individuals who have not been determined to require treatment for substance use, the Strategic Prevention Framework model, and the potential to produce positive change in outcome measurements.

ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

The interested organization may be a state, county, or community-based agency acting as the fiscal agent for a community prevention coalition or an independent non-profit community prevention coalition. The fiscal agent or interested coalition must be a legal entity already established and functioning with paid personnel and demonstrable experience in working with the identified target

population as stated above. Interested coalitions must demonstrate efforts to coordinate activities with the Region, other community prevention coalitions, and partners.

Since the funding source for the prevention program is Federal Substance Abuse Prevention and Treatment Block Grant, an application from a for-profit organization cannot be accepted. The applicant for this grant must be a community coalition. A coalition is defined as a community-based organization of individuals representing diverse organizations, factions, of constituencies who agree to work together in order to achieve a common goal. The coalition's work includes identification of prevention services and/or strategies designed to specifically reduce or delay the onset of substance abuse.

STRUCTURE OF FUNDING OPPORTUNITY

The funding period will run on the state fiscal year, beginning July 1, 2022 and ending on June 30, 2025. Awards may be granted on an annual basis for up to three (3) years, however, the Region does not guarantee award renewal. The Region reserves the right to alter, modify, amend and/or withdraw funding during the award cycle based on the availability of funding and the on-going assessment of funded programs and strategies.

This funding opportunity prioritizes community impact based on results from a community data assessment. Applicants will demonstrate how they intend to contribute to the listed priorities and three-year goals. While these priority areas are Region wide, there are specific highlighted priorities for each Region 6 county. It is the intention of the RFL to fund programming across and in all Region 6 counties.

Community Impact Priorities

- Reduce excessive drinking (including binge and heavy drinking) among adults
 - COUNTIES OF FOCUS: Cass, Dodge, Douglas, Sarpy and Washington
- Reduce impaired driving, particularly among young adults
 - Alcohol and Marijuana
 - COUNTIES OF FOCUS: Douglas and Cass Counties
- Reduce youth marijuana initiation and use
 - COUNTIES OF FOCUS: Sarpy County
- Reduce youth access to alcohol
 - Includes Parental Access to Alcohol
 - COUNTIES OF FOCUS: Dodge and Washington Counties

Three-Year Impact Indicators

- Reduce 30-day adult binge drinking (Baseline: 21% 2019 BRFSS)
- Reduce driving under the influence of alcohol (Baseline: 21% 2020 NYAAOS)
- Reduce driving under the influence of marijuana (Baseline: 39% of current users, 2020 NYAAOS)
- Reduce 30-day use of marijuana (Baseline: 16% 2018 YRBS Douglas County, 26% NRPFS Sarpy County)
- Reduce the percentage of parents that report providing alcohol to minors (Baseline: 10.8% 2019 NCAOS)

Applications will demonstrate programs, policies and practices that will contribute to these indicators.

Comprehensive Prevention Planning

The Federal Prevention Block Grant focuses on comprehensive prevention strategies to impact priority areas through the Strategic Prevention Framework (SPF). This model of prevention planning incorporates data, capacity development, and effective planning to result in successful implementation and demonstrable community outcomes. Successful applications will incorporate clear understanding of this SPF processes through clear outcomes based on areas of community impact, SMART goals, and a clear logic model to illustrate how their activities will result in the outcomes.



Comprehensive planning also incorporates strategies in multiple contexts, choosing prevention strategies that operate at multiple levels in order to achieve the greatest impact - individual, relationship, community, and society. Successful applications will demonstrate understanding of target populations and community context to make impact on the priorities.

All proposed programs/services must fall into at least one of the Center for Substance Abuse Prevention's 6 Prevention Strategies.

- Information Dissemination
- Education
- Problem Identification and Referral
- Alternative Activities
- Community-based Processes
- Environmental Strategies

At least 50% of the proposed budget must fund services that fall into the Community-based Processes and Environmental Strategies. The use of environmental strategies is highly encouraged, and are considered strategies that focus on altering societal influences rather than focusing on the individual.

At least 75% of proposed budgets must fund evidence-based programs, policies and practices. Individual level strategies will be eligible for funding if they are deemed an evidence-based program indicated on a national registry of evidence-based programs or evidenced through peer reviewed journals.

Funding selection will give priority to coalition plans that meet or exceed these requirements.

Sustainability

A focus of this funding opportunity is sustainability of the activities and impacts funded by these dollars after the three-year opportunity. Successful applicants will highlight strong partnerships and strategies to sustain community impacts contributed to by this funding opportunity. Sustainability plans will be required no later than the end of the first year of funding.

USE OF FUNDS

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Funds cannot be used for the following activities:

- Financial contributions to individuals
- Fund-raising events
- Lobbying
- Abortion
- Laboratory or clinical research
- Projects which do not serve the designated geographical area
- Purchase or improvement of land, purchase or permanently improve and building or other facility or purchase major medical equipment
- Cash payments to intended recipients of health service
- Promotional and incentive items
- Food or beverages
- Memberships and Dues

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

Release of RFL	Monday, January 3, 2022
Letters Due to Region 6 by 12:00 p.m.	Friday, January 14, 2022
Meeting for Eligible Interested Organizations @ 2:00pm	Tuesday, January 18, 2022
Formal Submissions by Coalitions	Friday February 11, 2022
Reviewed by Behavioral Health Advisory Committee	Wednesday, March 2, 2022
Approval of Selected Organizations by Region 6 Governing Board	Wednesday, March 9, 2022
Written Allocation Announcements of Funding	After Friday, March 11, 2022

Disseminated after Regional Governing Board Meeting

Cost Liability

Region 6 Behavioral Healthcare assumes no responsibility or liability for costs by the respondent prior to the execution of an agreement between the organization and Region 6.

Disclaimer

All the information contained within this RFL reflects the best and most accurate information available to Region 6 Behavioral Healthcare at the time of the RFL preparation. No inaccuracies in such information shall constitute a basis for legal recovery of damages, either real or punitive. If it becomes necessary to revise any part of this RFL, a supplement will be issued on the Region 6 website:

www.regionsix.com.

Oral Interviews

Region 6 reserves the right to conduct oral interviews if required. Any cost incidental to the interviews shall be borne entirely by the respondent and will not be compensated by Region 6 Behavioral Healthcare or the RGB.

Indemnification

The respondent shall assume all risk of loss in the performance of the response submission and shall indemnify and hold harmless Region 6 Behavioral Healthcare, its Governing Board, Advisory Committee members, and employees from all liabilities, demands, claims, suits, losses, damages, causes of action, fines or judgments and all expenses incident thereto, for injuries to persons and for loss of, damage to, or destruction of property caused by the negligent or intentional acts or omissions of the applicant, its officers, employees or agents; for any losses caused by failure of the applicant to comply with the terms and conditions of the contract; and for any losses caused by other parties which have entered into agreements with the respondent in connection with the performance of the contract.

GENERAL INSTRUCTIONS ON SUBMISSION OF LETTERS

All instructions, conditions, and requirements included in this document are considered mandatory unless otherwise stated. Letters that do not conform to the items provided in this document will not be considered.

The closing date for receipt of Letter of Interest is January 14, 2022. All Letters must be received in Region 6 Behavioral Healthcare office or by email by 12:00pm, Friday, January 14, 2022.

The organizational narrative should include a response to the required items below as they relate to your interest in this grant project. Using a 10-point font or larger, the Letter of Interest should not exceed seven (7) typed pages.

One or more coalitions may be funded through this Request for Letters of Interest process.

Only coalitions, or fiscal agents for coalitions, that submit a Letter of Interest and meet the eligibility requirements will be invited to attend the grant informational meeting on January 18, 2022.

Interested organizations must submit a Letter of Interest, however submitting a Letter of Interest does not bind your organization to receive funds or participate in the grant opportunity.

Region 6 Behavioral Healthcare shall not be held responsible for any cost incurred in the development or submission of the Request for Letters of Interest.

Letters must be sent or delivered to:

Attention: Crystal Fuller

Region 6 Behavioral Healthcare

4715 S 132nd Street

Omaha, NE 68137

cfuller@regionsix.com

- Applicants shall not be allowed to alter or amend their Letters after submission
- Electronic copies may be accepted via email
- No requests for extensions of the due date will be approved
- Region 6 Behavioral Healthcare/RGB accepts no responsibility for mislabeled/misssent mail

LETTER OF INTEREST

The Letter of Interest should address the following:

- Explain the basis of your interest in addressing the prevention priorities of this grant project.
- Describe past successes in implementing comprehensive prevention strategies.
- Provide past experience in community collaborations for project completion.
- Describe current and potential coalition and staff capacity to complete project.
- Address your experience in working in the Region 6 counties of Cass, Dodge, Douglas, Sarpy and Washington.
- Illustrate your ability to develop and collect outcome measures and evaluate project impact.
- Outline potential strategies for addressing the community impact priorities, including the potential implementation throughout the Region 6 counties.
- Identify potential target populations you propose to impact with strategies.