

RFA #18-23

Women's Service Programs

Q&A

	RFA Section	Question	Answer
1		What has been the historical patient volume for each region?	This is a new program and there is no historic baseline data to reference.
	RFA Section	Question	Answer
2		If the primary applicant does not provide the full description of services outlined in the RFA, is it permissible to subcontract with multiple providers in counties of the region where the primary applicant is applying? The RFA says agreement, but does not specify whether these need to be subcontracts.	Yes. All subcontractors and service providers must comply with the requirements applicable to subcontractors and service providers as set forth throughout the RFA.
	RFA Section	Question	Answer
3		On page 29, under Agreement Requirements, the RFA states that "A requirement that no fees be charged for eligible clients". Does this mean that the awarded funding should cover the full cost or 100% of the patient visit? What if the patient has multiple issues addressed by the applicant and its subcontractors?	Yes, the funding should cover the full cost of <i>applicable</i> fees for the visit. If the services provided during the visit are beyond the scope of services covered by the program proposed by applicant for this RFA, those services are not eligible for reimbursement by the Commonwealth under the agreements resulting from this RFA.
	RFA Section	Question	Answer
4		On page 29, under Agreement Requirements, the RFA mentions eligible clients but does not define that. Please define the target population and the eligible client to be served by this RFA.	Eligible clients are individuals seeking women's health care services: notably, women, pregnant women, and new mothers.
	RFA Section	Question	Answer
5		Is this a cost reimbursement contract/grant? If so, what is the frequency of reimbursement?	Yes. Please refer to Appendix E, Rider 1, Payment Provisions.
	RFA Section	Question	Answer
6		For partners in the grant, would it be permissible to have a referral relationship? Or is a deeper, monetary relationship as a grantee preferred?	Applicants should propose the type of relationship that will best meet the RFA requirements.

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7		To be successful, does an applicant organization have to be a healthcare provider, or can it provide services that address the social determinants of health and health-adjacent matters? Our organization offers childbirth and postpartum education and mentorship, doula care, and counseling for mental illness. Are we eligible?	Applicants must meet the Mandatory Responsiveness Requirements outlined in Part II, Section II-1 of the RFA. Please refer to Part III, Section III-5.B. of the RFA for specifics on the types of services that should be provided.
	RFA Section	Question	Answer
8		What is intended by the phrase “chose childbirth,” why is this information being collected, how will it be shared and used, and how will the Commonwealth protect data related to this program?	DHS is collecting overall baseline data that is neither identifiable nor confidential. In this instance, it would be the overall percentage of individuals who chose childbirth per year. This information is used to measure the effectiveness and efficiency of the program. To the extent the applicant provides DHS with confidential or personal information, information is shared only in accordance with applicable federal and state law, including, but not limited to, HIPAA and the PA RTKL (which exempts personal information and personal health information from public access).
	RFA Section	Question	Answer
9		Why is the Department including the option of imposing monetary liquidated damages against a nonprofit partner for nonperformance?	Liquidated damages quantify DHS’s intangible or hard to define losses resulting from an applicant’s performance deficiencies. These harms are the same regardless of an applicant’s nonprofit status.
	RFA Section	Question	Answer
10		What is included in administrative fees? May an applicant include the 10% admin budget along with its approved federal indirect rate, or are indirect costs	“Administrative fees” refers to “indirect costs” as defined in Appendix B, Cost

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		considered part of the 10%? Will the state recognize and honor a federal indirect rate that exceeds 10%?	Submittal. Indirect costs are capped at 10%. There is no federal funding associated with this project and DHS will not accept indirect rates above 10%, even if such rates are federally approved.
	RFA Section	Question	Answer
11		The agreement requires hiring and onboarding of new staff within 60 days, which does not feel realistic in this market. Would the state consider extending the timeframe to 90 days?	<p>It is unclear what requirement this question relates to.</p> <p>If this question pertains to the language of Section III-3.C, Key Personnel Diversions or Replacement, yes. The language of this section has been revised. Please see Addendum 1.</p> <p>If this question pertains to Section III-5.A, Tasks, Implementation, yes. The RFA provides that “the Department may extend the time for completion of any Implementation Phase requirement.” The Department will work with selected Applicants after award to determine whether there is a need to extend the time for completion of this requirement.</p>
	RFA Section	Question	Answer
12		Does the applicant need to physically provide services in every county in the region or can services be provided virtually in some areas?	Per Section I-3 of the RFA, “Each region is one combined service area, requiring a selected Applicant provide services to residents in all counties of a region for which it has an agreement.” Section III-5.A.5, Innovative Telehealth Solutions, provides that “Applicants should incorporate innovative telehealth solutions for consultations and remote support,

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			especially in addressing the challenges of accessibility.” Each Applicant should determine the manner in which services will be provided in the region to best satisfy the requirements of the RFA.
	RFA Section	Question	Answer
13		Does the applicant have to provide the same services in each county or can it be tailored by need in each specific county.	Section III-5.A.8, Alignment with Geographic Regions provides that “Applicant’s services should align with the needs of the geographic region for which they are applying, and applicants should demonstrate how they plan to reach underserved or remote areas.” Per Section III-5.B of the RFA, “All selected Applicants for each region must provide Women’s Service Programs that, at minimum, consist of education, counseling, screening and testing related to women’s health conditions and menstrual services.” Please refer to items 1-6 for more specifics. In addition, “Applicants may propose different or additional services that align with the factors listed in Section III-5.1-10, Work Plan.” Each applicant should determine whether the same services should be provided in each county or if the services should be tailored.
	RFA Section	Question	Answer
14		Is there a list of required activities or is it up to each applicant to propose services in the region based on need?	Please refer to the response to Q.13.
	RFA Section	Question	Answer
15		Is there a minimum number of women that need to be served annually?	No.

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	RFA Section	Question	Answer
16		Is there a page limit for the application?	No.
	RFA Section	Question	Answer
17		Must Applicants have a physical presence in each county in addition to innovative telehealth solutions?	Please refer to the response to Q.12.
	RFA Section	Question	Answer
18		How is the post-partum period defined?	The post-partum period extends up to one year after childbirth.
	RFA Section	Question	Answer
19		Can funding be used to pay for STI home test kits?	Yes.
	RFA Section	Question	Answer
20		Can funding be used to pay for STI treatment?	Yes.
	RFA Section	Question	Answer
21		Can funding be used to pay for HIV home test kits?	Yes.
	RFA Section	Question	Answer
22		Can funding be used to pay for breast and cervical cancer screening?	Yes.

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23		Can funding be used to pay for other relevant health screening?	“Relevant” is not defined in the question. Please refer to Section III-5.B, Tasks, Women’s Service Programs.
	RFA Section	Question	Answer
24		We have a question regarding the requirement for certified or licensed health care professionals for the Comprehensive Perinatal Education component. Does this include certified community health workers, Certified Lactation Counselors, and doulas?	Yes. Pennsylvania Certification Board (“PCB”) certified community health workers, PCB certified Doulas, Pennsylvania Department of State licensed midwives, and certified lactation counselors are included.
	RFA Section	Question	Answer
25		Regarding page 5 of the RFA, Part 1 I-3 Overview of project: where it states "Each region is one combined service area, requiring a selected Applicant provide services to residents of all counties of a region for which it has an agreement." The Diversifying Doulas Initiative is located in Lancaster County. If granted, will DDI have to be physically located in all 13 counties, be capable of providing <i>access</i> to doula care in all 13 counties, or maintain our current model of doula services/training in Lancaster County?	Please refer to the response to Q.12.
	RFA Section	Question	Answer
26		Just wanted clearance to proceed with the full application process as I saw the RFA question deadline as today at noon.	An interested applicant may submit an application pursuant to the instructions set forth in the RFA. The mandatory requirements are set forth in Section II-1. Clearance to apply is not a requirement.