



LA CROSSE COUNTY
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**Request For Information
for
County of La Crosse, Wisconsin**

August 4, 2017

La Crosse County Human Services

**Integrated Support & Recovery Services (ISRS)
Peer Mentor/Specialist/Coach**

Responses must be received no later than
3:00 p.m., August 21, 2017

SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS:

1. Label the lower left corner of your proposal envelope as follows
Proposers name and address:
ISRS Peer Mentor/Specialist/Coach Request For Information
2. Please submit an original and (5) copies of all RFI response materials
3. Mail or Deliver on or before August 21, 2017 by 3:00 p.m. to:
La Crosse County Human Services
Attn: Chris Sander
300 4th Street North
La Crosse, Wisconsin 54601

**ISRS Peer Mentor/Specialist/Coach Request For Information (RFI)
La Crosse County Human Service Department**

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1.0 INTRODUCTION AND PURPOSE:

The Wisconsin Department of Health Services (DHS) has awarded nearly \$2.4 million in grants to 16 counties and three tribal nations to increase access to treatment services for opioid abuse. This funding is the largest part of Wisconsin's share of the federal Opioid State Targeted Response Grant to enhance ongoing prevention, treatment, and recovery initiatives. **La Crosse County was one of the counties selected for grant funding and was awarded \$99,695.00 to utilize from September 1, 2017 through April 30, 2018.** A second year of funding is expected, but not guaranteed at this point.

Each county and tribe receiving a grant is expected to use the most effective and efficient practices for treatment of opioid use disorder. The Integrated Support & Recovery Services (ISRS) section of Human Services has a strong foundation of utilizing individuals with self-identified experience as helping professionals. There are approximately 17 Peer Specialists delivering supports and services within Comprehensive Community Services (CCS), Mobile Crisis, Community Support Program (CSP), and our consumer operated drop-in center (RAVE). We would like to build upon this foundation to enhance what we have available for individuals facing opioid and other substance use challenges.

2.0 SERVICE DESCRIPTION:

ISRS is seeking an organization who will work closely with multiple sections of Human Services as they provide Peer Mentor/Specialist/Coach services from two (2) .5 FTE individuals.

- a. One .5 FTE Peer Recovery Mentor/Specialist/Coach that would collaborate closely with administration from ISRS. Primary goal of the service is to connect with adults facing opioid challenges who are not established in treatment services. Priority population would be connecting to incarcerated individuals while in jail to build a relationship that can help facilitate a successful transition back to the community (support, building informal supports and social connection, connection to services, etc.). This position would also connect with individuals in AODA Residential to potentially provide the same transitional supports. Available time after this would be utilized to outreach to sober living situations, Crisis program, County Outpatient Clinic, Jail Diversion/Treatment Court services, etc.
- b. One .5 FTE Parent Peer Mentor/Specialist/Coach that would work closely with Juvenile Justice (JJ) and Child Protective Services (CPS) administrations. Primary goal is to connect with parents who have opioid related issues to help them successfully navigate CPS and JJ systems while also providing support, treatment readiness assessment/service connection, etc. Hope/intent is to increase family engagement with county services and reduce out-of-home care for children by keeping them safe and home with families who are successfully addressing opioid related issues.

Additional Information:

- Peer Specialist/Mentor/Coach is being utilized to indicate there is no specific title or training that is needed to fulfill this role. The important dynamic is for service to be

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provided by an individual with more self-identified recovery (from substance use at a minimum; ideally from opioids) experience than the person they are working with. They use this experience to encourage, motivate, and support an individual to establish or strengthen their recovery. Interactions should be highly supportive, rather than directive.

- This role would differ from what a typical 12-step sponsor might do; this person would not be encouraging any specific program of recovery and would instead be focusing more on exploring and making choices about recovery programs/choices in general, and would likely spend more time connecting individuals to community health, employment, housing, social services and resources and often has more specific knowledge about a larger range of available services and resources. The SAMHSA document entitled “What are Peer Recovery Support Services?” (available on their website) is the source of the above information and contains other valuable information regarding potential roles and role definition.
- We anticipate individuals providing these services would be most effective if they are certified as Peer Specialists in Wisconsin due to the extensive training on how individuals with self-identified experience can most effectively work with both mental health and substance use issues. While this is not a requirement, it would be something we would plan on discussing with the contracting organization as we expect these positions to be working with a substantial number of individuals who are dually diagnosed (MH/SA).
- Two organizations each only offering one of the positions could be considered, but we anticipate one organization offering both would most effectively meet our service needs and the support needs of staff providing this type of service.
- One full time (1.0 FTE) individual could be considered, but it is anticipated that peer services to these two diverse populations lines up most effectively with two unique individuals unless one person truly has self-identified experience that encompasses the scope of both positions.

Delivery of services must begin prior to September 1, 2017. The grant funding is available through April 30, 2018.

3.0 BUDGET:

La Crosse County ISRS has allocated \$80,000 of the grant funding to supporting these two part time (or single full time) positions. We anticipate funding will be awarded to continue

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these services past April 30th, 2018 as DHS was awarded a two year federal grant, but it is not guaranteed at this point.

Expenses proposed cannot exceed this budget for the timeframe specified, and it is imperative that services are maintained throughout the entirety of the specified timeframe.

4.0 RESPONSE REQUIREMENTS:

4.1 Incurring Costs

La Crosse County is not liable for any cost incurred by respondents in replying to this RFI.

4.2 Submitting the Information Requested

Responders must submit copies of all materials required for acceptance of their proposal by 3:00 p.m., August 21, 2017 to:

Chris Sander
La Crosse County Human Services
300 4th Street North
La Crosse, WI 54601

Responses must be received in the above office by the specified time stated above.

Responses should be typed and submitted on 8.5 x 11 inch paper bound securely. Responses should include a Table of Contents and be organized. Responses should not be any more than a total of fifteen pages long. The RFI sections which should be submitted or responded to are as follows:

- **Service Methodology:** Please submit a proposed service delivery model that encompasses the service description above. Please include what your hiring qualifications would be and how you would provide training and support for these positions. If you have existing staff that would perform this service, please outline their specific experience and qualifications.
- **Organization Capability:** Describe agency experience and capabilities of providing similar services to the targeted population(s). Highlight agency experience employing individuals with self-identified experience. Include a description of organizational philosophy when working with individuals with substance use issues. Elaborate on your organization's experience working collaboratively with other organizations and delivering community-based services.
- **Budget:** Please set an hourly rate by completing the Budget Request Form.
- **Other Information:** Provide any additional relevant information you would like La Crosse County to review or consider when reviewing your RFI proposal.

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5.0 ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

La Crosse County will review responses from all interested vendors and make a decision whether we are able to move forward with a responding entity or whether we need to release a Request for Proposal.

6.0 QUESTIONS/CLARIFICATIONS:

Any questions concerning this Request for Interest can be referred to Matt Strittmater, ISRS Manager, 785-6156, mstrittmater@lacrossecounty.org.