

RFA #14-19

Parent Pathways: Models for Single Parents Pursuing Postsecondary Training & Education

Q&A

	RFA Section	Question	Answer
1		My board member works with the organization and would be the lead person and she in kinds her services. Will that be held against us for disqualification since she has the qualifications that is requested?	No, the RFA only has two disqualification criteria; specifically, the application must be timely received and properly signed. See RFA Part III, Section III-1. Mandatory Responsiveness Requirements.
	RFA Section	Question	Answer
2		The organization has only been in existence for two years but our fiscal partner has been operating for several years, will we still be qualified because of the three year financial request?	See response to Question 1. Please note you should respond to RFA Part IV Section IV-6. Financial Capability for both organizations.
	RFA Section	Question	Answer
3		The website inside the RFA (www.padlet.com/eita/parentpathways) that suggests that we review it for application reference throughout the process is down, will it be fixed soon?	We recommend using a browser other than Internet Explorer to access this site.
	RFA Section	Question	Answer
4		In phase 1, I noticed in reading the RFA, there is no real budget information required; however, it does mention that funding would be provided for travel costs to in-person meetings in Harrisburg. Do we need to submit a budget for these cost? If so, outside of the kick off session, is there an estimate of the number of in-person meetings that will be held? Is attendance limited to the key personnel listed in the proposal? If we do not need to submit a budget, how will these travel costs be covered?	No, a budget is not required for travel costs. The Department will pay travel costs in accordance with the rates set forth in Management Directive 230.10, Commonwealth Travel Policy. Attendance requirements have not been determined. The Department will determine the necessary personnel for meeting attendance after final selection of applications. The Department estimates one to two in-person meetings during Phase 1. The majority of the work will take place via conference calls or webinars.

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5		We received the RFA for the Parent Pathways grants, but when we read it the grant appears to be directed toward small businesses. Are institutions of higher education eligible to receive this grant?	Yes, institutions of higher education are eligible to submit an application. Refer to RFA Part II, Section II-1. Applicant Eligibility.
	RFA Section	Question	Answer
6		Can you please tell me if parents who need a GED would qualify for Parent Pathways? Some of our low income parents need this first step before they can pursue higher education.	The RFA does not dictate eligibility requirements for individuals who will participate in the Parent Pathways model; however, it should lead to participation in one of the postsecondary components mentioned in the RFA. Applicants should include their proposed participant eligibility in their application.
	RFA Section	Question	Answer
7		Is there a page limit for the RFA?	No, although we do encourage simple, economical, straightforward and concise descriptions of the Applicant's ability to meet the requirements of the RFA.
	RFA Section	Question	Answer
8		Will any funding be available to Selected Applicants during the four-month Phase I Technical Assistance period? I understand transportation to trainings will be paid, but no mention is made of any other Applicant expenses related to Phase I activities.	No, only travel costs for in-person meetings as scheduled by the Department. See RFA Part I, Section I-6. Type of Agreement.
	RFA Section	Question	Answer
9		Do all three of the Parent Pathways components need to apply to each participant? For instance, can a low income mother who has an apartment still qualify for higher education support through the model?	The proposed Parent Pathways model must include all three components; however, the RFA does not specify what services are required for each individual participant.

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			Applicants must describe participant eligibility and individualized service delivery in their response.
	RFA Section	Question	Answer
10		After reading through the applicant eligibility on page 9, are Pennsylvania intermediate units (IUs) eligible to submit an application?	Yes.
	RFA Section	Question	Answer
11		Applicants must propose to serve an entire region as defined in Appendix B, and applicants may not propose to serve a single county, correct?	Please refer to Addendum 2.
	RFA Section	Question	Answer
12		What is the PP definition of "low income"?	Applicants should include their proposed participant eligibility, including income qualifications, in their application.
	RFA Section	Question	Answer
13		Can getting a GED, if necessary, be a part of the process for higher education?	Please refer to the response to Question 6.
	RFA Section	Question	Answer
14		Can parents in HUD housing qualify for Parent Pathways?	Please refer to the responses to Questions 6 and 9.
	RFA Section	Question	Answer
15		Can parents who have already begun their higher education courses qualify for inclusion in the model?	Applicants should include their proposed participant eligibility in their application.
	RFA Section	Question	Answer
16		Will we be able to have a copy of this presentation? I would like to share with my co-workers.	Yes, it has been posted with Addendum 1.

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17		Given that proposals must be implemented by January 2021 (per RFA Section IV-2.B), how does DHS envision “Housing Supports” to be in place? Securing housing affordable to low-income households can take much longer.	To clarify, by January 2021, selected applicants for phase 2 must have a complete implementation plan for the Parent Pathways model. The Department is targeting January 2021 to have Phase 2 selected applicants starting to implement their proposed model although they do not have to have the complete model implemented. As part of the completion of the implementation plan, the Department and selected Phase 2 applicants will agree upon a timeline for the complete implementation of the model.
	RFA Section	Question	Answer
18		Question regarding Phase 1 and Phase 2: Does this mean that some programs would be submitted and awarded to begin right away, or must all applicants awarded go through the Phase I technical assistance portion as well?	All Selected Applicants must participate in the Phase One Technical Assistance activities and Learning Network. Applicants who are approved for Phase Two funding must also continue participation in the Learning Network.
	RFA Section	Question	Answer
19		Do you have an anticipated effective date and/or a sense of when the 4 month planning phase will take place?	The Department estimates a start date of the third quarter of 2020.
	RFA Section	Question	Answer
20		Does an applicant have to apply to provide services to a full region, or can an applicant choose to focus on portions of a region?	Please refer to Addendum 2.

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21		Will this webinar be available later?	Please see Addendum 1 for the PowerPoint presentation.
	RFA Section	Question	Answer
22		The defined regions are very large. Is it expected that applicants will serve all of the counties in a region or can it be a limited number of counties?	Please refer to Addendum 2.
	RFA Section	Question	Answer
23		How long is the Phase 2 period?	Phase 2 will depend on the approved implementation plans.
	RFA Section	Question	Answer
24		How does the Department hope to see participants chosen to participate in Parent Pathways?	Please refer to response in Question 6.
	RFA Section	Question	Answer
25		Is there a diversity spend component for the program?	No.
	RFA Section	Question	Answer
26		Are there restrictions on spending related to staff/hiring or indirect expenses in Phase 2?	No. In Phase 2, the Department will provide a fixed amount of money to be used to implement the model. The selected applicants will be responsible for expenses in excess of that amount. The Department will evaluate a selected applicant's budget of its proposed implementation plan to determine selection for Phase 2 of the Project.

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27		What activities does the Department expect to be eligible for coverage under the grant? E.g. is housing an eligible cost, if that is the area a student lacks?	If you are referring to funding for implementation of the model, please refer to response in Question 26. If you are referring to services within a model, selected applicants must provide for services within the three core components (housing supports, postsecondary education and two-generational programming).
	RFA Section	Question	Answer
28		Can you clarify that you just stated that applications must be for an entire region and not for a specific county?	Please refer to Addendum 2.
	RFA Section	Question	Answer
29		Can you go back to the map of the regions?	Refer to Appendix B in the RFA attachments.
	RFA Section	Question	Answer
30		Does single parents include men and women?	Yes.
	RFA Section	Question	Answer
31		I'm confused about the whole region approach versus the town/community.	Please see Addendum 2.
	RFA Section	Question	Answer
32		What does it mean to serve the whole region? One can envision a housing complex available to people throughout the region but it by definition, sits in one location. Is that acceptable?	Please see Addendum 2.
	RFA Section	Question	Answer
33		Is there a limit of partners in any given submission?	No.

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34		Is the Parent Pathways initiative funded with state or federal dollars.	The Parent Pathways initiative is funded with state dollars.
	RFA Section	Question	Answer
35		For the letter of intent, can you please elaborate?	Letters of intent are described in Section IV-9. of the RFA. If the Applicant is not providing the three core components, at a minimum, the Applicant must obtain a letter of intent from at least one entity who will be responsible for providing each of the core components; the letters of intent must be signed by a person with the authority to commit resources to the project.
	RFA Section	Question	Answer
36		Can you say more about region served? Is it expected that awardees work with the entire region? Could work happen with specific zip codes within regions?	Please see Addendum 2.
	RFA Section	Question	Answer
37		Will board members be required to sign a campaign contributions form or staff and board?	The Department is not sure what form is being referenced. If the referenced form is the Political Contributions Form, that form is not required since the resulting agreement is not a no-bid contract.
	RFA Section	Question	Answer
38		Would a small town community approach not be acceptable?	A small town community approach is acceptable. Refer to Addendum 2.

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	RFA Section	Question	Answer
39		Is this \$500,000 for one year? Is there any expectation of number to be served?	<p>To clarify, the monetary award is <u>up</u> to \$500,000 and will only be awarded to selected applicants who are chosen to go to Phase 2. See response to Question 26.</p> <p>No. The application should include the estimated number of people to be served and may be refined during the development of the implementation plan.</p>