



Community Service Board Research Project Request for Proposals

Project Overview

- Resilient Georgia has launched a collaborative research project to explore the vital role of Georgia's Community Service Boards (CSBs) in the state's behavioral health system, identify critical systemic gaps and challenges, and develop actionable solutions that will ultimately enhance CSBs' ability to meet growing demand within a sustainable and coordinated system.
- Key partners in the initiative include the Georgia Association of Community Service Boards (GACSB) and CSB leadership from across the state.

Project Goals

- The goal is to develop research findings that are solutions-oriented and that lead to action items to help meet growing demand that can be applied in the near term (1 to 2 years), and to explore innovative opportunities around funding, shared resources, and partnerships across all CSBs that could be implemented in the longer term (3 to 5 years.)
- The findings should be usable by external audiences, including those who are not experts, including the public, foundations, community-based organizations, state agency leaders and elected officials, and others who consider themselves stakeholders in a performance focused, recovery-based system.

Scope of Work

Researchers will conduct a study to explore where the state's 22 CSBs currently stand, obstacles that may exist to meeting goals, and potential action steps that can be taken in the near future to close any gaps (e.g. staff, training, resources, space), while acknowledging structural issues outside of CSBs' control. Among the key topics to be examined are:

- Role of CSBs – including their statutory role, and in relation to other public and private providers; maintaining the state's behavioral health safety-net; the impact of the Certified Community Behavioral Health Clinic (CCBHC) initiative and funding on CSB services and community health; the role of CSBs in implementing mental health parity provisions; supporting GACSB as the 'backbone' of the CSB system.
- Access to care – including CSB services offered locally and regionally; capacity to provide services needed by the local community; how to share services across CSBs; resources for primary behavioral healthcare, prevention and early intervention; client and payor mix; local and regional partnerships with other service providers and philanthropic organizations.
- Outcomes- including barriers in place that prevent a CSB from being able to focus on predictable outcomes and ensure appropriate services are made available for population served regardless of how an individual presents.
- Facilities – including capital and real estate needs; adequacy of physical facilities and environments; facility locations within the communities and regions they serve; funding for capital projects.
- Funding – the adequacy of current reimbursement rates in relation to the actual cost of providing services; state-contracted services; staff recruitment and retention; the need for additional services locally and across Georgia (especially crisis services); grant funding opportunities from the state, federal agencies and private philanthropies.



Researchers will gather, review, and synthesize existing information including:

- The GACSB strategic plan and stated goals for the Association
- Strategic plans and recent reports already produced by CSBs for their boards, for the Georgia Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities (DBHDD), or for federal grants
- DBHDD reports on CSBs, and soon-to-be released findings from state agency-conducted studies around crisis beds, the behavioral health workforce, and reimbursement rates

Without duplicating available resources, researchers will gather new qualitative and quantitative data that describe the current state of need, primary challenges and potential opportunities, working directly with identified contacts for each CSB across the state.

Proposals should include the approach that researchers propose to take to collaborate with GACSB and CSB leadership (e.g. interviews with a wide range of staff, site visits to each CSB) to gather information on the key topics listed above. Proposals should include projected timelines for each step of the project that will allow for relevant findings to be released in written reports on a quarterly basis. Researchers should plan to consult with Resilient Georgia staff and their collaborators regularly to report on progress and challenges, as well as the development of proposed action steps that arise from the analysis.

Deliverables

- Two formal written reports covering the key topics (timeline below), with monthly informal updates via email and/or scheduled calls with key stakeholders
- Proposed action steps for 1 to 2 years, and 3 to 5 years

Proposal Timeline and Project Deadline

Proposals are due to eval@resilientga.org by 5pm October 15, 2023. Proposals will be evaluated until November 15, 2023, after which bidders will be notified of the status of their proposal. Once the contract is awarded, work must begin by December 15, 2023. A progress report will be due by April 15, 2024. Final project findings will be due by October 1, 2024. A small group of subject matter experts will review all submitted proposals.

Budget Requirements

Each proposal should include the following:

- Staff time
- Travel
- Indirect/overhead
- Total project cost



Criteria

Resilient Georgia and partner subject matter experts will evaluate proposals based on the following criteria:

- Demonstrated past experience with applied and action-oriented research projects, evaluation of health care systems and programs
- Working knowledge of the current system in Georgia including but not limited to legislative and administrative responsibilities of the safety net system
- Project design and approach that demonstrates insights into on-the-ground realities and how to work collaboratively with behavioral health service providers
- Ability to frame the project with a systems change perspective and identify barriers that CSBs are experiencing rather than deficiencies
- Ability to work with real estate subject matter experts (existing local CSB real estate partners or Resilient Georgia can make introductions if necessary) to identify space and land constraints and make recommendations