



Request for Information (RFI)

LAAA 2024-13

Combating Youth Vaping in Colorado

August 25th, 2023

Overview

This Request for Information (RFI) is issued solely for information and planning purposes and does not constitute a solicitation. Responses to this RFI will not be considered legal offers nor will they result in an award of any type of contract/grant.

Purpose of this Request for Information (RFI)

The Attorney General and the Department of Law (DOL), collectively referred to as the Colorado Attorney General's Office, is issuing this RFI to receive responses from Colorado school districts, and Colorado nonprofits as potential applicants about strategies to address youth vaping (i.e., use of Electronic Nicotine Delivery Systems or "ENDS"). The Colorado Attorney General's Office is seeking information about the effectiveness of current strategies being used to prevent, abate, and/or cease the use of ENDS by youth and potential strategies that could be effectively implemented for this purpose. The DOL is particularly interested in any strategies that involve education and prevention, such as programs that incorporate positive norming, mentorship, peer support, and building connections and trusted relationships. The information gathered in this RFI will guide the priority areas and structure for the use of grant funds aimed at this purpose.

Background

The Division of Community Engagement (DCE) is the open door to the Colorado Attorney General's Office. We work to build relationships and establish meaningful conversations across Colorado to hear the needs, ideas, and voices of the people of our state.

The Division promotes these connections through our five programs: Outreach and Engagement, Consumer Engagement and Data Services, Safe2Tell Colorado, Opioid Response, and Grants and Partnerships. The Grants and Partnerships support a diverse range of organizations throughout Colorado that address critical challenges facing our State. The DCE works with partners to develop and fund data-driven, high-impact programs that can develop long-term success and build a sustainable foundation.

The DOL reached a settlement with JUUL Labs, Inc. (JUUL) that will provide Colorado with funds that will be used in accordance with the acceptable uses stated in the settlement. For purposes of this RFI, the DOL asks responses to focus on the following acceptable uses:

- a. Programs that provide cessation assistance to Colorado residents who were exposed to ENDS while under the age of 21;
- b. Education or prevention programs that are designed to prevent or reduce use of ENDS by Colorado residents who are under the age of 21;
- c. Programs or equipment that are designed to abate the impact that ENDS and other Nicotine products have had on Colorado students, schools, school districts and to prevent such impact in the future; and

- d. Efforts to mitigate the impact of, including by enforcing Colorado and federal law with respect to, disposable ENDS, Nicotine products, and companies that have not taken steps similar to those described in this Consent Judgment to limit access to or usage of Nicotine products by Colorado residents who are under the age of 21.

To distribute the settlement funds, DCE will run a Request for Applications (RFA) subsequent to this RFI for an initial round of funding directed at school districts, with an additional round directed at nonprofit entities. The RFA award criteria will be in accordance with the settlement and will take responses to this RFI into account to determine priority areas for each round of funding.

Information Requested

Responses

Respondents may respond to as few or as many RFI Questions or parts of Questions as they would like, with as little or as much information as they are able to provide. All respondents submitting a response are asked to answer RFI Question 1 (a-d) in order to provide necessary background information.

Questions

RFI Question 1 (required)

- a. Indicate if you are responding to this RFI as an individual or as a representative of an entity/organization.
- b. Indicate what type of entity you are.
- c. Indicate your service area or region.
- d. Are you part of a BOCES (Board of Cooperative Educational Service)? If so, which BOCES?

RFI Question 2

What percent of students in your school or school district do you estimate are using ENDS?

RFI Question 3

Describe what are the biggest issues you see in your school(s) and/or community related to youth vaping (i.e., use of Electronic Nicotine Delivery Systems or ENDS)?

RFI Question 4

Describe your biggest challenges in combating the use of ENDS.

RFI Question 5

What efforts are you currently engaged in to prevent, abate, and/or cease the use of ENDS by youth? If applicable:

- a. How effective have these efforts been?
- b. In what ways do these efforts incorporate youth voice?

RFI Question 6

What are the additional resources needed to help combat the use of ENDS by youth in your school(s)/community?

RFI Question 7

Have you applied for or received funding to combat the use of ENDS? If so, please explain:

- a. How much you received?
- b. When did you receive it?
- c. If you had any partners or subgrantees. If so, who were they?

RFI Question 8

What kinds of partnerships in your community have been important in your efforts to combat the use of ENDS?

- a. How have these partners been helpful?

RFI Question 9

Would you partner with other school districts or public interest organizations in combatting the use of ENDS in your school?

RFI Question 10

What kinds of activities would you seek funding for if you had the ability to receive grants over a period of two years?

- a. How much funding would you request?
- b. What is your capacity to administer grant funds pertaining to ENDS?

RFI Question 11

What timeframe would be feasible and most beneficial to administer a grant directed at the prevention, abatement, and/or cessation of ENDS? For example, would a grant term aligned to the school year be more beneficial than one aligned to the State's Fiscal Year (July 1 – June 30 annually) or the calendar year (January 1 – December 31)?

RFI Question 12

Please explain any restrictions on when you can apply for a grant pertaining to ENDS.

RFI Question 13

Please explain if you have any restrictions on the amount of ENDS grant funding for which you can apply.

RFI Question 14

Do you have any additional information or comments that you would like to share on this topic regarding the prevention, abatement, and/or cessation of ENDS?

RFI Procedures and Response Submission

Point of contact

If a responding organization has any questions regarding this RFI, they should contact the Colorado Attorney General's Office's sole point of contact for this RFI, who is:

Alison Williams Helm
Lead Grants Officer
Colorado Department of Law / Procurement
Email: procurement@coag.gov
Phone: 720.508.6791

Timeline

The timeline for this RFI is as follows:

Activity	Date
Response Submission Deadline	9/15/2023

Responses

Submit all responses by email to procurement@coag.gov and show the RFI number and title listed in the e-mail subject line. Responses are due by 5:00 PM on September 15, 2023.

The responses should:

- a. Be provided in Microsoft Word and present writing that is self-explanatory on pages that are consecutively numbered in a consistent numbering format. This is considered the responding organization's Response Form.
- b. Repeat the numbered 'RFI Response' items from the RFI in bold font with the respondent's response in unbolded font following the 'RFI Response' item.

Terms and Conditions

- a. This RFI is issued solely for information and planning purposes and does not constitute a solicitation. Responses to this RFI will not be considered legal offers nor will they result in an award of any type of contract/grant.
- b. The DOL is not responsible for any costs incurred by a responding organization for the development and provision of a response to this RFI. All material submitted in response to this RFI becomes property of the State.
- c. The DOL reserves the right to copy any information provided by responding organizations for the purposes of facilitating the DOL's review of use of the information.
- d. The DOL reserves the right to use information or ideas that are provided by responding organizations in the response.
- e. Respondents shall not issue any news releases, communications or announcements of any kind pertaining to this solicitation, without prior written approval by the State.
- f. **Confidentiality.** Pursuant to section 24-103-201.5(4), C.R.S., DOL will maintain confidentiality over all information provided by responding organizations in response to this RFI until an award is made from a solicitation or until DOL has determined not to

pursue a solicitation. After such time, RFI responses will be open to public inspection in accordance with the provisions of the Colorado Open Records Act, part 2 of article 72 of title 24, C.R.S. DOL does not desire responding organizations to submit confidential information in response to this RFI. However, should submission of confidential information be necessary to the DOL's understanding of an RFI response, responding organizations must submit a written confidentiality request at the time of submission using the following format:

- A separate copy of the entire Response Form clearly marked CONFIDENTIAL/PROPRIETARY with all confidential/proprietary information redacted; and
 - A written statement that includes all of the following information:
 1. A description of each distinct piece of redacted information (categorical or blanket descriptions will not be accepted);
 2. Legal citation to the specific CORA section that applies to each redaction (citation to CORA in its entirety will not be accepted); and
 3. A detailed legal justification as to why each redaction should be exempted from public disclosure under that CORA section.
- g. **Disclaimer.** Submitted Response Forms to this RFI will remain confidential as set forth at section 24-103-201.5(4), C.R.S. However, responding organizations are encouraged not to submit responses containing information they would otherwise not be comfortable sharing publicly. Please note, information shared in submitted responses may be used in unspecified, general terms to encourage informed conversations at future public town hall meetings. The intent of the DOL is to gather additional information from stakeholders at these public town hall meetings and information in submitted responses may be beneficial in facilitating conversation. The intent of the DOL is to keep corresponding names of respondents, names of schools, identity of school districts, and additional identifying information anonymous, though DOL makes no guarantee this information cannot be derived or revealed during subsequent public meetings.

Failure to follow the above format or provide complete legal justification for a request for confidential/proprietary status will result in rejection of the request. It is the responding organization's responsibility, not the DOL's, to provide sufficient legal justification to ensure that the responding organization's confidential information is protected from public disclosure.