



Justin Elicker
Mayor

CITY OF NEW HAVEN
COMMUNITY SERVICES ADMINISTRATION
DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY RESILIENCE



December 16, 2024

The Honorable Tyisha Walker-Myers
President, Board of Alders
City of New Haven
165 Church Street
New Haven, CT 06510

Dear President Walker-Myers and Honorable Members of the Board of Alders,

We are seeking authorization for the Department of Community Resilience to apply for funding from the U.S. Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) through the Children's Mental Health Initiative for an amount up to \$1,000,000 per year for up to 4 years. The goal of this funding will be to support a comprehensive system of care for youth in New Haven who are experiencing serious emotional disturbances and at high risk for developing psychosis. This funding is critical to efforts aimed at improving youth mental health services in New Haven by reducing fragmentation in the mental healthcare system, increasing equitable access to care for the city's diverse residents, and preventing serious mental illness across the lifespan.

We propose to work in collaboration with Yale University PRIME Psychosis Risk Clinic to create a network of non-clinical and clinical partners in the New Haven area to reach youth at risk for developing psychosis. Moreover, the funds will be used to raise awareness of serious emotional disturbances in youth and to integrate community-based support into non-clinical settings. We plan to work closely with faith-based organizations, schools, libraries, and other youth- and parent-led groups in the community to ensure these efforts are accessible and effective.

The success of this initiative hinges on securing the necessary funding from SAMHSA. Your authorization will enable us to take this crucial step toward improving mental health outcomes for New Haven's youth and building a resilient, supportive, community-based network. Thank you for considering our request. We look forward to your response and continued support.

Sincerely,

Tirzah Kemp
Director, Department of Community Resilience

NEW HAVEN IT ALL HAPPENS HERE

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