



**Office of  
Mental Health**



**SOLICITATION OF INTEREST  
9/15/2023**

**NY CARES UP Grants  
Funding for Three (3) New York State  
Veteran-Serving Organizations**

Research Foundation for Mental Hygiene, Inc. (RFMH)  
150 Broadway  
Menands, New York 12204

In Partnership with:  
New York State Office of Mental Health's (NYS OMH) Suicide Prevention Center of New York  
44 Holland Avenue  
Albany, New York 12208

Please be aware that any expenses your agency incurs in the preparation and submission of the application(s) will not be reimbursed by NYS OMH or RFMH.

<http://www.omh.ny.gov>

<http://corporate.rfmh.org/>



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Mental Health



# NY CARES UP

Strengthening Resiliency & Wellness  
for Uniformed Personnel

**C**hanging the Conversation

**A**wareness

**R**esilience

**E**mpower Peers

**S**kill Building/Suicide Prevention for

**U**niformed

**P**ersonnel

## Title: Solicitation of Interest: NY CARES UP Grants for New York State Veteran-Serving Organizations

- **Technical Assistance and Training Program:** New York State Office of Mental Health's Suicide Prevention Center of New York
- **Contract Number:** C22653GG
- **Contract Term:** 1/1/2024-12/31/2025
- **Date of Issue:** 9/15/2023
- **Due Date/Time:** 12:00pm EST on **11/1/2023**
- **Total Number of Awards:** 3
- **Counties:** All New York Counties – Statewide
- **Classification:** Procurement
- **Entered by:** New York State Office of Mental Health's Suicide Prevention Center of New York

**Description:**

As part of the broader initiative called NY CARES UP (Changing the Conversation, Awareness, Resilience, Empower Peers, Skill Building/Suicide Prevention for-Uniformed Personnel), the New York State Office of Mental Health's Suicide Prevention Center of New York (OMH SPCNY) is awarding a total of \$55,000 to three (3) Veteran-serving organizations (\$30,000 during year one and \$25,000 during year two).

State funds will be used to increase participation in a national program called the Onward Ops/[ETS Sponsorship Expiration Term of Service Sponsorship Program \(ETS-SP\)](#). In partnership with the Department of Veteran Affairs (VA) and the Department of Defense, the ETS-SP serves to assist Transitioning Service Members and Veterans (TSM/Vs) as they shift from military to civilian life, by connecting them with a local volunteer peer sponsor. The program focuses on the first year of post-military life, a timeframe often referred to as the "deadly gap" due to the high rates of homelessness, criminal justice involvement, alcohol and substance use, unemployment, and suicide. Using peer-reviewed, evidence-based best practices, ETS Sponsors are trained and certified to build relationships and resiliency.

Grant funding will support three (3) New York-based Veteran Serving Organizations in becoming approved Onward Ops/ETS-SP programs, including achieving certification as Community Integration Coordinators (CIC). CIC's partner with the ETS-SP National leadership to lead and coordinate local ETS-SP efforts. Only sites on track to be approved by the National ETS-SP team and the National Center for Healthcare Advancement and Partnerships (HAP) to become CIC's can receive NYS funding. Please see the [ETS Sponsorship CIC Toolkit](#) for additional details on the roles/responsibilities of CICs.

**Eligibility Criteria:**

A total of three grants will be awarded.

Eligible applicants for funds are identified as operating one of the following in NYS:

- A NYS county Veteran Serving Organization (VSO)
- A not-for-profit organization that supports Transitioning Services Members/Veterans
- A PFC JOSEPH P. DWYER Peer-to-Peer chapter
- An entity that has NOT been awarded the CARES UP award in the past
- A Behavioral Health nonprofit, which provides already established specific programming/services for Veterans

Applicants are encouraged to attend an informational session hosted by the National ETS Sponsorship/Onward Ops Program that provides an overview of the ETS-SP. Contact Danielle Bracco ([danielle@etssponsorship.com](mailto:danielle@etssponsorship.com)) for a list of upcoming information session dates.

Ideal applicants should have established community partnerships for at least one year with a minimum of two other Veteran-serving organizations in the community and a dedicated 0.25 FTE personnel to lead this initiative.

Applicants may partner with other surrounding Veteran Serving Organizations to cover multiple NYS counties, but must choose one lead entity (e.g. multiple regional counties coming together in the Finger Lakes Region).

NY CARES UP funding is intended to support implementation of the ETS Sponsorship Program in counties currently not covered by a certified CIC. By becoming an approved CIC, the three grant recipients will connect well-trained Sponsors with returning service members. Therefore, preference will be given to those agencies operating in parts of the state currently lacking a CIC for the ETS Sponsorship Program.

**At the time of this writing, current NYS CIC sites include:**

- Nassau County Mental Health Association (MHA);
- Westchester County ProVetus;
- Staten Island Performing Provider System (SIPPS);
- Suffolk County Dwyer Program;
- Finger Lakes;
- Military Family Foundation;
- WNY Heroes;
- Tioga Co VSO; and
- Rensselaer Dwyer Program

If you are unclear about your eligibility, please contact us at [CARESUP@omh.ny.gov](mailto:CARESUP@omh.ny.gov) with the subject line “Vets SOI”

**Grant Deliverables and Timeline:** The following scope of work and deliverables will be expected to be met by grant recipients over the two-year (24 month) course of the grant with technical assistance provided by the NY CARES UP team and the National ETS-SP team.

- Complete all required training as outlined by the National ETS-SP team
- Continuously recruit and onboard sponsors, as outlined by the National ETS-SP Team
- Match and assist in maintaining relationships between sponsors and TSM/Vs by following technical assistance provided by the National ETS-SP team
- Provide ongoing support to sponsors; disseminate relevant information; schedule ongoing meetings for sponsors as predetermined by the National ETS-SP team; provide information about relevant resources and supports in the community; and recognize sponsors for their efforts
- Collaborate with other local Veteran services, organizations, and individuals in the community, as well as applicable State and federal Veteran-focused services
- Participate in monthly or bimonthly meetings led by the ETS-SP National team and quarterly meetings with the NY CARES UP team
- Assign a single point of contact to keep the ETS-SP National team and NY CARES UP team updated on implementation progress; send contact information for the lead and back-up points of contact
- Develop a plan for grant year two for the training of sponsors (i.e., Small Group Facilitators [SGFs] and Senior Trainers [STs] within ranks or coordinating one day trainings with ETS-SP team)

**Grant Year One (1/1/2024 – 12/31/2024)**

- Become an approved Community Integration Coordinator (CIC)
  - Enter into separate Memorandum of Agreements (MOA) with the HAP office and the National ETS-SP team

- Once approved, work with ETS-SP staff to complete the CIC Checklist, Task Timeline, Certification Checklist and Training Certification
- Recruit and train a mutually determined number of sponsors
  - Sponsors to complete all required training as laid out by the National ETS-SP team
- Launch and maintain the ETS-SP data dashboard
- Match sponsors to returning service members
- Promote 988 and other mental health and wellness materials within your organization & community, as appropriate
- Have an agency representative participate in your county Suicide Prevention Coalition (if available in the county)
- Attend quarterly meetings with NY CARES UP project manager/other grant sites, and any additional meetings required for purposes of the grant
- Attend required monthly meetings with ETS-SP national/regional staff
- Collect and report data as required by the ETS-SP team and NY CARES UP team
- Complete requested annual report materials by given due date
- **Optional:** Attendance by at least one agency representative at the SPCNY Conference (paid for with grant funding)

### **Grant Year Two (1/1/2025-12/31/2025)**

- Continue with Implementation Task Timeline
- Continue to recruit and train sponsors
- Continue to match sponsors to returning service members
- Continue to collect and report data as requested and required by ETS-SP team and NY CARES UP team
- Attend quarterly meetings with SPCNY CARES UP project manager/other grant sites, and any additional meetings required for purposes of the grant
- Attendance by at least two agency representatives to the 2025 SPCNY Conference (paid for with grant funding)
- Complete final report by established due date
- Begin to build infrastructure to host future sponsor trainings, by completing the Train the Trainer series hosted by the National ETS-SP
- **Optional:** Attendance by at least one agency representative at the SPCNY Conference (paid for with grant funding)

### **Budget:** Spending must fall into the following categories:

- Administrative Support and Planning - Support planning activities and meeting deliverables in a timely manner. These activities include grant project management, point of contact duties, and facilitation of grant participation
- Promotion of 988 and other mental health and wellness materials
- Coverage/Staffing - Cross coverage, overtime costs to allow for training attendance
- Supplies
- Data Infrastructure- Launch and maintain the data dashboard (Estimated costs)

- Cost Breakdown (per cohort of 100 assigned service members):
  - Dashboard sets + Google Workspace (SM/Veteran, Sponsor): \$ 18,250
  - CIC Administrative Dashboard (up to 3 login accounts): \$ 1,750
  - Sponsor/CIC Training, Certification, Ongoing Education: \$ 3,000
  - Program Administration and National Program Support: \$ 2,000

**Year One Budget Template EXAMPLE:**

<b>Budget Line</b>	<b>Anticipated Budget</b>
Administrative Support and Planning	\$8,000
Promote Mental Health & Wellness materials	\$500
Data Infrastructure	\$20,000
Supplies	\$500
Coverage/Staffing	\$1,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$30,000</b>

**Anticipated Outcomes:**

By partnering with the DoD, VA, and EST-SP, this funding is intended to achieve the following:

- Review current needs and gaps for TSM/Vs
- Support successful implementation the ETS-SP model
- Implement a CIC in areas of NYS currently lacking this program
- Establish peer connections between sponsors and TSM/Vs
- Increase CICs’ awareness of supports for TSM/Vs in their county and surrounding areas
- Increase the timely connection of TSM/Vs to local supports once returning home (including the VA, employment services, behavioral health services, etc.)

**Virtual Informational session will be held: 10/3/23 from 1-2PM**

To register, [click here](#)

Grant awards will be contingent upon completion of establishing a draft MOA with the HAP office.

Interested organizations are highly encouraged to contact their local VISN2 leadership and register for an upcoming ETS-SP orientation.

Please send your [solicitation of interest application](#) to [CARESUP@omh.ny.gov](mailto:CARESUP@omh.ny.gov) by **12:00PM EST on 11/1/2023.**

**Please note this is solely a Solicitation of Interest and does not guarantee an award or contract.**