

Chafee Foster Care Independence Program
Questions and Answers

Question:

1. The RFP for Chafee Foster Care Independence Program mention in the schedule of events (page10), states that the RFP is due on June 22, 2012; but on page 15, under the Proposal Submission (4.1), states that the proposal must be received in hard copy by 4:30 pm on May 29, 2012. Please clarify this as we are in preparation of submitting a bid for the proposal.

Answer: The correct date for the Agency to receive any proposal for the Chafee Foster Care Independence Program is June 22, 2012.

Question:

2. 1-H. Hudson/Veteran Small Entrepreneurship Program. Could you please describe this Program and explain how we would qualify or obtain additional information on this Program?

Answer: Proposer Status and Reserved Points

- Proposer is a certified small entrepreneurship: Full amount of the reserved points
- Proposer is not a certified small entrepreneurship but has engaged one or more certified small entrepreneurs to participate as subcontractors or distributors. Points will be allocated based on the following criteria:
 - the number of certified small entrepreneurs to be utilized
 - the experience and qualifications of the certified small entrepreneurship(s)
 - the anticipated earnings to accrue to the certified small entrepreneurship(s)

If a proposer is not a certified small entrepreneurship as described herein, but plans to use certified small entrepreneurship(s), proposer shall include in their proposal the names of their certified Veteran Initiative or Hudson Initiative small entrepreneurship subcontractor(s), a description of the work each will perform, and the dollar value of each subcontract.

(1) How are the maximum 10% additional points allocated if subcontractor's) meet the criteria instead of the proposer?

This is up to the agency to determine, but reading the guidelines, it seems clear that the full 10 points would not be awarded unless the contractor itself is Hudson/Vets certified. The number of points for the use of subcontractors should be based on how many would be used, what they are doing, and what earnings would go to the sub. For example, if Proposal A is submitted for \$1 million, and it includes a Hudson/Vets certified subcontractor who will be providing \$100,000 worth of services, this may be awarded fewer reserved points than Proposal B submitted for \$900,000 which will use 2 Hudson/Vets certified subcontractors providing \$500,000 in services.

2) If a subcontractor meets the criteria, the proposer must submit information related to experience and qualifications and anticipated earnings to accrue to the certified small entrepreneurship. What does this mean? Is there an average or percentage of the earnings required?

As stated above, there are no hard and fast percentages or numbers required; each agency should use reasonable, rational judgment based on the information presented and should follow a policy so that it is not viewed as arbitrary from one RFP to the other.

In regard to the Certification Statement:

(3) Must this document be completed by subcontractors in addition to the prime contractor?

The Proposer must stand by any work being provided by the subcontractors, and is responsible for it. Additionally, subcontractors must provide any information such as qualifications, or resumes being requested in the RFP.

The Certification statement is not required to be completed by subcontractors under the terms of the RFP, however, by signing it, Proposer is certifying to the truth of the information in his proposal. So the Proposer is responsible for verifying that the information he obtains from the subcontractors is correct and he also is certifying that neither he nor any of the subcontractors have been disbarred or suspended, etc, as stated.

Proposer certifies, by signing and submitting a proposal for \$25,000 or more, that their company, any subcontractors, or principals are not suspended or debarred by the General Services Administration (GSA) in accordance with the requirements in OMB Circular A-133. (A list of parties who have been suspended or debarred can be viewed via the internet at www.epls.gov.)

Question:

3. It refers to 25% of all youth served and 5% growth. That means that if we serve 378 youth in 2012, you have to provide services to 95 youth (25% of 378). In 2013 if we serve 366 youth, you have to provide services to 92 + 18 or 110 youth (25% of 366 + 5% of 366 or 30% of 366). In 2014 if we serve 291 youth, you have to provide services to 73 + 15 + 15 or 103 youth (25% of 291 + 5% of 291 + 5% of 291 or 35% of 291). Does this make sense?

Answer: You are increasing the percentage you serve based on the number we serve.

Question:

4. We currently, as an agency, have contracts for ILP Program in Lake Charles and Lafayette. Will we be required to submit separate RFP's for each area, as our current contract is considered under one budget?

Answer: It would be beneficial to the Agency, if you could provide an overall cost analysis or an overview of projected cost expenditures for both areas in question.

Question:

5. Regarding Database Capacity – Will the state provide or are we expected to develop this?

Answer: Unfortunately, the state is not financially able to provide any additional funding needed to format equipment for this RFP. However, it's important for the proposer to describe how they will achieve data collection and reporting.

Question:

6. RFP stipulates that a contractor staff must include one person with a social work degree (Master's Degree preferred), but Bachelor's Degree would be acceptable; would master's degree in related field (i.e. counseling), along with lengthy experience in field, substitute for this?

Answer: If the staff member has a master's degree, along with lengthy experience this is an acceptable qualification; however, resumes' of all staff personnel should be enclosed with other documentation to the Agency for review.

Question:

7. Regarding "Recommending that contractor employ foster care alumni as paid co-teacher's, will there be an allowance given for adding this cost into our budgets or are we expected to do this with funds currently available?"

Answer: The Agency would like to see expenditures in the proposers' budget indicating the cost associated with this expectation.

Question:

8. How will the state alert provider to the eligible population of DCFS, OJJ, and federally recognized tribal youth that makes up the 25% requirement so that the provider can meet the required numbers for each year (25% year 1, 30% year 2, 35% year 3)?

Answer: This will be discussed in more detail with the selected award-winning RFP contractor.