

Request for Information (RFI)

New York State Office of Children and Family Services
Division of Child Welfare and Community Services

RFI # 1149 **Regional Implementation of Evidence-Based Services**

Issued: 9/1/2023

Webinar: 9/13/2023 from 10:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. Eastern Time (optional)

Responses Due: 9/25/2023

Purpose

The New York State (NYS) Office of Children and Family Services (OCFS), Division of Child Welfare and Community Services (CWCS), is seeking input from interested parties regarding the regional implementation of an evidence-based service through the Center for Excellence (CfE). OCFS will support the training and service delivery of Brief Strategic Family Therapy (BSFT) through preventive agencies to local departments of social services (LDSSs) through the CfE.

OCFS's goals in issuing this RFI are to:

- inform preventive agencies of OCFS's intent to fund BSFT as an evidenced-based program; and
- elicit input from preventive agencies related to the application process and challenges that may exist when implementing a regional model.

THIS IS A REQUEST FOR INFORMATION (RFI) ONLY. This RFI is issued solely for information and planning purposes - it does not constitute a Request for Proposal (RFP) or an Invitation for Bid (IFB) or a promise to issue an RFP or an IFB. This RFI does not commit NYS OCFS to contract for any supply or service whatsoever. Vendors are advised that OCFS will not pay for any information or administrative costs incurred in response to this RFI; all costs associated with responding to this RFI will be solely at the interested party's expense. Not responding to this RFI does not preclude participation in any future RFP or IFB.

Webinar

OCFS will host an optional Webex on September 13, 2023, from 10:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. Eastern Time for any preventive agencies who have questions related to the regional implementation of Brief Strategic Family Therapy (BSFT) or the RFI.

Join from the meeting link:

<https://meetny.webex.com/meetny/j.php?MTID=m2435b6b002fcee7c2c67068de7c7836b>

Join by meeting number:

Meeting number (access code): 1613 44 5719

Meeting password: JmHBWUZD423

+1-518-549-0500 US (English Menu)

Program Background & Proposed Collaboration of Services

When thinking about how to best implement evidence-based services, OCFS strives to remain cognizant of the barriers/concerns raised by our preventive providers and LDSSs throughout the Family First Prevention Services Act (FFPSA) planning process. These include:

- limited local funding,
- staff shortages and high turnover,
- lack of trained providers, particularly in more rural counties,
- high administrative and implementation burden associated with evidence-based program (EBP) procurement, training, and coaching,
- lack of capacity/resources to develop more regional approaches and manage regional contracting processes across LDSSs, and
- challenges with sustaining support for EBP.

In response to these concerns, OCFS is developing a CfE that will address the identified barriers to EBP administration and implementation. One aspect of the CfE is to engage and support preventive agency providers and LDSSs in the implementation of Brief Strategic Family Therapy (BSFT). Interested preventive agencies would respond to the CfE's program announcement with a letter of intent followed by a thorough review process with the CfE, OCFS, and the BSFT purveyor.

Key planning components proposed for consideration under the BSFT implementation project include:

- BSFT training will be procured and coordinated through the CfE and provided to preventive agency therapist at no upfront financial cost to preventive agencies.
- The CfE will provide time-limited funding to selected preventive agencies to support the cost-of-service delivery to families, to include the salary and benefits of therapists, administrative costs, mileage, etc.
- Preventive agencies will:
 - adhere to the BSFT training, model fidelity, and data collection requirements of the purveyor,
 - recruit and retain qualified therapists,
 - provide BSFT to a target catchment area that includes sufficient families/caseloads to support a full BSFT team (whether by working with one or more LDSSs), and/or to extend services to areas currently lacking services,
 - Obtain support/endorsement of partnering LDSSs.

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- Participate in a group with the CfE to identify strengths and challenges of regional contracting and develop a sustainable regional approach to EBP service delivery.
- provide BSFT services to referred families at no cost to the families or LDSSs during the funded period.

The purpose of this RFI is to solicit feedback from preventive providers regarding the structure/components of the proposed pilot and criteria outlined above, as well as more general thoughts on EBP implementation needs and challenges. Our goal is to identify an approach that is feasible, addresses preventive agency and LDSSs needs, and optimizes opportunities for success. With that in mind, we are asking for input on the following requested information.

Requested Information

Please return your feedback electronically. You may provide the feedback as a completed attachment and/or in the body of an email.

Please provide the following information:

1) Contact Information:

- a. Name of individual responding
- b. Name of agency/organization
- c. Mailing address
- d. Email address
- e. Phone number

2) Written responses to the following questions:

- a. How well does the proposed plan address the challenges you have experienced in relation to EBP adoption/implementation?
 - What modifications to the plan would you recommend?
- b. Regarding the proposed regional approach, can preventive agencies and LDSSs feasibly support a regional service delivery model?
 - What are the strengths and barriers to such an approach.
 - How could the CfE/OCFS support this approach?
- c. How do preventive agencies and LDSSs currently collaborate to address the needs of the families in your county/region?
 - How might this structure be adapted to deliver EBPs?
- d. What is needed for preventive agencies and LDSSs to sustain BSFT service delivery for families when the time-limited state funds for service delivery are no longer available?
- e. What obstacles do preventive agencies encounter in hiring and retaining qualified therapists while implementing accessible services in office, home, and community settings?
- f. Delivering EBP's requires continuous fidelity monitoring and often an ongoing relationship with the EBP purveyor for certification and regular training/coaching. Does this impact a preventive agencies' ability/willingness to deliver EBP's in their community?
 - Are there resources/supports that would help address potential concerns?

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Deadline for Responses

All preventive providers are requested to respond to this RFI with their feedback in the section above entitled “Requested Information” no later than the deadline indicated on the first page of this announcement. Responses to this RFI must be made via email.

Delivery Method:	Address to:	Subject Line:
Email	RFP@OCFS.NY.GOV	RFI 1149 Regional Implementation of Evidence-Based Services

Questions

Questions regarding this RFI should be submitted via email to the OCFS Procurement Unit at: RFP@OCFS.NY.GOV prior to the due date and time noted above. Please submit your question with adequate time for response. OCFS recommends allowing at least five business days. Be sure to put “RFI 1149 Regional Implementation of Evidence-Based Services” in the subject line. Late questions may not be addressed.