

Peer Support Services RFA  
Inquiries and Answers

1. The scope of practice for this position seems to require at least a Masters-level candidate with extensive experience in the substance abuse field. Yet the title of the proposed position, Peer Engagement, suggests that the person delivering these services could be a Peer Advocate. Are there any certification/licensing requirements for this position beyond what was described in the RFA?

Answer: No degree requirement is specified.

2. Related to Question #1, if the staff person(s) is a Peer Advocate, does that person need to be certified or need to be a Provisional Peer Advocate?

Answer: Certification is not required for this position as a Peer Engagement staff person.

3. The funding information for this RFA is not clear. Please clarify what the funding request should be for the expenses in this specific RFA (e.g., is the funding total \$150,000 or \$100,000 for this RFA)?

Answer: Up to \$150,000 is available for each Peer Engagement Services program. There will be two funded programs in each Economic Development Zone under this RFA. Attachment 6 identifies the number of awards that will be made to each EDZ under this RFA.

4. Would it be possible to know which agencies have already been funded to provide these services in each of the 10 EDZ's?

Answer:

Western New York	WNY Independent Living, Inc.
Southern Tier	Addiction Center of Broome County Inc.
Finger Lakes	Liberty Resources, Inc.
Central New York	Onondaga County Department of Adult & Long Term Care
Mohawk Valley	Rescue Mission of Utica, NY
Capital District	Currently in development
North Country	Seaway Valley Council of Alcohol and Substance Abuse Prevention, Inc.
Mid-Hudson	CAPE of Dutchess County, Inc.
New York City	Odyssey House, Inc./Beth Israel Medical Center
Long Island	No Award

5. What is the start-up date for this program?

Answer: As soon as feasible after announcement of the awards but no more than 180 days following the award notice.

6. Does the staff person in this RFA need to be associated with an existing OASAS-funded program? In other words, will this program be a separate column in the CBR/CFR or will it be incorporated in the expenses/revenue/funding of an existing OASAS program?

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Answer: The award recipient, if not already, would become an OASAS provider, and thus the program would appear as a separate column on a CFR.

7. This is an annual award. Is this grant only for one year or will there be funding available for additional years?

Answer: The award is expected to be an ongoing award, subject to availability of funds and acceptable performance by the award recipient.

8. Can referrals be made to the treatment programs within the Peer's home agency? Or will that be considered a conflict of interest?

Answer: Referrals should be made to the most appropriate service provider according to the needs of the individual.

9. Will these services be billable as Peer Support via APG rates?

Answer: Procedures can be billed from certified outpatient treatment programs and Opioid treatment programs but not prevention programs. Family Navigators may provide a peer service. When the service they provide meets the service requirements (<http://www.oasas.ny.gov/admin/hcf/APG/documents/APGManual.pdf> page 24) they would be eligible to bill H0038 for active patients of an outpatient clinic per the treatment plan. This can be billed by an OASAS Certified Outpatient Clinic or Opioid Treatment Program.

10. Will coverage have to be negotiated with all MCO's and commercial insurance companies?

Answer: The program would have to be eligible as a Medicaid provider in order to bill for Medicaid services. If the program is a Medicaid provider and an OASAS certified outpatient or opioid treatment program, procedure code H0038 is a covered outpatient service and would be paid at the current APG rate. Commercial Insurers have their own requirements for participation as a provider.

11. Can the response be written in such a manner that an applicant organization will be providing technical assistance to others in the development of this network?

Answer: It is not prohibited.

12. Can an applicant receive the funding and provide multiple part time peers to cover the catchment areas and meet the desired objectives?

Answer: Yes.

13. Maximum award: On Page 2 of the RFA it states "Up to \$150,000 is currently available annually to support two Peer Engagement Services in each of the 10 New York State Economic Development

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Zones (EDZ).” Does that mean \$150K per Peer Engagement Service, or approximately \$75K per Service?

[Answer: See response to Question # 3. The RFA is intended to fund up to two awards per EDZ. Attachment 6 identifies the number of awards that will be made to each EDZ under this RFA.](#)

14. We are seeking funding to support a Peer Engagement Service at our hospital. Is it the expectation that we will be able to cover one half to the entire NYC area?

[Answer: The broader the range of geographic coverage proposed in a bid the higher the scoring would be on that aspect of the proposal.](#)

15. Since there are Peer Navigators currently in XXX County, can one of these agencies apply for an additional Peer Navigator?

[Answer: Yes](#)

16. Would Horizon Terrace House’s crisis stabilization also be considered an emergency department?

[Answer: See Page 3 of the RFA “...various settings such as emergency departments due to their substance use.” The Peer Engagement Service is not limited to Emergency Departments.](#)

17. Can the “peer” be a family member?

[Answer: It is unclear what is meant by the question. A Peer Engagement Specialist ought to recuse him or herself from providing services for members of their own families and call upon another specialist, or a supervisor, to assist.](#)

18. Can tele-counseling be the response during off hours or when travel is not feasible (snow, scheduling, etc.)?

[Answer: It would be expected that on-call assistance could be offered in such cases.](#)

19. Can the work be fulfilled by several “part-time” responders instead of one full time?

[Answer: See response to Question # 12.](#)

20. Our organization already employs peers in our program. Can we apply for this funding to help pay for them and develop a more robust program? And/or to hire more in order to provide coverage 24/7?

[Answer: This RFA is not intended to fund existing programs.](#)

21. Our organizations operates two clinics in the same county. Can we submit an application for each location? The RFA states only one application per institution and location will be accepted. In

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addition, we operate another clinic in a different county. Can we submit three applications; one for each site?

**Answer:** The Peer Engagement Specialist is not anticipated to work in a clinic setting. The goal of the RFA is coverage to an EDZ as widely as possible, limiting to a single county does not achieve that goal. There is no prohibition from an application in another county.

22. Our organizations operates two clinics. They are in two different counties in two different economic development zones. Can we submit an application for each location?

The RFA states only one application per institution and location will be accepted.

**Answer:** There would be no prohibition from an application for each separate EDZ. However, the Peer Engagement Specialist is not anticipated to work in a clinic setting. The goal of the RFA is coverage to an EDZ as widely as possible.

23. The RFA talks about prioritizing objectives (Evaluation Section Page 8). Are the objectives listed in the RFA listed in order of priority? If not, or if they change will we be informed of what that order is?

**Answer:** Objectives will be given equal consideration

24. Attachment 1 has a Section D for Co-Applicants. Who do you anticipate an organization partnering with on an application? Are you looking for organizations to apply with the other providers of these services in our EDZ? Would this be for organizations that support our applications much like a letter of support?

**Answer:** OASAS has no preference.

25. Can you provide a list of organizations currently offering these services in the State?

**Answer:** See Question # 4.

26. Can you offer some guidance on the expected layout for Attachment 3? A work plan typically consists of goals, strategies, tasks, and timeframes. Are you looking for a chart or a narrative?

**Answer:** OASAS has no preference and leaves it to the discretion of the applicant to make that decision.

27. Can our organizations apply for both the peer engagement specialist and family support navigator?

**Answer:** Yes.

28. Is there a list available of the 9 existing Peer Engagement Services locations?

**Answer:** See Question # 4.

29. I would like to know if we fit within the eligibility criteria as a non-profit Recovery Program-HCBS designated provider.

Answer: This question cannot be answered with the information provided.

30. Would an applicant from Long Island be expected to serve both counties, or since two programs will be established on Long Island will one be established to work in each county separately?

Answer: OASAS cannot express an opinion until bids are received and reviewed.

31. In Nassau County there are 12 hospitals; will grantee be expected to work with most or just a few of them?

Answer: A Peer Engagement Service will be expected to serve as much of its catchment area as possible.

32. Provide more instruction about allowable and non-allowable budget costs. Are indirect expenses allowed, and if so, at what percent of direct expenses?

Answer: OASAS utilizes the Consolidated Fiscal Reporting and Claiming Manual to define allowable and non-allowable costs as well as administrative expenses. The manual is located at [http://www.oms.nysed.gov/rsu/Manuals\\_Forms/Manuals/CFRManual/home.html](http://www.oms.nysed.gov/rsu/Manuals_Forms/Manuals/CFRManual/home.html). Specifically, Appendix X – Adjustments to Reported Costs defines unallowable costs. Appendix I – Agency Administration provides guidance on the development of agency administration costs.

33. In terms of program activities, outcomes, numbers served, and demographics, does OASAS have specific targets in mind for guidance?

Answer: It is anticipated that those will be developed during the first year of operation.

34. Do outcomes and goals need to be specified in work plan?

Answer: The application should set goals and project outcomes to the best of your ability based on available information. Once in operation and data is collected, these will likely be revised.

35. Should the peer engagement specialist be a true “peer” with personal experience with SUD?

Answer: See pages 4 & 5 of RFA: Qualifications and Abilities. Personal recovery from a Substance Use Disorder is not a requirement of this RFA or position.

36. Are applicants expected to serve the whole economic zone they are located in or will just the service area of their organization?

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**Answer:** While the RFA does not specify that a Peer Engagement service is to serve an entire EDZ, they are encouraged to serve as wide an area as possible.

37. Will applicants serving more than their current county or service area score higher if they propose reaching out to other counties?

**Answer:** Yes, see page 3 objectives, “work with hospital Emergency Rooms and other points of entry into the system in local and other adjoining counties;”.

38. Is the LGU limited if multiple not-for-profit agencies seek a letter of support for their application?

**Answer:** There is no restriction from an LGU offering support to more than one applicant.

39. WNY Independent Living, Inc. d/b/a Mental Health Peer Connection currently has our CPR (Critical Peer Response) Team who is engaged in ER's and providing family support in Erie County.

Healthy Minds of Niagara/Independent Living of Niagara County provides mental health peer support in Niagara County and we would like to apply for this county, as substance use is on the rise and very limited resources are available for peer support.

Are we eligible to apply for Niagara County and/or other counties, seeing our first project is in Erie County only?

**Answer:** You are not prohibited from making application.