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**COUNTY OF OCEAN  
ADMINISTRATION BUILDING  
101 HOOPER AVENUE  
TOMS RIVER, NEW JERSEY 08753**

***COMPETITIVE CONTRACT***

***PROPOSAL***

***FOR***

***INNOVATIVE SUBSTANCE USE PROGRAMMING***

# **NOTICE OF COMPETITIVE CONTRACTING PROPOSAL** **INNOVATIVE SUBSTANCE USE PROGRAMMING**

## **INTRODUCTION**

Ocean County elected to join the nationwide settlement agreements to resolve all opioid litigation brought by States and local governmental entities against distributors and manufacturers of opioid pharmaceutical products. Ocean County is eligible for a direct share and will receive direct distributions from the applicable National Opioid Litigation Resolution<sup>1</sup>. Funds must be used for evidence-based services and programs to remediate the opioid epidemic, listed in Exhibit E of the settlement.

For 2022, Ocean County saw 186 suspected overdose deaths and 748 Naloxone administrations. The high rates of opioid use in Ocean County continue to significantly affect individuals with substance use disorder, families, friends, businesses, and the Ocean County community overall.

The Ocean County Opioid Advisory Council (OCOAC)<sup>2</sup> was established by the Ocean County Board of Commissioners to comply with the settlement agreement and to direct and oversee its distribution of funds from the settlement. The OCOAC conducted a community needs assessment and developed a strategic plan<sup>3</sup> to guide the use of funds for the period of 2023 through 2026. Through this funding opportunity, the OCOAC seeks to seed novel approaches and promising practices to treating substance use disorder and supporting individuals in recovery.

## **SCOPE OF WORK**

On behalf of the Ocean County Opioid Advisory Council, the Ocean County Department of Human Services seeks innovative proposals from interested organizations. Funds can be requested to develop or implement novel approaches and promising practices to treating substance use disorder and/or supporting individuals in recovery.

### **Key Values and Principles**

The successful proposers should follow a strengths-based perspective to service delivery that embraces the following values and principles of care:

**Fast Access to Care** – Participants should be able to access services quickly when they are motivated for recovery, without experiencing barriers like onerous requests for documentation, lengthy assessment processes, and waiting lists. There should be mechanisms like extended business hours, on-call capability, or walk-in/drop-in component to the program. Likewise, services should be agile and responsive to participants' needs and facilitate services as expeditiously as possible.

**Individualized and Consumer Centered** - Each participant's right to self-determination should be emphasized. Most paths to recovery are unique and not linear in nature with regard to level of care and supports needed. Any plan of care should be personalized, following a thorough assessment or evaluation, and revisited on a regular basis to respond to participant's evolving needs.

**Shared Decision Making** - Participants should have informed, meaningful, and collaborative

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1 National Opioids Settlement <https://nationalopioidsettlement.com/>

2 Ocean County Opioid Advisory Council webpage <https://www.co.ocean.nj.us/OC/OCDHS/fmOpioidCouncil.aspx>

3 Ocean County Opioid Advisory Council Strategic Plan – see Council webpage under Files of Interest

discussions about the behavioral health care and other services they receive.

**Community-based** - The program should aim to provide services in the community, in the least restrictive environment.

**Peer services** – Peer services should be embedded into all behavioral health programming. Staff and volunteers should have lived experience with SUDs and plans of care should consider the need for peer support and family peer support.

**Integrated, holistic care** – Programming should take a whole person approach, addressing not only SUD but also co-occurring mental illness, physical health and medical conditions, and other dimensions of wellness. Programming should involve and support family members and friends of the participant.

**Equity driven, culturally sensitive, and non-stigmatizing** – Services provided should be sensitive to the individual’s race, culture, and native language. The successful proposer will have a cultural competence plan. All participants will have equitable opportunities and resources. Interactions with all levels of staff should be supportive, strengths-based, and non-stigmatizing. The successful proposer(s) will not solely deliver an abstinence-only model of support and must support participants’ option to choose FDA-approved medications for opioid or alcohol use disorder.

**Trauma-informed** – All staff should be trained in trauma informed approaches to service delivery and trauma interventions as appropriate. Estimates of trauma exposure among individuals with SUD are particularly high, ranging from 50 to 90% depending on the source . Evidence-based trauma-informed care is correlated with improved engagement and outcomes among individuals with SUD.

### **Key Activities and Deliverables**

The successful proposer(s) should propose novel strategies and unique and promising practices, programs, or services that are not otherwise available or not widely accessible to Ocean County residents. This may include but is not limited to trying new outreach approaches, implementing promising treatment practices, addressing gaps in responses, building research knowledge, translating research into practice, or building capacity.

Approaches and practices should be designed to prevent or respond to drug overdoses or fatalities, improve outcomes for individuals in recovery from substance use disorders including target populations such as pregnant and parenting women and those who are currently or formerly incarcerated, increase access to substance use treatment and support services, and/or improve system capacity, cross systems partnerships and collaboration.

The successful proposer(s) will be expected to carry out the following:

***Outreach and engagement*** to potential participants and referral sources

***Community education and public awareness*** on the availability of the services, other resources, and naloxone. The community partner(s) will be expected to enhance the visibility of services and resources in the community, participate in efforts to provide community education on substance use disorders, and collaborate with schools, police, first responders, healthcare, justice system, and maternal child health partners.

***Data collection and reporting*** as requested by the Ocean County Opioid Advisory Council

(OCOAC).

**Compliance** with relevant applicable rules and regulations as well as County, Regional, State and Federal program and financial monitoring. The provider agency(ies) shall be required to comply with relevant federal, state, and local background laws, including environmental laws and federal civil rights and nondiscrimination requirements, which include prohibitions on discrimination on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, (including sexual orientation and gender identity), religion, disability, age, or familial status. The provider agency(ies) will be expected to maintain fidelity to the evidence-based model(s) utilized.

### **Anticipated Level of Service**

According to the National Survey on Drug Use and Health (NSDUH 2021), 16.5% of people aged 12 or older exhibited a substance use disorder (SUD) in the past year. There may be more than 80,000 residents of Ocean County experiencing an SUD. Two percent (or 5.6 million people) reported an OUD in the past year in response to the NSDUH. In Ocean County, this would equate to about 10,000 residents living with OUD. Around 4,500 adults seek treatment in the publicly funded system of care, about half of whom primarily use heroin and/or other opiates.

Anticipated level of service should be based on the type of service, program, or practice proposed.

### **Eligible Applicants**

Eligible applicants must be registered to do business in New Jersey. Applicant organizations who offer any substance use treatment must be appropriately licensed with the State of New Jersey, Department of Health, Office of Certificate of Need and Licensing and/or US Drug Enforcement Agency. Any clinical services must be delivered by practitioners with the appropriate license (e.g. NJ Licensed and Certified Alcohol and Drug Counselor, Licensed Professional Counselor, Advance Practice Nurse). Peer services should be delivered by individuals with appropriate training and certification (e.g. Certified Peer Recovery Specialist).

Proposers are prohibited from contacting or discussing this solicitation with members of the Ocean County Opioid Advisory Council (OCOAC) or additional reviewers that may serve on the OCOAC's Proposal Review Committee. Such contact and any attempts to sway decision making of the Council will result in disqualification of the bid.

The County of Ocean shall award a contract to the vendor or vendors that best meet the needs and interest of Ocean County.

### **Location**

The successful proposer(s) will be required to maintain a local office and provide services within Ocean County. The provision of telehealth services is permitted, which meet the regulatory standards of the State of New Jersey. Services should not be available solely via telehealth mechanisms; in-person face-to-face services should be made available and accessible to all eligible Ocean County residents.

### **Funding Availability**

A total amount of \$100,000.00 is anticipated, contingent upon the availability of funds. Neither funding availability nor allocations are guaranteed in future contract periods. A request for a price escalation may be considered for subsequent years, must be submitted at least sixty (60) days prior to the end of a current year, and must be approved by both parties prior to the next

year effective date. Retroactive price increase adjustments will not be considered.

## **Term**

The County of Ocean is seeking proposals for a contract term of January 1, 2024 through December 31, 2024 with a possible option of renewal for up to two (2) additional one year periods.

## **PROPOSAL SUBMISSION REQUIREMENTS**

The County of Ocean is accepting **only electronic** proposals for this Competitive Contract proposal. Submitting your proposal manually is cause for rejection.

The Competitive Contract is available on the Ocean County Procurement Portal Website: <https://procurement.opengov.com/portal/oceancounty> or available for viewing purposes at the Ocean County Purchasing Department at 732-929-2101.

You may only provide one (1) final submission which shall consist of one (1) complete Competitive Contract proposal.

**DO NOT** submit a hard copy of your electronic submission.

Questions about this solicitation must be submitted using the Ocean County Procurement Portal Website no later than 12 noon on Tuesday, October 31, 2023.

All proposals should include the following documents:

1. Agency Background and Experience
2. Project Description and Computed Funding Request
3. Certificate of Insurance
4. Current List of Board of Directors
5. Certified Audit or Financial Statement
6. Copy of New Jersey Business Registration Certificate in compliance with N.J.S.A. 52:32-44 OR Copy of IRS letter granting tax exempt status under Sec. 501(c)3
7. Organizational Chart
8. NJ Certificate of Employee Information Report Approval issued by the NJ Department of Treasury or AA-302 Initial Employee Information Report or equivalent
9. Affirmative Action Regulations N.J.S.A. 10:5-31 et seq. and P.L. 1975 C. 127 (N.J.A.C. 17:27-1 et seq.) Compliance Statement
10. Prohibited Russia-Belarus Activities & Iran Investment Activities
11. Statement of Ownership in compliance with N.J.S.A. 52:25-24.2. (Mandatory Document)
12. Non-Collusion Certification
13. Signature Page

### **1. Agency Background & Experience (2 pages maximum)**

Include the following for the organization:

- Chief Executive Officer or Executive Director's name and contact information.
- Contact information for the person responsible for the application, if different.
- Explain the agency's mission, vision, background, and a summary of services. Highlight evidence-based or evidence-informed programs and practices.
- List service locations, including telehealth if applicable.
- Overview the organization's qualifications and alignment with the services proposed through this RFCC.

- Please describe the agency’s past experience in managing similar and related programs, including but not limited to individuals served, services and activities delivered, contract values, and related performance outcomes achieved. Summarize the results of any program evaluations the agency has undertaken and progress towards achieving performance/ outcome measures.
- In the past 12-months, has the agency acquired new technology (i.e., financial systems, HR systems, etc.) or created new standard operating procedures that will be utilized in the management of the funds received by this grant?
- List four professional references with addresses and telephone contact numbers. Three must have direct knowledge relating to the vendor’s experience in providing the services requested by the County. References from Ocean County Departments, Offices, or entities with a fiduciary interest in the operations of your organization are prohibited. Letters of support are not necessary. Letters of commitment are permitted for collaborative funding requests.
- Provide your agency’s cultural competence plan if applicable. Attachments excluded from page limit.
- Attach a copy of the organization’s Continuity of Operations Plan (COOP), which documents how your organization will perform essential operations during an emergency situation or long-term disruption, which might last from 2 days to several weeks. The plan will identify functions, departmental communication methods, and alternate personnel, systems and locations. Explain how your organization will plan to continue operations with or without delay under all conditions. Attachments excluded from page limit.
- Provide your agency’s grievance policy and describe in detail what measures are taken administratively within your organization to ensure client satisfaction issues are addressed in a timely and reasonable fashion. Attachments excluded from page limit.

**2a. Project Description (8 page maximum)**

The Project Description should include the following:

- Describe the services and specific activities that the agency proposes.
- Define the need for the services and activities proposed in Ocean County. Cite empirical studies and recognition that establish the efficacy of the services and activities proposed, and how it directly relates to preventing or responding to drug overdoses or fatalities, improving outcomes for individuals in recovery from substance use disorders, increasing access to substance use treatment and support services, and/or improving system capacity, cross systems partnerships and collaboration.
- Describe the frequency and duration of services. Indicate type of enrollment cycle (closed cycle, rolling admission, etc.). Indicate times and days that the program will operate per week, and any organization closings (e.g. holidays) on which services will not be conducted. Be sure to distinguish operating hours for in-person services and other service delivery methods.
- List and describe locations where the services will be offered. Clearly delineate the principal location in which the agency will operate the program and outreach locations that will be established for the proposed program through partnerships or affiliation agreements.
- Explain the staffing pattern for the proposed program. This should include the number of paid staff and any volunteers or consultants, as well as describe supervision and shift structure. List staff with title/position, qualifications (license, certification, and/or degree), and years of experience. Attach job descriptions for any new or currently vacant positions only. Resumes and copies of individual licenses are not necessary.
- Overview the training each staff will receive, including any relevant certifications,

professional development, and resource training. How will staff competence be assessed and monitored?

- Describe the target population to be served including eligibility and exclusionary criteria. Explain how enrollment will be managed, including triage and implementation of a waitlist if needed.
- How many participants would be served in a year? Indicate daily program capacity and participant/staff ratio, as appropriate.
- Describe the outreach, engagement, and intake process.
- As appropriate, describe the process of service assessment and planning and any standardized tools or instruments that will be employed. Indicate specific tool(s) or instrument(s) to be used to measure progress.
- Describe the process for referrals to and coordination with partner organizations.
- Describe how process indicators such as number of clients served, naloxone kits distributed, linkages successful, and participant satisfaction will be tracked and reported.
- Indicate the desired outcomes of the proposed program, target benchmarks for each, and how each will be measured including reference to the specific tool(s) or instrument(s) to be used. Examples of performance or outcome indicators include the number and percent of participants who demonstrated a positive change in measures of symptoms/ functioning and wellbeing; number/percent who achieved service goals; number/percent who obtained or maintained recovery; and the number and percent of participants who were hospitalized for SUD or overdose.
- Describe your organization's ability to meet the specific needs of other special populations if applicable.
- Define the criteria for exit from the program. Describe policies regarding causes for termination of services with a participant.
- If applicable, explain the methods of community education and public awareness that will be employed.
- Provide a detailed implementation plan, including all required activities to roll out the program proposed, responsible parties, and associated timeframes.
- Describe any special strength or features that make your service different from similar offerings available, including any innovative approaches and best practices that will be utilized in providing these services.
- Describe the hiring or selection process for employees and volunteers that would be assigned to the program. All individuals working with youth must be subject to a criminal background check.
- If applicable, tell us about other members of the team that will support the program.
- Provide a Table of Organization that illustrates the structure of the staff and volunteers to be used in support of the proposed program within the larger agency structure. The organizational chart should list the percentage of dedicated time for all staff positions that are anticipated to work in support of the program, the employee's date of hire, and the employee's annual salary. Attachments excluded from page limit.
- If applicable, clearly describe and attach any cooperative agreements (i.e. Memorandums of Understanding, Articulation Agreements, etc.) with any other entity(ies) that will be delivering services described the proposal. Attachments excluded from page limit.
- Describe the organization's internal controls that will be used for maintaining all records and documents (including participant records). Identify how participant records will be kept and what will be included in those records.
- Describe the systems that will be used to report programmatic and fiscal activities and how they will be used to exercise management control of the services and activities.
- Describe how the proposed program will be internally monitored by the organization and

the organization's process for continuous quality improvement. Attach questionnaires, staff surveys, or other forms that will be used. Attachments excluded from page limit.

- If an external program evaluator will be utilized for any data collection and analysis, describe the duties and responsibilities of the consultant.
- Summarize the results of previous audits. Indicate if the agency receives a Single Audit and, if so, if a similar award has been audited as a major program.
- Describe the methods that will be used to evaluate participant satisfaction. How will this information be used? Attach questionnaires, client satisfaction surveys, or other forms that will be employed. Attachments excluded from page limit.
- Describe your plan for new employee orientation and ongoing staff development to ensure that your staff are well-trained in the applicable rules, regulations, and best practices.
- What evidence suggests that your organization has the capability and commitment to achieve the results stated above?

## **2b. Computed Funding Request (2 page maximum)**

The Computed Funding Proposal should include the following:

- Submit a cost proposal or fee schedule for the Project Description. Show the data used to calculate the funding request (for example: unit cost x projected level of service to be delivered over the course of the year = total request). The successful proposer(s) will be compensated on a reimbursement schedule.
- Describe each element of the funding request in a budget narrative. The narrative should align with the cost proposal or fee schedule.
- Explain any in-kind contributions or match funds to be utilized. In-kind or matching funds are not required but will be considered favorably to maximize available resources.
- Explain why funds are needed and will not supplement or supplant other sources of funding.

- 3. A copy of a Certificate of Insurance** should be included, issued by an insurance carrier licensed in the State of New Jersey, for the organization showing the amount of professional liability, general liability, business auto, and workers compensation insurance and all other insurance coverage in place as of the date of the submission of your response.

The contractor shall maintain primary insurance to protect against all claims under Worker's Compensation, Comprehensive General Liability and Automobile. Except for Worker's Compensation, all coverage shall apply as primary coverage with respect to any other insurance or self-insurance program afforded to the County. There shall be no endorsement or modification of this coverage to make it excess over other available insurance/coverage; alternatively, if the CGL and umbrella, excess of reinsurance states that it is pro rata, it shall be endorsed to be primary with respect to the County.

Primary coverage shall be subject to approval for adequacy of protection as per the following limits:

Worker's Compensation

1. Limits according to Worker's compensation Laws of the State of New Jersey.
2. Contractor's Liability not less than \$100,000.

Comprehensive General Liability

1. Bodily Injury - \$500,000 per person; \$1,000,000 per occurrence.
2. Property Damage - \$1,000,000 per occurrence.

Comprehensive General Liability shall include the following:



1. Coverage for explosion, collapse or underground hazards.
2. Occurrence basis coverage.
3. Broad form property damage coverage.
4. Coverage for personal injury sustained by any person as a result of an offense directly or indirectly related to the employment of such person by the insured.

Comprehensive Automobile Liability, if applicable, shall include the following:

Business auto liability insurance or its equivalent with a minimum limit of \$1,000,000 per accident and including coverage for all of the following:

- a. Liability arising out of the ownership, maintenance or use of any auto;
- b. Auto non-ownership and hired car coverage.
- c. Contractor's Worker's Compensation, Comprehensive General Liability and Comprehensive Automobile Liability arising out of subcontractor's operations shall be identical as that listed above.

Copies of each insurance certificate shall be furnished to the County with Proposal.

4. A list of the **Board of Directors** for the organization should be submitted.
5. **Certified Audit or Financial Statements** should be attached.

Pursuant to N.J. P.L. 2021 c. 381, an annual charities registration for a charitable organization with revenue, gains, and other support, but excluding non-monetary in-kind donations, of \$1 million or more must be accompanied by an independent audit. For those nonprofit organizations with gross revenue between \$25,000 and less than \$1 million, the financial statements must be certified by the organization's president or other authorized officer.

In accordance with the U.S. Office of Management and Budget (OMB) Uniform Guidance and the State of New Jersey OMB Circular 15-08, entities receiving and expending federal and/or state grant funds must comply with audit requirements. An entity that expends \$750,000 or more in federal or state financial assistance during its fiscal year must have a single or program-specific audit conducted for that year. An entity that expends less than \$750,000 but more than \$100,000 (combined amount) during its fiscal year, must have either a financial statement audit or a program-specific audit conducted for that year.

6. Submit a copy of the organization's **New Jersey Business Registration Certificate** in compliance with N.J.S.A. 52:32-44 OR a copy of IRS letter granting tax exempt status under Sec. 501(c)3.

Pursuant to N.J.S.A. 52:32-44, Ocean County ("Contracting Agency") is prohibited from entering into a contract with an entity unless the bidder/proposer/contractor, and each subcontractor that is required by law to be named in a bid/proposal/contract has a valid Business Registration Certificate on file with the Division of Revenue and Enterprise Services within the Department of the Treasury.

Prior to contract award or authorization, the contractor shall provide the Contracting Agency with its proof of business registration and that of any named subcontractor(s).

Subcontractors named in a bid or other proposal shall provide proof of business registration to the bidder, who in turn, shall provide it to the Contracting Agency prior to the time a contract, purchase order, or other contracting document is awarded or authorized.

During the course of contract performance:

- (1) the contractor shall not enter into a contract with a subcontractor unless the subcontractor first provides the contractor with a valid proof of business registration.
- (2) the contractor shall maintain and submit to the Contracting Agency a list of subcontractors and their addresses that may be updated from time to time.
- (3) the contractor and any subcontractor providing goods or performing services under the contract, and each of their affiliates, shall collect and remit to the Director of the Division of Taxation in the Department of the Treasury, the use tax due pursuant to the Sales and Use Tax Act, (N.J.S.A. 54:32B-1 et seq.) on all sales of tangible personal property delivered into the State. Any questions in this regard can be directed to the Division of Taxation at (609)292-6400. Form NJ-REG can be filed online at <http://www.state.nj.us/treasury/revenue/busregcert.shtml>.

Before final payment is made under the contract, the contractor shall submit to the Contracting Agency a complete and accurate list of all subcontractors used and their addresses.

Pursuant to N.J.S.A. 54:49-4.1, a business organization that fails to provide a copy of a business registration as required, or that provides false business registration information, shall be liable for a penalty of \$25 for each day of violation, not to exceed \$50,000, for each proof of business registration not properly provided under a contract with a contracting agency.

7. A table of organization or **Organizational Chart** should be submitted to illustrate the reporting relationships and chains of command within the organization.
8. A copy of the current **NJ Certificate of Employee Information Report Approval** issued by the NJ Department of Treasury or **AA-302 Initial Employee Information Report** or equivalent should be included.
9. Affirmative Action Regulations N.J.S.A. 10:5-31 et seq. and P.L. 1975 C. 127 (N.J.A.C. 17:27-1 et seq.) **Compliance Statement** provided in the Vendor Questionnaire.

#### **10. Certification of Non-Involvement in Prohibited Activities**

Certification of Non-Involvement in Prohibited Activities in Iran - Pursuant to N.J.S.A. 52:32-58, the proposer must certify that neither the proposer, nor one of its parents, subsidiaries, and/or affiliates (as defined in N.J.S.A. 52:32-56(e)(3)), is listed on the Department of the Treasury's List of Persons or Entities Engaging in Prohibited Investment Activities in Iran and that neither is involved in any of the investment activities set forth in N.J.S.A. 52:32-56(f). If the proposer is unable to so certify, the proposer shall provide a detailed and precise description of such activities. Prior to contract award or authorization, the contractor shall provide the Contracting Agency with a completed Certification on Non-Involvement in Prohibited Activities in Iran.

Certification of Non-Involvement in Prohibited Activities in Russia or Belarus - Pursuant to N.J.S.A. 52:32-60.1, the "person or entity" (as defined in N.J.S.A. 52:32-60.1, et seq) seeking to enter into or renew a contract for the provision of goods or services or the purchase of bonds or other obligations shall certify that it is not "engaging in prohibited activities in Russia or Belarus" (as such term is defined in as defined in N.J.S.A. 52:32-60.1, et seq. If the person or entity is unable to certify, the person or entity shall provide a detailed and precise description of such activities. The N.J.S.A. 52:32-60.1 certification form must be completed prior to contract award and is provided in the specification documents (DocuSign).

Vendors may view the Precluded Entities List Here: <https://www.nj.gov/treasury/administration/pdf/RussiaBelarusEntityList.pdf>

**11. Statement of Ownership** - The provisions of N.J.S.A. 52:25-24.2 applies to all forms of corporations and partnerships, including, but not limited to, limited partnerships, limited liability corporations, limited liability partnerships, and Subchapter S corporations.

All required documents provided in the Vendor Questionnaire must be filled out and included with your submission, including: Affirmative Action Regulations N.J.S.A. 10:5-31 et seq. and P.L. 1975 C. 127 (N.J.A.C. 17:27-1 et seq.) Compliance Statement; Prohibited Russia-Belarus Activities & Iran Investment Activities; Statement of Ownership in compliance with N.J.S.A. 52:25-24.2. (Mandatory Document); Non-Collusion Certification; and Signature Page. *Please note that, where applicable, the County's preferred method of document submission is DocuSign.*

## **EVALUATION**

### **Criteria**

All proposals will be reviewed to determine if they conform to all the proposal requirements set forth and the following selection criteria will be used in award of a contract for the services described herein. ***Proposals must receive an average score of at least 67% to be considered for funding.***

40 % - Technical Criteria  
30 % - Management Criteria  
30 % - Cost Criteria

#### 1. Technical Criteria:

Does the vendor's proposal demonstrate a clear understanding of the scope of work and related objectives?

Is the vendor's proposal complete and responsive to the specific requirements?

Are all aspects of the proposed service described and explained?

Is the implementation plan viable?

Is there evidence to support the efficacy of the proposed methodology?

#### 2. Management Criteria:

Does the proposal adequately address all the response items?

Does the proposer appear to be a solid organization who has demonstrated the ability to perform the functions described in its project plan?

Is the staffing plan and organizational chart adequate?

#### 3. Cost Criteria:

How does the cost compare to other similarly scored proposals?

Is the price and its component charges, fees, etc. adequately explained or documented?

Ability to leverage resources with other partners in innovative service approaches will be considered.

**Ranking** - A review committee of the Ocean County Opioid Advisory Council will review and rank all responses. All proposals will be reviewed for completeness and qualifications. Final funding decisions rest with the Ocean County Board of Commissioners. Proposals may be awarded funding in whole or in part, based on the recommendation of the review committee. The County of Ocean shall award a contract to the vendor or vendors that best meet the needs and interest of Ocean County. The County reserves the right to negotiate the terms and conditions of a contract with the successful vendor or vendors to obtain the most cost advantageous services for the County.

**Appeals** - Please be advised, based on County policy in implementing the Open Public Contracts Law and Regulation NJSA 40A:11-1, applicants have the right to appeal actions or decisions related to this solicitation pertaining to procedural, statutory, or regulatory violations. Appeals that challenge the evaluation of proposals will not be entertained. If issuing an appeal, provide a detailed summary of any New Jersey Local Public Contracting Law and Regulation (NJSA 40A:11-1 et seq.) violation you believe is related to your application. Appeals must be sent in writing via email to [jbusch@co.ocean.nj.us](mailto:jbusch@co.ocean.nj.us) within three (3) business days of receiving a letter of rejection for funding.

### **OTHER TERMS**

**Indemnity Clause** - The proposer, if awarded a contract, agrees to protect, defend and save harmless the County against any damage for payment for the use of any patented material process, article or device that may enter into the manufacture, construction or form a part of the work covered by either order or contract, and he further agrees to indemnify and save harmless the County from suits or actions of every nature and description brought against it, for, or on account of injuries or damages received or sustained by any party or parties by, or from any of the negligent acts of the contractor, his servants or agents.

**Pay to Play Requirements** - Starting in January 2007, all business entities are advised of their responsibility to file an annual disclosure statement of political contributions with the New Jersey Election Law Enforcement Commission (ELEC) pursuant to N.J.S.A. 19:44A-20.27 if they receive contracts in excess of \$50,000 from public entities in a calendar year. Business entities are responsible for determining if filing is necessary. Additional information on this requirement is available from ELEC at 888-313-3532 or at [www.elec.state.nj.us](http://www.elec.state.nj.us).

**Transitional Period** - In the event services are terminated by contract expiration or by voluntary termination by either the Contractor or the County of Ocean, the Contractor shall continue all terms and conditions of said contract for a period not to exceed one (1) month at the County's request.