

## Vermont Department of Health, Rocking Horse Curriculum Evaluation and Re-Design

### Request for Proposals: 2018 - 2019

#### Questions Received from Interested Parties

**Does the RFP intend for the vendor to analyze existing program data (e.g., pre- post-surveys) and/or participant data collected during the contract period, as well as assess and re-design the curriculum and its materials? In other words, is the former part of the work the RFP seeks or is the focus only on the latter (evaluation of the materials specifically)?**

Response: The contractor will not be required to collect or analyze participant data that is collected from women who are participating in Rocking Horse groups during the contract period. However, the contractor will be expected to review past evaluations of program data (including pre and post surveys) to inform curriculum and program updates and re-design. Copies of past evaluations of program data from 2015 – 2017 can be found at:

<http://www.healthvermont.gov/alcohol-drug-abuse/grantees-contractors/request-proposalsinformation-active>.

Evaluations of the program completed prior to 2015 will also be available to the contractor upon request.

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**Does the funding for the evaluation and re-design come from a federal, state, or other source?**

Response: This evaluation is being funded by federal funds from the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration

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**Is there an organization or individual currently serving as the evaluator for the program?**

Response: No

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**The RFP mentions that the updates and changes to the program materials and curriculum need to be made while maintaining fidelity. Who is the responsible party of overseeing that fidelity is maintained, and how will maintenance to fidelity be measured?**

Response: The contractor will work closely with the Department of Health – Division of Alcohol and Drug Abuse Programs (VDH-ADAP) to jointly assess and determine if any of the potential changes may compromise fidelity to the program model. Fidelity will be measured by comparing potential curriculum modifications to the core components of the model (as outlined in TAP 28<sup>1</sup>) to ensure that delivery of the program using the updated curriculum will adhere to the general protocol and program model originally developed.

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<sup>1</sup> [http://www.healthvermont.gov/sites/default/files/documents/pdf/ADAP\\_TAP28-Rural%20Maternal%20SU%20Intervention%20Program.pdf](http://www.healthvermont.gov/sites/default/files/documents/pdf/ADAP_TAP28-Rural%20Maternal%20SU%20Intervention%20Program.pdf)

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**Who is the target population for the curriculum? Is it women who are already using substances or those at risk of using substances?**

Response: The target population of Rocking Horse is lower income mothers and pregnant women who are living in rural Vermont and at risk for developing a substance use disorder.

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**Is data collection from the actual program participants expected as part of the scope of work? Or is the Advisory Group the primary source of new information to be collected (in addition to existing evaluation data) to inform the evaluation?**

Response: The *Rocking Horse Advisory Group* will be the primary source of new information to inform the evaluation, and the contractor will not be asked to recruit and survey program participants. However, the advisory group membership will likely include women who have successfully completed a Rocking Horse group in the past, and so the evaluation may include additional input from program participants who are serving on the advisory group. In addition, the contractor may be asked to work with VDH-ADAP to solicit additional input from current and former Rocking Horse group facilitators regarding potential curriculum improvements.

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**Can you provide guidance to direct us to the literature supporting the Rocking Horse Circles of Support as an evidence-based model?**

Response: Rocking Horse was given a *National Rural Alcohol and Drug Abuse Network Award for Excellence* in 2004 by the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) and is cited in SAMHSA's Technical Assistance Publication (TAP) 28<sup>2</sup>. Rocking Horse was also listed in the National Registry of Evidence-based Programs and Practices (NREPP). However, the NREPP portal has been closed by SAMHSA and is no longer available for viewing.

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**Can you provide any previously developed materials used for Rocking Horse recruitment (such as: flyers, brochures, announcements, email messages, central website, screening tools for eligibility)?**

Response: Sample recruitment materials can be found at the following links:

- <https://gmunitedway.files.wordpress.com/2012/01/2012-flyer-barre-rocking-horse.pdf>
- <http://www.lamoillefamilycenter.org/event/rocking-horse-learning-circle/2017-05-02/>
- <https://www.facebook.com/vdhnewport/posts/rocking-horse-circle-of-support-program-for-pregnant-parenting-women-thursdays-s/1123214311100031/>
- <https://www.ucsvt.org/rocking-horse-circle-of-support-program-begins-new-session-march-27th/>

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<sup>2 2</sup> [http://www.healthvermont.gov/sites/default/files/documents/pdf/ADAP\\_TAP28-Rural%20Maternal%20SU%20Intervention%20Program.pdf](http://www.healthvermont.gov/sites/default/files/documents/pdf/ADAP_TAP28-Rural%20Maternal%20SU%20Intervention%20Program.pdf)

- <http://www.claramartin.org/assets/files/Events/2018%20Rocking%20Horse%20flyer.pdf>

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**Can you clarify the intended population for the Rocking House program? Does Vermont Dept. of Health want a program designed to support all woman of childbearing age, or are they seeking a program tailored specifically to pregnant or parenting women?**

Response: The target population of Rocking Horse is lower income mothers and pregnant women who are living in rural Vermont and at risk for developing a substance use disorder.