

## **Cooperative Agreements for State-Sponsored Youth Suicide Prevention and Early Intervention**

### **Frequently Asked Questions**

- 1. Question:** There is a discrepancy in the RFA regarding the number of allowable pages for the Program Narrative. What is the page limit for the Program Narrative?

**Answer:** There is a twenty-five (25) page limit for the Program Narrative.

- 2. Question: Will you hold technical assistance conference calls for applicants?**

**Answer:** On April 13 and 20, SAMHSA held technical assistance conference calls to answer questions related to the RFA. Applicants were NOT required to participate. Question #14 (below) was posted as a result of questions that were raised during conference calls. Applicants are free to call or e-mail the contact people listed in the RFA with questions.

- 3. Question:** The grant requires that 85 percent of grant funds be used for direct services. What is meant by direct services?

**Answer:** "Direct services" refers to youth suicide early intervention and prevention services. Such services include, but are not limited to training, assessment, post-suicide intervention services, information and awareness campaigns, and other suicide prevention activities. The provision does not require that 85 percent of grant funds be spent on direct clinical services.

- 4. Question:** Can evaluation costs count as part of the 85% direct services requirement for the grants?

**Answer:** Data collection costs for community-based evaluation activities funded by the State grants are considered part of direct services. Funds retained by the state for evaluation are part of the 15% allowable expenditures for administrative costs.

- 5. Question:** The RFA requires that 5% of grant funds for direct services be directed to institutions of higher education to coordinate or implement youth suicide early intervention and prevention strategies. Can such funds be used to have a college or university conduct an evaluation?

**Answer:** Yes.

- 6. Question:** Can a State receive more than one grant?

**Answer:** States can only receive one grant. No tribe or State can receive this award more than once.

**7. Question:** Can both a State and a tribe—whose boundaries are fully or partially within the borders of that State—receive a grant?

**Answer:** Yes.

**8. Question:** Can a tribe submit both an independent application and be included in a State's application?

**Answer:** Yes, as long as the tribe proposes to conduct different activities in each application. This would prevent an overlap if both applications are funded.

**9. Question:** The RFA states that services cannot be provided to incarcerated persons. Our juvenile justice population is a high-risk population that we want to serve. Can these grant funds be used for youth in the juvenile justice system?

**Answer:** The Garrett Lee Smith Memorial Act specifically identifies the juvenile justice system for inclusion in Garrett Lee Smith-funded activities. A wide range of activities can be funded under these grants for the juvenile justice population. These include training of juvenile justice staff, cross-system collaboration with juvenile justice and other child and family systems, provision of services to justice-involved youth in community programs, diversionary or pre-admission screening programs, post-release services, postvention following a suicide or suicide attempt, and services to families of incarcerated youth identified as at high risk for suicide or suicide attempts.

**10. Question:** Can a State include in its application a proposal to issue its own requests for proposals (RFPs) to fund community or college and university suicide prevention programs?

**Answer:** A State is allowed to use its customary processes for allocating grant dollars, including issuing RFPs. In their State/Tribal Youth Suicide Prevention Grants application, States choosing to use this mechanism should explain how they will manage the process to ensure that they meet the goals and requirements specified in SAMHSA's RFA.

**11. Question:** Can grant funds be used to provide direct clinical services?

**Answer:** The purpose of the grants is to support State-sponsored suicide prevention activities rather than to increase the general availability of mental health services. Use of grant funds for direct clinical services must be clearly linked to the State's overall suicide prevention strategy.

**12. Question:** Could you provide more details on what the cross-site evaluation will entail?

**Answer:** The cross-site evaluation has been designed to address core questions about the products and services being developed; the trainings being conducted; the knowledge, awareness, and utilization of suicide prevention activities; the youth being identified as at-risk for suicide and referred for

service; and the referral networks established to provide those services. The cross-site evaluation contractor will be responsible for collecting and obtaining data—primarily through a Web-enabled interface, however, funded sites will be required to support and facilitate this process (e.g., complete reports, serve as respondents, identify appropriate respondents, enter/submit data, distribute materials, etc.). At this time funded sites are not responsible for any direct data collection. To support implementation of the cross-site evaluation, grantees will receive training and technical assistance from the Contractor.

For the purpose of your application, it is sufficient to state your commitment to cooperate with the Suicide Prevention Evaluation Contractor.

**13. Question:** How many grantee meetings will be scheduled during the course of the funding period?

**Answer:** Two. Applicants should budget for one grantee meeting in each of the first 2 years of the grant.

**14. Question:** We intend to submit our application electronically. Do we need to send in the required signature pages in addition to our mailed backup copy? Or can our backup copy just include original signature pages?

**Answer:** Technically, you can send the original signature pages only, with the Grants.gov tracking number. This needs to be received by SAMHSA within 5 business days after your electronic submission. However, if you also decide to submit a complete back-up paper copy of your application (which SAMHSA strongly suggests; see page 18 of the RFA for detailed instructions), and if the back-up copy includes original signature pages as required, then you do not need to submit additional separate copies of the signature pages.