

**NYC Behavioral Health Tobacco Cessation Center**  
Request for Proposals (RFP)  
Solicitation #: 2017.01.MAC.01.01

**Issued by Public Health Solutions on behalf of the  
New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene**  
Issue Date: January 24, 2017

**Contract Awards**

**Research Foundation for Mental Hygiene, Inc.**

**Background:** One of the biggest challenges to improving the health of all Americans is to remedy the fact that approximately 23% of adults smoke<sup>1</sup> and about 50% of people with behavioral health disorders smoke.<sup>2</sup> Tobacco use, particularly cigarette smoking, remains the leading cause of preventable illness and death among persons with mental illness.<sup>3</sup> People with mental illness are just as likely to stop smoking as other smokers, but face more barriers to quit and therefore need more help to quit. Recent data indicates that approximately 70 percent of smokers with mental illness want to quit.<sup>4</sup> Therefore, offering tobacco cessation services through the settings where persons with mental illness receive medical and/or social services (e.g. supportive housing, primary and behavioral health care clinics, and hospitals), participate in recreational activities (e.g. psychosocial clubs), and receive rehabilitation support (e.g. supported employment programs) will give them a chance to quit or reduce their tobacco use.

**Purpose:** The NYC Department of Health and Mental Hygiene (DOHMH), through its Master Administrator, Public Health Solutions (PHS) released this RFP to identify an appropriately qualified organization to implement a New York City Behavioral Health Tobacco Cessation Center with the goal to provide training that will instill tobacco cessation knowledge and skill in approximately 165 unique mental health providers starting October 1, 2017, who work in a variety of settings, such as Articles 31 or 32 clinics, supportive housing programs, Assisted Competitive Employment (ACE) programs, psychosocial clubs, crisis respite centers, Mobile Crisis Teams, Assertive Community Treatment (ACT) teams, and NYC Supportive Transition and Recovery Teams.

<sup>1</sup> Center for Disease Control and Prevention. (2000). Reducing Tobacco Use: A report of the Surgeon General (MMWR vol. 49).

<sup>2</sup> Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration. Association for the Treatment of Tobacco use and Dependence: Integrating Tobacco within Behavioral Health.

<sup>3</sup> United States Department of Health and Human Services (2014). The Health Consequences of Smoking-50 years of Progress.

<sup>4</sup> U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (U.S. DHHS) Reducing Tobacco Use. A Report of the Surgeon General. Atlanta, Washington D.C.: U.S. 2000. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Center for Chronic Disease Prevention and Health Promotion, Office on Smoking and Health.