

Mental Health Services Oversight & Accountability Commission
RFA_MHSSA_002
Questions and Answers

	RFA Section Reference	Question	Answer
1	n/a	Can this grant be used to support collaborations with local community colleges (i.e. program manager is funded to work several hours per week building connections and programming with community college)?	Community colleges can be included among the program partners, however, the required partnership must consist of a Behavioral Health Department, a school district(s), and either a County Office of Education or a Charter School
2	n/a	Can this grant be used for outpatient SUD treatment and programming?	The grant may be used to provide screening and referral to outpatient services for mental health needs including SUD treatment.
3	V.A.1.c	Can the lead agency be changed after submitting the intent to apply?	Yes, you can change the lead agency in the final application.
4	V. (A.)	While principals at school sites are excited about the possibility to partner with XXXX County Behavioral Health to receive this grant, the Superintendent has been unavailable. What happens with this grant if the Superintendent is not interested in partnering?	<p>The MHSSA requires a partnership between the</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) County/City Behavioral Health 2) School district(s), and <p>Either</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 3) Office of Education and/or 4) Charter schools <p>If a member of the partnership is missing, we cannot issue an award.</p>

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5	V.B.4	Can you please define encumbered? Would an approved program or work plan including planned salaries and other expenditures encumber the funds?	The term “encumbered” in the RFA applies to the grants at the Recipient level, which would be the Commission. Once a grant is awarded and a contract is executed, the funds for your grant are considered encumbered, which would cover everything in your Proposed Budget.
6	V.E.1.b.4	I was unable to find more specifics about allowable Capital Outlay expenditures in the links provided in Appendix 1. If I’m missing something specific, could you please direct me to the specific link that provides the guidance? In the interim, are rent, utilities and set-up costs for program space allowable and would it fall under Capital Outlays?	<p>The reference to Facilities/Capital Outlay is a general reference to the federal guidance. The US Treasury provides substantial discretion in the use of funds (Compliance and Reporting Guidance, Statutory Eligible Uses).</p> <p>Rent, utilities and set-up costs are allowable only if they are directly supporting the approved MHSSA program. It is up to the county to maintain proper support for all expenditures.</p>
7	V.E.b	Can grantees pay a portion of an existing staff members costs with the grant, if their duties shifted to perform grant activities?	Yes, as long as their duties are for specific grant program activities. Grantees are responsible to maintain proper support for costs covered by the grant.
8	V. (E)	Does the grant have a specific indirect cost rate?	There is no set or specific indirect cost rate. The county is responsible for supporting the indirect rate they choose to use for their program.

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9	V	Is there flexibility to revise the grant application if we are not able to hire clinicians to provide Tier 2 and 3 services?	Yes, there is flexibility in hiring. Once a grant is awarded, please work closely with the Commission on any program changes as they need to be approved by the Commission.
10	V	Will we be able to add additional partner districts as the grant proceeds?	Yes, you may add additional partner districts. Once a grant is awarded, please work closely with the Commission on any program changes as they need to be approved by the Commission
11	VI.B	<p>If only a few schools within the district meet the 50% threshold for free or reduced lunch:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Can a proposal include a district wide coordinator for services, with specific focus on those schools that meet the threshold? •Can a proposal still include some components that are district-wide, or are grant activities solely limited to schools meeting the threshold? 	<p>There is no requirement that all schools in a school district needs to be included in the program.</p> <p>A district wide coordinator for services, with a specific focus on those schools that meet the threshold would be acceptable.</p> <p>A proposal can be district wide, even though some of the schools may not meet the threshold. The proposal only needs to meet one of the three options provided in Section VI.B. Economically Disadvantaged Communities.</p>
12	VI.B	<p>“At least 50% of the schools are on the Free and Reduced-Price Meal program.”</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •What does on the program mean? Does that mean if any students in the school are enrolled? 	Yes
13	VII-A-2-E	In addition to the data collection noted, are NOMS and/or GPRA outcomes reporting required?	No

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14	VII.A.1.c.2	Are there any exceptions to the statement “project plan need to be approved...before moving on to the Program Operations phase?” (i.e. Would we be able to re-assign existing staff to the program to meet immediate therapy needs? Could we begin recruitment for new positions?)	This is a grant contract management situation and as long as you work closely with the Commission during program development, individual components of your plan can be approved to allow for the recruitment and hiring of staff or other situations.
15	VII.A.2.d.4.a	The data collection requires us to report on a number of items related to the number of students screened and referred or not referred. This may be TA for the program development phase, but can you please help us understand how you define “screen?” Is there a requirement to use a specific screening tool? Do we train teachers to recognize the signs when students need help and therefore <i>all</i> students at the school are being informally screened?	<p>Screening is defined as a service which identifies risk factors for mental health conditions or mental health conditions which are currently experienced.</p> <p>There is not a requirement to use a specific screening tool. This decision would be made by the partnership.</p> <p>Training teachers to recognize the signs when a student needs help does not constitute a screening.</p> <p>School mental health screening is defined as the. use of a systematic tool or process to identify the strengths and needs of students. Screening is conducted for all students, not just students identified as being at risk for or already displaying mental health concerns.</p>

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16	VII	Can a grantee contract for services from an entity in Oregon?	Yes, as long as the contractor agrees to all of the requirements (compliance and reporting) and provides a DUNS number.
17	VII	Can anyone of the MHSSA grant partners be the Grant Coordinator?	Yes, the only requirement is that the County Behavioral Health is the grant holder.
18	VII	Can anyone of the MHSSA grant partners be the Fiscal Agent for the grant?	The MHSSA requires that the County Behavioral Health be the grant holder. Funds will pass to the County Behavioral Health. From there a fiscal agent can be used.
19	VII	What will be the quarterly reporting requirements beyond fiscal reporting?	The quarterly reporting includes expenditures and data collection. See section 7 A.1.d.
20	VIII.I	Our county needs to obtain authorization from our BOS – must the draft application due Dec 6 be signed or may we obtain this authorization in December and have the signor authorized by the January final deadline?	The draft application may be submitted without a signature. The final application requires a signature.
21	X.B.1.b	If the grantee and lead agency are different, must the grantee (County BH) submit invoices, or may these be submitted by the lead agency?	The MHSSA requires that we contract with the County BH. Anyone authorized in the partnership can submit invoices, but the reimbursement will be made payable to the County Behavioral Health.
22	XI.C	In the scoring table under “Economically Disadvantaged Communities,” I’d like to clarify that we only have to meet one of the requirements to qualify for the grant, yet we are scored for need based on all three. Is that correct?	Correct, you only need to meet one. The scoring will take into account that you only need to qualify under one option.

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23	Attachment 1	Is there a timeframe for “has not applied for and/or has not received a previous MHSSA grant from the Commission?” Our County has not in any recent years but there may have been an early MHSSA grant awarded. Can you individually confirm that XXX County has not applied for and/or has not received a previous MHSSA grant?	<p>There has only been one MHSSA grant solicitation previously released. This was in December 2019, in which grants were awarded in 2020.</p> <p>Our records indicate that the 20 counties identified in the RFA have not received a previous MHSSA grant. We are asking for you to attest that you have not received a previous MHSSA grant.</p>
24	Attachment 4	Are respondents limited to the space available in the Proposed Plan form, or can we expand the fields?	You are not limited by the current size of the form fields. The form fields are expandable to provide sufficient space for a response.
25	Attachment 7	I understand the STD 204 to be in lieu for a w-9 – can we submit a w-9 instead?	The Commission is required by the State’s accounting and budget system, FI\$Cal, to use the Std 204.
26	Appendix 1	What is the specific CFDS # associated with the grant program?	We are unsure what CFDS refers to. If this was meant to ask the CFDA number, it is 27.027.
27	Appendix 1	<p>The RFA notes that “It is up to the Grantee to understand and comply with all rules” of MHSSA legislation.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •The legislation presents as requirements some things that the RFA presents as priorities but not requirements. Are MHSSA priorities minimum requirements, or suggested foci for grant funds? •The legislation is also specific about what must be included in a proposal for MHSSA funding, but the RFA does not require some of what’s in the legislation. Should we defer to the RFA requirements? 	<p>The MHSSA are requirements for this grant. The Budget Act of 2021 states these grants are for partnerships between counties and schools pursuant to the Mental Health Student Services Act.</p> <p>Follow the RFA requirements as to what needs to be included in the proposal. Some of the MHSSA requirements (e.g., plans) have been deferred to the Program Development phase of the grant.</p>

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28	Exhibit 1.23.A	This item states: “Grantee shall not “pass through” any portion of its funding under this Agreement except to its school partners as identified in the Application for Grant Funding; or, as identified by written Notice to the Contract Manager during the course of this Agreement. Said pass-through shall be documented in a written agreement subordinate to this Grant Agreement...” It is unclear to me when a “pass through” requiring a subordinate agreement is required. Can you please clarify whether the school partnerships outlined in this grant will require a written agreement subordinate to this Grant Agreement? If so, will the template for this agreement be provided by the Commission?	<p>The pass-through requirement relates only to entities that are not outlined as partners in the application.</p> <p>The partnership should have some type of agreement in place, such as Letter of Intent, MOU, or other evidence of support or approval by all partners, per the MHSSA.</p> <p>There is no template as there are multiple options available.</p>
29	Exhibit 1.23.B	This item references Exhibit C – should this read “Exhibit 1?” If not, can you please provide Exhibit C?	This should read “Exhibit 1”. There is no Exhibit C. We will correct this during contract execution.
30		Due to upcoming school renovations, we may have to rent an off-campus location specifically for this program. Would this rent expenditure fall under capital outlays?	The MHSSA states that grant awards shall be used to provide services that include services provided on school campus, to the extent practicable. If it is not practicable to provide the services on campus, an off- campus site can be pursued. The rent expenditure would fall under capital outlays.
31		<p>May we use grant funds to pay for therapy, case management, and other services for community college students?</p> <p>If so, is there an age limit for the students who may be served with the grant funds?</p>	<p>Yes.</p> <p>The act provides no specific age limit but states that grants awarded shall be used to provide services to high-risk youth and young adults. That age limit typically includes through age 25.</p>

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32		<p>The Program Operations budget asks for expenditures in Years 1-4. If we begin Program Operations 7/1/22 and we have until 12/31/26 that is 4.5 years. Am I missing something here or have my dates off or should I just add an additional column for year 5?</p>	<p>Grant contracts will go until June 30, 2026. The December 31, 2026 that is being referred to is the date when the Federal monies expire. The difference in dates is due to the need for time to make all final payments to counties and reporting to the federal government. Counties will need to file a grant claim form for payment request and the Commission will need time to process and issue the funds. All of this needs to be completed before December 31, 2026. The Commission will not have access to the funds to make any payments after December 31, 2026.</p>
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