Application Instructions for Communities of Support Grant

Purpose and Background of the Project:
The Ohio Department of Job and Family Services (ODJFS) is offering this grant opportunity in coordination with the Ohio Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services; the Ohio Family; and Children First Council (OFCF), to continue supporting existing and new local community planning and coordinated service delivery efforts. The following priorities are critical to ensure the necessary collaborative cross-system work can best meet the needs of children and families: (1) Comprehensive Addiction and Recovery Act (CARA) plans of safe care; (2) Qualified Residential Treatment Program (QRTP) level of care assessments; and (3) Community-based aftercare planning for children discharged from residential treatment settings.

The grants will allow communities to assess the local needs for these priorities, establish best practices, and prepare for any necessary budget considerations for implementation and/or sustainability. This critical work at a community level will also inform planning and next steps for state policy and practice. Communities of Support are essential to strengthen the lives of children and families, in partnership with their existing networks and in consideration of their diverse racial, cultural, and economic identities. For the purpose of this RFGA, the term “applicant” shall be defined as a public children service agency or a family children first council. The terms “application” and “response” may be used interchangeably to indicate materials submitted to ODJFS by an applicant in order to be considered for award of a grant for services described in this RFGA. The terms “grantee” and “selected applicant” may be used interchangeably in reference to an organization selected by ODJFS through this RFGA for award.

The CARA Plans of Safe Care, QRTP Level of Care Assessments and the QRTP After Care Planning are required/regulated under federal authority: CARA Plans of Safe Care, The Comprehensive Addiction and Recovery Act of 2016, known as “CARA,” is the first major federal addiction legislation in 40 years, and the most comprehensive effort undertaken to address the opioid epidemic. An arrangement that addresses the:

- Immediate safety of the infant.
- Safety and treatment need of the infant.
- Health and substance misuse treatment needs of the affected parent.
- Treatment needs of all household members having routine caregiving responsibilities for the infant (i.e., father, grandparent, roommate, etc.).

QRTP Level of Care Assessments & After Care Planning:
On February 9, 2018, President Trump signed into law the landmark bipartisan Family First Prevention Services Act, as part of Division E in the Bipartisan Budget Act of 2018 (H.R. 1892). Family First includes reforms to help keep children safely with their families and avoid the traumatic experience of entering foster care, emphasizes the importance of children growing up in families and helps ensure children are placed in the least restrictive, most family-like setting appropriate to their special needs when foster care is needed. These reforms include the following for residential facilities:
1. **Level of Care Assessment:** Within 30 days of a child being placed in a QRTP setting, a qualified individual must assess the child’s strengths and needs using an age-appropriate, evidence-based, validated, functional assessment tool to determine if the child’s needs can be met with family members or in a foster family home, or in one of the other approved settings (i.e. facilities for pregnant or parenting youth or independent living facilities) consistent with the short- and long-term goals of the child and their permanency plan.

2. **After Care Planning:** Provides discharge planning and family-based aftercare supports for at least 6 months post discharge.

**Overview of the Project:**

This grant has been created to:

A. Establish and create community networks and infrastructures to provide comprehensive community services.

B. Develop a Sustainability Plan.

C. Develop a plan to provide and pilot specific practices and services to inform future funding and regulation and to meet state and federal requirements. The specific services include but are not limited to:

   a. CARA Plans of Safe Care
   b. Qualified Residential Treatment Program Level of Care Assessments (i.e. Child Adolescent Needs and Strengths (CANS))
   c. Qualified Residential Treatment Program After Care Planning

**Timetables:**

This grant application will operate from July 1, 2021 through June 30, 2023. Final date for applications is:

- **SFY 22 applications:** December 31, 2021
- **SFY 23 applications:** December 31, 2022

**Funding:**

Deliverable 1: Identification and Commitment: $10,000

Deliverable 2: Funding available by county size:

- **Small (population 49,999 and below)-39 counties:** $20,000
- **Medium (population 50,000-233,000) 40 counties:** $40,000
- **Large (population 300,000 and above) 9 counties:** $60,000

[Ohio Counties by Population (ohio-demographics.com)]

For those that participated in SFY 21 (RFGA #JFSR2021068199): Deliverable 1 funding is only available one time per county. Deliverable 2 funding is available for county agencies that applied under RFGA #JFSR2021068199.

For those participating in SFY 22 & 23: Agencies participating in SFY 22 & 23 for the first time may receive funding for Deliverable 1 one-time only. Deliverable 2 is available each year.
Applicant Qualifications:
In order to be considered for an award, ODJFS requires that applicants MUST be either the County Family Children First Council OR the Public Children Services Agency. The entity not applying must be a named partner to receive funding (i.e. the PCSA applies the Family Children First Council must be a participating community partner.)

Scope of Work:
Partnering Family and Children First Councils (FCFC) and Public Children Service Agencies (PCSA) can apply for two different levels of funding:

1. **Deliverable 1:** FCFCs or PCSAs may apply for $10,000 in planning funds to establish and determine sustainable support for FCFC councils and community networks to provide comprehensive community services. To receive this funding the applying entity must:
   a. Identify and receive a letter of commitment from community partners that include but are not limited to entities such as:
      i. Birthing hospitals
      ii. PCSA
      iii. County Department of Job and Family Services
      iv. Behavioral/Mental Health Services
      v. Local Health Department
      vi. Family Children First Council
      vii. Boards of Developmental Disabilities
      viii. ADAMH Board
      ix. Community Health Board
      x. County Commissioner Representative
      xi. Federally Qualified Health Center
      xii. Others Identified by Community (i.e. Representatives from Managed Care plans, youth services, municipality, head start, early intervention collaboration, etc.)
   b. Sustainability Plan – Plans must include, but not be limited to:
   c. What is the Community Network meeting schedule?
   d. Who will set the agenda?
   e. How will emergency situations be handled? Who should be the point of contact?
   f. What services will/do each partner provide?
   g. If your community does not have the service where is the service available?
   h. If a service is not in your community how will you ensure assistance with transportation?
   i. What is the collective impact of our cross-system collaboration?

2. **Deliverable 2:** Applying entities must explain how they will provide targeted support to plan, provide and pilot specific practices and services, to inform future funding and regulation, and to meet state and federal requirements (are outlined below) in the following areas:
   a. CARA Plans of Safe Care: How will the community of support network participate and ensure plans of safe care?
   b. QRTP Level of Care Assessments: How will the community ensure the CANS assessment is conducted for children placed in residential facilities within the
federally required 30 days? For this grant we are requiring use of the CANS to evaluate how this model can work in different parts of the state by different partners.

i. QRTP After Care Planning: Each child discharged from a residential/congregate setting must have a plan for the 6-months after discharge which includes family-based support. Services will be determined by community partners, Title IV-E eligibility, Medicaid eligibility, etc.

**Target Population:**
The target population for this grant are expecting mother’s or mother’s that test positive and/or children placed in or discharged from residential facilities.

**Deliverables:**
**Deliverable 1:** Partnering Family and Children First Councils (FCFC) and Public Children Service Agencies (PCSA) can apply for $10,000 in planning funds to establish and determine sustainable support for FCFC councils and community networks to provide comprehensive community services. Draft deliverables include:

a. Identification of and commitment from community partners such as:
   a. Birthing hospitals
   b. PCSA
   c. County Department of Job and Family Services
   d. Behavioral/Mental Health Services
   e. Local Health Department
   f. Family Children First Council
   g. Boards of Developmental Disabilities
   h. ADAMH Board
   i. Community Health Board
   j. County Commissioner Representative
   k. Federally Qualified Health Center
   l. Others Identified by Community (i.e. Representatives from Managed Care plans, youth services, municipality, head start, early intervention collaboration, etc.)

b. Sustainability Plan – Plans must include but not be limited to:
   a. What is the Community Network meeting schedule?
   b. Who will set the agenda?
   c. How will emergency situations be handled? Who should be the point of contact?
   d. What services will/do each partner provide?
   e. If your community does not have the service where is the service available?
   f. If a service is not in your community how will you ensure assistance with transportation?
   g. What is the collective impact of our cross-system collaboration?

**Deliverable 2:** Targeted support to plan, provide and pilot specific practices and services to inform future funding and regulation and to meet state and federal requirements (are outlined below) in the following areas:
a. CARA Plans of Safe Care: how will the community of support network participate and ensure plans of safe care?

b. QRTP Level of Care Assessments: how will the community ensure the CANS assessment is conducted for children placed in residential facilities within the federally required 30 days? For this grant, we are requiring use of the CANS to evaluate how this model can work in different parts of the state by different partners.

c. QRTP After Care Planning: Each child discharged from a residential/congregate setting must have a plan for the 6 months after discharge which includes family-based support. Services will be determined by community partners, Title IV-E eligibility, Medicaid eligibility, etc.

To be eligible for funding in this area, communities of support will need to explain how they are, or plan to be, meeting the state and federal requirements for the above services. The number of each service completed and/or updated will have to be reported monthly. For example:

Month one:
- Services
- Completed # of Plans of Safe Care Completed
- # of QRTP Level of Care Assessments Conducted
- # of After Care Plans Completed

Month two:
- # ofPlans of Safe Care Updated
- # of QRTP Level of Care Assessments Updated
- # of After Care Plans Updated

**Model of Grant Agreement:**
Attached is a model of the grant agreement for your legal counsel to review.

**Submission of Application:**
The applicant shall submit the fully completed application form to the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services through this email: CommunitiesofSupport@jfs.ohio.gov

**Questions:**
Any questions shall be submitted in written form through this email: CommunitiesofSupport@jfs.ohio.gov

Once your application has been accepted and approved, a grant agreement will be forwarded for signature and a grant manager will be assigned to provide technical assistance and process invoices.