

State Evidence questions:

- 1) On page 1 of the RFGA, the deadline for the submission is listed as 2:30pm, but page 6 of the RFGA states that the deadline is 3pm. Please provide clarity about the deadline time for the submission.
A: The correct time is 2:30pm. It has been corrected.
- 2) On pages 4, 9 and 13, the RFGA requests a 10-month budget/contract. We understand that the Provisos have not been finalized yet by the government, so this question is based on the previous years' proviso for the State Evidence money (because it appears that no changes have been proposed to this proviso for the upcoming fiscal year). The proviso states "Monies will be paid over a twelve month basis for services rendered." If the proviso passes with the 12-month language, how will that affect the contract end date and budget?
A: Based on the timing of the RFGA, panelist meeting, and other procedures that follow, we have to follow the contractual dates of September-June for a 10 month period. Given the current state with COVID-19 and how that has and is affecting the school systems, there should not be any major repercussions from us adhering to this 10 month contract.
- 3) On page 4 of the RFGA, the 5th eligibility requirement requires documenting the previous five years' success with DHEC funds (if applicable). Where is the appropriate place for this information to be added to the application? It seems to be different than the 5th bullet point of Section 2 on page 11, which is not limited to DHEC awards and also different than the last bullet point of Section 2 page 11 which is only 3 years and compared to State data per area. Please provide guidance about where reviewers will expect to find this eligibility requirement.
A: This should be listed under Organizational History (#2). The language has been updated under #2 to be more consistent with the language.
- 4) On page 9, there is a requirement for grantees to attend required DHEC sponsored trainings. Can you provide more details about location, length of time, and frequency so that we may adequately budget for the travel expenses? Will there be any other expenses related to the trainings?
A: At this time, there is a finance training that is anticipated to occur in 2020 related to invoicing updates, requirements, and procedures. The format has not been confirmed (webinar or in-person). There will not be any over night stay requirement for any trainings.
- 5) On page 10 of the RFGA, it says that proposal packets must not exceed a total of 75 pages.
 - a. It mentions that the Table of Contents is page one. In last year's Question and Answer for this same RFGA, DHEC agreed to exclude the Table of Contents from the page count. Would DHEC consider that again this year?
A: Yes.
 - b. This page amount is the same requirement as previous years, yet the amount of information required in this RGA has significantly increased, especially in regards to providing the previous 3 years of programmatic data and information about all funding sources for the past 5 years. For an organization with many grants every year and a long history or program data per grant and per year, this adds many pages of information to provide. Would DHEC consider increasing the page limit? And/or would DHEC consider removing the Program Assurances from the page count to give more room for answering the additional questions?
A: We will not remove program assurances from the page limit. We recommend summarizing the information in the application to meet the required page limit count.
- 6) On the top of page 12 (and also middle of page 5), the RFGA states. "Applicant must acknowledge that if services are planned for areas 4-5, points will be deducted from application." Please provide clarity about the statement

A: If an applicant decides to include priority areas 4-5 in their proposal, they are acknowledging their understanding that points will be deducted as the focus is priority areas 1-3.

- a. If the applicant proposes services in areas 1-3 and also adds services in areas 4-5, will points be deducted?

A: Priority Areas 1-3 are the focus of this grant. Please refer to previous question if Priority areas 4-5 are used in the proposal for outreach.

- b. Or, will points be deducted if services are ONLY proposed in areas 4-5?

A: Previously answered. As noted, this grant is focused on priority areas 1-3.

- c. If the services are justified for the inclusion of the lower priority counties because of reaching at-risk youth in those areas (page 11), will points still be deducted?

A: Previously answered. As noted, this grant is focused on priority areas 1-3.

State Emerging questions:

- 1) Please clarify the RFGA number for the Emerging grant so that we label our application correctly. The RFGA says it is FY2020 (near the top of page 1), but the Evidence RFGA says FY 2021. Should the Emerging RFGA Number be edited to be FY2021, or is FY2020 correct?

A: It has been edited to reflect FY2021-RFGA-MC-915.

- 2) On page 2 of the RFGA, there are criteria listed for qualifying emerging programs. In order to qualify, must ALL 4 bullets be met or are these 4 different options to qualify as an emerging program?

A. All four bullets must be met to qualify as an emerging program.

- 3) On page 4 of the RFGA, the 5th eligibility requirement requires documenting the previous five years' success with DHEC funds (if applicable). Where is the appropriate place for this information to be added to the application? It seems to be different than the 5th and last bullet points of Section 1 (Org History) on pages 10 and 11, which is not limited to DHEC awards and is only 3 years and compared to State data per area. Please provide guidance about where reviewers will expect to find this eligibility requirement.

A: This should be listed under Organizational History (#1). The language has been updated under #2 to be more consistent with the language.

- 4) For the Service Delivery Area (p.5), the language says that applicants should utilize Table A to guide in the selection of counties. It also says that "if counties other than those in priority areas 1 or 2 are included in an applicant's plan..." and then later in that same paragraph says that "applicants are encouraged to provide outreach services in Priority Areas 1-3." Please provide clarity about whether it is Priority Areas 1-2 or 1-3.

A. Language has been changed to reflect 1-3.

- 5) On page 5 (middle) and also on page 11 (3rd bullet Section 2), the RFGA states. "Applicant must acknowledge that if services are planned for areas 4-5, points will be deducted from application." Please provide clarity about the statement.

- a. If the applicant proposes services in areas 1-3 and also adds services in areas 4-5, will points be deducted?

A. If an applicant decides to include Priority Areas 4-5 in their proposal, they are acknowledging their understanding that points will be deducted.

- b. Or, will points be deducted if services are ONLY proposed in areas 4-5?

A. Previously Answered.

- c. If the services are justified for the inclusion of the lower priority counties because of reaching at-risk youth in those areas (page 11), will points still be deducted?

A. Previously Answered.

- 6) On page 6 of the RFGA, there are State Performance Measures listed for these funds for FY2020-2021. These are triple the amount of required people as last year's funds, yet the same amount of money. Last year's Emerging performance measures were for a minimum of 500 youth and 225 adults to be served. This year's performance measures are for a minimum of 1500 youth and 750 adults. Would DHEC consider reducing the numbers to the same expectations as last year since the money amount has not increased?

A. Yes, we agree. The numbers have been changed in the RFGA to reflect 500 youth and 225 adults.

- 7) On page 6, under Required Activities #4, there is a statement that says “It is highly recommended that Positive Youth Development (PYD) is included as a part of any risk avoidance strategies to help participants build healthy life skills and protective factors.”
- Are there any Performance Measures related to PYD (none mentioned on Page 4)?
A. No, only recommended.
 - Also, is the PYD framework in the context of *sexual* risk avoidance, or is it open-ended to PYD in the context of any risk avoidance?
A. The context is sexual risk avoidance education.
- 8) On page 7, number 9 simply requires that an applicant ensure that nothing contradicts the federal A-H guidelines. However, requirements mentioned on pages 2, 4, and 13 (and also the current state proviso, assuming it stays the same as last year) state that the curriculum to be used meets all of Title V, Section 510 requirements. “Not contradicting” is very different than “meeting all”, and the two statements are not equal. Almost any subject could be taught without contradicting Title V, Section 510, but it does not mean that any subject would “meet all” of the requirements. Considering that the State Proviso requires that a program meet all of A-H, we believe the RFGA needs to be edited on page 7 to require applicants to show documentation of “meeting all” of A-H rather than requiring documentation of simply “not contradicting” the A-H requirements.
- A. Applicants should try to meet all of A-H definitions, but not contradict any. The language will remain as is in the RFGA.**
- 9) On page 9, there is a requirement for grantees to attend required DHEC sponsored trainings. Can you provide more details about location, length of time, and frequency so that we may adequately budget for the travel expenses? Will there be any other expenses related to the trainings?
- A. At this time, there is a finance training that is anticipated to occur in 2020 related to invoicing updates, requirements, and procedures. The format has not been confirmed (webinar or in-person). There will not be any over night stay requirement for any trainings.**
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A. Yes.
 - This page amount is the same requirement as previous years, yet the amount of information required in this RGA has significantly increased, especially in regards to providing the previous 3 years of programmatic data and information about all funding sources for the past 5 years. For an organization with many grants every year and a long history or program data per grant and per year, this adds many pages of information to provide. Would DHEC consider increasing the page limit? And/or would DHEC consider removing the Program Assurances from the page count to give more room for answering the additional questions?
A. We will not remove program assurances from the page limit. We recommend summarizing the information in the application to meet the required page limit count.
- 11) On page 11, the 7th, 9th, and 11th bullet points under Program Description are exact duplicates of the 1st, 6th, and 8th bullets under Implementation Plan (p.12). Please consider eliminating the duplication. These requirements were part of the Implementation Plan section in the previous year’s RFGA.

a. These bullets have been removed from Program Description and will remain under Implementation Plan.

12) On page 13 (Program Assurances, "a"), the RFGA states that the curriculum must meet all federal A-F guidelines. We believe this to be an inconsistency that needs to be edited to A-H since the State Proviso requires that the A-H definition be fulfilled.

a. Agreed. This has been changed to A-H.