



Tri County CMO Community Resource Development Funds FY2027 RFP

Tri County CMO (TCCMO) and the New Jersey Children's System of Care (CSOC) are seeking to develop/expand services and supports for youth with mental health, emotional, behavioral, substance use, and intellectual/developmental disability needs. **This one-time funding of \$67,697.00 (less may be applied for) must be utilized in full by June 30, 2027, and will become unavailable to the awardee(s) after that date.** Funding is to support new or existing community services that promote child and family well-being, safety, and health in Hunterdon, Somerset and/or Warren counties. Proposals submitted must either be a one-time initiative that can have a sustained impact or serve as seed money to initiate a new resource. Applicants must commit to working in partnership with TCCMO, other system partners, and community-based services. They must embody the Wraparound values of TCCMO and CSOC.

This funding solicitation reflects current needs of youth served by Hunterdon, Somerset and Warren Counties (tri county) Children's System of Care and the NJ Children's System of Care Community Resource Development (CRD) funding guidelines. Collaborative applications that maximize the impact of these limited funds are encouraged as well as projects that include family participation. The overall goal of this RFP is twofold: to develop and/or increase the availability of resources to Tri County youth and their families; and to increase positive outcomes for youth experiencing emotional, behavioral, developmental, intellectual, and substance use needs. All awards are contingent on the sufficiency and availability of CSOC funding. Final decisions regarding grant awards will be at the discretion of CSOC.

There have been noted gaps and needs in community-based mental health services as evidenced by system-wide surveys and needs assessments completed by Hunterdon, Somerset and Warren County's CIACCs, Youth Services Commissions, Human Services Advisory Councils. Applicants considering proposals for this funding must ensure that their proposed programs and services correspond to the needs cited in this RFP. Services/supports should be equitably accessible to all youth and families with the identified needs. The referral process should ensure equitable access for the youth and families eligible to receive them and the access process should be free from any form of discrimination.

Priority needs that have been identified for funding based upon the foregoing (no specific order):

- **Needs related to providing mentoring services to youth**
- **Needs related to At-Risk Youth**
- **Needs related to Mental Health Services** (*cannot be needs / services already available through Medicaid reimbursement*)
- **Needs related to Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities**
- **Needs related to Increased Bilingual Services Access**

All applications will be reviewed and scored via a panel consisting of TCCMO staff members, local community partners, members of the Hunterdon, Somerset and Warren Children's Interagency Coordinating Council (CIACC), the Youth Services Commission, and the Human Services Advisory Council. All proposals will be evaluated based on the Proposal Rating Score included with this announcement.



Any funded agency will have to perform CARI checks on all staff that will be providing direct service to youth under the age of 18 years old. **A CARI check certification form will be provided to you and must be submitted to the CMO stating that all staff have met the CARI requirements.** This form will be required after notification of proposal acceptance.

All applicants must demonstrate the ability to manage the finances and implement the practice/program applied for in their application. **Applicants must agree to submit a program performance and expenditure report by the dates listed below and a template that will be provided.**

- Initial launch report (30 days after startup event)
- Interim Report Due December 31, 2026
- Final Report Due June 30, 2027

FY2027 Tri County CMO Community Resource Development Funds Application

This year's application should be submitted **online only** utilizing the link below:

<https://forms.office.com/r/iAaakF6DMT>

Submissions are due by **12:00pm Friday, January 9, 2026**

All awards are contingent on the sufficiency and availability of state funding.

*Proposals sent after **Friday, January 9, 2026**, and/or incomplete will not be considered for funding.*

The only method of proposal submission is online.

Proposal answers should include the following:

- *Organization Demographics*
- *Organization Narrative*
 - Mission, Vision, Values
 - Provide a brief history of your organization including incorporation, tax status and experience with the proposal process
 - Organization Hierarchy
 - Medicaid provider status
 - Nonprofit status
 - CARI check capability
- *Project Description*
 - Rationale for proposed service / need statement
 - Target population
 - Details regarding hours of operations, staff time and qualification, etc.



- Detailed description of proposed service
- Detailed anticipated outcomes
- Detailed quality assurance and outcomes monitoring plan
- Detailed sustainability plan
- *Project Budget*
 - Line-item detailed budget proposal with Exact amount of funds requested and detailed budget for the expenditure of these funds
 - Funds are not intended to purchase services for specific individuals or families and funds cannot be used to supplement DCF-contracted services;
 - Funds cannot be used for capital expenditures, including the acquisition of maintenance of fixed assets such as land, buildings, vehicles and equipment;
 - Costs should be reasonable, provide adequate justification of costs SPECIFIC ONLY to this proposal (i.e., overhead costs of agency or salaries not directly related to project are NOT acceptable).
- *Organization Financial Statements*
 - 6 months of financial statements

Grant Overview/Q&A Sessions:

Monday, November 17th 2025 – 2:30pm

Tuesday, December 19th 2025 – 10:00am

The meeting will be held virtually; to request link, email Amacdonald@tricountycmo.org.

Each session serves as an informational meeting wherein interested applicants will be able to ask questions and receive information regarding the scope, implementation and grant requirements. The meeting is not mandatory but attendance is strongly encouraged.

Tri County CMO will submit funding recommendations to CSOC by Friday, February 13, 2026.

CSOC will notify TCCMO of approved proposals on Friday, May 15, 2026.

Please see the “FY2027 Community Resource Development Funds Frequently Asked Questions” document for additional information. Please feel free to email me at damos@tricountycmo.org if you have any other questions.

Thank you.

Deja Amos, MSW - she/her/hers
Chief Development Officer
Tri County CMO

cc: James Parauda LSW
TCCMO Chief Executive Officer



Distribution:

TCCMO Community Provider List
CIACC Member List-Hunterdon/Somerset/Warren
Youth Services Commission Member List-Hunterdon/Somerset/Warren
Human Services Advisory Council-Hunterdon/Somerset/Warren
Professional Advisory Committee of the County Mental Health and Substance Abuse Divisions-
Hunterdon/Somerset/Warren

Post:

TCCMO Website
Tri County Resource Net

Data Sources:

- o HSAC Needs Assessments:
https://www.nj.gov/dcf/about/divisions/opma/hsac_needs_assessment.html
- o DCF Commissioner's Dashboard: <https://www.nj.gov/dcf/childdata/continuous/index.html>
- o DCP&P Dashboard:
<https://www.nj.gov/dcf/childdata/protection/index.html>
- o DCF Rutgers Data Hub and Portal:
<https://njchilddata.rutgers.edu/>
- o Kids Count: New Jersey Kids Count 2020 | Advocates for Children of New Jersey
(acnj.org): <https://acnj.org/kids-count/>
- o Somerset County Youth Services Commission's 2024 – 2026 Comprehensive Plan & Application
- o Hunterdon County Youth Services Commission 2024 – 2026 Plan Recommendations Summary



FY2027 Tri County CMO Community Resource Development Funds Application Review/Scoring Sheet

Applicant: _____

Project Name: _____

Reviewer: _____ Review Date: _____

Narrative	Points	Notes
Organization Mission & History (15 points) ○ Mission is keeping with mission and values of Tri County CMO ○ Mission encompasses service population of Tri County CMO ○ Organization has expertise with need(s) to be addressed and proposed service ○ Organization has strong connection to community		
Project Description (60 points total) ○ <u>Unmet Need (10 points)</u> ○ The need that is being targeted is clearly defined and outlined ○ Need linked to a referenced needs assessment ○ <u>Proposal to Meet Need (20 points)</u> ○ Targeted population is clearly defined and proposal outlines expected number of youth and families to be served ○ Hours of operation, staffing requirements, and location(s) are clearly outlined ○ Project activities and services are well defined. Applicant explains how these will address the unmet needs they have identified as their target ○ <u>Outcome Management (15 points)</u> ○ Expected outcomes and deliverables are defined and methods of measurement are clearly described ○ Outcomes are reasonable within specified time frame ○ Quality assurance efforts were outlined ○ <u>Sustainability (15 points)</u> ○ Proposal explains how the project will be sustained on an ongoing basis		



Project Budget		
Budget (25 points) ○ Costs are reasonable ○ Adequate substantiation of costs ○ Funds have been identified to cover all expenses ○ Funding is used towards direct services for youth ○ Funding should not be used to “purchase” services for individuals or families		
Total Points		Additional Comments:



FY27 Tri County CMO Community Resource Development Funds Review Committee Conflict of Interest and Confidentiality Statement

In order to participate in the evaluation of proposals, it is important to identify if anyone participating has a conflict of interest.

A conflict of interest would include, but is not limited to, the following:

- a) reviewer had or has a family, marital or personal relationship with applicant or board member of the applicant;
- b) reviewer previously worked with, is currently employed at, or has a professional affiliation with an applicant;
- c) reviewer has any financial, political or personal interest that could be affected by action taken; or
- d) reviewer assisted the applicant with the completion of the proposal.

If for any other reason you believe that you cannot objectively evaluate the proposal of a particular agency or program, you must disclose the conflict and excuse yourself from that evaluation.

As a member of the Funds Review Panel, I agree to have no conversation or information sharing with any individual(s) about the applications I am reviewing outside of the process outlined by TCCMO.

Each evaluator is required to review and sign this document indicating that you have read and understood the document and are stating that you are not aware of any conflict that would interfere with your review of the proposals, or if you are aware of a conflict of interest, you have indicated below which proposal you will not be evaluating. Please bring the signed statement to the CRD-RFP review committee meeting.

Please check one:

_____ I have read the above statements regarding conflict of interest and am not aware of any circumstance that would preclude my participation in evaluation of program proposals.

_____ I have read the above statements, and due to a conflict of interest, I will not be evaluating the following proposals:

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Printed Name: _____



FY2027 Community Resource Development Funds Frequently Asked Questions

What restrictions are in place for how the funds can be utilized?

CRD funds are intended to support new or existing activities or services offered by community organizations that directly promote child and family wellbeing, safety, and health. These funds are not intended to purchase services directly for specific individuals or families and funds cannot be used to supplement contracted DCF services. CRD funds can also not be used to acquire or maintain fixed assets, such as land, buildings, vehicles, and equipment.

Does the length of the grant run for a full calendar year after applicants is approved?

No, due to state funding restrictions, this funding becomes unavailable after June 30th, 2027. Applicants can receive reimbursement for services or supplies up until that date but not after. Funding is expected to become available after July 1, 2026 for applicants to begin implementation of their proposal.

Is a proposal with more than one concept or program acceptable if remaining under the \$67,697.00 limit?

Yes; however, submitting a proposal for each concept or program independently will allow each to be reviewed as a separate proposal from the other. If multiple project ideas appear in one submission they will be reviewed together, each being considered alongside the concepts included in the same proposal.

Is there a minimum proposal amount applicants can request?

No

Can funding go to multiple agencies?

Yes

Do youth who will be served by this funding have to be enrolled with Tri County CMO?

No, these funds are not intended to exclusively benefit CMO or CSOC enrolled youth.

Do you have to be a Medicaid provider to apply?

No. We do ask this be specifically stated in our rationale, but it is not required to receive funding.



Does the agency applying have to be situated in Hunterdon, Somerset or Warren Counties?

No, but the project and persons served must target the Hunterdon, Somerset and/or Warren County youth/family community.

If targeting a specific town or area, should we include data that outlines why this geographic area is targeted for services?

Yes, although Tri County CMO has identified needs through its review of relevant needs assessments and made that available to applicants, applicants are expected to include data related to the need and why the proposed project will occur in that specific town or area.

What qualifies for “Set of financial statements (at least 6 months)”?

A recent audit or an agency income/expense report showing at least 6 months activity are both accepted.

Do you want paper copies of the proposal sent to Tri County CMO?

No; currently we are only accepting electronic submissions via the online link:

<https://forms.office.com/r/iAaakF6DMT>

What do we mean by Sustainability?

Each applicant should describe in detail their plan of how these services or activities will be funded once the initial grant period is over. If fundraising is part of the sustainability plan, applicant should outline past fundraising capabilities and outline how the service will be supported past the funding period as well as other sources of funding that will be used to continue the service or activity being applied for.

When will we hear about our application?

Children's System of Care will notify Tri County CMO of its approval and anticipates all funded projects be implemented after July 1, 2026, contingent upon NJ state budget approval. Tri County CMO will notify all approved recipients as well as follow up with all applicants who were not selected after we receive confirmation from CSOC.

Information regarding CARI checks

Any agencies funded by DCF, are subject to the Child Abuse Record Information (CARI) background check requirement mandated by N.J.S.A. 9:6-8.10f. As of October 1, 2019, the CARI Online Application System is available to DCF affiliated agencies to create an account and submit CARI applications. Please review the following information regarding the Online Application System and submission of your CARI applications if you become a CRD 27 awardee. Some agencies may have an existing structure that already requires you submit CARI checks as part of your current operations or based on a separate law that preceded N.J.S.A. 9:6-8.10f. If that is the case, you do NOT need to submit additional CARI applications under this law. You will submit the



CARI certification form stating all staff who will work in direct contact with youth under 18 years of age have passed the CARI requirements.

Steps to register for CARI checks

If identified as a potential CRD awardee, you will be directed to do the following process:

1. The applicant will register as a business with the State of NJ and receive an Employee Identification number (75.00 fee) and a tax ID number. The step by step process is provided at <https://business.nj.gov/> where you can both register your business to receive your EIN and receive a tax ID number.
2. Once these numbers have been assigned, please visit <https://www.njstart.gov/bso/> to create a record, and acquire a vendor identification number. (150.00 fee)
3. The final step will be to follow the instructions and register with the CARI unit and submit for CARI checks (see below).
4. CARI will notify the agency if their staff are clear or if they need to be terminated. CARI will require a signed verification that the unapproved staff are no longer with the organization.
5. Once the agency has completed this process, they will submit the CARI Certification form to the CMO, as it will need to be included in the submission of the Proposal and recommendation to CSOC. (Certification form is included at the end of this guidance)
6. Fees associated with the registration process for CARI may be included in the agency's budget proposal.

Accessing the CARI System

To access the CARI Online Application System, each agency will need to set up a facility account by visiting <https://www.njportal.com/dcf/cari>. Agencies will identify an administrator to create and maintain the facility account, and who will be responsible for submitting and receiving CARI applications and results. The above-mentioned website will prompt the identified administrator to "Create a New CARI Account" and will provide tutorials for setting up the facility account. When creating an account, select "Department of Children and Families – Community Partners" from the drop-down selection of Program/Application Types. To set up a CARI account, the agency administrator will then need to provide their agency's Vendor Identification Number, which is the letter "V" followed by 8 digits.

Next, the administrator will be prompted to create a My New Jersey account username. This will be the username and password used by the account administrator to log in to the Online Application System moving forward.

The Online Application System will allow the account administrator to invite agency staff to complete an online CARI form and to check the status of submitted applications. Employees will be able to complete the electronic



CARI application through an emailed link, or on-site at the agency. The employee can complete the application using a personal computer or smart phone; however, the email invitation link will expire after two weeks. All completed CARI checks are returned through the Online Application System, and the results will be emailed directly to the facility account administrator.