**Request for Applications**

**The Hope, Healing, and Health Collective (H3C)**

**Responses due by 5:00pm PST on Friday, March 12, 2020**

*The RFA does not constitute a contract or an offer. In addition, any contract awarded as a result of this RFA is subject to any additional restriction, limitation, or condition enacted by The Children’s Partnership in any manner. The Children’s Partnership reserves the right to make any and all awards, or to reject all applications, in whole or in part, submitted in response to this RFA.*

*The Children’s Partnership reserves the right to amend this this RFA via written addendum or cancel at any time.*

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**Request for Applications (RFA) Summary**

The global COVID-19 pandemic is disproportionally impacting Black, Indigenous, and Latinx communities, including having devastating effects on youth’s mental health outcomes. The public health crisis also coincides with horrific incidents of police brutality that have renewed momentum toward racial justice and healing as people and organizations respond to calls to action heard across the country. As such, the mission of the Hope, Healing, and Health Collective (The Collective) is to expand the availability and accessibility of culturally-competent and gender-affirming services and supports to youth of color, particularly African American girls, Indigenous youth, and Latina girls, and LGBTQ youth who are experiencing historic, crisis-level rates of mental health needs and suicide risk.

The Children’s Partnership (TCP), in partnership with the National Black Women’s Justice Institute (NBWJI), is seeking applications from potential partners with experience and expertise in supporting the socioemotional wellbeing of youth of color through culturally-responsive youth services to assist TCP and NBWJI in developing a policy agenda that builds the capacity of the youth-serving systems of care to provide effective, compassionate, and culturally-responsive healing for young people from marginalized communities and identities. Specifically, organizations selected to join The Collective will work collaboratively with TCP and NBWJI to elevate the most pertinent mental health policy issues facing our youth by identifying young people they work with to co-develop and lead listening sessions with youth from across the country.

Our intention is to uplift innovative strategies across a continuum of service providers, ranging from traditional behavioral health clinics to community-based youth advocacy organizations. As part of this project, we seek applications from direct-service and community-based/youth-led organizations that:

(1) demonstrate existing relationships with the specified demographic communities;

(2) provide culturally appropriate and gender-affirming services to the youth identified as being at the center of this work; and

(3) have experience and expertise in youth development and youth organizing, working at the intersections of youth identities and conditions to address youth well-being and mental health outcomes.

By the end of this project, we expect to identify innovative strategies for advancing the mental health and wellness of youth of color, demonstrating the power and value of interventions led by and for communities that are directly impacted. In addition, we anticipate that the organizations funded through this project will build their own capacity to continue to engage in practices that support their organization’s sustainability and ongoing efforts as well as generate new approaches that strengthen system-wide service delivery that addresses the unique mental health and wellness needs of youth of color.

# Target Populations

Historical trauma and the exacerbating conditions of 2020 have only added to what were alarming trends in children’s mental health that are compounded for youth with several marginalized identities.

* In 2019, nearly 50% of youth who were severely impaired with a major depressive episode did not receive treatment ([SAMHSA, 2020](https://www.samhsa.gov/data/sites/default/files/reports/rpt29393/2019NSDUHFFRPDFWHTML/2019NSDUHFFR1PDFW090120.pdf)).
* Black and Latinx children were about 14% less likely than white youth to receive treatment for their depression overall, and though as likely to have a major depressive episode as white children, were less likely to receive treatment in inpatient settings ([SAMHSA](https://www.samhsa.gov/data/sites/default/files/reports/rpt29394/NSDUHDetailedTabs2019/NSDUHDetTabsSect11pe2019.htm), 2020).
* Suicide is the second leading cause of death for Native youth – nearly 3.5 times higher than the national average, and higher than any other ethnic group ([Center for Native American Youth](https://www.cnay.org/suicide-prevention/), 2020).
* Black and Latina girls were nearly twice as likely to attempt suicide as Black and Latino boys ([CDC](https://yrbs-explorer.services.cdc.gov/#/tables?questionCode=H28&topicCode=C01&year=2019), 2019).
* LGBT+ youth from American Indian and Alaskan Native backgrounds were 2.5 times more likely to report a suicide attempt in the past year, compared to their non-Native LGBT+ peers. ([The Trevor Projec](https://www.thetrevorproject.org/2020/11/16/research-brief-american-indian-alaskan-native-youth-suicide-risk/)t, 2020).

The Collective will therefore target the following youth populations throughout the United States (to include but not be limited to):

* Black and Latina girls
* Native/Indigenous youth
* LGBTQ+ youth, especially LGBTQ+ from marginalized racial or ethnic communities

**Partner Capacity**

TCP will provide support for the participation of one youth leader and a staff mentor from each of 12-15 grassroots or direct-service organizations in a virtual community (youth leaders to be selected by the respective organizations). TCP is currently scheduled to host activities of the Collective through December 31, 2021. A total of up to $300,000 will be awarded to 12-15 partners who meet the outlined criteria, with an average award of $20,000-25,000.

If awarded, partners would commit to (1) a maximum of 9 monthly virtual convenings and policy development listening sessions, (2) supporting youth leaders in participation and leading development of agendas for said convenings and listening sessions, and (3) supporting youth-led outreach to their peer networks to secure engagement in the Collective’s work and dissemination of findings.

TCP and NBWJI are seeking innovative contractors with experience serving at least one of the target populations with a high degree of cultural and linguistic proficiency and humility. Ideal candidates will have experience and/or capability to employ youth organizers, peers, community health workers, promotoras and/or other non-clinical workforce as appropriate to serve in the role of staff mentor for this project. Ideal candidates will also have an existing youth leadership infrastructure from which to draw and build through their participation in the Collective.

Potential partners must have an existing infrastructure to provide non-clinical emotional support (such as mentorship or peer support) or youth development services, and must already provide non-clinical emotional support and/or youth development services to one of the identified target populations listed. Partners that offer clinical mental health services are also eligible so long as they provide non-clinical emotional support services for youth as well. Partners must also have the capacity for staff to participate virtually in Collective meetings and partner check-ins. Examples of non-clinical emotional support and youth development activities include but are not limited to:

* Youth development (e.g. after school programs, leadership, or civic engagement)
* Youth advocacy
* Peer support
* Restorative justice programs (e.g. healing circles)
* Clinical mental health services

**Eligibility**

Partners will need to demonstrate the ability to:

* Identify a high-school aged youth who is receiving services from or participating in programming by the organization to participate in the Collective. The young person should demonstrate an ability to work collaboratively with their with peers and adult allies in the Collective for 8-16 hours per month through December 31, 2021.
  + - Youth access to devices and internet is not a requirement and will be considered an allowable contract expense as part of the award along with a youth stipend equivalent to a $15/hour minimum wage.
* Provide professional and emotional support to youth leaders in between Collective convenings to achieve Collective objectives and advance the work of the Collective
* Participate virtually in Collective convenings, with device and internet access being an allowable award expense for youth participation
* Be able to address technical challenges of youth participating in Collective activities
* Outreach to and engage with the respective youth populations to recruit participants in Collective policy development listening sessions and disseminate relevant findings
* Follow all reporting and documentation requirements
* Comply with all state and federal privacy and security laws
* Enter into a contract agreement with TCP within 30 calendar days
* Complete all reporting requirements of TCP

Organizations with an overall budget of $2 million or less will be prioritized for consideration.

**Submission Deadline:**

Please submit your response via e-mail to [avazquez@childrenspartnership.org](mailto:avazquez@childrenspartnership.org) by 5PM, March 12, 2021. Partners will be notified by April 12, 2020.

**Application**

**Provider Information:**

Organization Name:

Primary Contact Name:

Primary Contact Email:

Primary Contact Direct Phone Number:

Organization Location:

Organization Annual Budget:

Organization Type (check one):

□ Non-Profit □ Private/For Profit □ Government

**1. Provide a brief organizational background including experience providing non-clinical emotional support (such as mentorship or peer support groups/circles) to youth, youth development, or youth outreach. Describe past partnerships with mental health or youth development organizations if appropriate. (10 Points):**

**2 . Target Population – Check all populations your organization serves or works with (20 points):**

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Youth (specify ages):

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ High school aged youth

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Youth in rural populations

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Black youth

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Indigenous youth

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Youth of Color, including but not limited to Asian-Pacific Islander and Latinx youth

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Black girls

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Latina girls

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ LGBTQ+ youth

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ LGBTQ+ from marginalized racial or ethnic communities

**3. Describe your organization’s experience serving or working with the target populations you have selected. For all target populations you have selected, describe how you will support individuals with accessibility and technical needs. Include how youth participating in the Collective will build their own and their organization’s capacity to support the mental and emotional health and healing of youth like them. 1000 word maximum (20 points):**

**4. Please describe the organizational resources you will dedicate to the Collective by way of a staff mentor and youth leader and the rationale for their participation in this work. (20 points)**

**5. Please describe the leading issues affecting the mental health and wellbeing of the youth you serve. What, if anything, has your organization done to address these issues? What do you think needs to be done to create a world in which your youth can thrive? (20 points)**

**5. Describe your plan for youth-led outreach and engagement to ensure peer participation in the Collective’s policy development listening sessions. 500 word maximum (10 points):**

**6. Acknowledgement**

I acknowledge that (INSERT name of organization) meets all the listed criteria in this RFA document for partner eligibility.

Signature: