**Request for Information (RFI) for State Funded Multi-Systemic Therapy (MST) Pilot Project in Underserved Regions of Colorado**

We are looking to identify locations to launch the final two Multisystemic Therapy teams associated with the State’s *Multi-Systemic Therapy (MST) Pilot for underserved regions of Colorado*. The following application will document your community’s interest and assess initial feasibility. We will follow-up with interested sites in January to do a more thorough feasibility assessment and make final site assessments. We aim for two MST teams to launch in July, 2020.

Below are seven questions the University of Denver’s Center for Effective Interventions (CEI) requests any local applicant wishing to participate in this MST pilot to complete.

This RFI has been designed to be as streamlined and “user-friendly” as possible. The primary goal of this process is to assess Colorado communities’ level of interest, needs and capabilities for participating in this initiative. A completed application need not be lengthy; a response of a few pages in total should be sufficient. Note that some questions are optional, and others may be completed with just a few sentences.

Responses to this RFI will allow CEI, in coordination with the Colorado Department of Human Services (CDHS), to select communities and regions of the state that could feasibly participate in this initiative.

For general questions about MST or the application process, please reach out to the Center for Effective Interventions at gssw.cei@du.edu

For questions related to funding and/or Pay for Success, please contact Mollie Bradlee at mollie.bradlee@state.co.us.

**The deadline to submit applications is Wednesday, January 15, 2020. Please return completed applications to** **gssw.cei@du.edu** **by close of business on that date.**

1. ***Jurisdiction and applicant: Who is applying for this opportunity?*** *(Please limit your response to 350 words or less).*
2. Please identify the applicant/s for this pilot.

*Applicants can include local jurisdictions (a county, city, or local agency/agencies serving a local jurisdiction), as well as Collaborative Management Programs (CMPs), SB-94 coordinators, probation managers and/or local human service departments. Multiple applicants can apply jointly, either serving together in one county or collaboratively applying as a region across multiple counties. Newly designated Regional Accountable Entities (RAEs), Community Mental Health Centers (CMHCs) and other providers, including nonprofit organizations, may also apply.*

1. Please indicate what county or region of Colorado this proposal originates from.
2. Please indicate a primary point of contact for the application, including a full name, title, phone, email and organizational affiliation.
3. ***Need for MST in your Community.*** *(Please limit your response to 500 words or less, not including any attached data).*
4. Summarize your interest in bringing Multi-Systemic Therapy (MST) to your community.
5. How would MST fit within your community’s current service array?

*Where feasible, supplement your response to this question with available data. Please note an attached background document provides more information regarding MST.*

1. ***Preliminary Designated Provider****. (Please limit your response to 350 words or less).*

MST is typically delivered by a designated community-based mental health agency.

1. Please indicate the potential host provider for the MST team, and their level of interest in participating in this pilot.

*Note that this designation is not final and could later change.*

1. Please provide a contact name and information (phone, email) so that we can do an initial feasibility assessment to ensure the agency has the infrastructure needed to support MST implementation.
2. ***Proposed Target Population for MST Pilot.*** *(Please limit your response to 1000 words or less, not including any attached data).*
3. ***Ensuring adequate referrals.*** A fully staffed MST team can serve approximately 60 youth a year. MST requires youth to live within an approximate 90 minute radius to ensure timely response to crisis, if needed.

Please describe how you can ensure there are adequate referrals. This is likely a combination of geographic coverage area, the number of youth who meet inclusionary criteria for MST, and the availability of other potentially competing programs.

1. ***(Where Applicable): Integrating MST Pilot with System of Care.*** A number of Colorado counties are participating in a “System of Care” (SOC) approach to support youth with high behavioral health needs, supported by CDHS and HCPF. This approach features, in particular, the use of wraparound. Counties, CMPs and other jurisdictions implementing SOC and wraparound are welcome and encouraged to apply for this pilot; OSPB, CDHS and HCPF see the two approaches as complementing each other well. Appendix B, at the end of the attached MST Pilot Background document, provides brief high-level additional guidance and criteria for local communities regarding youth and families who are a relatively strong fit for MST versus youth and families who are a relatively strong fit for SOC.
* Is the applicant already participating in the System of Care pilot?
* If so, will the applicant commit to work with key state stakeholders on a framework and guidance to clarify youth and families who are a better fit for this MST pilot, and youth and families who are a better fit for System of Care (supported by your local Collaborative Management Program)?
* If your county is not participating in the System of Care, please respond “NA.”
1. ***Willingness to Participate in a Rigorous Evaluation.*** *(Please limit your response to 150 words or less).*

This pilot is funded using a model called “Pay for Success.” Thus, documenting the effects of this intervention on addressing and reducing critical outcomes such as juvenile justice recidivism and out of home placement is required. The independently funded evaluation team is using a quasi-experimental strategy called ‘propensity score matching’ to conduct the evaluation. This approach was chosen to be minimally invasive to participating agencies and have minimal to no impact on implementation. However, participation in this evaluation requires regular communication about which youth are participating in the MST intervention through a HIPAA-compliant data sharing agreement.

1. Should it prove feasible, would your community be willing to participate in this type of rigorous evaluation, to measure the program’s effectiveness?
2. ***Buy in and letter of support from designated RAE or other local funding source.*** *(Please limit response to 250 words or less, excluding any attached letters)*

As explained in the attached MST Pilot Background document, participation in this pilot would include significant resources from the State to reduce the costs of providing MST, in the form of a) dedicated staff from the Center for Effective Interventions (CEI) to support the necessary training, monitoring, implementation support and regular check-ins for MST therapists and supervisors, and b) direct cash assistance to partially cover local provider initial implementation costs. The proposed model assumes that the remaining local provider costs can be funded from either a) the local Regional Accountable Entity (RAE), given MST’s status as a covered behavioral health intervention for Medicaid-eligible families, where appropriate, or b) from another local funding source.

*(Please refer to pages 8 and 9 in the accompanying background document for additional details regarding a breakdown of state funding versus other funding available based on this proposal).*

1. If possible, please attach a non-binding letter of support from your designated RAE to this application, indicating the RAE’s interest in participating in this pilot.
2. In the absence of such a letter of support, please indicate your community’s alternate plan to cover the remaining local provider costs. Additional letters of support from other key stakeholders are welcome but not necessary.
3. ***Optional: Other information, background, and goals for participation in this pilot or data that may be helpful.*** *(Please limit response to 750 words or less, excluding any attached data).*
4. Please provide any additional information regarding your community’s interest in participating in this pilot. What other information or data may be relevant?