

Family Navigator Grant Announcement of Selected Pilot Sites

The Youth and Family Training Institute (YFTI) along with the Office of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services (OMHSAS) Bureau of Children's Behavioral Health Services and Bureau of Policy, Planning & Program Development have developed a two-year innovative pilot that will define, develop, implement, and evaluate the role of the Family Navigator in six sites within the Commonwealth. The goal of the pilot is to assist in defining Pennsylvania's Family Navigator Model by testing the effectiveness and implementation strategies of pilot family navigator models for children, youth, and young adults (CYYA) with serious emotional disturbance (SED). The pilot will promote early access, engagement, coordination and optimization of mental health treatment and services for CYYA aged 5-21 who are experiencing symptoms of mental health problems along with their family caregiver (defined as family members or other caregivers with a primary responsibility of caring for the individual).

YFTI released a Request for Proposals (RFP) to solicit submissions from across the Commonwealth on February 18th, 2025, which were due March 28th, 2025. The six selected sites were determined on April 25th, 2025, and all agencies were informed of the status of their proposal at that time. YFTI received a total of 59 proposals from all over the state, and we were greatly encouraged by the high amount of interest in participating in this pilot. With that many proposals submitted, the selection process became very challenging, and the final decision was very competitive. The review team (comprised of staff from OMHSAS, YFTI, family members and youth) sought to select proposals that were innovative, filled significant service gaps in communities, and could be piloted to learn more about the impact that could be made by the program in each respective community. Consideration was made to have a representation of urban, suburban, and rural sites, geographically inclusive of a broad range of counties across the state, and diverse regarding the implementation strategies proposed.

The six selected sites are:

- Allegheny Family Network
- AMI, Inc.
- Community Behavioral Health/Philadelphia Family Voices
- Crawford County Mental Health Awareness Program/Family Children & Community Association
- Whole Child Wellness Clinic-UPMC Children's Hospital of Pittsburgh
- Youth MOVE PA

Information detailing the proposal from each agency is attached to this email, and can also be found on the YFTI website, www.yftipa.org.

Questions about the Family Navigator Pilot can be directed to Bryon Luke, Director of Program Implementation, YFTI. lukebk@upmc.edu.