



**2007 REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS**  
**BUILDING MENTAL/BEHAVIORAL HEALTH SERVICE CAPACITY**  
**IN PRIMARY CARE SETTINGS**

The Illinois Children's Healthcare Foundation (ILCHF) announces a request for proposals for programs designed to increase access to mental/behavioral health care by establishing new services or expanding existing services in clinical settings. This RFP is open to any not-for-profit organization that currently provides primary care services directly to children or has a formal collaborative arrangement with a primary care provider. The intent is to augment an existing medical home for children with the addition or expansion of mental/behavioral health services.

Funded projects will be able to demonstrate through integrated evaluation, successful strategies for reaching and sustaining relationships with community residents in need of mental/behavioral health services. They must be able to demonstrate efficiency in delivery of services, and innovation, specifically in regard to addressing barriers created by geography, special needs, and/or race or ethnicity. Eligible organizations include federally-qualified health centers (FQHC), FQHC look-alikes, school-based health centers, free clinics, public health department clinics, hospital clinics, and other community health centers.

Examples of project components eligible for funding include the following:

- Physical modifications that may need to be made to the clinic/health center in order to offer mental/behavioral health services to children (construction-related costs);
- Staffing required to provide the specified services to children;
- Equipment costs incurred in order to provide the specified services to children.

**Criteria for Selection**

- The project must be implemented in the context of a medical home.
- The project must emphasize the comprehensive coordination of health care to underserved children.
- The project will demonstrate innovation in outreach to underserved populations.
- The organization must directly provide primary care services either alone or **through a formal arrangement** with another primary care provider.
- Evaluation is integrated into the overall service delivery of the organization.

- The leadership is active in policy/advocacy efforts in the community it serves in regard to oral health/healthcare access issues.
- The staff demonstrates cultural competency, and has appropriate credentials/experience to provide the services.
- The project has a plan to leverage additional resources to most efficiently address the issue, and the ability to sustain the project after ILCHF funding ends.
- The costs of the project are realistic and relate closely to the scope of the project.

**ILCHF does not fund:**

- Partisan, political or denominational programs
- Intermediary funding agencies
- Grants to/for specific individuals
- Endowments
- General medical research
- Attempts to influence legislation, as prohibited by section 4945 of the Internal Revenue Code for private foundations

**Eligibility**

Your organization is eligible for ILCHF funding if it is a 501(c)(3) organization determined to be a public charity under section 509(a)(1), (2) or (3) of the Internal Revenue Code, or a governmental entity described in Code section 170(c)(1) or 511(a)(2)(B). You must be providing licensed, health services to children residing within the state of Illinois. For the purposes of this RFP, organizations must currently be providing primary healthcare services to children and must continue providing mental/behavioral health services during the term of the requested grant.

**For Applicants Establishing New Mental/Behavioral Health Services**

- You may take up to 15 months to complete the introduction of the proposed mental/behavioral health services to your clinic.
- You may request funding for up to two (2) years in order to fully establish the new services.

**For Applicants Expanding Existing Mental/Behavioral Health Services**

- You may take up to 12 months to complete the proposed expansion in your clinic.
- You may request funding for one (1) year only.

**Grant Size**

For this RFP, ILCHF expects to award a number of grants up to \$200,000. The pool of dollars available for this RFP is approximately \$1.5 million.

## **The Application Process**

Step 1: Determine whether your organization is eligible for funding based on the established criteria, and that your program falls under the focus of the RFP.

Step 2: Follow the directions for the online application at [www.ilchf.org](http://www.ilchf.org).

## **Timing**

- RFP Closing Date: July 27, 2007
- Funding Approved: by December 18, 2007\*
- Implementation of grant-funded projects: by January 1, 2008

\*Depending on the number of applicants to this RFP, the timeline may be shortened with approval and grant payment earlier in the fourth quarter 2007.