

REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATIONS

Recovering Citizenship Learning Collaborative: Bringing Citizenship Tools and Supports to your Agency

Issued by: Department of Mental Health & Addiction Services (DMHAS)

Date Issued: January 10, 2018

Overview: The Recovering Citizenship Learning Collaborative will be a learning community of up to six agencies aimed at enhancing the recovery of persons with serious mental illnesses including those with co-occurring substance use disorders, and persons with primary substance use disorders by bringing citizenship principles, tools and supports to those agencies and/or local systems of care. Training and technical assistance provided through the Recovering Citizenship Learning Collaborative will be free for selected agencies and is funded by DMHAS through the Yale Program for Recovery and Community Health (PRCH) and its Citizens Community Collaborative program.

Eligibility: All DMHAS-operated and funded agencies in good standing with DMHAS are eligible to apply.

Project Period: 18 months: March 1, 2018 through August 31, 2019

Informational Call-In Meeting: Agencies may participate in an optional conference call with PRCH and DMHAS staff prior to submitting their response to this RFQ on **Wednesday, January 24, 2018, 2:00 p.m. (1-866-763-2652; 9022588#)**

Application Deadline: Wednesday, February 7, 4:00 p.m.

Agencies Selected/Notified: February 21, 2018

1-Day Kick-Off Event: March 21, 2018

If you have questions about this RFQ, please contact michael.rowe@yale.edu, patricia.benedict@yale.edu, or Julienne Giard at DMHAS at 860-418-6946, julienne.giard@ct.gov.

I. Background

PRCH, the Citizens Community Collaborative (CCC) and DMHAS are partnering to support DMHAS agencies and local systems of care in enhancing recovery-oriented care through the *Recovering Citizenship* initiative. *Recovering Citizenship* emphasizes the social inclusion and community participation of DMHAS clients. “Recovering citizens” are people journeying toward personal recovery *and* a sense of themselves as full, unique, and worthy persons who can recover full membership in their communities and society, that is, persons entitled to full citizenship.

We define citizenship as a person’s strong connection to the 5 Rs of *rights, responsibilities, roles, resources, and relationships* that society offers its members, *and* a sense of *belonging* that is validated by others. This definition offers a way of thinking about the social inclusion and participation of all people, including those with psychiatric problems, substance misuse, and experiences of homelessness, incarceration, physical illnesses, and other conditions that exclude people from mainstream society.

Since the late 1990s, with support from DMHAS, the NIMH, and the Melville Charitable Trust, the CCC has:

- Graduated more than 300 people from *The Citizens Project*, which supports students’ social inclusion and citizenship aspirations through classes based on the 5 Rs, student-led group support, peer mentoring, and valued role projects. A full manual of the Citizens Project has been developed and will be available to DMHAS agencies.
- Developed an *individual measure of citizenship* that enables clients and clinicians to identify clients’ stronger and weaker areas of social connection and participation and follow their progress over time.
- Developed a *citizenship tool* to help clients work toward their citizenship goals.
- Learned how to help individuals and groups of people make and sustain community connections based on their interests and passions (*Project Connect*) and partner as a group with others to improve the community at large (*F.A.C.E/Focus-Act-Connect-Every-day*).
- Developed *financial empowerment supports* including training for clinicians and case managers, one-on-one support for clients, engagement with local banks, and systems-level interventions aimed at the local financial services environment.

These and other citizenship tools and supports will form the core of the work of the *Recovering Citizenship Learning Collaborative (RCLC)*, an 18-month initiative for selected agencies.

RCLC faculty, introduced below, know that clinicians, case managers, peer specialists, and other staff are aware of their clients’ social challenges, including poverty and social inclusion. They know that you are already doing “citizenship work,” even if you don’t call it that. Participating in the Recovering Citizenship Learning Collaborative will help you augment the work you’re already doing and develop new tools and programs for supporting your clients’ full participation in their communities.

Training, consultation, and technical assistance through the Recovering Citizenship Learning Collaborative will include:

- 1) Helping you develop citizenship-oriented policies, procedures, programs and supports and integrate them into current care;

- 2) Providing training on the use of practical citizenship aids including the citizenship measure and the citizenship tool for clinical care, financial empowerment counseling and tools, and community-connection making, and integrating these tools and supports into your organizational culture;
- 3) Providing on-going consultation and technical assistance for implementing agency-wide culture change toward one that supports and honors the citizenship of all—clients, staff, supervisors, and administrators—and connections with the “world” outside the agency, clinic, and system of care.

II. Participating Organizations

The training and consultation offered through this initiative will be provided to up to six (6) organizations.

III. Faculty

Michael Rowe, Ph.D., M.P.A. is a Professor of Psychiatry at Yale, Co-Director of the Yale Program for Recovery and Community Health, and Principal Investigator of the CCC. Michael was Director of the mental health outreach team of the Connecticut Mental Health Center (CMHC) from 1994-2000 when it was part of a national initiative of Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA). Through his experience with the CMHC Outreach Team, he learned that while mental health programs and systems of care can provide good mental health care and associated services and supports (connection to primary care, housing, access to disability entitlement income or paid work, and more), they were unable to provide their clients with access to the status of neighbor, community member, and citizen, in the sense of strong connections to others, recognition of one’s unique personhood and talents, and participation (not just “community integration” but inclusion and participation). This realization led to the idea of Citizenship as the 5 Rs and belonging and to the many programs mentioned earlier in this RFQ. In addition to or associated with his “Citizenship Work,” Michael has conducted research and developed interventions with colleagues on peer support, peers as researchers, community building, and financial empowerment. Prior to becoming a sociologist and running the CMHC Outreach Team, Michael ran social service and residential programs for people with mental illnesses, substance disorders, incarceration experience, and for runaway, neglected, and abandoned youth.

Chyrell Bellamy, M.S.W., Ph.D. is Associate Professor of Psychiatry at Yale, where she serves as the Director of Peer Services and Research for Yale PRCH. She has experience as a frontline service provider, community educator and organizer, as a community and academic researcher, and as a person in recovery. Her expertise includes developing and conducting community-based research initiatives; involving and partnering with people living with mental illness, substance use, and HIV; and research on sociocultural experiences and pathways to recovery in prevention and treatment. Bellamy received her Ph.D. in the Joint program in Social Work and Social Psychology from the University of Michigan and her M.S.W. (health social work) and B.A. (psychology) from Rutgers University. She did a Postdoctoral Fellowship at the Center for Mental Health and Criminal Justice Research at Rutgers University. In her capacity as Director of Peer Services and Research, Bellamy provides instruction on peer curricula development and training based on her research and practice experience with peer employees; training of peers to conduct research; evaluation of the effectiveness of peer support; and, research and training on the development of culturally responsive community-based interventions.

Patricia Benedict, B.A. a tribal member of the Abenaki Nation of the Odanak reservation in Canada and a member of the Connecticut Native American community. For sixteen years, she worked for American Indians for Development, Inc. in a variety of capacities. She provides Native American cultural competency training for DMHAS and the CT Judicial Department. Patricia works in the Peer Services and Research Area at Yale (PRCH) and has been the Director of the Citizens Project since its inception. In addition to the programs day to day operations, she also develops and implements Citizens Project training and technical assistance to organizations locally, nationally and internationally for replication of this project. She provides training and supervision of Peer Support staff for several community-based reentry projects and assists in development and implementation of peer training initiatives both locally and nationally. She created and implemented the Forensic Peer Support Training curriculum and has conducted training for peers and supervisors on the curriculum. In 2009, she received the *Leadership Award from the Connecticut Chapter of the United States Psychiatric Rehabilitation Association (USPRA)*.

Billy Bromage, M.S.W. received his Master in Social Work degree, with a concentration in Community Organization, from the University of Connecticut School of Social Work in 2012. He has been working in the fields of community mental health and food assistance for over 15 years. He has been at the Yale Program for Recovery and Community Health since 2011. He works as a community organizer, developing projects with grassroots leaders, people with mental illnesses, DMHAS-funded programs, other nonprofit organizations, city and state government officials, and other civic leaders to promote mental health and inclusion in New Haven neighborhoods. As a central component of this work, he has also supported and helped to develop coalitions to sustain community-level inclusion and food security initiatives. He directs Project Connect, an initiative which supports people with mental illnesses in making connections in their community based on their interests and passions. He is also a founding member of the Focus Act Connect Every-day group, which is a coalition of people living with mental illness and other community members who partner to improve the New Haven community at large.

Annie Harper, Ph.D. is a political economist and cultural anthropologist with many years of experience working globally and nationally in the fields of poverty, finances and community development. She has been with the Yale Program for Recovery and Community Health since 2011, conducting research into the intersection between mental health and poverty, with a specific focus on finances and money management, and developing interventions to support the financial health of people with mental illness. Annie's work seeks to address factors not only at the individual level but at the systems level and beyond. Her research, thus, explores both individual experiences and challenges around finances, as well as the broader environment within which those individuals live, and which shape their financial possibilities. Similarly, the interventions developed seek to target individuals, health care systems, financial service systems, and the broader policy environment. Annie plays a leading role in systems levels interventions in New Haven, including the city's Community Services Administration's Financial Empowerment Center project, and the BankOn New Haven project in partnership with the CT Association for Human Services.

Bridgett Williamson has worked in the field of Peer Support Services for more than a decade, starting with her work as a Peer Recovery Mentor began for Fellowship Place, in New Haven, CT. She is now employed by the Yale Program for Recovery and Community Health (PRCH) working for the Person-Centered Planning Project, (PCP) and the CREST Program. Bridgett was a researcher on a PRCH, community-based participatory research team for the Citizens Measure

Development Study. As a team member, she contributed to the development of the Citizens measurement tool, conducted focus groups and mapping sessions. Bridgett has also presented Citizens Project and Forensic Peer Support training to Connecticut and international audiences. Bridgett currently works for PRCH providing Forensic Peer Support for the Citizens Project. She is also a community organizer for CCC initiatives.

IV. Structure and Content of the Program

Selected agencies will receive:

- One (1) “kick-off” training day on the organizational aspects of integrating citizenship more into your organization’s work. This training will include preliminary discussion of organizational changes involving both clinical and administrative activities;
- Overview Trainings on several Citizens oriented initiatives:
 - Citizenship-oriented care
 - The Citizens Project
 - Project Connect
 - Financial Health
 - Implementing the Citizens Tool and Measure in practice
- Consultation, technical assistance, and/or training for supervisory staff in supervisory competencies of the material;
- Monthly technical assistance calls and/or in-person meetings following the one-day training; and
- At least one on-site TA visit by one or more of the RCLC faculty.

V. Required Organizational Commitment

Participating *RCLC* agencies will be expected to:

- Implement an agency *Recovering Citizenship Learning Collaborative Committee* that includes a senior leader, supervisory staff, a clinical staff person, at least one peer specialist, and a leader from the community in which your organization provides services. The Committee will be expected to meet monthly or more often initially, quarterly thereafter, and participate in Collaborative meetings and conference calls, and on-site consultations.
- The Committee should designate an Implementation Leader/Champion who will coordinate activities. This person should have adequate release time from regular duties to fulfill the responsibilities of the initiative *and* the power/authority to implement change.
- Participate in monthly statewide *RCLC* meetings/calls and report on agency progress.
- Participate in technical assistance sessions, leading to design and implementation of at least one citizenship intervention.

VI. How to Respond to this RFQ

Please provide a letter from the agency Director or Chief Executive Officer with a statement of commitment to the Recovering Citizenship Learning Collaborative. Please also provide a document not to exceed two single space pages that addresses the items below:

1. **Identifying Information:** Name and address of agency, CEO/Executive Director, and contact person if other, with phone, fax, and email.
2. **Organizational Overview:** A one paragraph overview of your organization, mission/vision, organizational structure, range of services, number of staff, and number of clients served annually. Please attach a copy of your agency's organizational chart.
3. **Implementation Leader:** Name of an individual who will be the "implementation leader." Ideally, the implementation leader ideally will have line authority over programs or another major institutional role.
4. **Organizational Readiness:** Describe your organization's readiness and capacity to participate and benefit from this initiative. Identify any potential barriers to effective participation or successful implementation. Barriers may include, but are not limited to, an anticipated merger, significant staff turnover, or an inability to provide release time for staff to attend training.
5. **Other Initiatives:** Identify any other major staff development initiatives at your agency that would take place concurrently with this project and whether these would compete with or complement this initiative.
6. **Current Citizenship and Community Inclusion Work:** Describe any training or in-services your staff has already attended related to the integration of the citizenship approach in your agency.
7. **Benefit of Participation:** Describe how you expect this initiative to help your organization and the people you serve.
8. **Other Information:** Feel free to provide other pertinent information.

Submission Requirements

1. All required information for this application must be submitted electronically to:
Julienne Giard at julienne.giard@ct.gov
Agencies will receive an electronic confirmation of their submissions within 24 business hours. Agencies should contact Julienne Giard at julienne.giard@ct.gov or 860-418-6946 if a confirmation is not received.
2. The deadline for agencies to submit their electronic response to the application is Wednesday, February 7 at 4:00 p.m. The subject line of the email should state "RCLC RFQ Response."

Summary of Key Dates

Application Release Date: January 10, 2018

Informational Call-in Meeting: January 24, 2018 at 2:00

Deadline for Application Responses: February 7, 2018 by 4:00

Agencies Selected/Notified: by February 21, 2018

1-Day Kick-Off Event: March 21, 2018

Agency RCLC Integration Committee meetings: At least monthly

Statewide RCLC Learning Collaborative meetings: Monthly

On-site TA sessions: agreed upon times