

Behavioral Health Services Oversight and Accountability Commission

RFA IPF-001

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The RFA does not restrict the types of services. However, the Applicant must clearly communicate how the proposed innovation meets the requirements of the RFA.

	RFA Section Reference	Question	Commission Response
1	General	I wanted to ask if this grant is available for childcare providers. My wife and I run a home base childcare in the city of Long Beach ,CA. Our primary goal for the grant fund is to cover childcare tuition for struggling families, families undergoing homelessness, or domestic violence, children in the spectrum or with behavioral problems.	It is the responsibility of the Applicant to clearly convey how the proposed innovation meets the criteria specified in the RFA. The Commission does not assess eligibility prior to receiving an application.
2	General	Could the office of education apply for such grant and Could it be used to built, expand or sustain early intervention services in our schools?	All organizations are eligible to apply for large grants.
3	General	Hi, could you please help? I'm trying to find the link to the webinar recording and slide deck so we can respond to the RFA.	The Commission's bidder's conferences were not recorded and no additional materials beyond the RFA were displayed.
4	General	<p>██████████ and ██████████ will be partnering to submit a joint grant proposal, and we would like guidance on which department should be designated as the lead agency for the application.</p> <p>Could you please advise on whether ██████████ or ██████████ would be the more appropriate lead agency for this grant?</p>	Applicants need to decide themselves as to which organization will be the lead.

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5	Page 9 - RFA Release	Are both categories for funding currently open for application, specifically category 2 - Large Grants?	Refer to the RFA for the procurement Key Action Dates, including when applications are due. https://bhsoac.ca.gov/connect/grant-funding-opportunities/request-for-proposal-rfp-for-innovation-partnership-fund-ipf-001/
6	Page 9 - Bidder Conference	Are you able to apply for the grant if you missed the two Bidder Conference sessions?	Yes. There was no requirement to attend the Bidder Conference.
7	General	I cannot find where the RFA states the allowable or unallowable costs for this grant. Can you please let me know if construction or capital costs/outlays are allowable? If so, would those costs fall under "operating costs" in the budget?	See Addendum 2 for the definition of Allowable Costs
8	General	Just circling back to see if either of the Bidder's Conferences were recorded?	The Commission's bidder's conferences were not recorded and no additional materials beyond the RFA were displayed.
9	General	I do apologize as I see that the period for questions for this opportunity has ended, but our teams at [REDACTED] would be greatly appreciative if you could let us know if you allow multiple applications from the same organization for this opportunity?	The RFA states, "Applicants may apply for a single grant category (i.e., only a Category 1 - Small Grant or only a Category 2 - Large Grant) or for both grant categories (i.e., a Category 1 - Small Grant and a Category 2 - Large Grant)" The only exception is for UCs and CSUs.

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10	General	I have a non-profit here in Riverside called [REDACTED] We are looking to expand our programming by offering mental health services to low-income neighborhoods. I was just sent the information on your grant opportunities. I was wondering how I could get started, it looks like I missed the March 27 th information session. Any help would be appreciated	Refer to the RFS for all information as to how to apply. https://bhsoac.ca.gov/connect/grant-funding-opportunities/request-for-proposal-rfp-for-innovation-partnership-fund-ipf-001/
11	Page 16, Section C. Grantee Responsibilities. 4.	Section C states that a grantee responsibility is to “Administer a CBH IPF Implementation and Outcomes Survey to project staff and clients at least twice per year, capturing their experience with the implementation and perceived impact of the provided innovation. In the event that survey data does not accurately capture the impact of the innovative solution, an alternative form of assessment may be agreed upon by the Commission prior to the execution of the contract.” Will the grantee be responsible for developing the CBH IPF survey or will it be a standardized survey that CBH will develop and provide to grantees?	The Outcomes Survey will be designed by the Commission and provided to Grantees prior to contract execution. The survey will be standardized across all Grantees.

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12	Page 16, Section C. Grantee Responsibilities. 4.	Section C states that a grantee responsibility is to “Administer a CBH IPF Implementation and Outcomes Survey to project staff and clients at least twice per year, capturing their experience with the implementation and perceived impact of the provided innovation. In the event that survey data does not accurately capture the impact of the innovative solution, an alternative form of assessment may be agreed upon by the Commission prior to the execution of the contract.” In cases where a required deliverable (e.g., administration of the CBH IPF Implementation and Outcomes Survey, IPF Survey Data Submission) is not applicable to the proposed approach, can applicants propose alternative deliverables and associated budget items consistent with the RFA provision allowing “an alternative form of assessment,” subject to CBH approval?	Section 7.E. Cost Sheet 4. Applicant may propose additional deliverables and/or activities that will be completed and their proposed costs. 5. All additional deliverables and/or activities must be included in Addendum 2: Workplan with the same information required of the other Deliverables that are listed in the Workplan.

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13	Page 65, Attachment 5: Cost	Attachment 5 Cost, page 65 requires a deliverable-based budget using the RFA project deliverables, which includes an Implementation Outcomes Survey Summary and Data Submission. On page 16, C.4. Grantee Responsibilities, the RFA it states, "In the event that survey data does not accurately capture the impact of the innovative solution, an alternative form of assessment may be agreed upon by the Commission prior to the execution of the contract. The Grantee will be responsible for collecting and reporting all required information." Also, on page 17 under D. Deliverables, the Implementation and Outcomes Survey Summary and Semi-annual Data Submission both say, "As applicable, and as agreed upon by CBH." How should the proposer complete the cost sheet for the Implementation and Outcomes Survey Summary and Data Submission if the proposed project provides either indirect support or "other mechanisms as approved by the CBH," (Section A.3., page 12) and the Survey is therefore not applicable to the proposed project and an alternative form of assessment is required?	<p>For the purposes of responding to the RFA, complete the Cost Sheet to the best of your ability to reflect your application.</p> <p>Keep in mind, Section 7.E. Cost Sheet</p> <p>4. Applicant may propose additional deliverables and/or activities that will be completed and their proposed costs.</p> <p>5. All additional deliverables and/or activities must be included in Addendum 2: Workplan with the same information required of the other Deliverables that are listed in the Workplan.</p> <p>If awarded a contract and other changes are agreed to by the Commission, the Commission at that time will provide guidance on how the contract costs will be documented.</p>

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14	Page 65, Attachment 5: Cost	Are the cells that are greyed out intended to designate cost estimates that are not required to complete? If so, does the Commission mean to have all cells greyed out for lines 4-6 across all years?	Correct. Do not enter amounts in the grey cells.
15	Page 67-68, Attachment 6: References	Do the referencing organizations completing Attachment 6 submit the completed form directly to CBH, and if so, to whom should the completed form be submitted to?	All references shall be compiled by the Applicant and included in the Applicant's application.
16	Page 11-12, A1.d., A.3. Eligibility Criteria	If the proposer submits an innovation project proposal that supports county programs, but indirectly supports client services using other mechanisms such as surveys and technologies, which could be defined as research for planning and evaluation purposes, would the project be considered eligible for funding?	It is the responsibility of the Applicant to clearly convey how the proposed innovation meets the criteria specified in the RFA. The Commission does not assess eligibility prior to receiving an application.
17	General	Does the signed LOI imply that County BH is taking on responsibility or accountability for ensuring that funded partners achieve their proposed goals, metrics, and deliverables?	<p>Since the contract executed will be with the Applicant, the Applicant/Contractor will be responsible for the completion of the proposed innovation and deliverables, including meeting the goals of the grant, with their partners/subcontractors.</p> <p>Please see Addendum 2 changing the Letter of Intent to a Letter of Support.</p>

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18	General	Following application approval, what level of involvement or oversight is expected from County BH in monitoring partner progress or providing feedback on annual reports and improvement plans?	Grantees are to share deliverables with county behavioral health departments as detailed in Section 6.D. Grantees and county behavioral health staff will determine the frequency, format, and level of involvement beyond what is specified in the deliverables.
19	General	Do you have an indirect cost policy; and if you do, please send me the link or a copy of the policy itself.	For the purposes of this RFA, the Commission uses Administration costs and not Indirect costs. See Addendum 2 for a definition of Allowable costs, which includes Administration costs.
20	General	We have several community agencies that plan on submitting an RFP for this funding. Behavioral Health's role is vague in the RFP, and we are concerned about our capacity. On a recently call it was mentioned that CBOs can apply for this RFP without a letter or intent from County Behavioral Health, but I am not seeing that in the RFP. Is this correct? CBOs can submit for the RFP without a letter of intent from County BHS? I just want to make sure we don't give our community partners the wrong information	Please see Addendum 2 changing the Letter of Intent to a Letter of Support.
21	General	Hello, I just found out about this from the County. Are we too late?	Refer to the RFA for the procurement Key Action Dates, including when applications are due. https://bhsoac.ca.gov/connect/grant-funding-opportunities/request-for-proposal-rfp-for-innovation-partnership-fund-ipf-001/

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22	General	<p>I was requesting clarification on the target population as it seemed this grant was looking for services specifically for homeless or people coming out of incarceration or at high risk of being conserved</p> <p>Is it also for the SMI to provide support in more of a clubhouse/ wellness model. Does this also fit with the RFA?</p>	<p>To be eligible, applicants must address the needs of BHSA Priority Populations as specified in Welfare and Institutions Code (WIC) section 5600.3. per WIC section WIC Section 5892(a). Applicants must also address the needs of a minimum of one of the target populations as specified in Welfare and Institutions Code (WIC) section 5845.1.</p> <p>It is the responsibility of the Applicant to clearly convey how the proposed innovation meets the criteria specified in the RFA. The Commission does not assess eligibility prior to receiving an application.</p>
23	7: Deliverables	<p>For ██████████ County, could you clarify which entity is considered the official County Behavioral Health Department partner for purposes of this grant—██████████ County Department of Mental Health ██████████, Department of Public Health, ██████████ County Office of Education ██████████, or another designated county agency?</p>	<p>The Applicant should select either the County Department of Mental Health or Department of Public Health depending on whether the innovation proposed primarily serves individuals with substance use disorders or Individuals with serious mental illness/ serious emotional disturbance. The County Office of Education would not meet the criteria to serve the role of county behavioral health department for the scope of the RFA.</p>
24	7: Deliverables	<p>Is it permissible to include more than one county behavioral health-related partner (for example, ██████████ alongside ██████████ or Public Health), and if so, is a multi-agency county partnership viewed more favorably in scoring or competitiveness?</p>	<p>Yes, it is permissible to include more than one county behavioral health related partner.</p> <p>The Scoring Process stated in the RFA addresses how all applications will be scored.</p>

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25	10: Scoring Process	Could you please clarify who is involved in the scoring and review process for this IPF grant? Specifically, are proposals evaluated by peer reviewers, commissioners, internal staff, or a combination of stakeholders?	This is a competitive procurement and the details of the scoring process are confidential.
26	Budget and Narrative	Is there a maximum percentage of the total budget that can be allocated to subcontractors?	Subcontracting is allowed. There are no specific limitations in this RFA, but the Bidder Declaration (GSPD-05-105) states, "Bids must propose that certified bidders provide a commercially useful function for the resulting contract or the bid will be deemed non-responsive and rejected by the State." Certified bidders are considered the Applicants.
27	Budget and Narrative	Does the 30-month budget allow for start-up or ramp-up costs in the first few months, or does the Commission expect full implementation and service delivery to begin immediately on July 1, 2026?	There is no planning period as a part of this grant cycle. Any changes to start date would need to be approved by the Commission.
28	C.2	Will our experience with similar projects to what we are proposing in this RFA be considered if our past experience was with a different organization or from past work with a different organization?	The Scoring Process stated in the RFA addresses how all applications will be scored.
29	7. Information Required in the application	In collaborative applications, would organizations other than the "applicant" be considered subcontractors?	Yes.
30	7. Information Required in the application	If we partner with cross-county organizations to handle local operations, would they be viewed as sub-recipients or vendors	For the purposes of this RFA, there is one (1) lead and all other participants are considered subcontractors.
31	Deliverable Acceptance	After a deliverable is accepted and invoice is submitted, is there a specific timeframe for when to expect payment ?	Per the Prompt Payment Act, the State has 45 days from acceptance of an invoice until payment must be made.

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32	Background	Are the priority populations and groups identified as “underserved, low-income, communities impacted by other behavioral health disparities and other populations determined by BHSOAC” considered to be the same or inclusive?	Priority Populations and target populations are distinct groups. To be eligible, applicants must address the needs of BHSA Priority Populations as specified in Welfare and Institutions Code (WIC) section 5600.3. per WIC section WIC Section 5892(a). Applicants must also address the needs of a minimum of one of the target populations as specified in Welfare and Institutions Code (WIC) section 5845.1.
33	General	<p>I understand that the Bidders Conference sessions have already taken place, and I was unable to attend. I would kindly like to request:</p> <p>Any available recordings or summary materials from the Bidders Conference; Clarification on whether late engagement or partnership discussions are still welcome; and Guidance on how an international or community-based organization like ours may collaborate with eligible entities to submit a competitive proposal.</p>	<p>The Commission’s bidder’s conferences were not recorded and no additional materials beyond the RFA were displayed.</p> <p>This is a competitive procurement and the Commission cannot provide guidance on competitive proposal</p>

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34	General	<p>I realize the Q&As were just published recently with answers that were submitted last week. I am still unsure about the intention of the answer related to fiscal sponsorship. The answer wasn't 100% clear on the intent behind the questions. With fiscal sponsorship at [REDACTED], we have programs that have fiscal sponsorship agreements with us, where we provide the backbone office support of public health programs that operate semi-independently within our organization. The Principal Investigators and Program Directors here receive fiscal support (AP/AR), grants management (pre-award and post-award), human resources, and legal support. With other applications both to foundations and state & municipal governments, there has been an understanding that our organization (PHI) might have multiple submissions that are substantially different because of the wide variety of public health interests we support. My specific question to get clarification on the answers that were provided, can PHI support multiple applications in the same category from different independent programs that exist within our supported portfolio? Thank you for this opportunity to receive clarification</p>	<p>For the purposes of this RFA, fiscal sponsors are allowed.</p> <p>In addition, the RFA states, "Applicants may apply for a single grant category (i.e., only a Category 1 - Small Grant or only a Category 2 - Large Grant) or for both grant categories (i.e., a Category 1 - Small Grant and a Category 2 - Large Grant)"</p> <p>The only exception is for UCs and CSUs.</p>

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35	General	<p>I am sending this email to inquire upon the Letter of Support (LOS) requirement for the funding opportunity: RFA IPF-001.</p> <p>We understand that the requirement was recently updated from a Letter of Intent (LOI) to an LOS; as a staff member representing the County Behavioral Health Authority, our team is receiving numerous requests to complete a LOS.</p> <p>I wanted to ask if the template (Attachment 4-1) attached, could be slightly modified and/or include our organizations letterhead?</p> <p>The RFA states the following, but we wanted to confirm the above and if this exact LOS template is required.</p>	<p>Yes, Attachment 4-1 can be modified to reflect County Behavioral Health Authority in the letterhead.</p>
36	B. GRANT CATEGORIES	<p>Is there a minimum grant amount that can be requested?</p>	<p>There is no minimum grant amount for the Small Grant category. The minimum for the Large Grant category is \$500,000.</p>
37	D. DELIVERABLES	<p>Is the workplan collaboration with a County Behavioral Health Department something that needs to happen during the RFA-phase or once the grant is approved?</p>	<p>Please see Addendum 2 changing the Letter of Intent to a Letter of Support.</p>

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38	6. SCOPE OF WORK: B. IPF APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS	Would a rehabilitative program supporting incarcerated individuals in prisons satisfy the requirement for an applicant that "supports county behavioral health programs and practices"? If so, would this be considered a direct or an indirect benefit to county behavioral health departments?	It is the responsibility of the Applicant to clearly convey how the proposed innovation meets the criteria specified in the RFA. The Commission does not assess eligibility prior to receiving an application.
39	2. BACKGROUND	What are examples of the kinds of innovative projects that have been funded by the Commission on Behavioral Health in the past?	This is the first procurement for Innovation Partnership Funds.
40	5. CONTRACT TERM AND AVAILABLE FUNDING : A. ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA	What are examples of introducing or scaling "practical, community-centered solutions (including community-defined evidence-based practices) that increase access to behavioral health treatment and recovery supports—particularly for historically underserved populations and inclusive of harm reduction approaches"?	It is the responsibility of the Applicant to develop the proposed innovation and articulate how it meets the criteria specified in the RFA.
41	5. CONTRACT TERM AND AVAILABLE FUNDING : A. ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA	What are examples of behavioral health treatment and recovery supports?	It is the responsibility of the Applicant to develop the proposed innovation and articulate how it meets the criteria specified in the RFA.

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42	7. INFORMATION REQUIRED IN THE APPLICATION	<p>I am writing to request clarification on language that was added to IPF-001 under Addendum 2. The RFA now states, “For the University of California (UC) and California State University (CSU), each campus under the UC and CSU can be an Applicant and submit an application for each category. If a program within the UC or the CSU system is a registered non-profit, they may apply as a non-profit organization separate from the UC or CSU.”</p> <p>Does this mean that each UC campus is limited to one application per category?</p>	<p>For the purposes of this procurement, each UC may submit an application as the Applicant, but any entity under the UC may submit an application and be the Applicant as long as they meet the requirements.</p>
43	General	<p>We would like to know if this RFA has an interest in improving medical care, specifically focused on HIV prevention, received by people with serious mental illness.</p>	<p>It is the responsibility of the Applicant to clearly convey how the proposed innovation meets the criteria specified in the RFA. The Commission does not assess eligibility prior to receiving an application.</p>

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44	Attachment 3: Applicant Background, Section C.2.a	<p>The solicitation requires applicants to provide examples of prior programs or projects, including financial resources such as total cost and funding sources. In many cases, detailed pricing information from prior engagements is considered proprietary and competitively sensitive, and public disclosure could compromise an applicant's competitive position and reveal confidential business practices.</p> <p>Can CBH please confirm whether applicants may designate such information as confidential or proprietary?</p>	<p>Refer to RFA section D. Confidentiality</p> <p>The Commission cannot make a determination until documents are submitted, with the appropriate support for designating the documents as confidential or proprietary, and an assessment is made on the submitted documents.</p>

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45	Page 29, Paragraph D. Confidentiality	<p>The solicitation states that applicant materials will become public after the Notice of Intent to Award, and that any materials marked as confidential, proprietary, or trade secret will be independently assessed by the Commission for exemption under the California Public Records Act.</p> <p>To facilitate this process, can CBH please confirm whether applicants may submit both (1) a complete unredacted proposal and (2) a redacted version of the proposal, along with a justification identifying the basis for each redaction (e.g., trade secret or confidential business information under applicable California law)?</p>	<p>Submit only one Application that you want reviewed and scored. The Commission redacts the applications prior to release under the California Public Records Act.</p>

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46	Page 29, Paragraph D. Confidentiality/Exhibit D, Budget Detail Template	<p>This section states that applicant materials will become public once a Notice of Intent is issued. Our company considers certain detailed budget and pricing information included in the proposal to be confidential business information. Public disclosure of this information would compromise our competitive position and reveal proprietary business practices.</p> <p>We respectfully request confirmation that CBH will treat this financial information as confidential and protected from public disclosure under California Public Records Law exemptions or another applicable exemption.</p>	The Commission cannot make a determination until documents are submitted, with the appropriate support for designating the documents as confidential or proprietary, and an assessment is made on the submitted documents.
47	Appendix 1: Sample Contract Exhibits B & C	Appendix 1 of the solicitation provides Sample Contract Exhibits B & C. Can CBH please confirm whether offerors may propose redlines and suggested revisions to be submitted with our proposal?	This is outside of the scope for responding to the RFA. It is a question that may be asked during the contract execution process if awarded a grant.

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48	Appendix 1: Sample Contract Exhibits B & C	If offerors are not permitted to submit proposed redlines or revisions to the Sample Contract Exhibits during the proposal phase, can CBH please confirm whether the successful offeror will be afforded an opportunity to review the contract terms and conditions and propose redlines or revisions during post-award negotiations?	This is outside of the scope for responding to the RFA. It is a question that may be asked during the contract execution process if awarded a grant.
49	Section F. 1.	Section F states that references shall be from organizations that have received products, services or related support from the Applicant. May we submit any of the three references from organizations that have supported a subcontracting partner applicant or must references be in support of the primary applicant?	RFA Section 7. INFORMATION REQUIRED IN THE APPLICATION, states, "All applications must be submitted by a lead or prime contractor, hereinafter called "Applicant"..." References are only to support the Applicant.
50	No section reference	May we submit resumes?	Applicant is allowed to submit any document with their application to support their response to a requirement.
51	5. Contract Term and Available Funding E.8 Cost Sheet	Section 5 states: The term of this contract will begin upon execution (no sooner than July 1, 2026) and end June 30, 2029. It then states: All deliverables must be submitted prior to the end of the 30-month contract in order to be paid. Section E.8 states the contract term is 30 months. Is the contract term 30 or 36 months?	The performance period is 30 months from contract execution. However, the contract term will extend to June 30 th , 2029, to provide adequate time for final deliverable payment to be processed.

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52	General	<p>In regards to the format of the attachments – Are applicants advised to use the attachment templates directly from Addendum 2 containing the highlighted edits or are there updated templates available that have final draft minus the modifications?</p>	<p>Use the Attachments from Addendum 2 to ensure that they most current requirements are being addressed.</p>
53	General	<p>Reading the chart, it appears the action items are all listed out, and the request is simply to estimate completion dates for each action item? The top of the form says to "describe your approach", but the preferred approach appears, to us, clearly laid out in the body of the individual questions. Can you provide insight into how we can meet expectations for completing Appendix 2?</p> <p>Can you please confirm for us that the below is all you are looking for us to provide when filling in the chart?</p> <p>a. 10/01/26 - 11/30/26 b. 12/01/26 - 01/15/27 c. 1/15/27 - 2/15/27 d. 2/20/27 - 3/15/27</p>	<p>This is a competitive procurement and the Commission cannot provide guidance, insight, or expectations as to how to respond to requirements.</p>

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54		<p>I am writing to request clarification on the applicable contracting framework for UC applicants in the event of an award under IPF-001. Although I understand the April 3RD deadline for written questions has passed... Clarification at this stage will help ensure compliant and responsive proposals.</p> <p>Pursuant the CA Education Code 63725 et seq., the California Model Agreement must be used for any contracts (and grants) between the State and the UC (and CSU) for research, training and services. At the same time, the RFA and FAQ #85, indicates that awards will be issued as procurement contracts, and references Welfare and Institutions Code section 5897(f), which exempts the Commission from certain provisions of the Public Contract Code, SAM and DGS approval requirements.</p> <p>Given this, we would appreciate confirmation as to whether agreements with UC (and CSU) campuses under IPF-001 will utilize the CMA. If not, can you please clarify whether the cited Welfare and Institutions Code section 5897(f) exemption is intended to supersede the requirements of California Education Code section 67325 et seq.?</p>	<p>If a UC/CSU is awarded a grant, the Commission will work with the Grantee on the appropriate contract language to be used.</p>