

# Youth Mental Health Access Community Project Request for Applications (RFA)

Application Title: Youth Mental Health Access (YHMA) Community Project

Funding: \$30,000

Expected Number of Awards: Two (2)

## Application Timeline:

This schedule is subject to change. The Washington State Department of Health (DOH) must have all required documents by due dates.

YMHA Community Project Announcement & Promotion	12/4/2023
Application Due Date	01/26/2024
Notification of Awards	2/19-2/23/2024
YMHA Community Project Start Date	April 2024
Application can be found at YMHA Community Project WA Portal-Available after December 11, 2023	<a href="http://bit.ly/46Faavo">http://bit.ly/46Faavo</a>
Application Technical Assistance 1/9/2024 12:00PM	<a href="#">Link to Join Meeting (MS Teams)</a> <a href="https://bit.ly/3RlaXNC">https://bit.ly/3RlaXNC</a>
FAQs (Frequently Asked Questions) & Answers Available after December 11, 2023	<a href="http://bit.ly/46Faavo">http://bit.ly/46Faavo</a>
Additional questions not in FAQs	Keith Zang at <a href="mailto:PCHHS@doh.wa.gov">PCHHS@doh.wa.gov</a>

## Background and Purpose:

The Youth Mental Health Access Community Project seeks to reduce barriers to mental health services for patients ages 6 – 17. This funding will serve patients who either have Apple Health or are low-income and need access to mental health services.

## Background:

The Washington State Managed Care Organization (MCO) Health Equity Performance Improvement Project (PIP) Workgroup and DOH have come together to address the barriers to mental health care services and promote health equity for people in Washington State who

have Apple Health or Medicaid.

The MCO Workgroup has identified that children and youth from Black, Indigenous, and People of Color (BIPOC) communities in Washington may have limited access to mental health care and services. The workgroup has used a Washington State measure called the Mental Health Service Rate to identify this need.

The MCO workgroup focuses on children and youth ages 6–17 who identify as BIPOC, are enrolled in Apple Health, and have had an identified mental health need in the past 2 years. Children and youth from BIPOC communities have lower rates of receiving mental health services even after they have an identified need.

These projects will help reduce the health inequities that BIPOC communities experience due to racism and biases in the health care system. They will help build strategies that BIPOC communities can continue to use after the projects are completed.

The MCO Workgroup will use the Children’s Mental Health Service Rate (MHSR) to measure the success and outcomes of the selected projects. MHSR is the percentage of members with a mental health service need who received outpatient mental health services in the measurement year. [You can read more about the Mental Health Service Rate Measure Definition online.](#)

You do not need to include the MHSR details for children ages 6 – 17 in your project or proposal.

To request this document in another format, call 1-800-525-0127. Deaf or hard of hearing customers, please call 711 (Washington Relay) or email [civil.rights@doh.wa.gov](mailto:civil.rights@doh.wa.gov).

### **Requirements to Apply:**

- Serve 50+ Washington State low-income children and youth ages 6 – 17
- Organizational leadership support, and dedicated staff engagement, for all project activities
- Activities should clearly address barriers to mental health services, support for mental health care, or address mental health in Black, Indigenous, and People of Color children ages 6 – 17 in a way that is measurable.
- The baseline and outcome measure indicators must be clear and measure the impact, not just the effort used. E.g., number of additional appointments with mental health counselor completed by youth in our program will increase by staff providing transportation to appointments. Baseline is the number of appointments completed in a month before the project begins, regular reports would include the number completed each month of the project.
- Projects must be 3 – 6 months in length.
- Projects can receive up to \$30,000. DOH will pay the amount within 90 days of submission of the approved invoice and organizational general ledger or a bookkeeping report.
- Awardees must have or apply for a Washington State Statewide Vendor Number. You can apply for a [Washington State Statewide Vendor Number online.](#)

**PLEASE NOTE:**

Income from this project is reportable to the IRS.

**Project Information:**

The Washington State Department of Health is seeking applications from Community-Based Organizations, schools, Federally Qualified Health Centers, Rural Health Centers, and other organizations serving children and youth ages 6 – 17 from low-income families to support youth mental health.

The project's primary activities must be measurable. We will give preference to applicants who submit a project with an adoption strategy and sustainability plans to continue activities. Your project may or may not have some of the following activities:

- Youth outreach
- Healthcare navigation
- Community messaging – Parents to Parents
- Youth messaging – Youth to Youth
- Healthy lifestyle promotion
- Peer support

Examples of possible projects include:

- Projects that help reduce mental health disparities for youth during the project and beyond.
- Projects that connect children and youth from low-income families to mental health resources.
- Projects that prevent future mental health disparities by supporting parents or offer parenting skills.

Additional requirements for selected partner organizations:

- Awardees must take part in scheduled check-ins with DOH and the MCOs serving people in Washington State.
- Awardees must submit regular project summary updates and reports to the MCO Health Equity Workgroup.
- Awardees must submit a summary report to the Managed Care Organization Health Equity Workgroup that includes outcomes within 30 days of completion.
- We may require that project awardees report ongoing outcomes and results 90 days after completing the project activities. If so, the MCO Health Equity Workgroup will provide extra funding to determine the lasting impact of a project's activities.

**Eligibility (Y/N)**

- Applicant serves BIPOC children ages **6 – 17** (or anywhere within that age group) with an identified mental health need

- Project duration is 3 – 6 months
- Must have or indicate willingness to acquire a Statewide Vendor Number
- Staff and management for this project at least 50% Black/African American, Hispanic, AI/AN, Pacific Islander, or Asian

## **Application Scoring—Total 100 Points**

### **Community Support—25 pts**

- Applicant has at least 1 letter of support from a community member or community organization that has received services. Letter content may include:
  - Association / relationship of the author to the organization and how long have they worked with the organization
  - Activity, participation, or role of the author
  - Results of participation (how has the organization benefited the community)
  - Role of the organization in the community
  - Reputation of the applying organization

### **Project Narrative—55 pts**

- Project narrative is within the specified 1200 words
- Narrative includes:
  - Proposed project activities with milestones and due dates.
  - Demonstrates tangible services for families
  - Explain how your approach will support children **6 – 17** with an identified mental health need.
  - Connects goals to how they will address the impacts and harm of racism in the mental health system
  - A timeline that is attainable and reasonable.

### **Budget—20 points**

- Itemized budget is included and aligns with goals in project narrative.

Scoring preferences will be given to minority-owned, woman-owned or veteran-owned organizations and those listed within the Washington State Masters Contract List

### **Funding**

- Funds are not to exceed Thirty Thousand Dollars (\$30,000) for the grant period of up to six months.
- Allowable expenditures include:
  - Salaries, benefits, goods, and services
  - Compensation for project participants (e.g., parents completing appointments)
  - In-state travel related to activities required in the statement of work (documented transportation and lodging expenses plus per diem and mileage)

at [Washington State rates](#)).

- Non-allowable costs include:
  - Funds for research
  - Clinical care except as allowed by law
  - Reimbursement of pre-award costs unless DOH provides written approval to the recipient.
  - Generally, recipients may not use funds to purchase furniture or equipment. Any such proposed spending must be clearly identified in the budget.
  - Other than for normal and recognized executive-legislative relationships, no funds may be used for:
    - publicity or propaganda purposes, for the preparation, distribution, or use of any material designed to support or defeat the enactment of legislation before any legislative body.
    - the salary or expenses of any grant or contract recipient, or agent acting for such recipient, related to any activity designed to influence the enactment of legislation, appropriations, regulation, administrative action, or executive order proposed or pending before any legislative body.

### **Electronic Funds Transfer:**

The State of Washington prefers to utilize electronic payment in its transactions. The successful awardee will be expected to register as a [statewide vendor](#) (if not currently registered). This allows awardees to receive payments from all participating State agencies by direct deposit, the State's preferred method of payment.

### **Submission of Applications:**

Please send the completed Application with all attachments to [PCHHS@doh.wa.gov](mailto:PCHHS@doh.wa.gov) subject line "Application", no later than **01/26/2024**.

### **Application Evaluation:**

An evaluation committee, made up of staff from the Department of Health, Medicaid Managed Care Organizations and community-based workgroup consultants, will be established to individually score all applications.

### **Application Questions & Communications about the YMHA Community Project:**

Please direct questions not included in the Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) and other communications about the YMHA Community Project to: Keith Zang at [PCHHS@doh.wa.gov](mailto:PCHHS@doh.wa.gov)