

CORONAVIRUS EMERGENCY SUPPLEMENTAL FUNDING
REQUEST FOR INFORMATION
QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

1. Q: In reading eligibility for the recently released RFI for Coronavirus Emergency Funding, can you please clarify what is considered a “lead agency?” Also, must a community-based entity be a lead agency in order to apply. Meaning, in order for us to receive funding as a behavioral health provider, are we able to apply directly, or would Lake County need to apply for funds and then distribute to us as a “sub-grantee.”

A: Eligible respondents are lead entities (or agencies). For the purposes of this Request for Information (RFI), a lead entity (or agency) works with a network of other agencies by distributing funding via sub-grants. It is preferred that the lead entity has an existing network and includes their names and services in the RFI. That being said, applicants can apply to be a lead entity and conduct a competitive RFP process.

The lead entity provides administrative and fiscal monitoring of these sub-grants. In addition, the lead entity provides some subject matter expertise to its’ sub-grantees.

In order for your proposal to be eligible, your agency should apply as either a lead entity with a sub-grantee network etc, or as a subgrantee to an eligible applicant/lead entity.

2. Q: Are lead entity agencies the only eligible applicants, or is the RFI intending that any applicant can function as a lead entity for the purpose of this program if they have in mind a group of potential subgrantees? Also, can you clarify what this sentence means? “Preference will be given to lead entities that their provider network as sub-grantees in the proposal narrative and budget.”

A: For the purposes of this RFI, any applicant can function as a lead entity and propose how they will meet the lead entity functions outlined in the answer to #1 above. In order to address the needs outlined in this RFI as quickly as possible, ICJIA would prefer to work with lead entities that already have an existing provider network and experience completing those responsibilities. That approach is preferred to a lead entity conducting a competitive proposal process for sub-grantees.

3. Q: Please advise if equipment and law enforcement supplies are eligible expenses? And if so, what kinds of equipment and supplies?

A: Equipment and supplies related to COVID are allowable. Please review answers to #1 and #2 above as the lead entity framework is required.

4. Q: Will lead entities that apply for the BJA COVID emergency assistance funds be allowed a portion for administering the subgrants to direct services providers?

A: Yes, please include those costs in your proposal.

5. Q: Is there a grant range, average anticipated award, or maximum award?
- A: ICJIA would prefer to enter into grants for larger amounts but there is no official grant range or maximum amount.
6. Q: The budget does not indicate for certain if a match is required. At what time will applicants be affirmatively told if we must account for a match in the budget?
- A: Under this RFI, no match is required.
7. Q: Can sub-awards be budgeted under the contractor line?
- A: Applicants should propose a lead entity-sub-award structure. Sub-awards should be proposed in the narrative, contractual budget line and budget narrative. Ideally, these sub-awardees are named with services and costs clearly included in the submission. If this is not the case, the sub-awardee program narrative and budget information can be more general.
8. Q: Can the application identify the general network of potential sub-awards (i.e. the domestic violence service providers in Cook County) or do specific partners have to be named and have agreed to the application?
- A: It is allowed, but not preferred, for the lead entity to only have a general network of potential sub-awards.
9. Q: I have just reviewed the recently released RFI, and I have a couple of questions. It appears that this RFI is similar to a NOFO in that you have to submit a proposal and a budget, and after ICJIA's review, an award will be made. Am I understanding correctly? Also, I noticed that no preference is given to agencies that propose to provide services directly. Is the main purpose of this RFI to select agencies that are willing to be the fiscal agent for this supplemental funding, distributing the funds to an already established network of community service providers? Can an agency proposing to provide services directly (on its own, not as part of a network and not as a lead entity) be selected to receive funding through this RFI?
- A: The intent of this RFI is to fund lead entities that have a network of providers to receive the grant funds. The lead entity can also provide direct services. It is not the intent of this RFI to fund an agency to provide direct services only. ICJIA recommends agencies collaborate with other agencies to apply with a lead entity/sub-grantee structure.
10. Q: Do the individuals served have to be those recovered from infection by the COVID-19, or in any way directly impacted by the Corona virus?
- A: Individuals served need only be impacted by the coronavirus by living in a disproportionately impacted area and in need of the proposed services. Allowable costs however, are limited to preventing, preparing for, and responding to the coronavirus.

11. Q: Is there a minimum or maximum amount of funding to request for this opportunity?

A: No, see answer to #5 above.

12. Q: Would funding be possible to provide Youth and Adult Mental Health First Aid Trainings? This training should certainly fit as supportive of mental health.

A: The primary issue is if the applicant is proposing a lead entity framework and has the experience with the program areas. Under the “Supportive Services”, training address mental health crisis is possibly allowable. Its’ important to include an implementation plan for the trained participants to meet the needs identified in the application.

13. Q: Is there a way around the GATA registration requirement due to the GATA website being down?

A: The GATA website is not down. GATA registration is required.

14. Q: Our Agency has received funding through the BJA CESF Program directly applying to the BJA. Is this the same program or are we eligible to apply for this as well?

A: Direct recipients of BJA CESF funds are eligible for these funds as well. The primary issue is if the applicant is proposing a lead entity framework and has the experience with the program areas. See answer #1 for details.

15. Q: The program summary states: “Lead entities distribute funds via sub-grants to their provider networks and are responsible for the fiscal oversight and quality assurance of those sub-grants.” Does this mean that grant funds **can or cannot be used for their own services**, or must all the grant funds be sub-granted to their “provider networks”?

A: For the purposes of this RFI, lead entities may provide direct services while also serving as a lead entity.

16. Q: We are part of a collaborative of 501(c)3 orgs and worker cooperatives distributing emergency meals. We saw that one of the permitted uses is: "Foodbank: Receive and distribute food to community-based agencies for their participants." Do you have to be a foodbank in order to apply for this funding? Or will foodbanks be highly prioritized?

A: This program area should address food needs in the identified community. Providers that have experience and capacity to meet this need are welcome to apply.