

Youth Mental Health and Wellbeing RFA

LAAA #2025-01

Questions and Answers #2 – Posted January 6, 2025

Q: I am working on the budget for this application and have a couple questions:

We are working with our school districts to implement the majority of this funding in our communities, and therefore most of this will be subcontracting with the school districts. The formula in the budget spreadsheet seems to include contractual services in the indirect fee allocation. I was under the impression on almost all other contracts that money going out for contractual services is not subject to charging indirect fees. Is this allowable for us to charge indirect fees on the total amount including subcontracting services, or is this an error in the formula?

A: Only the first \$50,000 of any individual subgrant can be included in the calculation for direct expenses. You will need to override the formula for the Indirect Calculation in order to apply the indirect rate to the applicable direct costs. You can show the calculation in the description and hard code the amount in for the amount of indirect being requested.

Q: I am creating an MOU with our school districts and wondering how dispensing the funds will work? Will we require invoices from them and reimburse them on actual expenses or can we disseminate their portion of the funds directly to them and require them to provide reports on their expenses?

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. The lead applicant is responsible for coordinating an invoice schedule/process with subgrantees.

Q: We are a nonprofit organization that serves about 300 students annually ages 3-18. We have a relationship with a school district as a community partner (though our programming doesn't take place at a school) and also a MOU with a nonprofit educational organization.

Would either of those entities work as the required "educational institution" we need to partner with in order to be eligible for this RFA?

A: The following Colorado PK-12 educational institutions are eligible to apply for this opportunity individually or in collaboration:

- A School District or group of School Districts;
- A Board of Cooperative Educational Services (BOCES);
- A network of Charter Schools (formal or informal); and/or
- An Indian tribe or tribal organization (as such terms are defined in section 4 of the Indian Self-Determination and Education Act (25 U.S.C. 450b)).

Q: Any school district can only be funded for one project, correct? So a school district can not apply and then a community based org also apply as a lead applicant to work in that same district? Assuming they have an MOU and are otherwise a good fit.

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: How much interest have you received so far? The notice of intent to apply was due on November 15th.

A: When the Intent to Apply survey closed, we had received 131 unique submissions.

Q: The grant is focused on Tier 1 or universal supports and Tier 2 and 3 interventions will not be prioritized. Assuming there would be students and families that would need support beyond Tier 1 what would the percentage of funding to be spent on Tier 2 or 3 supports would be allowable?

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. There is no set limit on the amount of funding that could go to towards Tier 2 and 3 components.

Q: Do you have a copy of the rubric that will be used by the evaluating committee?

A: The evaluation criteria from the rubric have been posted on our [Funding Opportunities](#) page and on the Vendor Self-Service website.

Q: I am reaching out with questions pertaining to the "Target region Indicate the geographic region and school(s)/district(s) that your project will serve" question as well as the determination of which funding tier our project falls into.

Our project will engage 12-20 partner schools annually over the course of the grant in our year-long school-wide Professional Development partnership.

We are actively recruiting school partners and we intend to apply with 16-20 specific schools that will comprise the 2025-2026 cohort. That said, we hope to leave the 2026-27 and 27-28 cohorts open for other schools to join on board after they see the successes of our first year so won't know which schools comprise the cohorts in years 2 and 3.

1. Is this ok to apply with 16-20 specific schools, but leave the 2nd and 3rd years open for new potential partners?
2. If so, how will we determine our funding tier? Say our first cohort of schools serves a population of 5000 students, but we will work with another cohort in the 2nd year and another cohort in the 3rd year totalling closer to 15000 over the 3 years -- will we be restricted to Tier 1 based only on confirmed schools? Or can we project forward?

A: Your funding tier will be determined based on the number of students being served at the time of the application.

Please note that every application must involve at least one eligible educational institution as described on pg. 4 of the RFA:

- A School District or group of School Districts;
- A Board of Cooperative Educational Services (BOCES);
- A network of Charter Schools (formal or informal); and/or
- An Indian tribe or tribal organization (as such terms are defined in section 4 of the Indian Self-Determination and Education Act (25 U.S.C. 450b)).

Q: Is it ok if we only have our year 1 district partners lined up, but still design the project to make room for new partners in years 2 and 3?

Since the eligible educational institutions are "school districts," do we count the number of students in our partner district or the number of students in the specific school where we're working?

A: It is permissible to have additional partners in the second and third years of the grant. Select the tier on the Application Form based on the number of students that will be targeted by the intervention. 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. Use the Project Narrative to provide any additional context for the tier selected that they think will be helpful for the review committee.

Q: I am with a nonprofit that partners closely with a school district. I wanted to clarify the application parameters of the grant. If the school district applies for the grant for a project, as a nonprofit, are we able to partner with the same school district for a different project? Also, are we able to partner with a second school district for the grant? I hope this finds you well, and I appreciate the support!

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 community partner wants to partner with a school district to pursue two different needs, it would also be appropriate to submit one application that includes both interventions.

Q: My organization is building a coalition of 36–60 schools (12–20 per grant year) across Colorado to integrate nature into daily instruction as a Tier 1 mental health support delivered by teachers. We have many schools that are excited to participate.

As expected, some districts we're engaging with are also pursuing the Youth Mental Health Challenge grant for their own district-wide projects. They're concerned that having any of their schools participate in our application might jeopardize their district's larger application.

Can you clarify: Is it possible for a district to have a few schools join our initiative while still applying for their own grant? Would this involvement conflict with or jeopardize their district-wide application?

A: A coalition of individual schools would not be considered an eligible educational institution. Every application must involve at least one eligible educational institution as described on pg. 4 of the RFA.

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: My thought was that our organization would be the lead applicant with a bunch of district partners (which are eligible educational institutions as described on p4). It's just that we would be pulling together a couple of schools each from 4-10 districts per year -- so we'd have MOUs with all of the districts outlining which schools would participate and the role the district and school would play in the project.

Is that possible -- to have our organization be the lead with a bunch of district partners -- where we'd only work with a couple of schools in each of those districts?

I just am making sure that our application -- where we might work with a handful of schools in a bigger district as part of our larger program -- won't jeopardize their ability to go after funding for other schools.

A: That partnership structure would be eligible. 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.

Districts and community partners are allowed to submit multiple proposals, but the evaluation committee may choose to prioritize certain projects over others in the interest of distributing funding to as many diverse communities throughout the state as possible.

Q: Can this grant money be used for safety upgrades in our school to help with students feeling safer and reducing anxiety about being at school if this is an issue for our district?

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: Does our school have to be MTSS to qualify for this grant or if we become an MTSS school are we bound to that for the duration of the grant?

A: An individual school would not be eligible to apply for the grant. Every application must involve at least one eligible educational institution as described on pg. 4 of the RFA.

This grant opportunity is targeting Multi-Tiered Systems of Support (MTSS) Tier 1 (universal) interventions and foundational supports. However, it is not required that your school has already implemented or will implement MTSS as a part of the grant.

Q: What if we don't spend the full amount requested at the end of each fiscal year? Is there a penalty?

A: Typically grantees are allowed to carryover up to 20% of underspent funds into the subsequent year of the grant term, and a proposal would have to be submitted and approved to be able to carryover more than 20% of unspent funds.

Q: There are multiple school districts (unfortunately not covered by the same BOCES) that we would like to partner with. Should we submit a single application with us as the lead, with multiple MOUs, or is there another way you'd like us to apply?

A: We aren't allowed to comment on preference one way or another, but you may submit one application with multiple partners. Please see the third answer below for more context.

Q: Specifically, we are interested in collaborating with two small districts and one large district. Would that allow us to apply for the "large" district funding amount of \$2.5 million for at least 23,000 students, assuming the total number of students served by all three districts added up to that number?

A: Yes, you would apply in the tier for "large" district funding if the student population for all your partner districts reaches that tier.

Q: Can we appear as partners with more than one school district/on more than one application?

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.

Q: I understand this grant is written as being for K-12 schools -- and also connected to reducing youth vaping by bolstering protective factors.

In the background, the RFA says, "Even before the trauma and isolation of the COVID-19 epidemic, **children** and youth were facing increasing rates of anxiety, depression, and other mental health issues, which research shows increases the likelihood of youth vaping.^{1,2}" and then "To aid in combating the youth ENDS (Electronic Nicotine Delivery Systems) crisis, programs are needed that support and build protective factors that reduce the chance of vaping and other nicotine/tobacco use." Then, throughout the grant summary, the RFA refers to "youth under 21."

Is there also a minimum age above which you hope interventions will focus?

Basically, since vaping is not yet a big problem among elementary students, **will grant requests building protective factors amongst younger elementary school students be viewed less favorably?** Is that too far upstream?

A: This funding opportunity focuses on PK-12 students, and will treat all applications in that age range equally. The JUUL consent decree requires funding to be spent on Colorado youth under age 21. Additionally, 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 for youth of any age.

Q: (translated) How are you, a grant related question, is this money Federal or State?

A: The DOL will use State 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) to fund this grant.

Q: In the budget section, for salary. Do we put in the (PERA/Medicare % that we are required to pay) as part of the Fringe?

A: You can include whatever components you usually include in an employee's fringe, as long as it is shown as part of the calculation in the budget.

Q: I have questions about the Attorney General's \$20 Million Youth Mental Health Initiative. I have been working on an application that could be extremely helpful for youth engagement and growth. I couldn't find a link to the grant application on the website. The deadline seems to be in January 2025.

I am looking for the application page for...

<https://coag.gov/2024/attorney-generals-20-million-initiative-aims-to-boost-school-community-partnerships-to-promote-youth-mental-health-and-wellness-statewide/>

A: Thank you for reaching out about the Youth Mental Health and Wellbeing Challenge Grant. You can find the RFA and all application materials on our website [here](#). If you'd like to be notified about future opportunities, please consider signing up for our newsletter [here](#).

Q: Looking forward to submitting my application. I am in the process of obtaining my 501(3)c status. The paperwork has been submitted and I wanted to check in to see if this will have an impact on my application if I am still waiting for IRS approval when I submit my application?

A: This would not have an impact on your application. We would only need to see the full paperwork confirming your 501(3)c status during the creation of the grant agreement if you are awarded grant funds.

Q: For the Youth Mental Health and Wellbeing Challenge Grant - are out-of-school time programs and activities eligible to be funded?

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: Our organization is working on an application for the Youth Mental Health & Wellbeing Challenge Grant. Our organization has a long and successful partnership with an eligible educational institution, and we believe that expanding this partnership is a promising opportunity to achieve the outcomes of the grant: specifically, addressing the intersectional social, emotional, mental health, and substance abuse challenges faced by youth.

Our partner has requested that any partnered programming begin in the 2025-2026 school year. Given this timeline I am wondering which application pathway would best fit the parameters of the RFP, as I cannot find information about program timeline.

Option 1: Apply 1.15.25 with an application that describes a 6-month design phase prior to program launch.

Option 2: Apply in a subsequent cycle, if a 2026 cycle will be open.

Any assistance would be appreciated.

A: We do not currently plan on having any further cycles for this particular grant. You are welcome to submit with a 6-month planning period before the programming begins. As stated in the RFA on page 10, "We encourage you to consider whether part of your work

plan and budget should include planning time and whether you wish to budget for less in year one as implementation begins. Projects will not be penalized for requiring additional planning activities as long as those activities are transparently described in the budget and/or work plan.”

Q: This is budget question. Are incentives an allowable expense in this RFA? We would like to incentivize trusted adults and teachers to attend professional development opportunities. In addition, incentivize youth for their time on our coalition to bring youth voice to the efforts.

A: Yes, that would be an allowable expense. 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). All requested expenses should also align with your organization’s fiscal policies and procedures.

Q: Our school district received JUUL settlement funding from the prior grant. We are applying as a community coalition with our county government as the lead partner submitting the application who has not received any JUUL settlement funding. If the school district is a subgrantee, would we not be prioritized because the school district has received JUUL settlement funding?

A: Please note that every application must include at least one eligible educational institution as described on pg. 4 of the RFA and the community partner must include in the application an MOU with the eligible educational institution. A project would not be eligible if an eligible educational institution was only a subgrantee of the project (without an MOU in place).

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

Q: “Contract/Subgrants - Use this section for any of the goods and services that are subcontracted or if a community partner will be carrying out project-related activities and incurring the expenses.”

I am the Grant Administration Manager for a school district, and we will be the lead applicant for a collaboration between three school districts. As lead applicant, we understand that we will receive awarded funding and may disburse this funding to the other two Districts as needed to complete the funded program.

Does your office have a preferred method of distribution? Do we need to establish the smaller Districts as subrecipients, or may we manage these grant funds as best suits our established accounting and monitoring procedures? We would like to ensure we are meeting your office's preferred method of distribution as we write the MOU, and if we are awarded the grant.

A: You may manage the grant funds as best suits your established accounting and monitoring procedures, as long as that is clearly described in the MOU.

Q: I am reaching out with a question regarding the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) requirements for the Youth Mental Health & Wellbeing Challenge Grant proposal.

Our organization is currently working within a school district and has an existing MOU with the district regarding our partnership to provide free mental health treatment to youth aged 19 and under. For the purposes of this specific grant proposal, would this existing MOU suffice, or would we need to create a separate MOU specifically for this grant?

Your guidance on this matter would be greatly appreciated.

A: You would need to create a separate MOU specifically for this grant to specify how the awarded funds would be disbursed. Please note that supplanting is not allowed with state dollars.

Q: Can you please share with me what the budget revision process will be once grants are awarded? For example, if we budget funding for staffing but are unable to hire once the grant is awarded, can we move funding into professional development?

If we need to make changes to the names and funding amounts for any of the subgrantees or contractors, will this be allowable once awarded?

We understand the grant is not level funded across the three years. With that in mind, will funding amounts in years 1,2,3 be set or will we have the ability to make revisions to the budget once the grant is active?

A: If awarded, you would be able to submit budget modifications after grant funds are awarded, such as moving funding into different spending categories or changing subgrantees or subcontractors, as long as a sufficient reason is described for each change. Changes would not be permitted without approval. The funding amounts for each year would be set at the beginning of the grant, but typically grantees are allowed to carryover up to 20% of underspent funds into the subsequent year of the grant term. A proposal would have to be submitted and approved to be able to carryover more than 20% of unspent funds.

Q: I see that we are required to provide the following documents if the lead applicant is not the eligible educational org. Our organization has a fiscal sponsor, so I have these questions:

- **Current Annual Operating budget of the applicant** (not applicable if lead applicant is an eligible educational institution) - Should this be our organization's annual operating budget from 2024 or our fiscal sponsor's? Any particular format required for this?
- **Non-profit tax-exempt status** (if applicable) Our organization doesn't have c3 tax exempt status -- we get this through our fiscal sponsor. Do we submit our fiscal sponsor's documentation?
- **Certificate of Good Standing from Colorado SOS** (if applicable) - We have this for our organization because we are a registered non-profit in CO. That said, should this be from our organization or our fiscal sponsor or both?

A: Please see the answers to your questions below:

- **Current Annual Operating budget** – Your organization will need to submit this.
- **Non-profit tax-exempt status** – You may submit your fiscal sponsor's tax-exempt status documentation.
- **Certificate of Good Standing** – You may submit both your and your fiscal sponsor's Certificate of Good Standing.

Q: To clarify we will have an MOU with the school district with or without them as a subgrantee and we understand that those who have already received funding will not be prioritized. As a community partner we have not received funding, but the school district has. If we include them as a subgrantee will our application NOT be prioritized? Would it be better to include different community partners?

A: 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 community partner or school district, even as a subgrantee, has received prior rounds of JUUL funding and may be less likely to prioritize that project.

Q: We have two additional questions we would appreciate guidance on.

First, based on the information shared about the funding and reimbursement cycle for this grant, would it be possible to switch from quarterly to monthly? And, would it be possible for us to make financial requests in advance, or would the AG's office need to see the expenses before a reimbursement can take place?

Second, our organization is helping to pull together grant applications for a variety of school districts that are collaborating and want to apply together, but expressed interest in having our organization serve as the convener and primary organizer for the grant application and resulting work. We want to ensure that the applications we are submitting list out the districts first, and our organization as secondary, even though we will be the fiscal agent. Do you have any recommendations on the best way to ensure that our applications highlight the efforts of these collaborative districts, versus our organization specifically?

A: Please see the answers to your questions below.

1. If awarded and a grantee would like to be reimbursed on a monthly basis instead of quarterly, the grantee can make this request with justification via email to the Department of Law Program Manager. Additionally, 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.
2. One entity will need to be designated as the lead applicant to apply on behalf of the coalition of partners in order to receive the grant award and disburse the awarded funds. In your MOU, you can describe the relationship between your organization and the eligible educational institutions you are partnering with for this work.

Q: I had a quick question about the Youth Mental Health & Wellbeing Challenge Grant application. I wanted to clarify whether or not it is permissible to include appendices like a logic model, timeline, or infographic with our application?

A: Per the Formatting Guidelines, Required Documents, and Submission Instructions outlined in the RFA, as long as the Project Narrative does not exceed 3,000 words or six single-spaced pages and all Required Documents are included in a submission, there is no restriction on including additional appendices with an application as part of the narrative if it fits within the parameters.

Q: Thanks so much for your response and guidance on this. Just to make sure I understand, are you saying that any appendices included would count as a part of our 3000 word/ 6-page limit in the project narrative?

A: Yes, that is correct.

Q: I was wondering if we had to submit our work plan in the template that is provided in Excel? I am having trouble fitting all of my information into the template and making it flow the right way. Are we able to submit our work plan in a Word Document or other form if we still address each question? Thank you.

A: We do require applicants to submit with the provided template documents. The evaluation committee will be able to view whatever information you provide in the template.

Q: I am the Grant Manager for a school district, and I am currently collaborating with our partner to develop a proposal for a new student wellness program.

I have a question regarding allowable expenses under the YMH-Challenge grant. Specifically, does the grant permit funding for staffing, such as the hiring and payment of a full-time wellness coordinator and a part-time paraprofessional? Or is the funding restricted to program implementation costs only?

Thank you for your time and guidance. I look forward to your clarification.

A: Any proposal is appropriate as long as it satisfies at least one of the objectives detailed on pg. 2 of the RFA. Personnel expenses that are related to carrying out the objectives are allowable. Please note that supplanting is not allowed with state dollars.

Q: I am writing about the Youth Mental Health & Wellbeing Challenge 2025. My team is developing an innovative mobile application designed to support youth mental health, and we are seeking a school partner interested in collaborating on this grant application.

Our app aims to provide meaningful support and resources for young people's mental well-being. Partnering with a forward-thinking educational institution could significantly

strengthen our grant proposal and create a meaningful impact on youth mental health support.

Could you help connect us with school administrators who might be interested in exploring this partnership? We are looking for a school passionate about innovative approaches to student mental health and wellbeing.

A simple introduction is all I need...We would appreciate any assistance in identifying potential school partners who want to collaborate on this exciting opportunity.

A: We are unable to support the connection of eligible educational institutions to community organizations. We encourage you to reach out to eligible educational institutions that you may be interested in working with.

Q: I have a question about our application. We are a community non profit applying in partnership with various schools across Colorado. Some of our schools are in districts who will also be applying, but their applications will be for different services/activities than ours. Are we able to apply with those schools as partners even though they are part of a district who is applying separately? How will that impact our application?

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.

For clarity, please note that every application must involve at least one eligible educational institution as described on pg. 4 of the RFA:

- A School District or group of School Districts;
- A Board of Cooperative Educational Services (BOCES);
- A network of Charter Schools (formal or informal); and/or
- An Indian tribe or tribal organization (as such terms are defined in section 4 of the Indian Self-Determination and Education Act (25 U.S.C. 450b))

Q: Can you please assist with these additional questions:

- How detailed would you like to see the activities in the work plan? Can we add additional lines for more activities?
- Our application includes many partnerships, including the addition of 5th day programming in two districts/communities along with a County-wide early multi-year childhood council professional development program in trauma informed practices. Must we select a single baseline data point to track for all of the activities in the grant or can we have one data point for the 5th day programming across both communities and a separate data point for the early childhood professional development?

A: Thank you for your interest in this funding opportunity. Please see the answers to your questions below.

- There should be a connection between the Work Plan and the Project Narrative, so the activities should be detailed enough to make that connection clear. You may add additional lines for more activities.
- One baseline data point is required for any Objective selected, but you can include more data points if applicable to your project.

Q: Within the list of eligible educational institutions, I have two more questions. 1) Would a standalone Pre-k program be eligible if they are not part of a school district? 2) Would an institution of Higher Education who has student teachers in multiple schools across the state be eligible?

A: Neither of those institutions would be considered an eligible educational institution under the parameters of this grant opportunity.

Q: I was going back through the RFA and needed clarification on this:

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.

I will have a MOU with a public school. My question is does this meet the **eligible educational institution** requirement? If so, this means that I submit this application under my nonprofit with a fully executed MOU signed by the principal at the public school, correct?

A: An individual school would not be considered an eligible educational institution under the parameters of this grant opportunity. You would need to have an MOU with the school district in order to be eligible to apply.

Q: First Question:

Attachment 1:

Project Details – I have less than 150 words, but it won't fit in the space. I tried printing it, and I can't read it.

My project title is also too long. What should I do?

Second Question:

Attachment 1:

Secondly, we are a charter school network. A school district has offered to be the fiscal agent for us.

Does their LEA Authorized Rep need to be the signature for the application, or can that be the CEO of the charter school network?

A: First Question: If you submit the application document as a fillable PDF and don't sign it, we will be able to view the full project details and project title even if you can't see all the information when it's been printed.

Second Question: The CEO of the charter school network may be the signature for the application, as the charter school network would be the lead applicant.

Q: This question relates to the Budget Section.

This question relates to indirect. I understand that we can take up to 15% or if we have a negotiated rate we take that rate. As a school district we have our CDE negotiated rate that we use typically. There are 2 rates -- one is restricted (lower rate) and one is unrestricted (higher rate). For the purpose of this grant do we have to use our "restricted" rate? Our unrestricted is slightly higher than the 15% so in that case we would just use the 15% -- is that allowable or again do we need to use our restricted negotiated rate?

A: We recognize federally negotiated indirect rates, but not necessarily rates negotiated with other state agencies. If you would like to use either the "restricted" or "unrestricted" negotiated rate you have with CDE, please provide that documentation along with your

application. If awarded, our office would work with you to ensure the requested rate aligns with our practices and would make any necessary adjustments during contracting. However, you can opt to use the 15% rate instead.

Q: I am trying to find exactly where to submit the grant at once I am finished with all of the steps. Can you point me in the right direction for submission? Thank you!

A: For consideration of award, an applicant for Youth Mental Health & Wellbeing Challenge Grant RFA #LAAA 2025*01 must submit a completed email application via zip file no later than 11:59 p.m. MST on January 15, 2025 to: MBT_R.dovkl8xjntdxm65p@u.box.com. Applicants should attach one (1) zip folder that contains all required application submission documents. The zip folder name should include the following title: "RFA LAAA 2025*01_Youth Mental Health & Wellbeing Challenge Grant_[*APPLICANT'S NAME]". Note: please keep your individual file names inside the zip folder short. If file names are too long, the Box.com system has trouble accepting them.

Q: I am inquiring about the number of applications we allowed to submit from our school district for the Youth Mental Health & Wellbeing Challenge Grant. We have more than one department that would like to apply for this grant. They each have different objectives. Can they each apply separately, or do we need to combine everything into one application and submit as a district?

A: It is permissible for a 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 pursue multiple different needs or has different partners for different needs, it would also be appropriate to submit one application that includes both partners/interventions.

Q: This question relates to the Budget:

If one of our contractor's charges us an admin fee as part of their work can we put that under the section in the budget for "materials/supplies/operating costs"?

A: If it is part of a subcontract, you can include that in the contract section of the budget. Otherwise, you may include it in Materials/Supplies and Operating Expenses. If awarded, budgets will be reviewed and possibly revised during contracting to ensure allowability of all costs.

Q: I attended the webinar and felt confident applying for this grant. I just wanted to double check on part of our budget. Does building construction fit into equipment in the budget?

A: As stated on page 10 of the RFA, capital construction is not an allowable expense for this grant opportunity.

Q: My team and I are working on the workplan for our application for the YMH grant and are confused by the objectives/goals. Can we schedule a virtual meeting with your team to discuss? Thank you!

A: The Department of Law is not permitted to have individual conversations about a specific program's eligibility or objectives. 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: Thank you for your prompt response. Our question is not specific to the program for which we are requesting funding, but is rather regarding general confusion about the use of the word "objective" in the work plan and RFA. Are the three objectives that are listed at the top of the work plan supposed to be included in our objectives underneath the goals? Or is it just that the same word is used? Another way to say it is, are we supposed to include the objectives that the DOJ team listed in our goals? Or are we to write our own objectives? Also, the objectives that the DOJ team listed seem more like goals than objectives. It seems like the goals should be the overarching achievable outcome and that the objectives should be SMART, but it is listed the other way around.

A: The three overarching objectives listed at the top of the work plan are meant to provide a framework or context for the broader goals of the program. They do not necessarily need to be repeated verbatim under your project specific objectives. Instead, you should use these as a guide to ensure alignment with the overarching priorities of the DOL. You are expected to develop your own objectives tailored to your program, ensuring they support the goals and align with the DOL's objectives.

Goals vs. Objectives:

You are correct that the terms "goals" and "objectives" are sometimes used interchangeably, which can cause confusion. In this context:

- **Goals** are the overarching, high-level outcomes you aim to achieve (broad, aspirational statements).
- **Objectives** should be **SMART** (Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Relevant, and Time-bound) and serve as actionable steps that lead to achieving your goals.

If it seems that the DOL-listed "objectives" feel more like goals, this could be an issue of wording. For your work plan, focus on developing objectives that are specific and measurable while keeping the DOL's overarching goals in mind.

Q: As I understand it, school districts do not need MOUs from partner organizations. Is that correct?

A: Please refer to page 4 of the RFA, Applicant Eligibility. This depends on the nature of any proposed partnerships in the application. If the School District is applying as the lead applicant, then no MOU with a community partner is necessary. If a partner organization is the applicant, they would need an MOU with an eligible educational institution in order to demonstrate coordination with the eligible educational institution.

Q: We were not planning to subgrant to any organizations, but we were planning to contract for services with several partner organizations. Is that ok?

A: Please refer to page 9 of the RFA document. The Budget Guidelines section provides information on how to incorporate proposed subcontracts into an application. We are following [federal guidance](#) to distinguish between contractors vs. subgrantees.

Q: In the RFA, it mentions a one-day youth mental health convening. Is the \$1,500 for just travel costs like mileage? Is there a registration fee? We weren't sure if that was the conference registration or just purely a total for travel to the conference. Would that then be mileage and parking?

A: The allowance of up to \$1,5000 for travel costs can be used for things such as mileage, accommodations, or other necessary expenses for traveling to the conference in Denver. The conference will not have a registration fee for grantees and parking will be free on-site.

Q: We know we need to build in budget for professional development activities for different parts of the project with different staff roles—school counselors, nurses, mental health staff, etc. We'd like to spend some time during the first six months of the grant meeting with different stakeholders and determining the specific needs of each staff role and then aligning the PD with those folks based on our project goals. Is it ok to leave some leeway in the grant budget for PD based on needs once we start meeting and planning with the team? We have some specific ideas now but want to leave room for any new and better opportunities as we launch the project.

A: Please refer to page 10 of the RFA, Budget Guidelines section.

Q: As we prepare our application, I wanted to confirm the allowable indirect cost (IDC) rate for this grant. Our entity has a federally negotiated IDC rate, which I understand will likely be either 31.4% or 26%. I've reviewed the FAQs and the RFA guidelines on your website, but I wanted to confirm if using our federally negotiated rate might pose a challenge or impact our competitiveness, given that it exceeds the 15% rate for those without a federally negotiated agreement?

A: Please refer to page 10 of the RFA, Budget Guidelines. The DOL will honor any documented Federally Negotiated Indirect Rate provided with an application.

Q: We were unable to find specific instructions for references/citations within the original RFA. Should we include references within an appendix? Would that count toward our word and page limit for the project narrative? Or is there another more preferred way that we should include references within the grant application?

A: References are welcome in a footnote format and may be further listed in an appendix that would not count against the Project Narrative word count. Please limit references to the author's name, publication date, title of article or source, and name of the publication. Do not include partial or complete source documentation, as that will be considered in the total word count.

Q: May we include other relevant information within appendices in table format? Such as tables containing information about the populations within the communities served, demographic information about schools and districts, previous research findings about program effectiveness, etc.? If these may be included, would these count toward our word/page limit?

A: Text, models, or graphics in furtherance of an application narrative will be considered in the total word count.

Q: These questions are in regard to Component 2: Project Narrative and citations.

We would prefer to list full citations, but are concerned they would take up too much of the required word count for the Project Narrative. Do citations count in the word count? Do you prefer citations within the narrative, or footnotes, or endnotes? May we have a seventh page with endnotes and not have those counted in the word count?

A: References are welcome in a footnote format and may be further listed in an appendix that would not count against the Project Narrative word count. Please limit references to the author's name, publication date, title of article or source, and name of the publication. Do not include partial or complete source documentation, as that will be considered in the total word count.

Q: Our district student count is approximately 289 below the 23,000-student count for the Grant amount. Is it possible to apply for the Large \$2.5 million Grant amount?

A: We do ask that you please submit with the tier for the student population that you have.