

Questions and Answers Received (January 26 through February 3, 2009)

The following questions and answers were received between January 26, 2009, and February 3, 2009. They may assist you in responding to the Request for Proposals.

Questions Relevant for BOTH RFP'S (Desired Outcomes and General Grants Program):

1. Do we still have to show the evidence basis / research studies for a well know program like preschool or is this already accepted with no evidence base?

Yes. A rationale (describing the evidence base) for all proposed interventions must be provided in accordance with the RFP instructions.

2. Is there a suggested maximum on the page limits, if you go over the page limit is that okay on the sub sections? Do you have a page limit overall for the RFP?

The page limit for the Proposal Narrative for the RFP for Desired Outcomes is 10 pages. The page limit for the RFP for General Grants Program is eight pages. Any pages provided beyond these limits will not be reviewed. Note: Suggested page lengths are provided in the proposal instructions for Proposal Narrative sub-sections. These are suggestions only and need not be strictly adhered to. It is the overall length maximums that must be complied with.

3. What is the approach on budgeting for indirect expenses?

A maximum of 10% of salaries/wages is allowed for indirect expenses.

4. Do we implement the services and then get reimbursed for the services?

Yes. First 5 functions on a cost based reimbursement model. Refer to the Contracting Requirements section of the RFP and the attached Contract Agreement for details.

5. Can you give some In-kind Services examples? Like, if you have a building (rental) you're going to operate our program from, would the building be an In-kind Service? How about any expenses would they be in kind services?

In-kind resources (regarding Proposal Narrative section "External and In-kind Funds") include any non-cash resources that are proposed to be available to complement the requested First 5 funding in order to carry out the proposed program. If offered at no cost to the program, the rental/lease amounts to provide work space for the proposed program would be an example of an In-kind resource. The estimated cash-equivalent value of volunteer time for the proposed program is another example.

6. Do we do one budget for all three years of our proposal?

No. Budgeting for each 12 month period for the fiscal years (July to June) comprising the total duration of the proposed program must be provided.

7. In the section under rational of interventions, it looks like it overlaps with other sections. If you're looking for our answer for one particular area but we addressed it in another area of the proposal, will we get credit?

Yes. However, the subsections within the Proposal Narrative were each written to elicit unique information (and thus to avoid overlap to the degree possible). Read the instructions carefully and provide responses according to that which is requested in each section.

8. Under Section C (Rationale), are "activities" and "interventions" the same or do "activities" fall under "interventions"?

In this Section C, the words can be used interchangeably. There is no intended differentiation between these words. The instructions request a listing of the primary interventions / activities that will be implemented to accomplish your program's goals.

9. Is there a First 5 staff member that applicants can call and work with and get guidance to see if our concept for the RFP is okay?

Brian Mimura can be contacted up until 5 PM February 3, 2009 with questions regarding the RFP. Beyond this point (the final pre-proposal conference date), no further questions will be entertained.

Questions Relevant for the RFP for Desired Outcomes:

10. Do we have to choose all three Desired Outcomes or can we choose just one Desired Outcome?

A proposal may address one or more Desired Outcomes.

11. If you're going to apply for both PoP and SR program services do we do two separate proposals or do we combine them into one proposal?

Current contractors participating in the Power of Preschool program and/or School Readiness Initiative are encouraged to think NOT in terms of applying for "PoP services" or "School Readiness services", but instead to select and propose the interventions that best align with accomplishing the selected Desired Outcomes.

The interventions you propose may come from existing supported services, be an enhancement / modification of current services, and/or new interventions altogether. Refer to item #18 (Questions & Answers Received through January 25, 2009) for additional information.

Regarding the submission of separate proposals, multiple proposals can be submitted, however this is generally limited to instances in which proposals are clearly distinct, and propose unique interventions and/or for different intended service populations.