



Dear Community Provider:

Tri County Care Management Organization (TCCMO) provides care management services to children and youth experiencing emotional, behavioral, developmental, intellectual, and substance use needs, and their families. As part of our contract with the New Jersey Children's System of Care (CSOC), TCCMO has access to limited funds designated for one time use by community organizations to promote and develop new or additional resources addressing an unmet or underserved need in Hunterdon, Somerset and Warren Counties (tri-county area).

This letter serves as a "Request for Proposals" (RFP) to develop and/or increase the availability of community based resources to tri county youth experiencing emotional, behavioral, developmental, intellectual, and substance use needs, and their families.

A maximum total of **\$67,697.00** is available to fund one or more projects. Funding is to be used for expansion or creation of resources available to tri-county area youth experiencing emotional, behavioral, developmental, intellectual, and substance use needs, and their families. All types of projects that result in the expansion or creation of community-based resources will be considered with preference given to those programs that address needs (data sources used in preparation of this RFP can be found at the end of this document) related to:

Needs related to Mentoring programs

(special consideration for proposals servicing Warren County youth in this area)

- Pairing youth with positive role models who can guide them in making positive life choices and who serve as positive examples for academic, personal, and professional success.
- Offering educational support and mentorship aimed at improving school performance, graduation rates, and preparing for post-secondary opportunities.
- Encouraging self-awareness, emotional intelligence, and decision-making skills that will help mentees navigate complex personal and social situations.
- Introducing career exploration, skills development, and workplace readiness programs to enhance job prospects and foster career aspirations

Needs related to At-Risk Youth

- Prevention and early intervention programs for at-risk youth with suicidal ideation and substance use
- Increased screening and treatment for substance use among youth and adolescents
- Early identification of youth with substance use or co-occurring disorder and early intervention
- Programs (particularly group therapy) which support co-occurring mental health and substance use diagnoses
- Programs engaging both youth and parents/guardians
- Educate youth, parents/guardians, schools, and families on suicidal ideation and substance use education to reduce stigma and increase engagement for community services
- Programs addressing the overrepresentation of Black youth in youth arrests when compared to their White and Hispanic counterparts
 - *(special consideration for proposals servicing Somerset County in this area)*



Tri County CMO Community Resource Development Funds FY 2026 Background and Rationale

Tri County CMO (TCCMO) and the New Jersey Children’s System of Care (CSOC) are seeking to develop/expand services and supports for youth with mental health, emotional, behavioral, substance use, and intellectual/developmental disability needs. **This one-time funding of \$67,697.70 (less may be applied for) must be utilized in full by June 30, 2025 and will become unavailable to the awardee(s) after that date.** Funding is to support new or existing community services that promote child and family well-being, safety, and health in Hunterdon, Somerset and/or Warren counties. Proposals submitted must either be a one-time initiative that can have a sustained impact or serve as seed money to initiate a new resource. Applicants must commit to working in partnership with TCCMO, other system partners, and community-based services. They must embody the wraparound values of TCCMO and CSOC.

There have been noted gaps and needs in community-based mental health services as evidenced by system-wide surveys and needs assessments, including the following Hunterdon, Somerset and Warren Counties data sources, care manager generated input, and service needs cited at tri county CIACC, Youth Services Commission, Human Services Advisory Council and committees focused on mental health, substance prevention, and community-based services and supports for youth with developmental disabilities and their families:

- a. CIACC Dashboards: <https://www.nj.gov/dcf/childdata/interagency/index.html>
- b. HSAC Needs Assessments: https://www.nj.gov/dcf/about/divisions/opma/hsac_needs_assessment.html
- c. DCF Commissioner’s Dashboard: <https://www.nj.gov/dcf/childdata/continuous/index.html>
- d. DCP&P Dashboard: <https://www.nj.gov/dcf/childdata/protection/index.html>
- e. DCF Rutgers Data Hub and Portal: <https://njchilddata.rutgers.edu/>
- f. Somerset County Youth Services Commission’s 2024 – 2026 Comprehensive Plan & Application
- g. Hunterdon County Youth Services Commission 2024 – 2026 Plan Recommendations Summary
- h. Kids Count: New Jersey Kids Count 2020 | Advocates for Children of New Jersey (acnj.org)

Applicants considering proposals for this funding must ensure that their proposed programs and services correspond to the needs cited in this RFP. Services/supports should be equitably accessible to all youth and families with the identified needs. The referral process should ensure equitable access for the youth and families eligible to receive them and the access process should be free from any form of discrimination. Priority needs that have been identified for funding based upon the foregoing (no specific order):



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(special consideration for proposals servicing Warren County youth in this area)

- Pairing youth with positive role models who can guide them in making positive life choices and who serve as positive examples for academic, personal, and professional success.
- Offering educational support and mentorship aimed at improving school performance, graduation rates, and preparing for post-secondary opportunities.
- Encouraging self-awareness, emotional intelligence, and decision-making skills that will help mentees navigate complex personal and social situations.
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- Programs engaging both youth and parents/guardians
- Educate youth, parents/guardians, schools, and families on suicidal ideation and substance use education to reduce stigma and increase engagement for community services
- Programs addressing the overrepresentation of Black youth in youth arrests when compared to their White and Hispanic counterparts *(special consideration for proposals servicing Somerset County in this area)*

Needs related to Mental Health Services

- Increased Medicaid outpatient services (Counseling, IOP, PHP, Groups, Medication Management)
- Reductions in waiting lists for services
- Availability of medication monitoring and other psychiatric services
- Programs that promote awareness of mental health services and access knowledge

Needs related to Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities

- Services and interventions for behavior modification
- Transitioning youth and those with complex and acute needs
- Social and recreational services that are inclusive of differently abled youth

Needs related to Increased Bilingual Services Access

- Supportive programs to address and mitigate barriers in access
- Mental health services for youth in Spanish
- Mental and physical health access to services for undocumented youth and families



Incomplete applications will not be accepted. In completing the proposal, please note:

- Proposal Submission Deadline: 12:00pm Friday, January 10, 2025.
- Anticipated implementation time period for awarded proposals: July 1, 2025 – June 30, 2026

All applications will be reviewed and scored via a panel consisting of TCCMO Chief Development Officer, TCCMO staff members, local CSOC System of Care Partners, various members of the Hunterdon, Somerset and Warren Children’s Interagency Coordinating Council (CIACC), the Youth Services Commission, and the Human Services Advisory Council.

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 program performance and expenditure report by the dates listed below and using the template provided:

- Initial launch report (30 days after startup event)
- Interim Report Due December 31, 2025
- Final Report Due June 30, 2026

The preferred method for submission of the RFP is through the Microsoft Forms link below:

<https://forms.office.com/r/ZcTus9pCCc>

Please see the “FY2026 Community Resource Development Funds Frequently Asked Questions” document for additional information.

Thank you.

Deja Amos, MSW - she/her/hers
Chief Development Officer
Tri County CMO
Damos@tricountycmo.org



**FY2026 Tri County CMO Community Resource Development Funds
RFP Application Review/Scoring Sheet**

Applicant: _____

Project Name: _____

Reviewer: _____ Review Date: _____

Narrative	Points	Notes
<p>Organization Mission & History (15 points)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Mission is keeping with mission and values of Tri County CMO ○ Mission encompasses service population of Tri County CMO ○ Organization has expertise with need(s) to be addressed and proposed service ○ Organization has strong connection to community 		
<p>Project Description (60 points total)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ <u>Unmet Need (10 points)</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The need that is being targeted is clearly defined and outlined ○ Need linked to a referenced needs assessment ○ <u>Proposal to Meet Need (20 points)</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Targeted population is clearly defined and proposal outlines expected number of youth and families to be served ○ Hours of operation, staffing requirements, and location(s) are clearly outlined ○ Project activities and services are well defined. Applicant explains how these will address the unmet needs they have identified as their target ○ <u>Outcome Management (15 points)</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Expected outcomes and deliverables are defined and methods of measurement are clearly described ○ Outcomes are reasonable within specified time frame ○ Quality assurance efforts were outlined ○ <u>Sustainability (15 points)</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Proposal explains how the project will be sustained on an ongoing basis 		



Project Budget		
Budget (25 points) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Costs are reasonable ○ Adequate substantiation of costs ○ Funds have been identified to cover all expenses ○ Funding is used towards direct services for youth ○ Funding should not be used to “purchase” services for individuals or families 		
Total Points		



Tri County CMO
Community Resource Development-RFP
Conflict of Interest and Confidentiality Statement

In order to participate in the evaluation of proposals, it is important to identify if anyone participating has a conflict of interest.

A conflict of interest would include, but is not limited to, the following:

- a) reviewer had or has a family, marital or personal relationship with applicant or board member of the applicant;
- b) reviewer previously worked with, is currently employed at, or has a professional affiliation with an applicant;
- c) reviewer has any financial, political or personal interest that could be affected by action taken;
or
- d) reviewer assisted the applicant with the completion of the proposal.

If for any other reason you believe that you cannot objectively evaluate the proposal of a particular agency or program, you must disclose the conflict and excuse yourself from that evaluation.

As a member of the Funds Review Panel, I agree to have no conversation or information sharing with any individual(s) about the applications I am reviewing outside of the process outlined by TCCMO.

Each evaluator is required to review and sign this document indicating that you have read and understood the document and are stating that you are not aware of any conflict that would interfere with your review of the proposals, or if you are aware of a conflict of interest, you have indicated below which proposal you will not be evaluating. Please bring the signed statement to the CRD-RFP review committee meeting.

Please check one:

_____ I have read the above statements regarding conflict of interest and am not aware of any circumstance that would preclude my participation in evaluation of program proposals.

_____ I have read the above statements, and due to a conflict of interest, I will not be evaluating the following proposals:

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Printed Name: _____



FY2026 Community Resource Development Funds Frequently Asked Questions

- What restrictions are in place for how the funds can be utilized?
 - CRD funds are intended to support new or existing activities or services offered by community organizations that directly promote child and family wellbeing, safety, and health. These funds are not intended to purchase services directly for specific individuals or families and funds cannot be used to supplement contracted DCF services. CRD funds can also not be used to acquire or maintain fixed assets, such as land, buildings, vehicles, and equipment.

- Does the length of the grant run for a full calendar year after applicants is approved?
 - No, due to state funding restrictions, this funding becomes unavailable after June 30th, 2026. Applicants can receive reimbursement for services or supplies up until that date but not after. Funding is expected to become available after July 1, 2025 for applicants to begin implementation of their proposal.

- Is a proposal with more than one concept or program acceptable if remaining under the **\$67,697.00** limit?
 - Yes; however, submitting a proposal for each concept or program independently will allow each to be reviewed as a separate proposal from the other. If multiple project ideas appear in one submission they will be reviewed together, each being considered alongside the concepts included in the same proposal.

- Is there a minimum proposal amount applicants can request?
 - No.

- Can funding go to multiple agencies?
 - Yes, in the past the Review Panel has selected multiple proposals to fund from various agencies in the same fiscal year.

- Do youth who will be served by this funding have to be enrolled with Tri County CMO?
 - No, these funds are not intended to exclusively benefit CMO or CSOC enrolled youth.

- Do you have to be a Medicaid provider to apply?
 - No. We do ask this be specifically stated in our rationale, but it is not required to receive funding.



- Does the agency applying have to be situated in Hunterdon, Somerset or Warren Counties?
 - No, but the project and persons served must target the Hunterdon, Somerset and/or Warren County youth/family community.
- If targeting a specific town or area, should we include data that outlines why this geographic area is targeted for services?
 - Yes, although Tri County CMO has identified needs through its review of relevant needs assessments and made that available to applicants, applicants are expected to include data related to the need and why the proposed project will occur in that specific town or area.
- What qualifies for "Set of financial statements (at least 6 months)"?
 - A recent audit or an agency income/expense report showing at least 6 months activity are both accepted.
- Do you want paper copies of the proposal sent to Tri County CMO?
 - No; currently we are accepting electronic submissions via the online link:

<https://forms.office.com/r/ZcTus9pCCc>
- Sustainability
 - Each applicant should describe in detail their plan of how these services or activities will be funded once the initial grant period is over. If fundraising is part of the sustainability plan, applicant should outline past fundraising capabilities and outline how the service will be supported past the funding period as well as other sources of funding that will be used to continue the service or activity being applied for.
- When will we hear about our application?
 - Children's System of Care will notify Tri County CMO of its approval and anticipates all funded projects be implemented after July 1, 2026, contingent upon NJ state budget approval.
 - Tri County CMO will notify all approved recipients as well as follow up with all applicants who were not selected after we receive confirmation from CSOC.



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Needs related to Increased Bilingual Services Access

- Supportive programs to address and mitigate barriers in access
- Mental health services for youth in Spanish
- Mental and physical health access to services for undocumented youth and families

This funding solicitation reflects current needs of youth served by Hunterdon, Somerset and Warren Counties (tri county) Children's System of Care and the NJ Children's System of Care Community Resource Development (CRD) funding guidelines. Collaborative applications that maximize the impact of these limited funds are encouraged as well as projects that include family participation. The overall goal of this RFP is twofold: to develop and/or increase the availability of resources to Tri County youth and their families; and to increase positive outcomes for youth experiencing emotional, behavioral, developmental, intellectual, and substance use needs. *All awards are contingent on the sufficiency and availability of CSOC funding.* Final decisions regarding grant awards will be at the discretion of CSOC.

All proposals shall include the following information specific to this solicitation and will be evaluated based on the Proposal Rating Score included with this announcement:

1. Needs Statement:

- An explanation of the proposed activity(ies) or service need(s) referencing the needs assessment data and identified areas of need in Hunterdon, Somerset and Warren Counties;
- Understanding needs of Hunterdon, Somerset and Warren County youth with emotional, behavioral, developmental, intellectual, and substance use needs especially in regard to Medicaid and Evidence Based Practices (EBPs), promising practices, or best practices, where applicable;
- Understanding of referral needs for all NJ Children's System of Care Partners;
- General and specific knowledge of cultural competencies necessary to be successful in Hunterdon, Somerset and Warren County.

2. Description of Agency and History of Service to Youth and Families:

- Organizational capability to initiate and sustain current and proposed program, preferably Evidence Based Practices (EBPs), promising practices, or best practices, where applicable.



3. **Description of Service(s) to be funded:**

- Specific implementation plan, informed by a qualified purveyor of that best practice, promising practice, and EBP particularly around fidelity to the model when applicable;
- Activities and services to be provided during the funding period, and those to commence beyond the funding period;
- Background, qualifications, and justification of organization to provide work as part of this proposal;
- Agreement to serve Medicaid-eligible youth and their families;
- Agreement to serve all eligible NJ Children's System of Care youth (No eject - No reject);
- The effective period or term of the service or activity.

4. **Anticipated Outcomes**

- Sustainability plan. All projects must demonstrate sustainability after initial funding. Demonstrate that the service is sustainable after the end of the effective term and provide a plan outlining relevant strategies. Please describe how these services will continue, including plans for third party reimbursement and/or client fees;
- Defined anticipated quantifiable deliverables, level of service, and/or outcomes;
- Affirmation of required periodic fiscal and or program reports to demonstrate compliance with the bid requirements.

5. **Evaluation Methods**

- Evaluation of practice or program adherence/fidelity/effectiveness and participation in ongoing outcomes research, if applicable, to the practice or program proposed;
- Documentation of a quality assurance effort and outcomes monitoring plan.

6. **Sustainability Plan**

- All projects must demonstrate sustainability after initial funding;
- Demonstrate that the service is sustainable after the end of the effective term and provide a plan outlining relevant strategies;
- Describe how the services will continue into the future, including a growth plan, plans for third party reimbursement or client fees, etc.

7. **Budget**

- Exact amount of funds requested and detailed budget for the expenditure of these funds;
- Funds are not intended to purchase services for specific individuals or families and funds cannot be used to supplement DCF-contracted services;
- Funds cannot be used for capital expenditures, including the acquisition of maintenance of fixed assets such as land, buildings, vehicles and equipment;
- Costs should be reasonable, provide adequate justification of costs SPECIFIC ONLY to this proposal (i.e., overhead costs of agency or salaries not directly related to project are NOT acceptable).



RFP Timelines

Grant Overview/Q&A Sessions:

Wednesday, November 20th
2:00pm and Monday, December 9th
10:00am

Each session serves as an informational meeting wherein interested applicants will be able to ask questions and receive information regarding the scope, implementation and grant requirements. The meeting is not mandatory but attendance is strongly encouraged. The meeting will be held virtually; to request link, email Amacdonald@tricitycmo.org.

Proposal Submission Deadline: 12:00 pm Friday, January 10, 2025

Proposals received after this deadline or incomplete proposals will not be considered for funding. All proposals shall include the information listed in the **Tri County CMO Community Resource Development Funds Application** and will be evaluated based on the **Tri County CMO Community Resource Development Funds Request for Proposals Rating Scale**. The preferred method for submission for the Request for Proposal is attachment via the online link – <https://forms.office.com/r/ZcTus9pCCc>

Tri County CMO Submission of CRD Funding Recommendations to CSOC Friday, February 28, 2025

Proposals are anticipated to be recommended to NJ-CSOC based on the approval of the Tri County CMO CEO. RFP timelines are subject to change.

Announcement of CRD Funding Award: Friday, May 16th, 2025

CSOC will notify TCCMO of approved proposals. Upon approval, TCCMO and awardee(s) will sign MOU supporting CRD award.

Please feel free to contact me at 908-526-3900 ext 127 if you have any questions. Your consideration of this request is appreciated.

Sincerely,

Deja Amos, MSW
Chief Development Officer
Tri County CMO

cc: James Parauda LSW
TCCMO Chief Executive Officer

Distribution:

TCCMO Community Provider List
CIACC Member List-Hunterdon/Somerset/Warren
Youth Services Commission Member List-Hunterdon/Somerset/Warren
Human Services Advisory Council-Hunterdon/Somerset/Warren
Professional Advisory Committee of the County Mental Health and Substance Abuse Divisions-
Hunterdon/Somerset/Warren

Post:

TCCMO Website
Tri County Resource Net

Data Sources:

- o HSAC Needs Assessments:
https://www.nj.gov/dcf/about/divisions/opma/hsac_needs_assessment.html
- o DCF Commissioner's Dashboard: <https://www.nj.gov/dcf/childdata/continuous/index.html>
- o DCP&P Dashboard:
<https://www.nj.gov/dcf/childdata/protection/index.html>
- o DCF Rutgers Data Hub and Portal:
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