



Mercer County Community Resource Development Funds Background and Rationale – Fiscal Year 2022-2023

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 \$68,678.46 (less may be applied for) must be utilized in full by: June 30, 2023 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):

Needs related to Juvenile Justice

- Current juvenile arrest rate is 5th highest in state and exceeds average rate of the state by 5%
- Delinquency prevention programs
- Increase Violence prevention programs and initiatives
- Addressing number of school reported violent incidents (7th highest reported rate based on State reporting)

Needs related to Education

- Interventions for transition back to school from virtual instruction; effects of Covid-19 pandemic
- Support services for homeless students
- Advocacy for Special Education related needs
- Trauma-informed care in schools, psycho-education and affordable programs before/after school programming

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

Mental Health Services

- Access to increased bilingual services
- Supportive programs to address barriers in access, particularly for younger children and adolescents (under 10)
- Availability of Medication Monitoring and other Psychiatric Services; reductions in waiting lists for services
- Reducing barriers to transportation needs (access)

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

Adolescents 18-21 (Aging-Out)

- Transition support (education, housing)
- Workforce and post-secondary education resources

Data Sources:

1. Human Services Advisory Council (HSAC)
 - a. Mercer County Data Profile – Needs Assessment 2020
 - b. Mercer County HSAC County Data Profile – in conjunction with Rutgers School of Social Work (Nov. 2021)
 - c. Mercer County CIACC Needs Assessment 2021
 - d. Kids Count: New Jersey Kids Count 2020 – Advocates for Children of NJ
 - e. Mercer County Youth Services Commission (YSC)

All applicants must demonstrate the ability to manage the finances and implement the practice/program applied for in their application. Applicants must agree to submit a comprehensive midterm and final report by the dates listed below:

1. Midterm report by: Dec 30, 2022
2. Final report by: June 30, 2023
 - a. Program Performance Reports
 - b. Expenditure Reports that include: Detailed submission of all documents that substantiate funding use (receipts, time logs, invoices, mileage, etc.)

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 PDF format and emailed no later than 5:00 PM on March 31, 2022 to CommunityResources@capitolkids.org.

Anticipated implementation date for awarded proposals is July 2022

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

Thank you,

Ashlee Bright, MSW
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Capitol County Children's Collaborative
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All awards are contingent on the sufficiency and availability of State funding