



Mercer County Community Resource Development Funds Background and Rationale – Fiscal Year 2024-2025

The NJ Children's System of Care (CSOC), Mercer County, and Capitol County Children's Collaborative (CCCC), are interested in expanding services and programs for youth in the county with mental health, behavioral health, intellectual disabilities, and substance use needs. **This one-time funding of \$67,697.70 (less may be applied for) must be utilized in full by: June 30, 2025 and will become unavailable to the awardee(s) after that date.** Funding is to support new or existing activities or services through collaboration with community partners that reduces risks to youth and adolescents (and their families) and promote safety, health, and connections at home and in the community. *Funds are not intended to purchase services for specific individuals or families.* Applicants must commit to working in partnership with Capitol County Children's Collaborative (CCCC), other system partners, and community-based resources. They must embody the values of the NJ Children's System of Care.

There have been noted gaps and needs in quality, community-based mental health services through various system-wide surveys and needs assessments. Capitol County has reviewed recent county and State data and needs assessments and while the proposals do not have to narrowly target any one population or area of service need, keeping with the identified needs of our county is advised and applicants considering proposals for this funding should be able to tie their proposed services or programs to the needs cited within the RFP and any need identified should be supported with documentation within the RFP narrative.

Consideration for proposals target the identified needs (in no specific order or limitation to):

Mental Health Services

- Access to increased bilingual services (Mental Health and Behavioral Health (clinical and psychiatric)
- Availability of Medication Monitoring and other Psychiatric Services; reductions in waiting lists for services
- Trauma Treatment Care Services (Trauma-focused CBT, et.al)
- Community education on ACES and the impact on substance use and mental health
- Supports for youth struggling with anxiety and depression
- Supportive programs to address barriers in access, particularly for younger children and adolescents (under 10)
- Reducing barriers to transportation needs (access)
- Services for youth awaiting Screening for CCIS admissions (hospitalization/inpatient care)

Needs related to Education

- School-based Mental Health services (in school)
- Interventions for transition back to school (post-Covid-19)
- Service and advocacy to increase enrollment
- Advocacy for Special Education related needs
- School avoidance and truancy related challenges

Needs related to Mentorship and Community-based programming

Current juvenile arrest rate is 2nd highest in state and exceeds average rate of the state

- Delinquency prevention programs
- Increase Violence prevention programs and initiatives
- Addressing number of school reported violent incidents (7th highest reported rate based on State reporting)
- affordable before/after school programming
- Social Skills and psychoeducation groups

Substance Use Treatment

- Increased screening and treatment for substance use among youth and adolescents
- Programs which support Co-occurring diagnosis with substance use and mental health

Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities

- Services and interventions for behavior modification
- Transitioning youth and those with complex and acute needs
- Increased services and awareness for medically fragile children

LGBTQI+ Community

- Peer Support programming (to include online communities for healthy discussions and allyship)
- Identifying affirming spaces and services (with an increase in suicide rates nationally, LGBTQ+ youth experience higher prevalence)

Data Sources:

- Mercer County CIACC Needs Assessment 2023
- Kids Count: New Jersey Kids Count 2023 Data Book
- Advocates for Children of NJ – Trenton Kids Count 2023; A City Profile of Child Well-Being
- National Center for Drug Abuse Statistics
- National Institute of Mental Health
- Human Services Advisory Council (HSAC)
- Mercer County Data Profile – Needs Assessment 2020
- Mercer County HSAC County Data Profile
 - Mercer County – A Profile of Family and Community Indicators (updated June 2023) – in conjunction with Rutgers School of Social Work and DCF
- Mercer County Youth Services Commission (YSC)
- The Community Guide – Community Preventative Services Task Force
- State of Mental Health in America Report- 2023 by Mental Health America
 - Young Peoples Mental Health Report 2020

All applications will be reviewed and scored via a panel consisting of CCCC Community Resource Manager, CCCC employees, and various members of the Mercer County Children’s Interagency Coordinating Council (CIACC) and Youth Services Commission.

Only complete packets will be eligible for review. Packets must be in Word or PDF format and emailed no later than **5:00 PM on January 8, 2024 to CommunityResources@capitolkids.org.**

Anticipated implementation date for awarded proposals is July 1, 2024

Please see the attached application and supporting documents and direct any questions you may have to my attention.

Thank you,

Ashlee Bright, MSW
Community Resource Manager
Capitol County Children’s Collaborative
609-584-0888 ext. 143
CommunityResources@capitolkids.org

All awards are contingent on the sufficiency and availability of State funding



RFP Timeline

Bidders Virtual Conference

Capitol County will host two (2) opportunities for perspective bidders as an informational meeting where questions regarding the RFP process will be addressed. The meeting is not mandatory, but attendance is encouraged. Interested parties may use this meeting to ask questions and receive information regarding the scope, implementation and requirements of the grant.

Monday, November 13, 2023, 11:00a.m.

<https://us04web.zoom.us/j/73164006183?pwd=zSgy8K8zv8zZ7O2P47vmKBEVwU3Hny.1>

Passcode: MERCER

Monday, November 20, 2023, 2:00p.m.

<https://us04web.zoom.us/j/73330036471?pwd=JUQzPCOMTUDr8hLbCYyHaSyNWgYcYL.1>

Passcode: MERCER

Submission Deadline: Monday, January 8, 2024 at 5:00 PM

Proposals received after this deadline 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:

CommunityResources@capitolkids.org

**To ensure email delivery, please leave a phone message at 609-584-0888 ext 143 indicating proposal was sent
Submitted proposals will receive a confirmation email of acceptance**

Select applicants may be invited to present their proposals. Proposals will be evaluated by a review team consisting of members of the Mercer County CIACC, Mercer County Youth Services Commissions, and Capitol County Children's Collaborative (CCCC). Due to time constraints and the volume of applications, not all proposals may be selected for presentation.

Scoring and Review

All applications will be reviewed and scored via a panel consisting of CCCC Community Resource Manager, CCCC employees, and various members of the Mercer County Children's Interagency Coordinating Council (CIACC) and Youth Services Commission.

Providers should expect to hear back regarding the status of their proposal no earlier than **May 1, 2024**

The duration of the grant runs from **July 1, 2024 to June 30, 2025**

Funding is no longer accessible after June 30, 2025

Reporting

Funded proposals must adhere to a schedule/timeline of 3 reports which are due to Capitol County and the NJ Children's System of Care. Funded proposals will be provided this timeline upon award determination.



Please find the attached pages of this RFP packet which include the application, cover sheet, and example of scoring guidelines. Any questions you may have can be directed to my attention at 609-584-0888 ext. 143 or via email at CommunityResources@capitolkids.org

Sincerely,

Ashlee Bright, MSW
Community Resource Manager
Capitol County Children's Collaborative

cc: Wyndee Davis, DCF Children's System of Care Assistant Director, Community Based Services
Jennifer Holder, DCF Children's System of Care Partner Lead
Dale Mooney, DCF Children's System of Care CMO System Liaison
Board of Trustees, Capitol County Children's Collaborative
Michele Madiou, MC CIACC

Distribution:
CCCC Community Provider List
MC CIACC
MC Youth Services Commission

Post: www.capitolkids.org
www.mercerresourcenet.org



2024-25 Mercer County Community Resource Development Funds Application

Legal Name of Organization _____

Mailing Address _____

Contact for Application _____

Phone _____ Email _____

Date of Submission _____

*Please use additional sheets of paper to respond to the following questions:
For further descriptions of requests, please see RFP notice document*

NARRATIVE:

1. State your organization’s mission.
2. Provide a brief history of your organization including incorporation, tax status, and experience with the proposed project.
 - a. Provide information regarding Medicaid provider status.
 - b. Disclose any other funding your organization receives from the NJ Department of Children and Families (DCF).
3. Project Description:
 - a. Describe the unmet need(s) you are targeting with any experiential or statistical data you may have.
 - b. Describe how your organization proposes to meet the need:
 - i. Describe the target group served; needs ages, number of individuals to be served
 - ii. Describe relevant details such as hours of operation, staff qualifications, location, etc.
 - iii. Describe the activity/service. Explain how this proposal addresses the goal as explained in the request for proposals Background and Rationale Statement (Notice).
 - c. Describe the outcomes expected and how you will measure them
 - i. the deliverables are the specific services that will be provided to the youth and families. The level of service should define who and how many will receive the service, and the frequency and length of service. The outcomes should be specific, measurable, attainable, realistic, and timely and should demonstrate the impact and benefit of the service to youth and families.
 - d. Explain how this project will be sustained on an ongoing basis after the grant money has been used.
4. Assurance of equitable access of the services/supports to the identified population
 - a. Explain the referral process. This 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.
 - b. Demonstration of how the service will be announced to the community should be included.
 - c. All purchased items must be equally accessible to all participants and relevant to the program content (i.e., gift cards, electronics, etc.)
 - d. Families cannot incur any cost or fees when receiving CRD funded service
5. Provide any additional information about your organization, program or experience which will be helpful to the selection process.

PROJECT BUDGET

Submit a line item budget, describing each item, the total cost, and the amount you are requesting for Capitol County Children's Collaborative (CCCC). Include a brief justification for the amounts you have included. Funds should not be used to supplement existing funds.

- Funds are not intended to purchase items for specific individuals or families.



- 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

The following must also be included with this application:

- List of Board Members
- Set of recent financial statements (at least six months)

All awards are contingent on the sufficiency and availability of State funding

Only complete packets will be eligible for review. Packets must be in Word or PDF format and emailed no later than **5:00 PM on January 8, 2024 to CommunityResources@capitolkids.org.**

Additional questions and inquiries can be directed to:
Ashlee Bright, MSW
Community Resource Manager – Capitol County Children’s Collaborative
609-584-0888 ext. 143



2024-25 Mercer County Community Resource Development Funds Request for Proposal Rating Scale

1. Needs Statement: (10 points)
 - Understanding needs of Mercer 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 Mercer County
2. Description of Agency and History of Service to Youth and Families: (10 points)
 - 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: (25 points)
 - 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).
 - Assurance of equitable access of the service(s) to the identified population
 - The effective period or term of the service or activity;
4. Anticipated Outcomes (25 points)
 - 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 into the future, 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 (10 points)
 - 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 (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?



**APPLICATION FOR COMMUNITY RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT FUNDS FY 2024-25
COVER SHEET**

Date of Request: ____/____/____

Contact person for this proposal: _____

Name of Organization: _____

Mailing Address: _____

Phone: _____

Fax: _____

E-mail: _____

Web site: _____

Corporate Status: Non-profit for profit

Has your organization applied for Community Resource Development Funds for the FY2024-25 within another county? Yes No

If yes, please affirm that services can be delivered in Mercer County with no barriers to access. _____

Has your organization received Community Resource Development Funding from CCCC in the past? Yes No

If yes, please indicate nature of project and dates funded:

**** Please be sure to include this cover sheet when submitting proposal****