

Youth Mental Health and Wellbeing RFA

LAAA #2025-01

Questions and Answers – Posted November 20, 2024

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Allowability Questions

Q: Can a grant application focus on an evidence-based framework or process that centers youth voice—such as involving youth in ideating, co-designing, and developing mental health and well-being solutions—or must it specify a particular evidence-based curriculum or program from the start? For example, could the grant support a framework that empowers young people to co-design mental health initiatives, engage in creating peer-support systems, or develop social-emotional well-being activities without specifying an established program at the outset?

A: We are limited in our ability to respond to questions about specific proposals in order to remain neutral towards and provide fair information to all potential applicants. Any proposal is appropriate as long as it satisfies at least one of the objectives detailed on pg. 4 of the RFA.

Q: We would like to confirm whether only direct, on-the-ground services for students are eligible under this grant, or if training local school staff to deliver interventions would also meet eligibility requirements.

A: Any proposal is appropriate as long as it satisfies at least one of the objectives detailed on pg. 4 of the RFA.

Q: Can a school district utilize the grant for a targeted number of schools in the district based on a specific data point or does the focus have to be on all schools in the district?

A: The goal of the grant is to target Tier 1 universal interventions. It is permissible for a grant to target a subset of schools in the district. If your project will serve fewer students than the full student body size, please indicate how many students will be the focus of the intervention, in addition to the total number of students in the district. DOL reserves the right to consider the targeted number of students in relation to the size of the district during evaluation.

Q: How narrowly should the RFA be read? Must the application be directly related to "schools and vaping?"

My reading of the RFA in the context of the AG's presentation earlier this fall is that while schools & vaping are referenced as the premise of the settlement and potential grant(s),

the RFA is intended to reach more broadly to address what are believed to be root causes, e.g.:

Objective 1: Programs that promote healthy peer groups, positive social norms, and school/community connectedness and belonging for youth under age 21.

Objective 2: : Programs that promote the skills of parents, caregivers, and/or other trusted adults to support youth under age 21. and,

Objective 3: Programs that promote student resiliency, psychological safety, and/or positive school climate in youth under age 21.

(from the Grant Summary)

And that Community Partners are eligible so long as they have a MOU with the schools per the "Applicant Eligibility" Section:

2) Alternatively, a community partner (including, but not limited to, community-based organizations; foundations; non-profit entities; governmental entities including counties and cities, universities, local health or human services departments; other public entities; and faith-based organizations) is also eligible to apply as long as the application is in coordination with at least one eligible educational institution. The community partner and each eligible educational institution(s) must have and submit a draft Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) for the project and a final signed MOU will be required before funding will be dispersed.

Clarification from your office would be greatly appreciated. It would also seem that limiting the application to "schools and vaping" is inconsistent with fully distributing the \$20M settlement proceeds that are on the table.

A: The goal of the RFA is to supportive protective factors and address the root causes of vaping (ENDS use). In compliance with the terms of the JUUL consent decree, funding may be spent in support of preventing ENDS use, which includes building protective factors. Community partners that want to support these efforts can apply for funding as long as they have an MOU with an eligible educational institution or they can participate in an application submitted by an eligible educational institution.

Q: We would like to submit a project focused on early childhood programming and its connection to improving protective factors downstream. The project mentions youth voice.

Because our services focus on birth-5, we would not have youth voice, but instead parent voice. Will a lack of youth voice make our project less competitive and not likely a good fit?

A: Pg. 7 of the RFA includes the component related to youth voice and includes a description of how youth in the community will actively participate in the project. Points could still be received for describing how the children birth-5 and/or their parents are participating in the project. Because the project focuses on early childhood programming, please ensure that your application also involves an eligible Colorado PK-12 educational institution. Every application must involve at least one eligible educational institution as described on pg. 4 of the RFA.

Q: Are direct stipends/financial grants to High School Students participating in rigorous peer support projects allowable as a project expense? These stipends unlock opportunity for low income students who might otherwise need to work during program hours.

A: Yes, this would be a permissible use of funds as long as the expense is directly related to the advancement of the project's objectives. The organization should consult its internal policies, human resources and/or legal counsel to ensure compensation aligns with applicable laws.

Q: Is summer programming allowable - meaning programs that run over the summer months in lieu of school year?

A: Yes, summer programming is allowable as long as the project is still in coordination with an eligible educational institution.

Q: If we have first generation college students serving as in-school mentors for school district youth K-12 throughout multiple districts, could contract/subcontract expenses compensate that work? (As an LLC or young adult cooperative?)

A: The organization should consult its internal policies, human resources and/or legal counsel to ensure any compensation is in alignment with applicable laws, but paying in-school mentors would be an allowable expense if it is directly related to the advancement of the project's objectives.

Q: Could this work target health equity gaps by focusing on BIPOC youth or Immigrant/New American/Refugee youth?

A: Yes, projects may focus on addressing any specific health inequities or disparities that are identified in your project narrative.

Q: Could this collaboration request funds for capital needs to offer such opportunities to students?

A: Per Component 3: Budget and Work Plan, capital expenses are not an eligible expense in this funding opportunity.

Q: For a piece of equipment, we're planning to build out a shipping container into a food market at Title One schools. Where would you recommend categorizing this expenditure?

A: If the expense is the purchase of a piece of equipment that exceeds \$10,000 and has a useful life of more than one year, that expense would be listed under equipment. If the item is less than \$10,000 it would go under materials/supplies and operating. However, if the expense is the work being done to "build out a shipping container" it may fall under contracts if that work is being completed by one or more subcontractors.

Q: I am supporting an application for two small rural school districts, on a 4-day school week. They plan to partner with their Towns to create a 5th day program to support students in addition to enhancing their after school and summer programs.

The programming is intended to provide both an SEL component (engaging field trips with trusted adults) and an academic piece (tutoring, etc.). Are the academic pieces of the program an allowable use of grant funds?

A: Any proposal is appropriate as long as it satisfies at least one of the objectives detailed on pg. 4 of the RFA. You may use the narrative section of the application to explain how the proposal satisfies the objective(s).

Q: Would a school-based universal performing arts program be an allowable use of the grant funds?

The program would be embedded in the school day, but facilitated by a community-based nonprofit arts organization.

We would be tracking SEL data for students participating (K-5 students schoolwide), including the universal screening tool, BIMAS-2.

We consider this a Tier 1 universal intervention that provides students with protective factors. Do you believe this would be a competitive application?

A: Any proposal is appropriate as long as it satisfies at least one of the objectives detailed on pg. 4 of the RFA. You may use the narrative section of the application to explain how the proposal satisfies the objective(s).

Q: Can grant funds be used to split a salary for staff at the school that will be either retained or hired to run goals and programs of the grant, i.e. a counselor, behavioral health tech or school nurse?

A: Personnel expenses that are related to carrying out the objectives are allowable.

Q: Is food an allowable budget item?

A: Yes, food is an allowable expense as long as you demonstrate it is directly related to the advancement of the project's objectives.

Q: As an OST program that works with multiple Title I schools, does our proposal need to focus on a project or program with one of those partner schools? Or could our proposal focus on our ongoing programming that supports students from all schools.

A: All applications must include at least one eligible educational institution as described on pg. 4 of the RFA. A proposal may focus on ongoing programming across multiple schools, but you will need to verify that you are not supplanting any existing funding for your project. You can apply for funding for an expansion of the project, due to loss of funding from another source, or for another reason as long as you are not supplanting funding.

Q: Does the application need to explicitly address vaping or just increasing protective factors that can lead to cessation or prevent usage to begin with?

A: The DOL will use Custodial Funds authorized by C.R.S. § 24-31-108 et al. to support this grant in accordance with the acceptable uses stated in the settlement with JUUL Labs, Inc. (JUUL), and so the overall intent of the funding is to increase protective factors that

ultimately reduce vaping. Per pg. 7 of the RFA, grantees are asked to describe how the grant project aims to increase protective factor(s) related to youth wellbeing and mental health and how this ultimately aims to decrease youth vaping.

Q: Is there a minimum number of students directly served (not in the district but directly served) that you will consider for this grant if we are a smaller organization/coalition in deep partnership with a school district? And are direct stipends to High School Students participating in rigorous peer projects allowable in project expense (to unlock opportunity for low income students who might otherwise need to work during program hours)?

A: There is no minimum number of students served through a project. Stipends would be a permissible use of funds as long as the expense is directly related to the advancement of the project's objectives. The organization should consult its internal policies, human resources and/or legal counsel to ensure compensation aligns with applicable laws.

Q: Can community partners subcontract with private companies to implement any of the strategies an/or programs and facilitate the data component?

A: Yes.

Q: As far as hiring staff for helping achieve goals of this grant can you specify? Would hiring or splitting the salary for a counselor for our school to assist with student mental health and wellbeing count as staff that qualifies?

A: This grant opportunity is targeting Multi-Tiered Systems of Support (MTSS) Tier 1 (universal) interventions and foundational supports. Tier 2 and Tier 3 strategies, including individual and group counseling services, are less likely to be prioritized. The application should explain how the proposal meets one of the stated objectives on pg. 2 of the RFA. Personnel expenses that are related to carrying out the objectives are allowable.

Budget Questions

Q: Can you provide more guidance on how to differentiate subcontractors/consultants vs. Subrecipients/subgrantees? In the budget doc would subgrantee budgets only need to be

reflected in the Attachment 2 -subgrantee budget proposal or do they also need to be included in the contractual section?

A: We are following [federal guidance](#) to distinguish between contractors vs. subgrantees. Contracts typically go through a procurement process where you would have a contract and rate established for goods or services, for example, providing language services or website design. Contracts would be included in the main budget and a separate budget would not need to be included. A subgrantee is an entity that is partnering with you in the interest of furthering the goals of the project. The subgrants will need to be listed in the primary budget and then detailed more specifically in the subgrantee budgets, and as many as necessary can be submitted.

Q: If we are applying as a community partner site, is there an expectation about how much funding we can hold on to for implementation vs. how much is passed through to the school sites?

A: We don't have any requirements or restrictions on what amount is allowed for funding for the lead applicant or subgrantees. The amounts would be determined by your specific needs.

Q: Does a non-educational nonprofit automatically have a subgrantee in needing to work with an educational institution? Or if we are receiving funds directly to our non-profit, we can skip the subgrantee pieces?

A: You will need an MOU with an eligible educational institution if you are the lead applicant to demonstrate coordination with the eligible educational institution. However, if there are no funds being passed to the educational institution, you would not need a subgrantee budget.

Q: Is there a minimum funding request amount?

A: No, there is not a minimum funding request amount.

Q: I have a question about the organizational budget that would be submitted for community partners -- is that a past operating budget or a projected 2025 budget?

A: You will need to include your most recent annual budget.

Q: If a school district as the primary applicant utilizes an entity (e.g. a university) to do some of the work on the grant and we typically set them up as a contractor in our system (we don't typically consider that a "subgrantee" pass thru as we just pay them from invoicing, not just pass thru funds), where do we put them in the budget -- up in the personnel section? In that case do we have to do the subgrantee budget part if we are just paying them for some services?

A: If you're paying them for services, that would be a contract as opposed to a partner who is implementing some of the project. If an applicant is awarded and it is determined they have a subgrantee instead of a contractor and is missing a subgrantee budget, during contracting we would work to get that budget set up correctly. Refer to [federal guidance](#) for definitions of Contractor and Subgrantee.

Q: If an organization has a fiscal sponsor, are they eligible to be the "lead applicant" -- and, if so, whose certificate of standing and operating budget would be submitted -- the fiscal sponsor or the fiscal sponsored entity?

A: The lead applicant is the entity that will need the certificate of good standing and operating budget, so if the fiscal sponsor is the lead applicant, they will need to submit those documents. A certificate of good standing is needed to be a vendor or grantee of the state, but if there is a complication in obtaining that letter before submitting the application, the actual certificate would not be needed until an award is made.

Q: Will awards be for the full amount requested or will you be picking and choosing elements of the request to fund?

A: The review committee will determine the specific amount of a project to be funded. The full amount of a project could be funded, or funding could be limited to portions of a proposed project.

Eligibility Questions

Q: Can individual charter schools apply directly for this opportunity?

A: An individual charter may only apply with a group of other charters. They can apply as the Charter School Institute (CSI) as a whole, a subset number of schools within CSI, or a random group of charter schools that apply together. They could also partner with their

respective school district.

Q: What types of entities are eligible to apply for the grant?

A: School districts, BOCES, or community partners are all eligible to apply for the grant. For full information about who is eligible to apply and what is required of each applicant type, please see pg. 4 of the RFA.

Q: Given that these grant applications can involve multiple partners, is there guidance on how many applications a partner can be involved in?

For instance, if a school district wanted to partner with a local community college to pursue one need, could they also submit an application for a different partnership with a local mental health provider for a different need?

Similarly, if one school district wanted to join with a community partner, does that preclude a different school district joining with that community partner in a separate application?

How many applications can any one organization submit for and how many can they be awarded?

A: It is permissible for a community partner or school district to be a lead applicant for multiple proposals. There is not a limit on the amount of project proposals an organization can be a part of or for how many they can be awarded for. However, with the goal of ensuring that funding is available to as many diverse communities around the state as possible, the Evaluation Committee and Custodial Fund Committee will consider whether the community partner or school district is participating in multiple projects and may choose to prioritize one of the projects over another. If a school district wants to partner with one community partner to pursue one need and a different community partner to pursue a different need, it would also be appropriate to submit one application that includes both partners/interventions.

Q: Could you clarify if an out-of-state organization qualifies to apply in partnership with our eligible counterparts in Colorado, provided that we directly contribute to the objectives of this RFP through such collaboration?

A: Community partners (including national organizations that have counterparts in Colorado) are eligible to apply as long as they have an MOU with an eligible educational institution. To clarify, the beneficiaries of the grant funds must reside in Colorado.

Q: Are private schools ineligible?

A: Private schools are not ineligible, but you would need to apply as a network (formal or informal), meaning that you can apply as a group of private schools. You could also partner with a local school district or a group of charter schools as well.

Q: I am reaching out because my charter school planned to apply for this grant as an individual charter school in collaboration with various community partners that would provide after-school activities for students and families. Would my charter school be eligible for this grant in collaboration with other community partners?

A: This funding opportunity is not available to individual charter schools. However, an individual charter school may join a collaboration with an eligible educational institution (as described on pg. 4 of the RFA). An individual charter school could even serve as the lead applicant as long as the charter school submits an MOU with an eligible educational institution with the application. Every collaboration must include at least one eligible educational institution.

Q: The RFA states that if you received JUUL funding for a "project" that you wouldn't be prioritized. I'm trying to assess the difference between a Project and an Applicant.

An afterschool program was awarded JUUL funds for vaping prevention curriculum delivery in an out of school time setting. For this grant, the district would be applying for during the school day prevention activities focused on increasing protective factors, rather than vaping prevention curriculum.

Would this de-prioritize our application?

A: School districts, other eligible educational institutions, and community partners that have received awards through prior rounds of JUUL funding are welcome to submit an application for this round. The decision to issue an award to the group is up to the discretion of the evaluation committee.

Q: Would there be any opportunity for an individual conversation with someone about a specific programs eligibility?

A: No, the Department of Law is not permitted to have individual conversations about a specific program's eligibility. Please submit any questions through the procurement@coag.gov inbox. Any proposal is appropriate as long as it satisfies at least one of the objectives detailed on pg. 4 of the RFA. You may use the narrative section of the application to explain how the proposal satisfies the objective(s).

Q: If one school within a group of charter schools has received previously awarded JUUL funds, but the others have not received funds, would the project be removed from the prioritized list?

A: Any eligible educational institution or community partner that received awards through prior rounds of JUUL funding are welcome to submit an application for this round. The decision to issue an award to the group is up to the discretion of the evaluation committee.

Q: Could you please clarify for me if a charter school network (two schools in the same network) serving approximately 250 students would be eligible to apply for the grant under Tier 1? What about a network that serves approximately 1,100 students? Are these population sizes too small? Or might they not qualify as collaborative since they're schools in the same charter network.

A: Any network of charter schools is eligible to apply for the grant. There is no cut-off for a minimum student population.

Q: Is there a minimum number of students directly served (not in the district but directly served) that you will consider for this grant?

A: No, there is no minimum student population.

Q: I have two questions about the Youth Mental Health & Wellbeing Challenge Grant RFA: 1) is the application stronger with a school district as primary grantee and a non-profit partner as sub-grantee/partner, and 2) can a non-profit submit separate applications for multiple partnerships with a school district, either as primary or sub-grantee?

A: 1) All types of collaboration are weighted equally based on how the project satisfies the points delineated in Section D on pg. 7 of the RFA.

2) It is permissible for a community partner or school district to be a lead applicant for multiple proposals. There is not a limit on the amount of project proposals an organization can be a part of or for how many they can be awarded for. However, with the goal of ensuring that funding is available to as many diverse communities around the state as possible, the Evaluation Committee and Custodial Fund Committee will consider whether the community partner or school district is participating in multiple projects and may choose to prioritize one of the projects over another. If, for example, a school district wants to partner with one community partner to pursue one need and a different community partner to pursue a different need, it would also be appropriate to submit one application that includes both partners/interventions.

Q: We are considering taking a lead role in coordinating these regional applications. Would it be feasible for our organization to serve as the fiscal agent and primary applicant for all three regions? Our goal is to streamline the process and minimize the administrative burden on the individual districts, and we wanted to try and clarify this, up front.

A: It is permissible for a community partner or school district to be a lead applicant for multiple proposals. There is not a limit on the amount of project proposals an organization can be a part of or for how many they can be awarded for. However, with the goal of ensuring that funding is available to as many diverse communities around the state as possible, the Evaluation Committee and Custodial Fund Committee will consider whether the community partner or school district is participating in multiple projects and may choose to prioritize one of the projects over another. If a school district wants to partner with one community partner to pursue one need and a different community partner to pursue a different need, it would also be appropriate to submit one application that includes both partners/interventions.

Q: Can community partners hold the funds or do the funds have to be held by a K-12 school district?

A: Community partners can be the lead applicant on a project and receive grant funds, as long as they have an Memorandum of Understanding with an eligible educational institution, including a K-12 school district.

Q: The RFA and presentation state an organization applying as community partner must have an MOU with an “eligible educational institution”. Are the eligible educational institutions those described in section 1 of the eligibility section (e.g. school district, BOCES, tribal organization) or does an “educational institution” also include individual schools?

A: Eligible educational institutions are described on the top of pg. 4 of the RFA. The MOU must be with one of these eligible educational institutions. Individual schools are not an eligible educational institution.

Q: For the second (or third) type of eligibility, can the eligible educational institutions be higher education institutions, such as a community college system? Some community college systems serve many dual enrollment high school students and 18-21 year old college students.

A: Eligible educational institutions must serve PK-12 students, but you can partner with an institute of higher education as a type of community partner.

Q: Must a school be a part of all applications in any scenario?

A: An eligible educational institution (as described on pg. 4 of the RFA) must be part of any application, either as the applicant or within an MOU with a community partner applicant.

Q: Are established projects eligible or is this just for new projects?

A: Established projects are allowed to apply, but you will need to verify that you are not supplanting any existing funding for your project. You can apply for funding for an expansion of the project, due to loss of funding from another source, or for another reason as long as you are not supplanting funding.

Q: We are interested in applying for a project for early childhood - we would not have youth voice to include. Does that make our project ineligible?

A: Any proposal is appropriate as long as it satisfies at least one of the objectives detailed on pg. 4 of the RFA. Pg. 7 of the RFA includes the component related to youth voice and includes a description of how youth in the community will actively participate in the project. Points could still be received for describing how the children birth-5 and/or their parents are participating in the project. Because the project focuses on early childhood programming, please ensure that your application also involves an eligible Colorado PK-12

educational institution. Every application must involve at least one eligible educational institution as described on pg. 4 of the RFA.

Q: Since MTSS Tier 1 (universal) is the stated target, is there an expectation that every student in a district would be served by the proposed project, or could specific populations be targeted with services that increase protective factors?

A: The general aim of the funding is to serve universal populations with an intervention. However, you could have, for example, an intervention for high school students and a different one for your middle school students. One application can include multiple interventions that could differ across student populations. However, we will be prioritizing Tier 1 interventions as opposed to Tier 2 or Tier 3 interventions.

Q: Must a school that's part of a collaborative with community partner, be itself a grantee? or can the school via an MOU be a collaborating partner where the community partner (and lead applicant) delivers the programming (but the school is not itself an applicant)?

A: If a school is a member of a collaborative, it is not required to serve as the lead applicant/grantee for that collaborative. It is also not required to directly receive funding as long as the lead applicant community partner within the collaborative has an MOU with the school that demonstrates coordination with the school. All applications must include an eligible educational institution as described on pg. 4 of the RFA.

Q: Can an out-of-state nonprofit organization qualify as a community partner under the grant's criteria?

A: The ultimate beneficiary of the funds needs to reside in Colorado. An out-of-state nonprofit organization could serve as a community partner in a project with an eligible in-state educational institution if they demonstrate they have a presence/ability to serve Coloradans.

Q: For a community partner, would a partnership with one charter school work if that charter school was partnered with a district?

A: A partnership with one charter school is appropriate as long as the project also involves an eligible educational institution as described on pg. 4 of the RFA, such as a school

district. Either the community partner or the eligible educational institution would need to be the applicant.

Q: Would for-profit LLCs be considered community partners, provided they are collaborating with an eligible educational institution?

A: Yes.

Q: What are the best platforms or community marketplaces in Colorado to connect with schools or community organizations for a youth mental health collaboration through this grant? Would it be appropriate to share our organization's information here?

A: It is up to individual organizations to find appropriate partnerships in community marketplaces.

Q: Our organization has been approached to be part of two different collaboratives for the YMH Challenge grant, and we currently work closely with both entities.

Questions:

A.) Do we need to select only one application on which to be listed as a sub-grantee, or can we apply with both applications?

B.) If we are able to apply on both applications, and both projects are selected for funding, could we simply be written out of one project?

C.) If we are not able to apply for the same scope of work on two different collaborative applications, could we apply for a distinct scope of work on each of the 2 applications?

A: It is permissible for a community partner or school district to be a lead applicant for multiple proposals with the same scope of work. There is not a limit on the amount of project proposals an organization can be a part of or for how many they can be awarded for, if they have capacity to carry out multiple projects. However, with the goal of ensuring that funding is available to as many diverse communities around the state as possible, the Evaluation Committee and Custodial Fund Committee will consider whether the community partner or school district is participating in multiple projects and may choose to prioritize one of the projects over another.

Evaluation Questions

Q: I was wondering if there is a specific rubric or set of criteria you will be using to assess the grant applications for this opportunity.

If available, could you please share the rubric or any details about the evaluation process?

A: The evaluation criteria in the rubric have been pulled directly from the RFA. We will be posting the evaluation criteria on our Funding Opportunities page. We have uploaded the weighted scoring explanation for consideration. The evaluation rubric will be used to confirm applicant eligibility and create qualified pools of top-scored applicants. At that point, the evaluation committee will meet to hold frank and detailed discussions among themselves and recommend applicants for award. The recommended applications and projects will then be submitted for a youth panel review of the project. The Evaluation Committee and youth panel's recommendation for an award of each qualifying proposal will be submitted to the DOL's Custodial Fund Committee for final review and approval. Given the volume of applications the DOL anticipates receiving, DCE does not intend to share individual scores and evaluations with applicants post-award.

Q: Will all applications with <7500 students be treated equally? Will an application with two small rural school districts (totaling 750 students) be as competitive as an application with 7000+ students?

A: Yes, they will be treated equally.

Q: Does the length of time a community partner has existed matter in the application review?

A: No, it does not affect the application review as long as the community partner has organizational capacity for the project (see RFA pg. 7).

Q: Will the scoring rubric prioritize applications in any specific age range or will all programming for youth under age 21 be treated equally?

A: This funding opportunity focuses on PK-12 students, and will treat all applications in that age range equally. It is also possible for additional community partners to be involved who may prioritize younger children. Every project must include at least one eligible PK-12 educational institution. The JUUL consent decree requires funding to be spent on Colorado youth under age 21.

Q: As this RFA is prioritizing Tier 1 MTSS, would those applications from collaborating/community partner orgs that fall into Tier 2 and Tier 3, though eligible to submit, be in essence academic exercises and have very low probability of being awarded?

A: This funding opportunity is prioritizing Tier 1 MTSS and foundational interventions. Applicants may include Tier 2 and Tier 3 components in their applications, but the decision to issue an award is up to the discretion of the evaluation committee.

Q: Are you weighting collaboration between **multiple school districts** the same as collaboration with **one school district** and multiple community-based partners?

A: All types of collaboration are weighted equally based on how the project satisfies the points delineated in Section D on pg. 7 of the RFA.

Q: A few districts have shared that they have been asked to and are interested in participating in two different proposals. Is this 1) allowable and 2) would this hurt a proposal's chances of being awarded?

A: It is permissible for districts to participate in multiple proposals. However, with the goal of ensuring that funding is available to as many diverse communities around the state as possible, the Evaluation Committee and Custodial Fund Committee will consider whether a local education provider is participating in multiple projects and may choose to prioritize one of the projects over another.

Q: Can an institution or nonprofit organization be the lead applicant on two proposals and would it hurt a proposal's chances of being awarded?

A: It is permissible for a community partner to be a lead applicant for multiple proposals. However, with the goal of ensuring that funding is available to as many diverse communities around the state as possible, the Evaluation Committee and Custodial Fund Committee will consider whether the community partner is participating in multiple projects and may choose to prioritize one of the projects over another.

Intent to Apply Questions

Q: My understanding is that the Intent to Apply is nonbinding, and we can still submit an application or change the details of our application prior to the submission deadline on 1/15.

A: The Intent to Apply is non-binding. Entities that do not submit an Intent to Apply Survey are still eligible to submit an application. After submitting the Intent to Apply survey, entities can still change funding objectives, the application lead, and any other details.

Q: Does only the lead community partner need to submit the intent to apply?

A: Yes, only the lead community partner needs to submit the intent to apply.

Q: If a community partner that plans to have a commitment/partnership with a specific district or school(s) but does not have the names quite yet for this opportunity. Can you recommend what we should put for our partner org in the LOI?

A: You may indicate that you are undetermined in your partnerships as of now.

Q: I see that there was an LOI due on 11/15 which we missed. Will this disqualify us from applying for this grant? Or can we still apply?

A: Entities that do not submit an Intent to Apply Survey are still eligible to submit an application.

Miscellaneous Questions

Q: When will the slides be available for the presentation? I would like to use them asap in order to file intent to apply.

A: The slides and webinar recording have been posted to our [Funding Opportunities page](#).

Q: How many award recipients do you anticipate having?

A: We don't have an anticipated number of award recipients.

Q: The RFA says the DOL will retain legal rights to the work product. Does that mean that the DOL will own any curriculum that we use in our programs?

A: The State's model Grant Agreement will be the basis of any award issued from this RFA. The Grant Agreement defines rights in word product for both Grantees and the State. Applicants offered an award will be given the opportunity to review the Grant Agreement in its entirety before an award is finalized.

Q: Can you please talk about the Youth Voice & Equity component and how you envision youth being involved the grant application?

A: The component related to Youth Voice & Equity can be found on pg. 7 of the RFA. Points will be awarded to the project based on responses to these points. At the Department of Law, we will also have youth reviewing parts of the applications to provide youth input into the evaluation process.

Q: Will any priority points be awarded to rural communities?

A: If a criterion is not listed as something that would be prioritized in the RFA, it will not be receiving specific priority points in the evaluation process. However, the project narrative includes the opportunity to outline how the project would impact your specific community and how your community may have been particularly impacted by the issue of youth vaping and/or youth mental health. With the goal of ensuring that funding is available to as many diverse communities around the state as possible, the Evaluation Committee and Custodial Fund Committee may consider geographic region when selecting final Applicants for award.

Q: If the lead community partner is a government agency, what should they do about a certificate of good standing?

A: Certificates of good standing are not required of government agencies.

Q: To figure out which tier we're in, if we're partnering with a few dozen schools from different districts, do we just total the number of students across those schools?

A: Yes, the tier should be determined by the sum of the number of students enrolled across the schools.

Q: Will the Q&A continue to be updated online?

A: The DOL will post questions received both via email and during the webinar with state-responses on the [Funding Opportunities page](#) and on Colorado Vendor Self-Service. If the volume of responses continues as it does now after the initial round of questions is posted, we will likely post another round of questions and answers. You can have your questions answered at any time by emailing procurement@coag.gov.

Q: Follow-on question: should our metrics be related specifically to vaping or could they be related to the protective factors?

A: Performance measures may be related to vaping or protective factors. The only requirement is that the data be related to the project's objective. See pgs. 8-9 for examples of data related to each objective. However, these examples are meant to be illustrative and other performance measures would be permissible.

Reimbursement Questions

Q: Will these grants be reimbursement-based or paid upfront?

A: Grants from the Department of Law operate on a reimbursement basis. If awarded, a grantee can request advance payment but must provide justification of a true business need and receive approval from the Office of the State Controller. A request for advance payment is not guaranteed to receive approval.

Q: Our organization is currently supporting three regional collaboratives of school districts that intend to apply for the grant. We are submitting the Letter of Intent (LOI) for the Northeast Region, as the plans for that region are the most advanced. Additionally, we are in the beginning stages of convening the districts and having conversations to develop proposals for two other regions: the Western Slope and the Northwestern part of the state. While these proposals/conversations are still in the early stages of development, we wanted to provide you with this information in advance of the LOIs being due tomorrow. We anticipate that these will both fall into the middle categories of the grant, as well.

We have a few questions about the grant and reimbursement process:

- What is the expected cadence for submitting invoices and receiving payments?

- **A:** Reimbursement and invoicing typically operate on a quarterly basis for Department of Law grants. If requested, a grantee may be able to switch to monthly reimbursement.
- Could you please provide more details about the timeframe for reimbursement of funds?
- **A:** See above answer.