



Request for Proposal Local Evaluation Services

Volunteers of America, Dakotas (VOAD) is applying for the *FY 2021 National Traumatic Stress Initiative –Category III Community Treatment and Service (CTS) Centers (Short Title: NCTSI-III) Grant* and is seeking local evaluators interested in providing evaluation services to support the requirement of continuous program improvement for the *NCTSI-III grant*.

Project Name

Volunteers of America, Dakotas National Child Trauma Stress Initiative (VOAD NCTSI).

Program Description

Through the NCTSI grant, Volunteers of America, Dakotas will provide and increase access to effective trauma-focused treatment and services for children, adolescents and their families who have experienced trauma. The project will serve children, adolescents and their families from the Sioux Falls metro area (which includes Lincoln, Minnehaha, Turner & McCook Counties) and other surrounding counties in southeastern South Dakota. Due date for the VOAD proposal submission is 2/12/2021.

Population to be served

This project will serve children, adolescents and their families who have been impacted by traumatic events, including homelessness, COVID-19, parental substance abuse, parental incarceration, and abuse, neglect or other adverse childhood experiences. It is anticipated that this project will serve a large number of American Indian individuals and other minority populations impacted by health disparities.

Required Activities per SAMHSA

- Provide outreach and other engagement strategies to increase participation in, and access to trauma treatment and services; and prevention services for children, adolescents and their families who have experienced traumatic events.
- Provide direct evidence-based mental disorder treatment and services, including screening, assessment, care management, therapy, and prevention for diverse and at-risk children and adolescents. Treatment must be provided in outpatient, day treatment (including outreach-based services) or intensive outpatient, home-based, or residential programs.
- Provide services to populations of child-serving systems, such as child welfare, child protective services, law enforcement and courts, and the juvenile justice

system on trauma-informed practices using your expertise or Network resources at the local, regional or state levels.

- Collaborate with NCTSI-Category II Treatment and Service Adaptation (TSA) Centers to develop, advance, or adapt interventions to improve engagement and outcomes for traumatized youth.
- Implement a project evaluation including process and outcomes evaluation to be submitted to SAMHSA by the end of the project period.

VOAD Project Goals and Objectives *

Goal: Ensure children and adolescents and their families who have experienced trauma are able to access evidence-based trauma treatment and services. Objective 1: Enhance the ability to effectively provide trauma-informed services by training 8 VOAD staff in trauma-informed evidence-based practices by the end of Year 1. Objective 2: Establish a referral protocol with stakeholders by Month 4, Year 1 to ensure children, adolescents and their families who have experienced trauma are connected with trauma-focused services. Objective 3: Screen and assess 75 children and adolescents in Year 1 and 100 annually in Years 2-5 for trauma exposure. Objective 4: Provide evidence-based trauma-informed treatment and services to 75 children and/or adolescents and their families in Year 1 and 100 annually in Years 2-5. Objective 5: Collaborate with child and family-serving agencies and stakeholders to provide trauma-focused training to increase the community's capacity to identify and treat child trauma by providing training to 50 individuals annually. **Number of individuals served**: 75 in Year 1, 100 annually in Years 2-5 for a project lifetime total of 475.

***these may be subject to change as the proposal is developed**

Expectations of the Local Evaluation

- Local evaluation is expected to measure progress in meeting local program goals, objectives as well as federal performance indicators. The evaluator is required to assist the VOAD NCTSI grant project to be compliant with the federal evaluation requirements by the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA). The process will include the collection and analysis of data from a variety of sources. The evaluator will work directly with the Managing Director who oversees the VOAD Behavioral Health Department. The scope of work for evaluation services is detailed below.
- All SAMHSA recipients are required to collect and report certain data so that SAMHSA can meet its obligations under the Government Performance and Results (GPRA) including; number of individuals receiving services, diagnoses, abstinence from substance use, housing stability, increases in mental health functioning, education, criminal justice involvement, and client perception of care. Data will be collected at intake, every six months thereafter, and discharge.
- Recipients must periodically review the performance data they report to SAMHSA, assess their progress, and use this information to improve management of their grant project.

- Recipients are also required to report on their progress addressing the goals and objectives identified in their project narrative.
- Performance assessments should also be used to determine whether your project is having/will have the intended impact on behavioral health disparities.
- Projects will be required to submit a report on progress at midpoint of Year1 (at 6 months), and one report will be required at the completion of each year thereafter (two reports will be required in year one and one report will be required at the completion of each year thereafter).
- Recipients are required to evaluate their projects and submit a final evaluation at the end of the project period. This evaluation must include both process and outcome evaluations. Applicants are required to describe their evaluation plan in Section E of their project narrative. VOAD will work with the selected evaluator to complete this section of the proposal.
- Selected evaluators will be required to provide a proposed budget to include with the proposal.
- All grantee meetings will be held virtually.
- Selected evaluators will be required to submit a biographical sketch.
- Selected evaluators will be required to provide a Letter of Commitment.

Scope of Work for Evaluation Services

A link to the RFP for this solicitation is provided. For information on the scope of work please review the following sections.

- Project Description I – (1.2) Data Collection and Performance Measurement and (1.3) Project Performance Assessment and Program Evaluation
- Application and Submission Information IV – (1) Required Application Components
- Application Review Information V - (1) Evaluation Criteria
- Appendix C –Confidentiality and SAMHSA Participant Protection/Human Subjects Guidelines
- Appendix D – Developing Goals and Measurable Objectives
- Appendix E – Developing the Plan for Data Collection Performance Assessment and Quality Improvement
- Appendix F- Addressing Behavioral Health Disparities

Terms of Contract

- 9/30/2021 to 9/26/2026

Volunteers of America, Dakotas Background and Purpose

Organization Description including mission statement:

Volunteers of America, Dakotas is called by the Gospel to guide people to live healthy and fulfilling lives. Reaching out to help those whom we are called to serve achieve their full potential, Volunteers of America, Dakotas demonstrates God's love by guiding

people with behavioral health needs; supporting individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities; strengthening those struggling with homelessness; and uplifting children, youth, and families.

For more information, please visit our website at www.voa-dakotas.org

Proposal details/directions

- Please email a brief proposal of interest no later than Friday, January 8, 2021 by COB/5:00pm (CST) to Deb Rice, Grants Director at d.rice@voa-dakotas.org for consideration.
- Questions regarding this proposal may be submitted electronically to Deb Rice, Grants Director at d.rice@voa-dakotas.org with the subject line *VOAD NCSTI Grant Question*.

Content for the proposal should include:

- A brief description of the firm and or consultant including qualifications and relevant experience.
- A brief description of content knowledge of individuals impacted by trauma.
- Provide a sample of work, including evaluation reports.
- Provide a proposed 12 month timeline of activities (Term of Contract is 9/30/2021 to 9/29/2026); or proposed deliverables as result of services.
- Price –Include information on how the price was determined. Proposal costs should not exceed **\$70,000 annually. Total proposed costs for the five-year period should not exceed \$350,000.**

Notification

- ***Evaluator selection will be made by January 14, 2021 via e-mail.***

Preparation Costs

- All costs incurred in the preparation and presentation of this RFP shall be the responsibility of the applicant. All documents submitted will become the property of VOAD.