NC DHHS Notice of Funding Availability

Reporting Form

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**DHHS Division/Office issuing this notice**: Division of Employment and Independence for People with Disabilities

**Date of this notice:** May 1st, 2024

**Program Name:** Individual Placement and Support Supported Employment

# Purpose-

To provide Individual Placement and Support (IPS) services to Division consumers with Severe Mental Illness (SMI), Severe and Persistent Mental Illness (SPMI), Serious Emotional Disturbance (SED) or Substance Use Disorder Severe (SUD) in order to achieve and sustain gainful employment. This service is provided primarily by Employment Support Professionals (ESPs) and Employment Peer Mentors (EPMs) who are trained in national research standards that support the vocational needs of individuals and promote community connections and employment success.

# Description-

Individual Placement and Support (IPS) is an evidenced-based approach to person-centered, behavioral health services with a focus on employment that provides assistance in choosing, acquiring and maintaining competitive paid employment in the community for consumers 16 years or older with a Severe Mental Illness (SMI), Severe and Persistent Mental Illness (SPMI), and/or Substance Use Disorder Severe for whom employment has not been achieved or employment has been interrupted or intermittent.

IPS teams shall provide services that align with the 8 Practice Principles of IPS Supported Employment:

1. Focus on Competitive Employment.
2. Eligibility Based on Client Choice (Zero Exclusion).
3. Integration of Rehabilitation and Mental Health Services.
4. Attention to Worker Preferences.
5. Personalized Benefits Counseling.
6. Rapid Job Search.
7. Systematic Job Development
8. Time Unlimited and Individualized Support.

# IPS teams shall provide critical elements of IPS:

1. Development of the Career Profile and Educational Profile.
2. Ongoing Benefits Counseling.
3. Behavioral Health Integration.
4. Addressing Barriers to Employment
5. Intervention and Support by the Employment Peer Mentor.
6. Rapid Job Search and Systematic Job Development.
7. Disclosure.
8. Job Accommodations and Assistive Technology.
9. Follow -Along Supports.

IPS uses sequential funding to cover the cost of the service. This can be categorized as funding that comes from both State and Medicaid in addition to EIPD Milestone funding known as NC CORE. At the initiation of services IPS providers are required to refer IPS recipients to for eligibility determination and develop of services through the EIPD Individualized Plan for Employment (IPE).

The Contractor shall have available funding resources for IPS services from alternate sources, including the Local Management Entity/Managed Care Organization (LME/MCO), local and county governments, and/or grant funding from a federal agency, such as the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA). Throughout the term of this contract the Contractor shall have a fully executed contract or grant with an alternate funding source.

**Funding Availability:** $16,000,000

# Eligibility:

The agency or organization shall meet the following criteria in order to apply to be a Division approved IPS SE Contractor:

* + Any public, for profit, or nonprofit organization that has a current contract to provide IPS SE with LME/MCO, county or city government, or a federal grant.
  + Has evidence of internal or external Behavioral Health Integration.
  + Organization is a registered business with the State of North Carolina.

# How to Apply:

**Current contractors under a contract with the Division to provide IPS services.**

* + Organizations that have a current contract with the Division of Employment and Independence for People with Disabilities must submit a **Renewal *Application for***

***Community Rehabilitation Partnership (IPS SE)*** by the deadline indicated in order to have an executed contract in the next renewal cycle effective November 1st, 2024.

# New Contractors not under a contract with the Division to provide IPS services.

* + Organizations that are not under a current contract with the Division will be required to submit the Application for Community Rehabilitation Partnership for new applicants.

Applications for both new and existing organizations are subject to the conditions made a part of hereof, will be received until **5:00 p.m., May 30th, 2024,** for furnishing services described herein.

# Deadline for Submission:

Applications will be received until **5:00 p.m., May 30th, 2024**. Applications received by the deadline above will be in consideration for a November 1, 2024, award.

Applications received after **5:00 p.m., May 30th, 2024**, will be considered for a future award date. Applications will be considered on an ongoing basis.

# How to Obtain Further Information:

Direct all inquiries concerning this ACRP and RCRP to [dvr.ips.se.rfa@dhhs.nc.gov](mailto:dvr.ips.se.rfa@dhhs.nc.gov)

Please refer to link below for additional information:

* + (New Contractors) [**Application for Community Rehabilitation Partnership (ACRP) IPS SE #01061**](https://www.ncdhhs.gov/3-new-contractor-application-community-rehabilitation-partnership-ips-se-1061/open)
  + (Renewal) [**Application for Community Rehabilitation Partnership (RACRP) IPS SE #01061**](https://www.ncdhhs.gov/4-renewal-application-racrp-ips-se-1061/open)