

# Mental Health Services Oversight and Accountability Commission

## RFA Older Adults-001

### Age Wise and PEARLS Programs for Older Adults

#### Questions and Responses 1

RFA Older Adults-001 Questions and Responses 1			
	RFA Section Reference	Question	Commission Response
1	General	I was unable to attend the full Bidders Conference today. Could you send me the updated questions/answers once completed?	The questions that were submitted in writing are included in this Questions and Responses table
2	General	I asked yesterday during your Bidders Conference if there were a maximum number of pages we were allowed to submit, including or excluding attachments and exhibits. The answer was no, but your suggestion was to follow up in writing. Additionally, the suggestion was to ask for a receipt confirmation if we were sending a large file submission. Can you confirm these, please?	<p>There is no limit on the length of your responses as the response Attachments contain expandable fields. Refer to VI. Information Required in the Grant Application.</p> <p>If you are submitting a large application, please send a follow-up email to confirm that the Commission did receive your application.</p>
3	General	We do not believe there are any active PEARLS programs in Santa Barbara County, however, again, per your suggestion, we are asking to confirm that.	<p>There are no PEARLS programs in Santa Barbara County for this RFA.</p> <p>See Addendum 1, Exhibit 4 for the list of PEARLS Programs in California that will be used for this RFA in determining an existing program.</p>
4	General	Are there Age Wise or PEARLS programs currently in operation in Alameda County that would preclude a small nonprofit from applying for this grant at this time?	<p>There are no PEARLS programs in Alameda Barbara County for this RFA.</p> <p>See Addendum 1, Exhibit 4 for the list of PEARLS Programs in California that will be used for this RFA in determining an existing program.</p>

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5	General	We are CBO in San Bernardino County's West Region and are interested in applying for the Pearls Program. There are PEARLS providers in San Bernardino County's Central and East regions. Due to the land mass of San Bernardino County should we apply?	For this RFA the requirement is that there must not be an existing PEARLS program in a county that you are applying for. Therefore, you may not apply for a PEARLS grant in San Bernardino County.
6	General	We are considering applying for a grant from the state to implement PEARLS in our community of Marin County, California. Is there someone we can speak to to learn more about how this program has been implemented in other similar communities, and the ideal target population for this program. We already provide case management and psychotherapy for older adults.	Refer to RFA Exhibit 2 – PEARLS for more information including a website URL.
7	General	... I am the Clinical Supervisor for the Early Intervention Services for Older Adults at the Council on Aging - Southern California. We are looking to apply for a grant released by the Mental Health Service Oversight & Accountability Commission in order to implement the PEARLS program within our department. In order to achieve this, we were hoping to connect with someone to gain some insight to the model as we are aware that the staff members need to be trained. If you can point me in the right direction, I would greatly appreciate it.	Refer to RFA Exhibit 2 – PEARLS for more information including a website URL.

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8	General	<p>We would like to speak to a couple of organizations that may be in similar communities to learn their experiences with PEARLS.</p> <p>We would like to better understand the “slice” of the senior population that this intervention is most appropriate for.</p> <p>Hoping actually to speak to someone. We tried to use the function on your website that is supposed to show who is currently doing PEARLS but it is not working.</p>	Refer to RFA Exhibit 2 – PEARLS for more information including a website URL.
9	II. Purpose and goals of the grant opportunity	If a health department does not have the program, but a local organization does, can we apply to expand reach; and do applicants have to propose to reach seniors in a region or county, or can the focus be on patients served?	For this round of funding, the requirement is that there must not be an existing PEARLS or Age Wise program in a county that you are applying for.
10	II. Purpose and Goals of the Grant Opportunity	<p>“Interested parties may partner with others.”</p> <p>Does both organizations have to be a Non Profit organization? Could the Lead Applicant be a Non-Profit and the other applicant be a for profit health care provider?</p>	Both parties do not need to be a Non-Profit. The Lead Applicant must meet the minimum qualifications.

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11	II. Purpose and goals of the grant opportunity	<p>Reference:</p> <p>“The Commission will award grants to County Behavioral Health departments, Area Agencies on Aging (See list at Exhibit 3), or other non-profits who serve older adults with mental health related needs, including unserved and/or underserved populations to address disparities in access to effective and culturally appropriate behavioral health services.</p> <p>The goal is to implement a behavioral health program, specifically for older adults, in counties that do not currently have robust older adult-specific programs or do not currently offer Age Wise or PEARLS.”</p> <p>Question:</p> <p>If there is an active PEARLS program in our county that is run by another organization, whether a County Behavioral Health Department, Area Agencies on Aging, or nonprofit, can we still apply to implement PEARLS at our organization in the same county? Or will MHSOAC not consider funding due to the fact that there is already an active program in county?</p>	<p>For this round of funding, the requirement is that there must not be an existing PEARLS program in a county that you are applying for.</p> <p>See Addendum 1, Exhibit 4 for the list of PEARLS Programs in California that will be used for this RFA in determining an existing program.</p>

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12	II. Purpose and Goals	Our organization currently offers PEARLS to Riverside County, but not San Bernardino County. Are we eligible to apply for funding to implement PEARLS in San Bernardino County?	San Bernardino has an existing PEARLS program therefore no one can apply for a PEARLS grant in this county.
13	II. Purpose and Goals	San Bernardino County currently offers the Agewise program which as mentioned in the RFA is a robust older specific program. Does this make us ineligible to apply to implement the PEARLS program in San Bernardino County since there is already a robust older specific program offered in that County?	San Bernardino has an existing PEARLS program therefore no one can apply for a PEARLS grant in this county.
14	II. Intent to Apply	I just attended a zoom presentation with the Pearls group today at 1200 and discovered that the intent to apply for the RFA Older adult grant was due yesterday.  Is it too late to submit the intent to apply for the RFA Older Adult Grant and does the late intent submission affect our application?	The Intent to Apply will be accepted up until the Applications due date and will not affect your application.  See Addendum 1 for clarification.
15	II. Intent to Apply	I wanted to see if the intent to apply for the RFA Older Adults-001 is a binding agreement?	No. The submission of an Intent to Apply is not a binding agreement.
16	IV Grant Funding	Does LA County have an active PEARLS program?  We are based in LA County are we eligible to apply for this grant category?	Yes, LA County has a PEARLS program.  You may not apply for a PEARLS program since one already exists in your county

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17	IV Grant Funding	Does LA County have an active AGE WISE program?  We are based in LA County are we eligible to apply for this grant category?	No, LA County does not have an Age Wise program.  You may apply for an Age Wise program.
18	IV. Grant Funding	Can County Behavioral Services apply for PEARLS if Dept of Aging Services have implemented some elements of PEARLS in their programs but not to PEARLS fidelity?	See Addendum 1, Exhibit 4 for the list of PEARLS Programs in California that will be used for this RFA in determining an existing program.
19	IV. Grant Funding C. Allowable Costs #1- a) 7)	The term “technical assistance”- can we get clarification specifically on what this entails?	There will be a Technical Assistance contractor for each grant category to provide assistance with implementing each program, including but not limited to collaboration with other programs, data collection and reporting.
20	IV. Grant Funding A. Allowable Costs #1- a) 7)	In regards to program evaluation, can this be done internally as long as the deadlines of funders are met? Or is there going to be a funder database to use for evaluation purposes?	Program evaluations will be conducted with the assistance of the Technical Assistance contractor who will work with each grantee on the data collection and reporting.
21	V. Grantee’s Responsibilities-Scope of work –p.13	Can county behavioral health services partner with community based program to provide PEARLS services?	Yes. One of the partners needs to be the lead and meet all of the minimum requirements.
22	V. Grantee’s Responsibilities-Scope of work –p.13	Can county use the grant to partner with contracted nonprofit to train PEARLS coaches to provide services in both civil service and community based nonprofit clinics?	Yes
23	V. Scope of Work	Can licensed clinicians go through the PEARLS training and certification?	Yes

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24	V. Grantee's Responsibilities A. Scope of Work #1- k)	Will the funding be ONLY for 3 years? Will there be a renewable option after the 3 years?	Grant funds are available for 3 years. There is no option to renew.
25	V. Grantee's Responsibilities	For the PEARLS program the RFA states a licensed clinician is needed to oversee the work. Must this clinician be licensed in the medical field such as a psychiatrist or is an LCSW or LMFT appropriate?	The licensed clinician can include a psychiatrist, psychologist, LMFT, LCSW, or LPCC.
26	V. Grantee's Responsibilities	We currently offer PEARLS in Riverside County, but would like to apply to offer the program in San Bernardino County. Currently we have a Clinical Supervisor LMFT overseeing the program and we contract with a Psychiatrist to address medical concerns, complex issues, medication interactions. Is this appropriate to do through this RFA as well? Can we use funds to pay for a Clinical Supervisor and to pay for a Psychiatrist as a consultant?	San Bernardino has an existing PEARLS program therefore no one can apply for a PEARLS grant in this county.
27	VI.B.3.b. Minimum Qualifications	<p>"If a non-profit organization, has been in operation for at least 2 years"</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Does the 2 years begin with the organization attained their 501(c)(3) designation or when the organization was formed?</li> <li>2. Does the Non-Profit Organization meet the 2 year of operation criteria if they reach their 2 year anniversary shortly after the Notice of Intent to Award is announced?</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. The RFA does not go into the level of detail asked in the question. Applicants have the latitude to determine how they meet this requirement.</li> <li>2. Applicants must meet this requirement as of the Application due date</li> </ol>

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28	VI.B.3.d. Minimum Qualifications	Where do we get a signed Letter of Support from the County Behavioral Health and the Area Agency on Aging?	<p>The County Behavioral Health is your county’s behavioral/mental health department.</p> <p>The Area Agency on Aging are listed in Exhibit 3 – Area Agencies on Aging in the RFA</p>
29	VI. Applicant background	Would county BH need a letter from the list of connections as part of the RFA?	Yes
30	X. Application Scoring B. Scored Requirements SCORING A.1.a.	If subcontractors plan to be used (for the purpose of this RFA), would primary agency need to be complete the “multi-organization application”? Or because it would only be a “subcontract”, does the primary agency only have to include their (primary agency) information and mention subcontractor in narrative of RFA?	If this is a subcontract only and not a partnership, then the primary agency only needs to include their (primary agency) information and mention subcontractor in narrative of RFA?