

Questions and Answers
Maryland Department of Health and Mental Hygiene (DHMH)
Behavioral Health Administration (BHA)
Request for Expression of Interest (REOI)

Procurement ID #: BHA 16-049-REVISED
Title: Ambulatory Outpatient Substance Use Services
REOI Response Due Date: Tuesday, June 7, 2016 by 4:00 PM EDT

Question 1. Is there an RFP pending?

Answer 1. No. There is no pending RFP.

Question 2. Would an agency be considered if they provided co-occurring services within their OMHC but did not provide services to client's exclusively experiencing substance use disorders?

Answer 2. The purpose of the Request for Expression of Interest is to obtain information on vendors' interest and capability to provide ambulatory substance use services as identified in the Request for Expression of Interest (REOI). BHA will forward the responses to the REOI to the Local Addiction Authorities/Local Health Departments (LAA/LHD). The LAA/LHD will outreach to providers with the experience and capability based on the jurisdictional needs.

Question 3. What is the expected time-line for organizations to begin providing co-occurring services to clients in 1 or more of these targeted counties?

Answer 3. BHA will provide information received through the REOI to the Local Addictions Authorities/Local Health Department. The timeline for services to begin will depend on the jurisdictional timeline for transferring services and the vendor's accreditation and licensure to provide the level of service of interest.

Question 4. Do agencies have to have ASO approval and/or need a license to be a substance abuse service provider prior to providing services?

Answer 4. Yes. The agency will need to be licensed and become accredited according to BHA's new regulations and timeline.

Question 5. Are agencies required to use ASAM criteria for assessments?

Answer 5. ASAM is to be used to determine the appropriate placement in level of care. There are several screening tools that can use to conduct the assessment. The most commonly used are the Addictions Severity Index (ASI), ASI-Multimedia Version (MV), the Substance Abuse Screening Subtle Screening Inventory (SASSI) for adolescents, the SASSI-4 used for adults, the Clinical Opiate Withdrawal Scale (COWS), and the Global Appraisal of Individual Need (GAIN). The Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration's, Center for Substance Abuse Treatment (SAMHSA/CSAT) website also have information of evidenced-based screening tools.

Question 6. Can an agency provide Suboxone maintenance only within their outpatient program for dual diagnosis clients?

Answer 6. Agencies should provide services based on the individual's level of need.

Question 7. Will there be start-up funding or any additional funding associated with new programs?

Answer 7. At this time, it is undetermined if there will be start-up funding. Through this Request for Expression of Interest, BHA is seeking information about start-up to determine implementation needs and for planning purposes.

Question 8. What do you specifically mean in terms of providing "ambulatory substance use services?"

Answer 8. The term "ambulatory services" for this REOI mean the following services: Assessment, Level 1 Outpatient Services, Level 1 Opioid Treatment Program, Level 1 and 2.1 Withdrawal Management, Level 2.1 Intensive Outpatient Services, and Level 2.5 Partial Hospitalization.

Question 9. If an outpatient substance use treatment agency providing co-occurring treatment for mental health and substance use disorders, located outside the nine counties identified, is expanding its co-occurring services at its present location and is willing to serve persons from the identified counties at its present location, and interested in being considered for potential opportunities to provide services in other jurisdictions based upon future needs, should that agency respond to this Request for Expression of Interest?

Answer 9. Agencies that do not respond to this REOI are not excluded from providing services in the future. Responses to the REOI will be forwarded to the LAA/LHD. The LAA/LHD will make determinations based on their jurisdictional needs.
