**North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services**

**Division of Mental Health, Developmental Disabilities and Substance Use Services**

**RFA Questions and Answers**

**RFA #:** DMH25-001

**RFA Title:** Community Based Behavioral Health Initiatives- LGBTQIA+, English as a Second Language, Faith Communities, and Older Adults

**Addendum Number**: 1

**Questions Received Until Date**: 8/19/2024

**Questions and Responses**

1. **Question:** Please confirm that UNC Asheville is eligible to apply for this RFA on behalf of the NC Center for Health and Wellness at UNC Asheville as a "community organization" and non-profit public agency of the State of NC.

**Answer:** Yes, According to RFA# DMH25-001, only 501c3 nonprofit organizations are eligible to apply.

1. **Question:** Would block funding be available to programs receiving Medicaid reimbursement?

**Answer:** Block Grant funding cannot be used for Medicaid reimbursable services. Block Grant funding can be used for services and programs not covered by Medicaid as well as for clients who are either underinsured or uninsured.

1. **Question:** Is it allowable for a nonprofit to apply, then transfer all funds for the project be 100% implemented by a local government entity?

**Answer:** Only 501 c3 nonprofit organizations can apply, the funds cannot be transferred.

1. **Question:** Is the $500,000 max for the total period of performance (December 1, 2024 – June 30, 2027) or one budget period of 12 months?

**Answer:** Funding period is for one year.

1. **Question:**  Please clarify whether it is a requirement that the agency applying for funding be classified as a 501C3 or is this funding opportunity also open to for-profit organizations.

**Answer:** One of the requirements for eligibility is for organizations to be nonprofit. For-profit entities are not eligible to apply for this funding.

1. **Question**: Do all federal or state funds received by an agency count towards the agency level, or only the funds received directly from a State agency? And are there any audit requirements for a level 2?

**Answer:** An entity that receives State or Federal pass-through grant funds directly from a State agency is to file annual reports on how those grant funds were used. More changes are coming to audit and reporting requirements effective Oct 1, 2024, however, for now, if an entity receives a combined $750,000 or more in State or federal pass-through funds from ALL state agencies, it must submit a single or program-specific audit prepared and completed in accordance with Generally Accepted Govt. Auditing Standards (GAGAS), also known as Yellow Book Audit. In addition, audit expenses can be budgeted as direct costs prorated based on the ratio of the grant to the total pass-through funds received by the entity.

1. **Question**: Is the RFA entire funding period of 12/1/24 – 6/30/25? Or per year?

**Answer:** It is per year.

1. **Question**: Should we create a budget for the anticipated period of performance? Or should we create a yearly budget?

**Answer:** Please send the budget breakdown for each year separately.

1. **Question**: The RFA indicates that "project budgets up to $500,000 will be considered."  Is the project budget for the entire period of performance of 12/1/24 or 6/30/27? Or is this an annual (12 month) budget?

**Answer:** It could be $500,000 or less

1. **Question**: Should we create a budget for the anticipated period of performance? Or should we create a yearly budget?

**Answer:** Please send the budget breakdown for each year separately.

1. **Question**: the RFA says that "if the applicant does not have an FNICR, then the applicant may claim indirect cost up to the limit as defined above or the de minimis indirect cost rate of 10%."  Given that the updated Uniform Guidance regarding the de miminis rate has now made a de minimis rate of 15% permissible effective 10/1/24, may we request a de minimis rate of 15%?

**Answer:** The current funding is based on a Notice of Award dated before 10/1/24 which still has an IDC rate of 10%.

1. **Question**: We will utilize the provided budget worksheet. Please explain if this should reflect the first year (7 months), or the whole 31-month period of performance.  Guidance is much appreciated for how to complete this worksheet given the multiple month/ year period of the grant.

**Answer:** The budget for the initial State Fiscal year (7months) should be included with the application.

1. **Question**: In the suggested format for Applicant's Response for DMH25-001, under "B. Organizational Background and Qualifications," there is a request for "Brief overview of all services provided by the contractor within the last five years." Is this in reference to specific contracts with NC DHHS or does this mean all services the organization has provided within the last five years?

**Answer:** This is in reference to all the services that are provided regardless of the payor source

1. **Question** After page 30, no other forms are to be returned with the response, is that correct?2.  Regarding the Budget and Budget Narrative, is Budget information to be included in the pdf response to be viewed or should it be included with the response as a separate Excel attachment? If included as an Excel attachment – in the Budget section of the response, would we advise to view the attached Excel Budget and Budget Narrative?

**Answer:** The response should as one PDF with the budget excel budget and budget narrative to be included in that PDF.

1. **Question**: Are local government entities, like local health departments, eligible to apply for this opportunity?

**Answer:** Only 501 c3 nonprofit organizations can apply.

1. **Question:** Is substance use education an allowable activity of this opportunity when included as part of mental health education?

**Answer:** Education and outreach is an allowable activity within a proposal and will be reviewed.

1. **Question:** Is it possible for multiple organizations to collaborate and submit a joint application? If so, how can we formally incorporate our partners into this process?

**Answer:** Only one organization can apply as the lead agency, other agencies can be partners and can collaborate to submit the proposal. One way they can collaborate is that partner agencies can work as subcontractors to perform some of the work.

1. **Question:** Given that our organization does not provide direct services, are we allowed to subgrant funds to an organization that does?

**Answer:** Yes. The proposal should clearly delineate responsibilities of the organization and any subgrantees. However, the grant recipient (contractor) would be responsible for subgrantee performance, reporting, payments and compliance to federal grant requirements.

1. **Question:** In the RFA it asks for the name, address, and telephone number of at least one manager in each client organization who is personally familiar with the Vendor’s performance under the contract. Can you explain who the client organization is? And who is the Vendor? Which one would we be?

**Answer:** Reference item# 3 Applicant’s Response on page 24. Client Organization and Vendor in item B 4(vii) refer to the applicant organization.

1. **Question:** Are you only looking for a proposal that will cover multiple counties?

**Answer:** No. The proposal can cover one or multiple counties.

1. **Question:** Can this funding pay for salaries that are not being reimbursed via Medicaid/Medicare or other means?

**Answer:** Yes

1. **Question:**  Are you interested in proposals for projects that could be models for replication?   Ie:  a project that would be smaller in implementation scope (area) but includes unique attributes to demonstrate effectiveness to other smaller clinics in rural areas treated vulnerable populations.

**Answer:** Yes

1. **Question:** We assume that we are being encouraged to look through multiple lens (MH, I/DD & SUS) at these marginalized communities. Is this correct?

**Answer:** Yes

1. **Question:** What specific mental health challenges are you particularly interested in addressing through this grant?

**Answer:** This grant is to help expand access to relevant services and supports for mental health challenges for individuals who are LGBTQAI+, age 65 plus, Faith Communities, or for whom English is not their primary language.

1. **Question:** Are there preferred models or frameworks for mental health support that have been effective in previous funded projects for older adults? Underserved communities?

**Answer:** There are some great resources at [Resources for Older Adults | SAMHSA](https://www.samhsa.gov/resources-serving-older-adults); [Diversity Inclusion Project Showcase | SAMHSA](https://www.samhsa.gov/about-us/who-we-are/regional-offices/dips)

1. **Question:** Do you have access to data or reports on the mental health needs of older adults in our target communities that could inform our program design?

**Answer:** We do not have specific reports to share in this area

1. **Question:** Are there any best practice guidelines or resources you recommend for developing mental health programs specifically for older adults?

**Answer:** [Resources for Older Adults | SAMHSA](https://www.samhsa.gov/resources-serving-older-adults)

1. **Question:** What level of flexibility is allowed in program design to adapt services based on the specific needs of older adult populations? And or underserved communities?

**Answer:** This will depend on the proposal submitted.

1. **Question:** Can you provide examples of successful programs that have effectively engaged and served older adults in the community?

**Answer:** DMH/DD/SUS is not providing information on this for the RFA process.

1. **Question:** Are there existing community partnerships or resources that you suggest we collaborate with to enhance our program for older adults?

**Answer:** DMH/DD/SUS is not providing information on this for the RFA process.

1. **Question:** What types of community resources have proven beneficial for older adults in accessing mental health services?

**Answer:** DMH/DD/SUS is not providing information on this for the RFA process.

1. **Question:** What evaluation criteria will you prioritize when assessing the effectiveness of programs targeting mental health support for older adults?

**Answer:** The evaluation criteria will be developed once the award decisions are made in collaboration with the awardees.

1. **Question:** Can you provide guidance on the types of metrics or data points you find most valuable in evaluating mental health programs

**Answer:** [Evidence-Based Practices Resource Center | SAMHSA](https://www.samhsa.gov/resource-search/ebp)

1. **Question:** -What outreach strategies have you found effective in engaging older adults in mental health programs?

**Answer:** Additional resources are available:[Resources for Older Adults | SAMHSA](https://www.samhsa.gov/resources-serving-older-adults)

1. **Question:** - What resources or support will be available to help ensure the sustainability of funded programs beyond the initial grant period?

**Answer:** DMH/DD/SUS will be offering Technical Assistance with awarded agencies to discuss sustainability.

1. **Question:** Are there opportunities for ongoing funding or follow-up grants for successful projects serving older adults? Underserved community?

**Answer:** DMH/DD/SUS is not able to commit to future funding.

1. **Question:** Will there be opportunities for applicants to receive feedback on their proposals during the application process?

**Answer:** No, there will be no feedback during the application process.

1. **Question:** The RFA requests, a "Brief overview of all services provided by the Contractor within the last five years." The following sub questions group those services based on contracts. We receive contracts/grant funding, but some of our services are funded by individual and business donations. How should we provide data on previous services that were supported by donations?

**Answer:** Please submit all services including those funded by Individuals and businesses.

1. **Question:** The RFA asks for "goals and objectives" but then mentions measurable "outcomes." It seems that "objectives" and "outcomes" are used interchangeably. Could you please clarify if that is the case, and/or if you would like applicants to describe their goals, objectives, and measurable outcomes?

**Answer:** Please describe goals, objectives and measurable outcomes

1. **Question:** Is there a page limit for question G on p. 25 of the RFA?

**Answer:** There is no page limit.

1. **Question:** Do you have any goals/requirements for number of unduplicated individuals from the priority populations served per year or across the life of the contract?

**Answer:** No

1. **Question:** Regarding the audit requirements, do all federal or state funds received by an agency count towards the agency level, or only the funds received directly from a State agency? For example, if an agency receives $500,000/year in federal funds directly from a federal agency, and $300,000 from State agencies, would they be considered a level 2 or a level 3? And are there any audit requirements for a level 2?

**Answer**: More changes are coming to audit and reporting requirements effective Oct 1, 2024, however, for now, if an entity receives a combined $750,000 or more in State or federal pass-through funds from ALL state agencies, it must submit a single or program-specific audit prepared and completed in accordance with Generally Accepted Govt. Auditing Standards (GAGAS), also known as Yellow Book Audit. In addition, audit expenses can be budgeted as direct costs prorated based on the ratio of the grant to the total pass-through funds received by the entity.