

Addendum to RFA# 67-185

Student Assistance Program Support Services

Date: November 7, 2024

Addendum Number: 1

Addendum Changes:

- 1) This addendum is to provide answers to all questions per the RFA Potential Applicant letter.

Question 1: I have a question regarding who can submit for the grant described below. In Lancaster County, SAP Services can be funded by the Lancaster County Drug & Alcohol Commission via a contract with a local treatment provider. Can the contracted SAP Provider organization submit the RFA? Or does it need to be submitted by the SCA?

Answer 1: Refer to the RFA, Part One, General Information, Section A: “applications are welcomed from SAP Liaison agencies that staff mental or behavioral health SAP liaisons.” Any such organization or agency is welcome to apply. Any applicants who intend to subcontract shall demonstrate a previous successful partnership with the subcontractor and provide a letter of commitment, or a Memorandum of Understanding to confirm an established partnership for implementation of the project.

Question 2: We currently provide SAP services in some area schools in the Lehigh Valley but wondered what other services this would cover or if it could be used to supplement existing funding for our programs. Are there particular support services that this RFA is hoping to encourage?

Answer 2: Refer to the RFA, Part One, General Information, Section A: this RFA is seeking to fund interim services and supports that are non-clinical in nature and use evidence-based or evidence-informed strategies. Examples include, but are not limited to:

- Cognitive Behavioral Intervention for Trauma in School;
- Bounce Back;
- The Blues Program;

- Support for Students Exposed to Trauma; or
- Planned, individual check-ins using supportive techniques and interventions by the SAP liaison, as described in the application.”

Question 3: What is the anticipated amount of the grant awards?

Answer 3: Refer to the RFA, Part One, General Information, Section C.2.d. The overall 24-month budget for the application shall not exceed \$130,000.00, and is broken down as follows:

Year 1 Summary	July 1, 2025 to June 30, 2026	\$65,000.00
Year 2 Summary	July 1, 2026 to June 30, 2027	\$65,000.00

Question 4: Are partnerships encouraged in seeking this funding?

Answer 4: Yes, partnerships with Local Education Agencies (LEAs) are encouraged. Refer to the RFA, Part One, General Information, Section C.2.c.6. “applicants shall include letters of support and Memorandum of Understanding from the schools or LEA in the which the SAP interim, non-clinical mental health liaison services and supports will be administered.”

Question 5: I saw the notification of the RFA and was trying to understand who should apply for it, as it says it is not open to public bid. Is the purpose of this announcement to find providers for the SAP process, or is it for school entities to get assistance with SAP? The purpose of this announcement was unclear, and we are looking for ways to support and improve our SAP services.

Answer 5: The purpose of this RFA is to provide interim, non-clinical mental health services and supports to middle and high school youth to improve access to mental and behavioral health resources, provide timely interventions, and promote healthier outcomes. Refer to the RFA, Part One, General Information, Section A. “The Department is soliciting SAP interim support services applications from mental or behavioral health liaisons from Pennsylvania organizations and agencies that provide such services to their LEAs. The Department is interested in funding applications to provide interim, non-clinical mental health SAP liaison services and supports that result in positive health outcomes for middle and high school students.” The RFA is publicly posted on <https://www.emarketplace.state.pa.us/>, but there will not be a public bid opening.

Question 6: I have a question in regard to the RFA for the Student Assistance Program. On page 4 it states: "Through this RFA process, the Department is soliciting SAP interim support services applications from mental or behavioral health liaisons from Pennsylvania organizations and agencies that provide such services to their LEAs." Would this grant be able to be awarded for already existing services via a contract where the school is the payor for services that are already in place? Also, would this grant be able to be used for schools that are not already existing LEA's?

Answer 6: This grant could be awarded and used to supplement or expand existing services that meet the requirements set forth in the RFA. It cannot be used to supplant existing resources. Awarded funds may only be used for services provided by SAP Liaisons in LEAs.

Question 7: How can I find out if Renaissance Academy Charter School is eligible to apply for the RFA for SAP?

Answer 7: Refer to the RFA, Part One, General Information, Section A. "applications are welcomed from SAP Liaison agencies that staff mental or behavioral health SAP liaisons." Any organizations or agencies that staff mental or behavioral health SAP liaisons and are able to meet all deliverables and reporting requirements of the RFA are welcome to apply.

Question 8: We are very interested in this opportunity and have extensive experience supporting mental health initiatives that result in positive health outcomes for youth. However, as an organization located outside Pennsylvania, we would like to clarify if out-of-state applicants are eligible to apply, provided that we can directly serve Pennsylvania's Local Education Agencies (LEAs) and meet all other project requirements.

Answer 8: Refer to the RFA, Part One, General Information, Section A. "the Department is soliciting SAP interim support services applications from mental or behavioral health liaisons from Pennsylvania organizations and agencies that provide such services to their LEAs." Out-of-state applicants are not eligible to apply.

Question 9: Additionally: If eligibility is limited to Pennsylvania-based organizations, could a partnership with a local agency fulfill these criteria?

Answer 9: Applications are only accepted from Pennsylvania organizations and agencies. A Pennsylvania applicant could partner with an out-of-state entity to meet the goals and objectives of this RFA.

Question 10: Are only direct, on-the-ground services for students eligible under this grant, or would training local school staff to deliver interventions also meet eligibility requirements?

Answer 10: Non-clinical mental health services and supports should be provided by SAP liaisons for this project. Training school staff to deliver interventions would not meet the deliverables of this RFA.

Question 11: Can you explain with a little more specificity what the funding would be used for, and would the funding allow for the hiring of an additional team member to provide those services?

Answer 11: Refer to the RFA, Part One, General Information, Section A. This RFA is seeking to fund interim services and supports that are non-clinical in nature and use evidence-based or evidence-informed strategies. Examples include, but are not limited to:

- Cognitive Behavioral Intervention for Trauma in School;
- Bounce Back;
- The Blues Program;
- Support for Students Exposed to Trauma; or
Planned, individual check-ins using supportive techniques and interventions by the SAP liaison, as described in the application.

Personnel costs are permitted if necessary and relevant to the completion of the proposed project. Part One, General Information, Section C.2.d., “applicants shall include a narrative which justifies the need to allocate funds for items in the spreadsheet of the itemized budget.”

Question 12: Are agencies required to currently serve as the SAP Liaison for the Local Education Agency (LEA) to be eligible?

Answer 12: No, however, a commitment from the LEA is required with the application. Refer to the RFA, per Part One, General Information, Section C.2.6. “applicants shall

include letters of support, including letter of support and Memorandum of Understanding, from the schools or the LEA in which the SAP interim, non-clinical mental health liaison services and supports will be administered.”

Question 13: Are there specific characteristics of the school district that should be highlighted in our application?

Answer 13: Refer to the RFA, Part One, General Information, Section C.2.6. which includes information related to organizational characteristics that shall be included in the application.

Question 14: Could you provide further details on what is expected when aiming to "eliminate" a health disparity within the scope of this grant? What specific standards, benchmarks, or metrics should agencies use to measure progress and success in this area?

Answer 14: Applicants are encouraged to read the National Stakeholder Strategy for Achieving Healthy Equity (RFA 67-185 Attachment 1), and develop their own plan to identify, address, mitigate, and eliminate health disparities identified in the youth population they serve. The National Stakeholder Strategy for Achieving Healthy Equity provides useful standards and recommendations on how to align the applicant's work with the goals and objectives of this RFA.

Question 15: Which health disparity should be prioritized for impact with this grant, and what key outcomes are intended to be achieved?

Answer 15: Applicants are encouraged to utilize the National Stakeholder Strategy for Achieving Healthy Equity (RFA 67-185 Attachment 1) as a resource to help identify and address health disparities among the population being served by this project. Applicants are encouraged to determine outcomes that are feasible for them to achieve when developing their plan to identify, address, and eliminate health disparities.

*Except as clarified and amended by this Addendum, the terms, conditions, specifications, and instructions of the RFA and any previous addenda, remain as originally written.