



Invitation to Negotiate #016
Recovery Community Organizations (RCO)
for Miami-Dade and Monroe Counties

Date: November 28, 2023

Time: By 5:00 P.M. [EST]

RESPONSES TO WRITTEN INQUIRIES

Question 1: I used to be registered in Miami and I am now registered in St. Lucie County as headquarters (my home). However, we still work very heavily in Dade and were in the process of securing a brick and mortar location. How would I navigate the address issue?

Response 1: Pursuant to ITN #016, Section I, paragraph A. Statement of Need and paragraph D. Eligible Applicants, “Applicants must have a registered physical location in Miami-Dade and/or Monroe County at the time of submission of an application. Applicants that do not have a registered physical location in Miami-Dade or Monroe Counties at the time that the application is due, will be considered non-responsive to this ITN.”

Question 2: In looking through this, I see the deadline is December 1st. That is 2 weeks away with Holidays in between, which would give us approximately 1 week to respond. Was the ITN previously released? We did not get a notification until this email. Please confirm that the timeline in the document is correct.

Response 2: Pursuant to ITN #016, Section III, Paragraph R. Schedule of Activities, Thriving Mind has provided a schedule of activities which indicates that the due date to respond with applications is December 18th, 2023 Between 9:00 A.M. to 4:00 P.M. [EST].

Applications Due	12/18/2023	Between 9:00 A.M. to 4:00 P.M. [EST]	Attn: Stephanie Feldman, Thriving Mind Procurement Manager, sfeldman@thrivingmind.org
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Question 3: I have a question for ITN #016. Do we need the DCF prevention license for this funding?

Response 3: Pursuant to ITN #016, Section I, Paragraph A. Statement of Need, the DCF prevention license is not required as this ITN does not fund prevention services.



Question 4:

I am a board member of the Gratitude Foundation which stated mission is: The mission of the Gratitude Foundation of Miami is to provide a safe haven for anyone seeking recovery. Our goal is to create a comfortable setting where recovering people can meet in peer groups and share a common bond while seeking a reprieve from addiction in its many manifestations through their experience, strength and hope. The Gratitude Foundation of Miami, Inc. is composed of a community of members and donors that are contributing towards its sustainability and growth.

- (1) The organization has been incorporated since 2015. Would this organization meet the 90 day criteria or do they have to actually be operating as an RCO for 90 days?
- (2) They are also not a current provider. Would they have to be a provider to apply?
- (3) Regarding New Hope as the applicant: If we decide to apply, we need clarification regarding the criteria of the board makeup. We currently have 11 board members. Five of the board members are individuals with lived experience in recovery. There is one board member that has lived experience as a family. That would be 6 out of 11 board members. Would the current board structure meet the criteria or does it have to be 50% with actual lived experience? I am also a person with lived experience, as an ex officio member of the board, would I be counted as a person with lived experience serving on the board therefore having a board that is comprised of 6 board members with actual lived experience and one family lived experience. Would we meet the board membership criteria considering the aforementioned?

Family (F): Lived experience as a family member or caregiver to another person who is living with a mental health and/or substance use condition.

- (4) Covered Services paragraph states: "These services exclude twelve-step programs such as Alcoholics Anonymous and Narcotics Anonymous." Can you please clarify this? I'm having a hard time reconciling recovery capital with this statement. Wouldn't this be considered a support group that would be encouraged?

Response 4:

- (1) Pursuant to ITN #016, Section I, paragraph D. Eligible Applicants, the organization must be in operation for a minimum of ninety (90) days. An organization may be an existing or emerging RCO. RCOs are independent, non-profit organizations led



and governed by representatives of local communities of recovery. To ensure that recovery communities are fully represented, only organizations controlled and managed by members of the substance use and/or co-occurring disorders recovery community are eligible to apply.

- (2) Pursuant to ITN #016, Section I, paragraph D. Eligible Applicants, applicants are not required to be current Thriving Mind Network Providers. The ITN is open to all qualified vendors who can meet the specified criteria, regardless of their current relationship with Thriving Mind.
- (3) Pursuant to ITN #016, Section I, paragraph D. Eligible Applicants, “Agencies with less than 51% of board members with lived experience at the time of submission of the application will be considered unresponsive to the ITN and the application will be disqualified and rejected.”
- (4) Pursuant to ITN #016, Appendix B (Exhibit BF), Section I, the Florida Department of Children and Families Rule 65E-14, Florida Administrative Code, excludes twelve-step programs such as Alcoholics Anonymous and Narcotics Anonymous from the definition of the covered service, this does not mean that the service is not considered valuable or supportive. In fact, twelve-step programs can be very helpful resource for people in recovery. The recovery capital encompasses the resources that an individual needs to maintain their sobriety or recovery. Twelve-step programs are helpful and available as auxiliary support for those who choose that path of recovery. While participation in twelve-step programs is considered a viable recovery option, Thriving Mind cannot allocate funds to reimburse staff for facilitating these programs.

Per Rule 65D-30, Florida Administrative Code, Peer specialists may provide the following services:

1. Referral and linkage,
2. Service coordination,
3. Recovery support services,
4. Facilitation of recovery group meetings, excluding twelve-step meetings and therapeutic or clinical group counseling sessions,
5. Non-clinical crisis support,
6. Individual, family, and community education,
7. Outreach,
8. Recovery goal setting and planning assistance,
9. Advocacy,
10. Documentation of recovery plan progress, and
11. Participation in treatment team planning and process.



Question 5:

I am a board member of the Gratitude Foundation which stated mission is: The mission of the Gratitude Foundation of Miami is to provide a safe haven for anyone seeking recovery. Our goal is to create a comfortable setting where recovering people can meet in peer groups and share a common bond while seeking a reprieve from addiction in its many manifestations through their experience, strength and hope. The Gratitude Foundation of Miami, Inc. is composed of a community of members and donors that are contributing towards its sustainability and growth.

- (1) The organization has been incorporated since 2015. Would this organization meet the 90 day criteria or do they have to actually be operating as an RCO for 90 days?
- (2) Would the annual reports filed with the state (see below) be sufficient as confirmation that the organization has been established for more that 90 days?
- (3) Regarding New Hope as the applicant: If we decide to apply, we need clarification regarding the criteria of the board makeup. We currently have 11 board members. Five of the board members are individuals with lived experience in recovery. There is one board member that has lived experience as a family. That would be 6 out of 11 board members. Would the current board structure meet the criteria or does it have to be 50% with actual lived experience? I am also a person with lived experience, as an ex officio member of the board, would I be counted as a person with lived experience serving on the board therefore having a board that is comprised of 6 board members with actual lived experience and one family lived experience. Would we meet the board membership criteria considering the aforementioned?

Family (F): Lived experience as a family member or caregiver to another person who is living with a mental health and/or substance use condition.

Response 5:

- (1) Pursuant to ITN #016, Section I, paragraph D. Eligible Applicants, the organization must be in operation for a minimum of ninety (90) days. An organization may be an existing or emerging RCO. RCOs are independent, non-profit organizations led and governed by representatives of local communities of recovery. To ensure that recovery communities are fully represented, only organizations controlled and managed by members of the substance use and/or co-occurring disorders recovery community are eligible to apply.



- (2) Pursuant to ITN #016, Section III, paragraph T. Fatal Flaw Criteria-Technical Review, applicants must submit a copy of last filed Annual Report and Copy of current Certificate of Status from the Florida Department of State Division of Corporations and copy of the 501(c)(3) letter from the IRS showing the agency's tax exempt status as proof that the applicant's agency has been in operation for at minimum ninety (90) days.
- (3) Per ITN #016, Section I, paragraph D. Eligible Applicants, "Fifty-one (51%) of the Board of Directors members are individuals in long-term recovery from substance use and/or a co-occurring disorder and provide their personal lived experience of recovery to guide the organization. Agencies with less than 51% of board members with lived experience at the time of submission of the application will be considered unresponsive to the ITN and the application will be disqualified and rejected."

Question 6:

We have some questions for you regarding eligibility criteria in order to apply for funding.

We provide housing as well as case management and peer support services to individuals in recovery in our shared housing program, as well as in our FARR certified recovery home, receiving referrals from different SUD treatment centers, behavioral hospitals, justice system, and from homeless shelters.

We also provide specialized street outreach for the Homeless Trust, making referrals for individuals with SMH and SUD to treatment, and/or to supportive housing, and in some cases offering placement in our shared housing program.

We are a non profit agency incorporated in the State of Florida, and have been more then 90 days in operation.

We have a registered physical address in Miami Dade county.

However, 51% of our Board of Directors is not represented by individuals in recovery from substance use or co-occurring disorders.

Please kindly advise if we are still eligible to apply for funds under this grant, and if so, if we can apply for funding in order to expand our housing program including additional FARR certified recovery homes to offer housing and support to individuals in recovery.

Response 6:

Per ITN #016, Section I, paragraph D. Eligible Applicants, no, fifty-one (51%) of the Board of Directors members must be individuals in long-term recovery from substance use and/or a co-occurring disorder and provide their personal lived experience of recovery to



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A network of exceptional mental health and
substance use treatment providers.

guide the organization. Agencies with less than 51% of board members with lived experience at the time of submission of the application will be considered unresponsive to the ITN and the application will be disqualified and rejected.

Per ITN #016, Section I, paragraph A. Statement of Need, the funding mentioned in the ITN are only for Recovery Community Organization (RCO) to provide recovery support services, recovery-focused advocacy activities, carry out recovery-focused community education, outreach, and peer-based recovery support services as defined in Rule 65E-14 of the Florida Administrative Code. These funds cannot be used for Residential or Housing services.