

Questions on RFP

1. Can an entity subcontract with a school district to provide the services for that district?
 - a. It would be up to the school district to decide this. Each proposal would be evaluated on an individual basis by the RFP Committee. If the applicants plan to partner with other agencies, that must be noted at the start of the application.
2. The reference in the RFP re: list of evidenced-based practices, if an entity wanted to use another evidenced-based practice that was not on the list, could they or will the service provider be limited to those on the list?
 - a. The service provider needs to use an evidenced-based practice (one that could be referenced and reviewed/evaluated by RFP committee).
3. Does the RFP bar people who need treatment for substance abuse from participating in the program?
 - a. Under the definition of prevention, anyone can be served and attend prevention activities but the successful bidder cannot provide Substance Use Disorder (SUD) treatment services to that individual. This would be considered a conflict of interest. Anyone who needs treatment services should be referred to the county for further disposition of services.
4. If the bidder intends to operate in a school district, what does the letter from the superintendent need to say?
 - a. All schools screen those who come onto their campus and the school districts need to provide a letter of support to whatever program is being offered.
5. Does there need to be a format, e.g., binders, etc., that the RFP response needs to have?
 - a. There needs to be six copies but it is not required that they be put in binders.
6. Data availability.
 - a. All applicants will need to provide their own research in regards to the area's substance abuse prevention needs. Statistics can include crime rates, drug arrests and community activities. The Madera County Report Card 2007 (First Five Madera) and the Indicators of Alcohol and Other Drug Risk and Consequences of California Counties, Madera 2010 (Center for Applied Research Solutions) may provide such information.
7. Question about qualifications on data collection.
 - a. BHS is looking for applicants who have experience and who can prove their credibility, especially with working with government organizations who ask for specific data requirements. Such requirements may prove to be overwhelming for new and smaller organizations.
8. Question re: the sustainability of the program if and when funding is discontinued?
 - a. BHS will monitor funds closely and if there are monies to continue successful projects then there would be a potential of continuation with those identified funds. There is hope that some of the programs would become self-sustaining. As an example, a past program which trained bartenders and servers to recognize when someone has had too much to drink. Material was provided to have restaurant and bar owners train new

servers and bartenders after the initial program funding ended which resulted in a sustainable program.

9. Was any prohibition on where to use the money and could it include equipment and software?
 - a. There are some limits and the funding is earmarked for programs and not for buildings and equipment. Applicants need to be established with existing office space and equipment. Funding can be used for software and it needs to be submitted in the applicant's budget in the application.
10. Is there was a preference for local organizations?
 - a. Priority will be given to Madera County based bidders (see page 8 of the RFP).
11. Is BHS was open to calls regarding questions on applying?
 - a. The management team is pressed for time and questions should be in the form of e-mails and not telephone calls.
12. Question re: evidenced based programs.
 - a. Make sure you look at the various evidenced based programs and that they meet the need of the population you are planning on serving. Some evidenced based programs may work in a large metropolitan area but not in a rural area. The RFP Review Committee will be going on the internet to learn about the various evidenced-based programs that are being proposed.
13. Question re: writing the proposal
 - a. Applicants should follow the RFP outline and address all of the criteria in the application.
14. Question re: time frames
 - a. Applications are due on September 27, and the selection will be made within the first two weeks in October. The programs are estimated to begin at the start of 2014.
15. Question: Could be a situation where there are two bidders/programs selected for the same region?
 - a. There is not enough money to split a region and that most likely there will only be one provider per region.
16. Is there an emphasis on providing prevention activities toward adolescents?
 - a. Applicants can put more emphasis on a particular age group but the preference is all ages need to be addressed. For example, an emphasis can be made on junior high aged youth but effort and thought should be given to make some type of prevention activity available for all age groups i.e. a community activity targeting all age groups or even a one-time presentation to a school or local PTA could be done.
17. Can a bidder apply for more than one region?
 - a. That is fine but separate proposals need to be written for each region because they all have their own unique characteristics to be addressed. Data for each region would need to be sent monthly or quarterly depending on the program.
18. Can the successful bidder refer to themselves for treatment?
 - a. This would be a conflict of interest and any referrals for treatment must be made to BHS. If BHS cannot provide the necessary treatment, BHS can refer back to the referring agency or one of its network providers (for mental health or co-occurring services), but that will be BHS's decision, per State regulation. See Question #3.

19. Can grantees subcontract portions of the scope of work?
 - a. Please see response to Question 1. There is nothing prohibiting this. Each submitted proposal will be looked at individually to see if they meet criteria for providing the proposed prevention activities. If the applicants plan to partner with other agencies, that must be noted at the start of the application.
20. What is the County's preference for a model?
 - a. There is no preference for a model. Please see the response to Question 12. Each submitted proposal will be looked at individually to see if they meet the criteria for providing the proposed prevention activities and which response best meets the needs.
21. It seems to me that you are looking for a primarily AOD focus. I do see on page 7 that Problem Identification and Referral (F6) is listed as one of the Prevention Service Delivery Strategies. Is substance abuse the primary focus.
 - a. Yes, the dollars for this grant are Substance Use Disorder (SUD) funds for prevention services.