REQUEST FOR APPLICATIONS

 RFA#: DCFW23-001FNS-ET-RFA

Q&A

Q 1. Can new potential providers attend the quarterly meeting?

Even if you are not an RFA at the time, you are welcome to attend the quarterly meeting. Everyone on this call will get a formal email invitation, including the location, time and an agenda.

Q 2. Is there a maximum amount an agency can request?

No, there is no maximum. With 100% funds, we are limited because that's based off of a number of work registrants that NC has. The 50% money is more unlimited.

Q 3. If there are several of the same organizations in different counties in the state,

 and they are collaborating, can they fill out one application?

 Please use separate applications for now. That may change.

Q 4. Is there a list of current providers? Can we get a copy with the contact

 information?

 Yes. We are in the process of having providers choose whether to share their

 contact information.

Q 5. Are duplicate individuals kicked out? How does the system handle it? If a client is

 already being served, in two programs, how is that addressed?

 It is ok for the client to be dually enrolled. For example, in Salvation Army and

 WIOA. It's best if both organizations and the individual meet together so

 everyone's aware of what's needed to meet the goals of the individual.

Q 6. If we want to use 100% funds, what is the maximum we can request as a new

applicant?

I can't provide an actual limit. The 100% funds are limited. For the 100% fund request, an average is $100,000. It all depends on the justification for the funds. We look at the initiatives, special projects and others. There is a limit of how many years we can provide 100% funds.

Q 7. What about using the 50/50 funds? Can you match 1 million? And how many people are being served for 1 million dollars?

 With the 50/50 funds, for example if Urban League said I have 500K of non-federal monies that we would dedicate to E&T, we would match the 500K. So, your budget would be $1 million, and that's what you would use as the total. It will ask you for non-federal and federal amounts. It is possible to match a million. We have a $1.4 million provider (college), and they anticipate serving around 700 people.

Q 8. If someone doesn't complete the program, how to we report them to get reimbursement?

We look at NC Works, time and effort reports (if a staff member isn't 100% dedicated to E&T, then we need a time & effort report), payroll to document when case manager worked with the client.

Q .9 Do you have to have non-federal funds in order to apply for this grant?

 Yes.

Q 10 If we apply for another grant within DHHS, are those considered federal funds? Applying for them doesn't disqualify us from applying to E&T?

 Those would be federal funds and they would not keep you from applying. You can apply for both.

Q 11 If a nonprofit awards us, and the nonprofit was awarded by the city/county, but the funds originate from ARPA or other federal funds, is that considered federal funds?

 Yes. If the original source was federal, it counts as federal funds.

Q 12 Can you talk about the reporting for this grant?

 A lot of our reports come from NC Works. So, it's important to enter your data with NC Works in a timely manner. Each month, your participant activities should be updated. We send a quarterly report to USDA (and an annual report) and when the numbers don't add up, that causes an issue. All data must be updated on a monthly basis in NC Works to reflect the true accuracy of the numbers at that time. Also, performance measures of the components are reported. You won't have a baseline if you are new to E&T, but you will have a "target" number. You'll also see "actual." We are asking providers to report their actual numbers within 45 days after the quarter ends. We will check in with all the counties around the 6-month mark.

Q 13 What is your calendar year?

 October 1 until Sept. 30th, and you get until Dec. 15th to turn in the reporting. We turn in state plans by August 15. The USDA aims for mid-September, before October 1, when the fiscal year begins. We will let you know what will be submitted to the USDA for approval. Your first invoice will be turned in on November 10th for October, with invoices due the 10th of each month.

Q 14 Is tuition cost acceptable to bill with your program in NC?

 Yes.

Q 15 When is the next quarterly meeting?

The quarterly meeting is July 17 in Charlotte. We try to move the meetings to different providers. Charlotte volunteered. Let us know if we can come and visit your office. It's about networking, sharing ideas and best practices.

Q 16 How many letters of support are required?

 Two.

Q 17 Will the providers have access to NC Fast?

No. But if you have a question, reach out to us via fnsEandT@dhhs.nc.gov.

We can look at SNAP verifications.

Q 18 What about stipends?

When we talk about stipends make sure food is not included because of the FNS benefits. The USDA prefers OJT and earning unsubsidized income over "stipend.". Can use "participant reimbursement" instead of "stipend."

Q 19 What options for help are available to us?

 We can review the draft of your RFA, and we try to return it within

two business days.

Q 20 What if we find we can't meet the deadline?

 We may be able to offer a very short, limited extension.