

ORP RFA TI-12-003

The following are clarifying answers in response to questions asked on the webinar that took place April 4, 2012 at 2 p.m. (E.T.). In the course of the lengthy conference call there were three question areas that were either not clearly understood by the respondents or where the answers were imprecise and can lead to confusion. To eliminate any confusion applicants who are reading the phone call transcript should also read these clarifying questions. Should you have additional questions please contact the Programs person listed in the ORP RFA.

1. Question:

Does the applicant organization have to have nonprofit status for two years or does the treatment provider have to have two years experience providing substance abuse/mental health services?

Answer:

To clarify a previous answer on the Webinar that was imprecise – the APPLICANT organization does not need a nonprofit status for two years prior to submission but by SAMHSA statute must be a domestic, not for profit organization at the time of the submission of the application. However, the RFA language does refer to treatment providers and the need for at least two years experience. The RFA language states in section III-3.2, pages 16 and 17, that:

“SAMHSA believes that only existing, experienced, and appropriately credentialed organizations with demonstrated infrastructure and expertise will be able to provide required services quickly and effectively. You must meet three additional requirements related to the provision of services.

The three requirements are:

- A provider organization for direct client substance abuse treatment services appropriate to the grant must be involved in the proposed project. The provider may be the applicant or another organization committed to the project. More than one provider organization may be involved;
- Each mental health/substance abuse treatment provider organization must have at least 2 years experience (as of the due date of the application) providing relevant services in the geographic area(s) in which services are to be provided (official documents must establish that the organization has provided relevant services for the last 2 years); and
- Each mental health/substance abuse treatment provider organization must comply with all applicable local (city, county) and State licensing, accreditation, and certification requirements, as of the due date of the application.

The requirement for 2 years experience is for the mental health/substance abuse treatment provider. If the applicant is not the provider of these services the two years does not apply to the applicant organization, it only applies to the organization(s) involved in the project that will be providing direct client substance abuse/mental health treatment services.”

2. Question:

If an adult offender has been sentenced to at least six months and serving six months, but is currently housed in a halfway house, are they eligible to be served by this grant?

Answer:

If they are still on inmate status (incarceration status) and not on probation or parole status, they are eligible to be served by this grant.

Page 6 of the RFA, under Expectations, states:

“In addition, the adult offender must meet the following criteria to receive services funded under this grant program:

- Be assessed as substance-using/abusing or diagnosed as having a substance use and/or co-occurring mental disorder;
- Must have been sentenced to and serving at least six months in a correctional institution (jail/prison/detention center);
- Be within four months of scheduled release to the community in order to receive services in the correctional/detention setting (See Section I-2.3 - Allowable Activities in Institutional Correctional Settings); and
- Upon immediate release from the correctional facility to the community be referred to community-based treatment.”

3. Question:

On page 7, it talks about not more than 15% of the total grant awarded must be for infrastructure development activities. Is that 15% of the three year total amount given or do we take that year by year?

Answer:

On page 7 of the RFA it does state that, “. . . not more that 15% of the total grant award may be used for infrastructure development activities.” Also on page 14, section I-2.7, Infrastructure Development (maximum 15% of total grant award), it also states that “You may use no more than 15% of the total services grant award for the following types of infrastructure development, if necessary to support the direct service expansion of the grant project, such as:

- Developing partnerships with other service providers for service delivery.
- Adopting and/or enhancing your computer system, management information system (MIS), electronic health records (EHRs), etc., to document and manage client needs, care process, integration with related support services, and outcomes.
- Training/workforce development to help your staff or other providers in the community identify mental health or substance abuse issues or provide effective services consistent with the purpose of the grant program.
- Conducting specified activities outlined in this RFA under Section I-2.3 -Allowable Activities in Institutional Correctional Settings.

Therefore, no more than 15% of the grant award requested per year may be designated for infrastructure development activities. Example: If you request \$400,000 per year, the maximum amount that can be designated for infrastructure development activities is \$60,000 per year, for a total over the lifetime of the grant of \$180,000.