



## HFNJ Adolescent Behavioral Health Initiative

### REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

**NOVEMBER 28, 2023, SUBMISSION DEADLINE**

***A special initiative by The Healthcare Foundation of NJ to support the mental health needs of adolescents in the Greater MetroWest Jewish community.***

#### **Background**

Over the past six months, the staff and board of The Healthcare Foundation of New Jersey (Foundation) have been convening groups of community professionals to better understand the behavioral health needs of the teens and adolescents they serve. More than fifty professionals at three roundtable sessions discussed gaps in services, pain points, best practices, and publicly funded programs. Our teens have been facing increasing mental health challenges, and we have seen how the isolation and loneliness brought on by the pandemic exacerbated existing problems. We learned, in short, that our kids and their families need more from us and their current support systems.

As an organization founded by the Jewish community and rooted in the principles of *tikkun olam* and *tzedekah*, we have a particular responsibility to respond to the multi-layered challenges facing our youth. Among a range of issues, we learned about the significant impact of antisemitism and traumatic events both at home and in Israel, the need for more support in non-clinical settings like synagogues and community centers, challenges for families to find affordable and accessible mental health care when needed, and mental health organizations struggling to retain qualified clinical staffing.

Informed by these conversations, The Healthcare Foundation of New Jersey (HFNJ) invites proposals from not-for-profit organizations serving adolescents and young adults (from about ages ten to early 20s) living in the Greater MetroWest Jewish community to meet the demand for clinical and supportive services.

#### **Opportunity**

We seek to ensure that our Jewish communal organizations and leadership are equipped to handle behavioral health challenges.

While the Foundation will continue to fund existing mental health programs through its regular grants cycle, this adolescent behavioral health initiative will fund innovative **new programs** that seek to increase direct access to clinical and non-clinical care in the spaces and places where

teens learn, pray, and play. This opportunity seeks to encourage organizations to launch creative new models, including the replication of best practice programs that may have been implemented successfully outside of our community.

Grants of up to \$150,000/year for up to three years will be awarded to organizations for projects that will address clinical care needs and/or provide informal support for youth and their families. The Foundation recognizes the challenges related to the hiring, training and retention of staff and therefore has a history of consecutive years of support based on successful project implementation. After review of the first year's grant impact, these grants may be funded for up to two additional years provided that the proposal benchmarks are being met. Funding may support increasing the capacity of organizations to provide clinical care or non-reimbursable services that integrate mental health professionals into non-clinical settings. We strongly encourage collaboration and coordination among community partners, and the creation of pipelines of service to address the varied needs of our youth.

Funding will be awarded to projects that meet one or more of the following criteria:

- Programs are collaborations between multiple organizations—mental health providers, community-based organizations, schools, summer camps, faith-based institutions, etc.
- Behavioral health care and services are integrated into non-clinical settings like schools, synagogues, community centers, etc.
- Peers, mentors, and/or people with lived experience are engaged in providing support.
- Work supports both teens and families either together or separately.
- Services may include appropriate non-clinical interventions.

Any funded services will need to demonstrate a measurable, positive impact on adolescents and their families. Proposals must include details on evaluation including methods of data collection and analysis which will be reviewed prior to any additional funding for future grant years.

### **Geographic Eligibility**

The Foundation will award grants to non-profit organizations that support vulnerable adolescents and their families that are in the catchment area of the Jewish Federation of Greater MetroWest NJ, which incorporates Essex, Morris, Somerset, Union, and parts of Sussex counties.

Organizations primarily serving populations outside of those areas will not be considered.

We anticipate issuing an additional RFP next year to address other geographic areas served by The Healthcare Foundation of New Jersey.

### **Schedule**

The Healthcare Foundation of New Jersey welcomes your feedback throughout the process and is available to work in partnership with you toward the success of each initiative. The Foundation may provide additional support through grantee gatherings and/or content-specific workshops.

These meetings will be structured to allow initiative grantees to share successes and challenges with each other and identify areas for shared learning and collaboration.

Submission deadline: November 28, 2023

Proposal review and grant presentations: February 2024

Grants awarded: March 2024

**For questions, please contact:**

Marcy Felsenfeld, Senior Program Officer, The Healthcare Foundation of New Jersey

Telephone: 973-921-1210, extension 1102 or email: [mfelsenfeld@hfnj.org](mailto:mfelsenfeld@hfnj.org)

**Use this link to submit grant requests**

<https://us.grantrequest.com/application.aspx?sid=1565&fid=35052>

**What is the Healthcare Foundation of New Jersey?**

[https://hfnj.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/10/23179-4-Flyer\\_R4.pdf](https://hfnj.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/10/23179-4-Flyer_R4.pdf)