



**ILLINOIS
CRIMINAL JUSTICE
INFORMATION AUTHORITY**

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**R3 NOTICES OF FUNDING OPPORTUNITY
QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS**

Updated 6/19/2020

1. Will grantees have to limit services to persons living in the eligible census tracts or can they simply make those census tracts the focus of service delivery?

Programs must serve community residents within the eligible areas, but clients in neighboring census tracts should not be denied services.

2. It is difficult to formulate questions before the RFP is public. Will there be ongoing opportunities to seek information once the RFP is posted?

Yes. You may email questions on the NOFOs through until 11:59 p.m. on July 16, 2020.

Email questions regarding the Assessment and Planning NOFO to:

CJA.R3Planning@illinois.gov

Email questions regarding the Service Delivery NOFO to: CJA.R3Service@illinois.gov

Email general R3 program questions to: Mitchell.Troup2@illinois.gov

All substantive questions and responses will be posted at r3.illinois.gov/faqs.

3. Downstate civil legal aid organizations cover large geographic regions. For example, within the Prairie State Legal Services 36-county region, there are 160 locations in 23 counties identified as R3 zones. Can a single application include multiple zones? If we wanted to place designated staff in, let's say, Kankakee, Rockford, Peoria, and Joliet would we need submit separate applications?

All zones fall into funding regions. Applicant organizations may propose to serve multiple zones as long as the zones are located within a single funding region. Applicant organizations proposing to serve zones in more than one funding region must submit separate applications for each region.

4. Our building is not directly in a zone but on the other side of the street from a zone. Would we be eligible to serve any client in our facility, or only clients who resided in the zone?

To be eligible for funding, an R3 program must be centered around an R3 zone. If your building is located just outside of an R3 zone and many of your clients are from that zone, you may provide services to any client who comes to your facility. However, you must demonstrate in

your application that a significant portion of your client base will be from the R3 zone to be deemed eligible for R3 funding. In addition, any outreach activities, advertising, or marketing geared toward new clients should occur within an R3 zone.

5. In that case, would my agency be eligible for local preference points for being in an R3 zone?

No. Local preference points are only given to organizations within an R3 zone. However, your agency may qualify for local preference points if at least half of your organization's employees live within an R3 zone, or if you are in a collaborative with other organizations and at least half of those organizations are within an R3 zone.

6. Will there be any assistance toward writing the grants for community assessments and planning, and service delivery programs?

Yes. ICJIA hosted three webinars on May 19, 20, and 21 to assist potential applicants. Webinar information is available here: <https://r3.illinois.gov/resources>. After these live webinars, the webinar recordings were posted on ICJIA's YouTube channel:

Webinar #1

<https://youtu.be/F98-dkr6p-k>

Webinar #2

<https://youtu.be/1K3CD8zWKOE>

Webinar #3

<https://youtu.be/FGYJe3T1xPM>

Applicants with limited experience in applying for state grants also are encouraged to take a grant technical assistance workshop. Workshops provide an overview of the state grant process and what it means to comply with the Grant Accountability and Transparency Act (GATA). GATA was created to ensure a coordinated, transparent process for efficient oversight of grant recipient selection and monitoring.

For more information or to register for a workshop, go to <https://icjia.illinois.gov/gata/technical-assistance>.

7. What type of organizations can apply for R3 grants?

To be eligible for R3 grants, organizations must be based in or serve residents of eligible R3 areas. Organizations eligible to apply for this funding are nonprofit organizations, local units of government, faith-based organizations, businesses and community or neighborhood associations. All organizations must meet the minimum standards to receive state funds in order to be part of an application. More information on these requirements are at r3.illinois.gov/resources.

8. Is funding renewed annually for approved applicants or will they need to reapply?

Grant awards resulting from this opportunity will have a target period of performance of approximately 9 months, from September 2020 to June 30, 2021. Additional funding of up to 24

months may be awarded after the initial funding period based on program performance and availability of funds.

9. What are the determinants for R3 designated areas?

Areas were identified using community-level data on gun injury, child poverty, unemployment, and state prison commitments and returns, combined with Disproportionately Impacted Areas identified by the Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity (DCEO).

10. How can people find out if the area their organizations provides services to is an R3 eligible zone?

View an interactive map of areas eligible for R3 Program grants at r3.illinois.gov/eligibility. Type any address or municipality into the search bar. Addresses within the color-coded, shaded areas are eligible.

11. What options does my organization have if our application is rejected?

Unsuccessful applicants may request a formal appeal of the evaluation process via email and submitted within 14 calendar days after the date the grant award notice is published or receipt of a Funding Opportunity Declination Letter from ICJIA, whichever was received first. A debriefing may be requested for feedback using the evaluation and review criteria. Requests for debriefings must be made via email and submitted within 7 calendar days after receipt of notice.

12. Where can I find the R3 Notices of Funding Opportunity?

Access the R3 Notices of Funding Opportunity at icjia.illinois.gov/gata or on the R3 website: r3.illinois.gov.

13. If you already receive state funding for your program, are you eligible to get funding for the same program through the R3 funding?

You may apply for R3 funding to expand programs supported with other state funds. R3 funds may not be used to supplant, or replace, other funds. Grants must be used to expand or enhance existing programs.

14. Can organizations apply for funding for services to currently incarcerated people who come from identified census tracts?

Yes, organizations may provide R3 services to individuals who are incarcerated but come from R3 zones.

Questions and Answers from May 18, 2020 – May 21, 2020

15. If our organization is headquartered outside of an R3 zone, but our service area is in an R3 zone, are we eligible? How do we find out what the R3 zones are?

Yes, you would be eligible to apply based on your service area being within an R3 zone. However, your application would not get local preference points based on your organization's location. You can find the R3 zones by looking at the color-coded, shaded areas at the interactive map at <https://r3.illinois.gov/eligibility>.

16. If my police department is interested in this funding, but there are no R3 areas in our jurisdiction, would we be ineligible?

Only programs that serve R3 zones are eligible for this funding.

17. For the R3 Service Delivery NOFO, can we apply for more than one of the program priorities?

Yes. All R3 programs must address at least one of the R3 Program Priorities. Applicants may address more than one, or all five, as well. It is up to the applicant to decide how many of the program priorities should be addressed by the proposed program.

18. If our program addresses more than one of the program priorities, do we need to submit a separate application for each one?

No. You only need to submit one application, but your program narrative should include information about which of the program priorities your program will address and explain the program design for how each of these priorities will be addressed.

19. How do you define a program being “in” an R3 zone if programs are offered virtually?

Programs should be designed to serve residents of an R3 zone. If programs can be offered virtually, it should be intended to serve residents of R3 zones, should be geared towards the needs of R3 zone communities, and the focus of advertising and marketing to attract clients should be on the R3 zone.

20. Our organization is in three R3 zones, but the county jail that we serve is not. Are we not able to focus on that program?

R3 services may be provided to residents of R3 zones that are currently incarcerated if the services provided are focused on residents returning from prison or jail to their communities.

21. Is one application structure (single organization or collaborative) preferred over the other?

There are no points attributed to either application structure. Applicants should make their own decisions whether to apply on their own or as part of a collaborative based on which best serves their proposed program.

22. If we provide programming in a school, would the schools need to sign MOUs? Or is this only required for the organizations providing services?

For the application, only organizations applying together as part of a collaborative would need to sign MOUs indicating their joint agreement to be part of the proposed project described in the application. If the program in the application was granted funding, it may be determined that other MOUs would be needed for proper execution of program activities, but these would not be required at the point of application.

23. GATA qualification is a lengthy process. If one agency in a collaborative application has the pre-qualification requirements completed, can we move forward while the other agency is waiting for approval?

For collaborative applications, only the responsible applicant would need to have completed all of the GATA requirements by the time of application. If others have applied for a DUNS number, SAM.gov account, and other qualifiers they can be included in the application. However, they would not be able to be active as part of the project until they meet these requirements, so they would need to meet these requirements by the time they are ready to begin the program.

24. Can units of government apply as lead on a collaborative of nonprofits without selecting the subgrantee partners through a competitive bidding process (RFP)?

Yes. If a collaborative application is made, all members of the collaborative are identified in the application, and the responsible applicant does not need to choose subgrantees through a competitive bidding process. However, if additional partners that are not identified in the initial application are added, these partners would need to go through such a process.

25. Can you define or give examples of the R3 Program Priorities?

Additional information about each of the five program priorities are included in Appendix A of each NOFO, at the very end of the NOFO instructions. We recommend reviewing this material for more information on each Program Priority.

26. Can one organization submit two separate grants for the same program priority if we have two programs that both fall under the same priority?

Only one application for each NOFO can be submitted per applicant in any given funding region. If you want to perform two different program activities, but both can be incorporated into the same program and same application, you may do so. Alternatively, if the two programs fall into separate funding regions, an applicant may submit one application per funding region. In either case, one applicant should only submit one application per NOFO per funding region.

27. Are the program priorities described in the application documents?

Yes; the program priorities are explained in the Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) instructions. Additional information about each of the five program priorities are included in Appendix A of each NOFO, at the very end of the NOFO instructions. We recommend reviewing this material for more information on each Program Priority.

28. How should you apply if you are serving more than one community?

If all of the R3 zones your proposed program will serve are within one funding region, you may apply under one application. If your program would span across multiple funding regions, you would need to submit separate applications for each funding region within which your program would operate.

29. Are we allowed to request funds to purchase and renovate properties to house formerly incarcerated individuals?

No, capital expenditures are an unallowable expense for these grant funds, so you would not be able to include these costs in the budget for the program.

30. What is the maximum dollar amount an organization can apply for?

Maximum (and minimum) dollar amounts for an application are based on the type of NOFO applied for (Assessment and Planning or Service Delivery) and on the proposed program's funding region. Award ranges are shown on the map at <https://r3.illinois.gov/eligibility>. Click on an R3 zone within the funding regions, or see Question 1 of the Program Narrative in each NOFO.

31. Are faith-based organizations eligible to receive funds under this program?

Yes, as long as the organization also meets the criteria to receive state funds listed in the NOFO. Nonprofit organizations, local units of government, businesses, and community or neighborhood associations are also eligible as long as they meet the criteria to receive state funding. As with all applications, they would need to also submit an eligible program design that fits with the R3 program requirements.

32. Are you eligible to apply for this opportunity if you are a current ICJIA grant recipient?

Yes, your receipt of another grant does not disqualify you from this grant opportunity.

33. Only certain parts of our area seem to be in the eligible sections. If our location is in a section that is not an R3 zone, but all of the participants of the program will be from areas that are eligible, are we still allowed to apply for R3? Or would our physical location of the

program need to be in a colored/eligible area? Our program location is two blocks from a priority area based on the map.

To be eligible for funding, an R3 program must be centered around an R3 zone. If your building is located just outside of an R3 zone and many (or all) of your clients are from that zone, you may provide services to any client who comes to your facility. However, you must demonstrate in your application that a significant portion of your client base will be from the R3 zone to be deemed eligible for R3 funding. In addition, any outreach activities, advertising, or marketing geared toward new clients should occur within an R3 zone.

34. If you are an agency that relies heavily on volunteers, would there be local preference points for those who reside in the R3 zones as they are the ones working most with clients?

Unfortunately, the local preference points based on employee residence only allow for local preference points if at least half of the employees of an organization reside in an R3 zone.

35. What is GATA?

GATA, or the Grant Accountability and Transparency Act, is a law that governs how grants are administered in the State of Illinois. The guidelines established by GATA determine who is eligible to receive grants, how grant funds are disbursed, what costs are allowable, and more. The GATA Grantee Portal is a system that helps applicants determine if they are in compliance with GATA requirements and therefore able to apply for funding through the state.

36. Can a single organization submit an application for both planning and direct services?

Yes, if an applicant believes that their community needs an assessment and planning process as well as immediate service delivery, the applicant can submit an application to each NOFO. However, keep in mind that since the Assessment and Planning NOFO and Service Delivery NOFO are different funding opportunities, the applicant would need to submit a separate application under each NOFO in order to be considered. One application cannot include both planning and service delivery program proposals.

37. Will the PowerPoint slides from the webinars be posted publicly?

Yes. In addition to the R3 webinars being made available on ICJIA's YouTube channel, a PDF of the PowerPoint slides will be available at <https://r3.illinois.gov/resources>.

38. How long does this grant last?

The first year's performance period is approximately 9 months. It is estimated to begin late September or early October and will last through June 30, 2021.

39. While the first grant is 9 months, can we assume that successful grantees will continue to receive a second year of funding? It is a challenge to hire professionals for a 9-month job.

Applicants that are granted funding by submitting a successful application to this NOFO may be granted up to two additional years of funding after the first year, subject to continued appropriation of the funds, availability of the funds, and acceptable program performance. We intend to continue these grants if we are able to do so, but we cannot guarantee at this time that the grants will be continued.

40. Does my agency need to be a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization in order to apply?

No. 501(c)(3) status is not a requirement. Eligible applicants include nonprofit organizations, local units of government, faith-based organizations, businesses, or other community or neighborhood organizations. Applicants must meet the basic criteria to be eligible to receive state funds. These criteria are: 1.) a DUNS number; 2.) a SAM.gov account; 3.) a Grants.gov account; 4.) Good standing with the IL Secretary of State; 5.) not on the State No-Pay List. In addition, single organization applicants or responsible applicants submitting applications on behalf of a collaborative will need an account in the State of Illinois GATA Grantee Portal.

41. Are there any upfront costs that we must have for starting up?

This will depend on the applicant organization and the proposed program. It is likely that organizations will have some upfront costs to start up a new program once grant agreements are finalized and services begin.

42. When do payments begin?

Selected grantees can begin their programs as soon as their grant agreements are signed. Grantees can request reimbursement on a monthly basis following that time. **UPDATE: Grantees can apply to receive advances after the agreements are executed.**

43. Our organization does not have a brick and mortar “location.” We consider our locations the schools that we serve out of. The mailing address we use is actually a UPS mail box. So in this case, should we use our school’s address for the location to determine eligibility and local preference points?

Since the program operates out of the school, you should use the school’s address to determine if you operate in an R3 zone and thus if you are eligible for these funds. However, you should use the mailing address of your organization when determining if your organization is eligible for local preference points.

44. Is it possible to get the GATA requirements completed by the due date of July 20, 2020?

Yes, all interested organizations should be able to complete the requirements before the due date. However, if you need to complete some steps, we suggest starting as soon as possible to ensure that you are eligible by the time you apply.

45. Some state grants are for a short time frame, and then limit funds for the second year to the same amount of funds as for the short period. Is that likely with these funds?

Continued funds for this program after the first year will be dependent on appropriation, availability of funds, and program performance of grantees. We hope to have more funds, so that existing grantees can maintain or possibly expand their programs, and to allow opportunities for new applicants. However, we cannot predict this with certainty at this time.

46. My organization does not have a building in an eligible R3 zone, but we do have a PO box in the community where we meet. Do we qualify?

As long as services are offered in an R3 zone, your organization may be eligible to apply. You do not need to have a building in that zone.

47. Will there be any point considerations for matching funds or in-kind contributions?

No. There are no points attributed to matching funds or in-kind contributions in the application scoring process.

48. Do we need to submit a separate application for each R3 zone that we plan to address?

If all of the R3 zones in your service area are in the same funding region, then you can combine them all into a single application. If the R3 zones are in different funding regions, you should submit a separate application for each funding region.

49. Can we apply for both as a single entity and with a collaboration for different areas?

You can submit separate applications as a single organization and with a collaborative as long as the applications are submitted in different funding regions and/or for different NOFOs. You cannot submit two applications for the same NOFO within the same funding region, even if one is with a collaborative and one is not.

50. How much funding is available?

While the final amount available will depend on the amount appropriated and the amount available in the trust fund for this program, we are estimating a total of \$31.5 million in grant funds for this program (\$3.15 million for Assessment and Planning, and \$28.35 million for Service Delivery).

51. Are the minimum and maximum amounts listed on the map and in the Program Narrative per application or per region?

The award ranges listed in the map and in the Program Narrative are minimum and maximum amounts per application.

52. Can we submit multiple applications if we work with multiple regions?

Yes, organizations can submit multiple applications as long as the applications are submitted in different funding regions. Organizations cannot submit more than one application within one funding region for the same NOFO. Keep in mind that there may be many R3 zones within a single funding region; if the applicant wants to work with multiple R3 zones in the same funding region, they should only submit one application for that project.

53. How are the high-need areas identified? Are they color-coded a specific color? Are some colors more high-need than others?

High need areas can be identified by an asterisk (*) after the R3 Zone ID in the pop-up box that appears when you click on a color-coded, shaded area on the map at <https://r3.illinois.gov/eligibility>. The different colors are to identify the different funding regions, so color differences do not indicate if an area is high-need or not.

54. Can the responsible applicant submit more than one application on behalf of collaboratives?

A responsible applicant can only be a part of one application per NOFO per funding region, even a collaborative application. They could submit separate applications for different funding region, but not within one region.

55. Can an organization submit one application that has both assessment/planning and service delivery program activities?

No. The Assessment and Planning NOFO and the Service Delivery NOFO are completely separate funding opportunities. They have different funding ranges, different Program Narratives, and different criteria. If an organization is interested in applying for both, the applicant would need to submit one application for each NOFO.

56. Are individual correctional facilities eligible to be lead organizations in applying for a grant?

Yes, as long as they meet the other eligibility requirements to receive state funds. As with all applications, they would need to also submit an eligible program design that fits with the R3 program requirements.

57. Does civil legal aid include removing barriers to employment and providing assistance with license suspensions, etc? For ‘youth development,’ up to what age would one be considered ‘youth?’ Does ‘reentry’ mean helping people with criminal records, who might not have been incarcerated or who were incarcerated a long time ago?

The categories of the five R3 Program Priorities are not meant to be restrictive. If you would like more information on each program priority, it is recommended that you view the full NOFO and look at Appendix A at the end for more information. It will be up to the applicant to fully explain

in their program narrative what the design of their proposed program would be and how their proposed program fits with at least one R3 Program Priority.

58. How many grants will be given per funding region?

This is not known, since it will depend on how many applications are selected and what amounts are requested in those applications. However, the program is set up so that we have the ability to fund more than one grant per funding region for each NOFO.

59. Can civil legal aid providers apply to cover just one area of work (i.e. domestic violence or housing) but not all areas?

The scope of the program is up to the applicant to define and to explain in the program narrative, as long as it addresses an R3 Program Priority. Applicants should explain what services are being provided and why these services (and not others that could be provided) may be needed in the service area.

60. Can a for-profit corporation submit an application as a single applicant or a collaborative lead?

Yes, if the corporation satisfies all of the eligibility requirements, including having a GATA Grantee Portal account, it can submit an application either as a single applicant organization or as a responsible applicant on behalf of a collaborative.

61. If the proposed start date for grants is September, does this mean that those grants approved for funding would not receive funds until that time?

Currently, grants are operating via a reimbursement basis. As such, it means that grants would not receive funds until after the start date for programs. If this changes, and advance payment is approved, we will post an update to inform applicants of this change.

62. When will FAQ updates be posted?

Updates to the questions and answers documents will be posted on Fridays, and we will update the document with any new questions received in the previous week, as well as answers to those questions.

63. Can an organization apply as a single organization and also apply with a collaborative with another organization as lead in different or same regions?

This would be possible if the two applications were in different regions, but not within the same region.

64. Is there somewhere we can go to view already-completed grant applications?

Unfortunately, we do not have the ability to post completed grant applications as examples. Since this is a new program, and this is the first round of applications for the program, there are no previously-approved applications that could be shared as examples. Other resources may have examples of generic grant application templates, but we cannot assist applicants in this area.

65. The NOFO packet describes a purpose of the grant to promote infrastructure. Could this be used for roadwork or infrastructure of the city?

No, the meaning in this context is to promote the networks of community organizations to provide support to residents. Capital expenditures such as roadwork or public works projects would not be allowable costs or allowable projects for these NOFOs.

66. Is the dollar amount of the grant range annual or for the cumulative 36-month project period?

The grant ranges are estimates for the first year's project period.

67. What is the average or typical time frame for monthly invoices or financials submitted?

Reimbursements can take some time to process from receipt of the reimbursement request until the reimbursement is issued to the grantee. While we cannot predict exactly how long this takes, it can be anywhere from one to two months. We are exploring ways to reduce this wait time, and if any updates to this occur, we will post an update to inform applicants.

68. If the first grant period is nine months, do we request 12 months of expenses or do we prorate the requested amount to nine months?

Applicants should request the amount they estimate that they will need for the nine-month project period, including any start-up expenses that might be necessary.

69. Will reimbursement be by check or electronic?

Most reimbursements are via direct deposit, but grantees need to ensure that the Comptroller's Office has the correct information (including payment method and details). If an organization is a new grantee, they will need to complete forms for the Comptroller's Office containing this information.

70. To receive local preference points based on employee local residence, would half of the employees need to live in the same R3 zone we are applying for? Or can they live in nearby zones?

They could live in nearby zones, as long as they are also R3 zones.

71. If we are using the de minimis 10% indirect cost rate, is that 10% of our direct costs?

The de minimis indirect cost rate is 10% of your Modified Total Direct Cost (MTDC) base. The MTDC base excludes certain costs, such as occupancy and subawards over \$25,000. For more information on indirect costs, you can view the Indirect Cost recording on ICJIA's YouTube channel.

72. Can you address supplanting? Does it refer to all funds or just government funds?

Supplanting means using funds from one grant (i.e. the R3 grant) to take the place of other grant funds in an existing program so that other funds can be used for other purposes. This refers to government funds, so R3 funding should not be used to supplant other state funding. Applicants for R3 funds should seek to provide new programs, or to expand or enhance existing programs, rather than simply use these funds to supplant others. Note that it is not considered supplanting if the funds being replaced have been discontinued, only if the funds are still available for use in the program but instead are put to a different use because of the availability of the R3 funding.

73. Can collaborations exist across R3 areas?

Yes. We encourage collaborations (both formal and informal) within and across R3 areas. Collaborative applications can cover multiple R3 areas as long as they are within the same funding region. However, grantees are also encouraged to work together informally even if they are not members of the same collaborative, and these informal collaborations are not bound by the R3 funding regions.

74. We are a county agency and therefore serve residents of the entire county. Are we allowed to service people that reside outside of an R3 zone in our county?

To be eligible for funding, an R3 program must be centered around an R3 zone. If your county contains one or more R3 zones and many of your clients are from those zones, you may provide services to any client who comes to your facility. However, you must demonstrate in your application that a significant portion of your client base will be from the R3 zone to be deemed eligible for R3 funding. In addition, any outreach activities, advertising, or marketing geared toward new clients should occur within an R3 zone.

75. If an organization has multiple locations, if one is in an R3 zone would our organization still qualify for funding/additional points?

The organization may be eligible for funding if the proposed service area is the R3 zone. However, organizations with multiple locations should use the primary address of their organization, not branch addresses, when applying local preference points.

76. What is the anticipated 'average' award size? What is the anticipated number of awards?

This is not known, since it will depend on how many applications are selected and what amounts are requested in those applications.

77. Could an organization apply as a single applicant to provide direct services in an area and then also consult with another organization that would also provide direct services in the area by expensing dollars for that consultant in the budget instead of doing a collaborative application?

This would be allowable, but it would be up to each applicant to determine if this approach is the best way to operate their programs.

78. I have two companies—one for-profit, and one non-profit. Do I apply as a single applicant or a collaborative?

We cannot give advice on how best to apply. Either the for-profit or non-profit could be eligible to apply as either a single applicant or as the responsible applicant of a collaborative, assuming that both meet the eligibility requirements.

79. Who are the people who will be reviewing and scoring the applications?

The application reviewers will be individuals from R3 zones who have experience in at least one of the five R3 Program Priorities.

80. If there are multiple R3 zones in a region, will all of those R3 zones be competing for the regional funding amount?

Strictly speaking, the R3 zones do not compete—rather, organizations proposing programs in those zones will be competing for the funding. However, the total funding amount for each funding region will be available to any applicant in that region, so if there are multiple R3 zones in a region, the resulting program funds may be split across those zones based on the applications that are selected for funding.

81. Are currently operating dispensaries allowed to apply?

If they satisfy all of the eligibility requirements to apply, there is nothing in the grant requirements barring dispensaries from applying for this funding. As with all applications, they would need to also submit an eligible program design that fits with the R3 program requirements.

The grant agreement requires grantees to comply with all provisions of the Illinois Drug-Free Workplace Act, 30 ILCS 580/3, which prohibits the manufacture, distribution, dispensation, possession or use of a controlled substance at the place where services are being performed. Therefore, dispensaries are prohibited from accepting a grant for work at the dispensary or any place where cannabis is being manufactured, distributed, dispensed, or possessed. The dispensary would be eligible to apply as long as it remains in compliance with this Act.

82. Are K-12 schools eligible to apply? Can post-secondary schools apply?

If they satisfy all of the eligibility requirements to apply, there is nothing in the grant requirements barring schools from applying for this funding. As with all applications, they would need to also submit an eligible program design that fits with the R3 program requirements.

83. Are nonprofit hospital systems eligible to apply?

If they satisfy all of the eligibility requirements to apply, there is nothing in the grant requirements barring hospital systems from applying for this funding. As with all applications, they would need to also submit an eligible program design that fits with the R3 program requirements.

84. We are already getting approached to join into collaborations for R3. We love collaborative projects but there can be issues when we get into the details. One detail issue for legal aid is sharing confidential client information with an agency that may be taking a lead role. In some grants, they allow the legal services reporting to remain independent of the other data. This means that there may be a client served by legal services that is also served with other project services but they do not demand the legal services to be part of an “unduplicated” count. Before we go too far down the road on collaborations it will be important to know the data reporting requirements. Is this something that you will be sharing on the webinars? If not, is this something ICJIA can consider soon? The other strategy is for our organization to do an independent application but plan activities in coordination with other who will provide other types of supportive services.

The grant agreement that will be executed between ICJIA and successful NOFO applicants states that the grantee (and sub-grantee in sub-grants) must comply with all applicable confidentiality laws. The agreement also states that grantee must do periodic reporting and participate in any evaluation project. To the extent there is any conflict between those mandates, you have to protect confidentiality. Also, please note that reporting and evaluation for our grants is based on aggregate numbers and not client personal information, which can also be redacted. For program reporting, ICJIA is interested in the numbers of services provided in terms of the goals and objectives identified in the program design.

85. Are high need areas identified in the R3 Table at <https://r3.illinois.gov/eligibility> given priority for funding?

The high need areas identified in the table and identified by an asterisk on the map will receive additional points in the application review, but they will still be evaluated based on their total scores, as are all applications for the grant opportunity.

86. Can a regional organization submit an Assessment and Planning grant and a Service grant for the same region but different Census Tracts?

Yes. An organization can submit both an application for an Assessment and Planning program and an application for a Service Delivery program. The two applications are separate, so they do not need to apply to the same R3 zone.

87. Are units of government eligible?

If they satisfy all of the eligibility requirements to apply, there is nothing in the grant requirements barring units of government from applying for this funding. As with all applications, they would need to also submit an eligible program design that fits with the R3 program requirements.

88. Is there a recording of the R3 Community Engagement Call that can be accessed online?

The link for the recording of the R3 Community Engagement Call is:

<https://youtu.be/VhK1F2vhGqc>

89. Is there a list of certified state grant writers that can help me complete an application?

We do not maintain a list of grant writers. Applicants are able to identify their own grant writers if they would like assistance in completing the application. ICJIA also recommends that applicants take advantage of the technical assistance sessions if they need assistance in becoming eligible for grants or applying for grant opportunities. For more information or to register for a workshop, go to <https://icjia.illinois.gov/gata/technical-assistance>.

90. Can an organization join several collaborative applications for Service Delivery?

An organization can only be a party to one application, whether as a single organization or part of a collaborative, per NOFO per funding region. If the applications are within different funding regions, the organization could join different applications, but any organization could only be on one application per funding region within the Service Delivery NOFO.

91. Can this be used for Drug Court? Can it pay for a Drug Court Officer's salary and benefits? Can it pay for drug testing probation clients? Can it pay for Drug Court rewards and incentives? Can it pay for Drug Court treatment/salary and benefits of a Drug Court Counselor?

The R3 program supports services in five different program priorities (civil legal aid, economic development, reentry, violence prevention, and youth development). For a program to be eligible to receive R3 funds, it must address at least one of those program priorities. It is an applicant's responsibility to identify in the application how the proposed program addresses the chosen program priority or priorities.

I do not know all of the details of your drug court program, so I cannot specify one way or another whether the program would fit this requirement. However, you should consider whether the services provided under this program are services that focus on assisting community members rather than primarily supporting a government body's operation. If your program provides needed services to community members in the five program priorities listed above, it could potentially be eligible. For example, it is unlikely that these funds can support operational costs of the drug court, costs of drug court officers, or costs of drug testing; but the funds may be

able to support drug counselors, substance abuse treatment programs, or similar costs if they are related to one of the five R3 program priorities. If you choose to submit an application, it will then be evaluated by application reviewers who will consider the overall application, including the justification for the program design, and score the application according to the criteria in the NOFO.

92. Can a for profit organization economic development project for a full service live music venue that has a non-profit component for music and drama programming for children- can this business apply? It does not look specifically exclude businesses but I just wanted to check?

For-profit businesses are eligible applicants to this grant opportunity if they satisfy all of the eligibility requirements to receive state funds. Businesses are not excluded from eligibility under this opportunity.

93. Each of the R3 zones within a funding region seem to have the same grant range. Because we are required to submit one application per region, if we are proposing to serve multiple zones with that region, are those ranges applicable to the full application or to each zone within the application?

The funding ranges are applicable to the application, not to the zones to be served. Therefore, if you intend to serve multiple R3 zones within a region, your application would not be able to exceed the stated maximum award amount, regardless of the number of R3 zones in your service area.

94. I'm interested in submitting a proposal for a R3 service grant but my proposal would include the creation of hygiene kits for local residents, which would include hand sanitizer and disinfectant wipes. In reading the Service Delivery Grant Instructions - Prohibited Uses: "implementation of a new program involving the use of chemicals" is listed. Would sanitizer and disinfectant wipes fall under the category of chemicals?

This prohibition does not cover the use of basic cleaning supplies. Hand sanitizer, disinfectant wipes, or other generally-available cleaning or hygiene items would be allowable costs under this NOFO. It is the applicant's responsibility to explain in the Program Narrative how these costs are reasonable and support the proposed program.

95. Can a unit of government be a collaborative member (not a lead applicant) on multiple service delivery applications within a funding area? Specifically, we're wondering if Cook County could be a partner on more than one application.

No. A single entity or organization (including a unit of government) can only be party to one application within a specific funding area, even if the entity is a member of the collaborative rather than the responsible applicant.

96. Is the expectation that all collaborative members would be receiving funding? Or not necessarily? Specifically, I'm wondering if our organization is a supporting partner but

not seeking any funding via the grant, would we still qualify as a collaborative member for application purposes?

It is the expectation that all collaborative members will be receiving funding if the application is selected for funding. If your organization would like to support a collaborative application but does not seek funding via the grant, you may submit a letter of support, and the application may describe your role in the project, but you would not be considered part of the collaborative for application purposes.

97. is this grant program intended to focus on gun violence, or should the term "violence" be considered more broadly? My organization focuses on gender based violence, and the NOFO is a little vague as to what type of violence is being prioritized by this funding.

While gun violence is definitely a major concern for this program, ‘violence prevention’ can be considered more broadly than just gun violence. The categories of the five R3 Program Priorities are not meant to be overly restrictive; we want organizations and communities to have the flexibility to focus on the needs that are most salient in their community. It will be up to the applicant to fully explain in their program narrative what the design of their proposed program would be and how their proposed program fits with at least one R3 Program Priority. Thus, if you can provide a good explanation in your statement of need for addressing a different type of violence, that explanation will be considered in reviewing your application. If you would like more information on each program priority, it is recommended that you view the full NOFO and look at Appendix A at the end for more information.

Questions and Answers from May 22, 2020 – May 28, 2020

98. Are cannabis businesses eligible to receive grant funding under the R3 Program, or is the cannabis industry excluded from eligibility?

If they satisfy all of the eligibility requirements to apply, there is nothing in the grant requirements barring cannabis businesses from applying for this funding. As with all applications, they would need to also submit an eligible program design that fits with the R3 program requirements.

The grant agreement requires grantees to comply with all provisions of the Illinois Drug-Free Workplace Act, 30 ILCS 580/3, which prohibits the manufacture, distribution, dispensation, possession or use of a controlled substance at the place where services are being performed. Therefore, dispensaries are prohibited from accepting a grant for work at the dispensary or any place where cannabis is being manufactured, distributed, dispensed, or possessed. The dispensary would be eligible to apply as long as it remains in compliance with this Act.

99. Could a grantee re-grant the funds via an RFP process to subgrantees?

Grantees may use this funding for subcontracts or subawards to other entities. However, the purpose and roles of the anticipated subcontracts or subawards should be made clear in the

program design and will be considered in the review of the application. Subawards and most subcontracts (depending on the amount of the contract and extent of the work) must be approved by ICJIA prior to any costs being incurred.

100. Will there be another NOFO next year? Or is this a one-time NOFO?

Applicants that are granted funding through this NOFO may be granted up to two additional years of funding after the first year, subject to continued appropriation of the funds, availability of the funds, and acceptable program performance. ICJIA intends to continue this program, with new NOFOs, for as long as grant funding is available.

101. Is the City of Chicago eligible to apply?

Yes, local units of government, including the City of Chicago, may apply under this NOFO assuming they satisfy all eligibility requirements. As with all applications, they would need to also submit an eligible program design that fits with the R3 program requirements.

102. Would research projects be allowed under the assessment/planning grant?

Research projects may be performed as part of the assessment and planning grant, if the applicant determines that the research project is necessary to the assessment proposed in the application. The applicant must explain in detail the need for the research project as well as how the research project will be carried out.

103. I heard from someone that the materials state that only one grantee will be approved per region. That seemed incorrect because there are so many potential services.

I was not sure if they were referencing the language in the application that states: “What region will your program serve? Refer to the map of R3 zones to find the region and select ONE. Only one application per region may be submitted. Separate applications must be submitted for each region served by your proposed program. Funding amounts are based on the population that lives in R3 zones within each region.”

I am assuming that this means an independent organization can only submit one application in each region. Will ICJIA fund more than one applicant within a region?

Yes, ICJIA will fund more than one applicant per region. Organizations may only submit one application or be a collaborator in one application per region.

ICJIA expects to support many applicants/programs in each funding region under each NOFO. Funding caps have been established to ensure *at least* two grantees for each type of NOFO will be funded in each region. The total number of programs funded will depend on how many applications are selected by the reviewers and how much funding is requested.

104. Is the R3 Assessment and Planning grant strictly designed to plan a brand new program and then sites are expected to utilize another funding source to implement and

run the program, or can funds be used to implement and run a brand new program after the planning process has been completed?

The Assessment and Planning grant is designed to fund a process to determine what services are needed in a community and what resources are available and to prepare a community plan for providing services in the community. Developing a new program is not required.

Funds under this grant opportunity cannot be used to implement the program of services. However, applicants who carry out an assessment and planning process may apply for Service Delivery funding under this or another NOFO.

105. If we are providing services to prisoners and detainees who are transitioning out, is the R3 zone where the prison is located or where the client is going to live?

The R3 program is intended to serve residents of R3 zones, so the relevant zones for these services would be the zones where the client resides or will reside upon leaving the facility. R3 services may be provided to residents of R3 zones that are currently incarcerated if the services provided are focused on residents returning from prison or jail to their communities.

106. On the “Service Delivery Program Narrative” document, question #4 states: Only organizations proposing to carry out an assessment and planning process for designated R3 zones are eligible for this funding. Please identify the zone(s) that will be covered by this assessment and planning process by listing the 4-digit “R3 Zone IDs” from this map of the R3 zones. As this is the Service Delivery RFP, and not the Assessment and Planning RFP, can you please confirm whether Service Delivery applicants must also complete an assessment and planning process as part of the Service Delivery grant?

Service Delivery grantees are not required to complete an assessment and planning process. The Service Delivery Program Narrative should read, “Only organizations proposing to provide services for designated R3 zones are eligible for this funding. Please identify the zone(s) that will be covered by this proposed service delivery by listing the 4-digit “R3 Zone IDs” from this map of the R3 zones.”

A revised Program Narrative document will be posted shortly.

107. Understanding that applicants are not to delete any template questions or document formatting, are applicants able to delete the instructions on page 1, the note for questions #14 and #15, the Budget Detail and Narrative description, and the Goals, Objectives and Performance Measures description?

Yes, instructions and notes within the Program Narrative document may be removed prior to submission.

108. I have a question about clients who change location. We provide legal aid to prisoners as they transition back into the community. This often means helping them find suitable housing. If the housing is outside of the R3 zone, would we still be able to serve that client?

If the client was eligible for R3 services when you began providing those services, and then the client moved outside of an R3 zone, you can continue providing those same services and follow-up to those services.

109. I'm hoping you can help me with a question regarding reporting requirements. I see a brief description on page 24 of the NOFO:

“Recipients must submit monthly financial reports, quarterly program progress reports, final financial and progress reports, and, if applicable, an annual audit report in accordance with the 2 CFR Part 200 Uniform Requirements. Future awards and fund drawdowns may be withheld if reports are delinquent.”

Are you planning to use a template for these reports? Or a database to collect data? My team is surveying staffing needs in connection with the reporting, so I am looking to get a sense of the complexity of reports.

Grantees will receive an Excel template to complete monthly financial reports and a Word template to complete quarterly program progress reports. Each grantee will be assigned to a grant monitor who can provide assistance, as needed.

110. Is there a maximum grant amount for which we can apply?

Maximum (and minimum) dollar amounts for an application are based on the type of NOFO applied for (Assessment and Planning or Service Delivery) and on the proposed program's funding region. Award ranges are shown on the map at <https://r3.illinois.gov/eligibility>. Click on an R3 zone within the funding regions, or see Question 1 of the Program Narrative in each NOFO.

111. I can't locate previous questions and answers. I've checked the ICJIA site and clicked on questions—it just tells you where to ask questions. Can you tell me how to access the answers to my question and other questions people have asked?

Questions and answers may be found at <https://r3.illinois.gov/faqs>. They are also posted on the funding pages for each NOFO at <https://icjia.illinois.gov/gata/funding>.

112. My organization may not have the cash flow to start up our program and pay our staff while we await reimbursement. Is it possible to receive advance payments?

Grantees are able to request advance payment, subject to ICJIA policy. Grantees requesting advances must demonstrate need, itemize expected costs, and comply with Illinois Administrative Code regarding advance payments located at <http://ilga.gov/commission/JCAR/admincode/044/044070000B01200R.html>.

Questions and Answers from May 29, 2020 – June 4, 2020

113. If my county is not listed as an R3 zone, can it still apply for funding? Did I do something (or neglect to do something) to make my county ineligible?

Counties that do not contain R3 zones are not eligible for R3 funds. R3 zones were selected based on a number of factors to identify areas disproportionately harmed by violence, economic disinvestment, and the war on drugs. Data used to identify these areas can be found here (<https://r3.illinois.gov/resources>) under “Analysis.”

Eligibility was determined based only on these data and not on any action (or inaction) taken by any county or other unit of government.

114. If our assessment and planning project includes a research project, would the research project be subject to IRB approval in the same way it would for a federal grant, or are state guidelines less restrictive?

Federal IRB procedures and requirements will apply under this NOFO.

115. An applicant can only file one application within a region (for example the Collar County region). We have 4 offices within in the region including Kankakee, Joliet, Waukegan, and West Chicago. The application form is set up to assume a single location including a specific zip code. How can one complete the application when the applicant is planning to serve several communities within a zone or region?

Only your organization’s primary address should be entered for local preference purposes on the Program Narrative and the Uniform Grant Application.

Applicant proposing to serve several communities within a zone or region need only to describe in the Program Narrative what communities will be served.

116. My organization would like to submit an application for Service Delivery as a responsible applicant, and in the application we would specify a partnership with a specific service provider. Is a competitive subcontract process required, or could funds be awarded directly to the provider specified in our application? Is it required that we would provide direct services, or could we provide administrative/policy/other forms of support to the direct service provider named in the application?

Partners included as a member of a collaborative application submitted by your organization, will not be required to enter into competitive subcontract process. Both the responsible organization and collaborative members are considered applicants. Partners that are not included as a member of a collaborative in an application may be required to submit to a competitive subcontract process per ICJIA’s routine subcontract/subaward approval policy.

It is acceptable for collaborative members to perform different roles in the collaborative. For example, one member could provide administrative support, while others perform direct services.

Descriptions of these roles should be incorporated into memorandums of understanding between collaborative members and must be explained and justified at the appropriate points in the Program Narrative. Divisions of labor and responsibility within collaboratives should reflect values of equity, justice, and opportunity.

117. If we are the responsible applicant and collaborate with another organization on an R3 Service Delivery program, can we also submit another Service Delivery application on our own as a single organization applicant? Either for both programs to run at the same time in collaboration or possibly have one start at a later date? Could both programs be funded?

No. Single entities or organizations may only be party to one application within a specific funding area in each NOFO category. Only one applications may be submitted or funded.

118. When we ask questions regarding R3 grant funding, will the response be sent to our email address or do we have to look for it on the Q&A document?

ICJIA responds to emailed questions directly to sender. They also are posted here <https://r3.illinois.gov/faqs>, under R3 NOFO Questions and Answers.

119. During one of the webinars it was stated that businesses can not submit a grant application individually - that they must apply as part of a collaboration. However, it's not stated in the NOFO instructions document. Can you confirm that businesses must apply for these grants as part of a collaboration in order to be considered?

Businesses can apply as either a single organization or as a member or responsible applicant of a collaborative as long as they satisfy all eligibility requirements.

120. If an agency is part of a collaborative grant application, then would each of the agencies be considered a subcontract/subaward with the lead agency and submit a subcontract budget as part of the program budget submitted with the application? For each subcontract, can they include IDC costs per their negotiated agreement with HHS or the state?

Yes, members of collaborative applications will be subgrantees of the responsible applicant organization. Applicants are not required to submit all subaward budgets at the time of application but may specify how funds will be distributed and used in Budget or Program Narrative documents. Subawards may include indirect costs if allowable under state and/or federal regulations.

121. Can applicants propose a program that serves all of the R3 zones within a funding region?

Yes.

122. We are pre-qualified in GATA but as a new organization still in our first year, we would not perform well in the ICQ. Would this impede our performance on the application? Should we look for a submitting partner who has a longer track record?

The ICQ is not a factor in the scoring of applications. If an applicant is successful in the application process and is awarded funds, ICJIA may use the ICQ to develop grant conditions to ensure that state funds are appropriately managed. If you fear the results of the ICQ may impose additional requirements on your organization, consider one of these options:

- Form a collaborative with a partner who can act as a fiscal agent for administrative functions.
- Identify a fiscal agent after the grant is awarded.

An R3 program goal is to increase opportunity and build capacity for community organizations. Organizations that have valuable experience and ideas on how to provide needed services will not be excluded based on ICQ results. The most important component of a successful application will be how well the proposed program is conceived and explained in the Program Narrative portion of the application.

Application reviewers will be cognizant of R3 program values and score applications based on the NOFO and Program Narrative criteria, not on external factors. Organizations with knowledge of the local community, experience in providing community services, and a sound program design will be competitive for this funding opportunity, regardless of external factors.

123. May we please have example letters of commitment/memorandums of understanding? The link to examples on the website does not currently lead to any examples.

Click here for examples of a letter of commitment and memorandum of understanding:
https://www.acf.hhs.gov/sites/default/files/fysb/mou_508.pdf.

124. Does the responsible applicant have to submit its own letter of commitment in addition to submitting the letters of commitment(s) from the partner(s) in the collaboration?

No, only collaborative members must submit letters of commitment/memorandums of understanding (MOUs). MOUs show that all members included in a collaborative application agree to participate in the proposed project. However, responsible applicants also may choose to submit an MOU on their own or upon request of other members of the collaborative.

125. We are working on our application for the R3 Service Delivery Grant and want to use part of the funding to supplement our existing program and part of the funding to create and begin running a new program. Is it possible for one implementing agency to submit two applications in the event we only qualify for one, or should we submit one application with both programs included? Can we receive partial funding for what our budget asks, or is the application either accepted or rejected in full?

An organization may only submit (or be a part of) one application per funding region per NOFO. Applicants may include proposals for two related programs in a single application if both parts of the program are fully explained in the Program Narrative.

Proposals will be accepted or rejected for funding based on application score. Funding awarded may be lower than the amount requested. If that is the case, ICJIA will work with the grantee to determine how the program may be carried out with the awarded amount.

126. Will a new NOFO be issued for new applicants in FY2022?

With an appropriation, availability of the funds, and positive program performance, successful FY21 grantees may receive funding to continue their programs for up to an additional 24 months. In addition to these grant continuations, ICJIA intends to issue another NOFO in FY22, but it will depend upon receipt of an appropriation and availability of funds.

127. Can an applicant apply for services in one region this year and submit a second application next year for an additional zone?

Unfortunately, the focus of future NOFOs is unknown at this time.

128. My organization has two locations in the same funding region, but they are in different R3 Zones. Can we combine the proposals for services provided at these two locations into one application or do we have to submit two applications?

Applicants may submit only one application per funding zone per NOFO. If you wish to combine the services at these two locations into one program for this grant application, you would need to include both in one application.

129. Page 21 of the NOFO instructions states that applicants responding to the NOFO must complete a Programmatic Risk Assessment (PRA). Where do I access this PRA?

The Programmatic Risk Assessment (PRA) is not a requirement to apply for this grant. If an application is selected for funding, the successful applicant organization will be provided a PRA to complete prior to the execution of the grant agreement and receipt of funds.

Questions and Answers from June 5, 2020 – June 11, 2020

130. Can a nonprofit organization be a subcontractor for multiple primary applicants?

An organization can be part of only one application, regardless of whether they submit the application or if they are included as a member of a collaborative application. An organization may be selected as a subcontractor for more than one grantee following the execution of the grant agreement between a successful applicant and ICJIA, but in that event the grantee would need to follow the guidelines for competitive bidding for subcontractors per ICJIA's normal subcontract approval process.

131. Can employees of the organization also be recipients of our services? In other words, are we allowed to hire and pay community members as employees with grant funds?

Yes, if the grantee organization employee also is eligible for services as a resident of an R3 zone, the employee may receive services. Employees may not receive preferential treatment over non-employees.

132. In the budget, can we include salaries to pay for hired "part-time" staff such as a Program Director and Youth Aide?

Applicants should make specific staffing decisions based on the proposed program's needs, but full- and part-time staff salaries may be included in your application.

133. How many clients should our program serve? Are there targets established for how many of our clients are R3 residents if our program will see clients that might not live in R3 zones? Are there targets for number of services provided?

There are no pre-determined targets for either program. Applicants set the goals, objectives, and performance measures for their proposed programs. These goals will be part of the merit-based review of applications and, for successful grantees, will be incorporated into the grant agreement with ICJIA.

Service Delivery programs must provide services to residents of R3 zones. Organizations proposing to serve individuals both within and outside of R3 zones should indicate the estimated breakdown of clients in both areas and how the program will primarily serve R3 residents. Assessment and Planning program narratives should describe a process to develop a plan centered around R3 zones and include how the plan may affect nearby areas.

134. Other organizations are reaching out to my organization asking if we would potentially partner with them in a collaborative application. My organization does not normally provide direct services in communities. What part could I play in this program?

Organization collaboratives may seek to include members that do not provide direct services but do provide other benefits to the collaborative. Collaborative members may provide administrative support, facilitate linkages and collaboration between organizations, or other indirect benefits. Collaborative applicants must determine the structure their programs and identify the roles of each member in their applications.

135. Our community has two R3 zones that are next to one another, and there is some overlap in the zip codes. One of them is designated as a 'high need' area, but it seems like that might be just because a portion of the other community shares that zip code. Was zip code data used in determining a zone's high need status? If so, then half of one community would have been applied to the other's determination as a high need zone.

R3 zone designations were identified via census tracts and not necessarily by ZIP code. Data used to identify these areas can be found here: <https://r3.illinois.gov/resources>, under ANALYSIS.

136. Can the funds be used to pay rent for an office space?

Yes.

137. We are applying to the Chicago Southern R3 zone. Can our services be offered throughout that zone or do they specifically have to be offered in the Zone ID where we are based in the Back of the Yards area?

Services may be offered throughout the zone. Applicants may propose to provide services in any number of R3 zones throughout a funding region. The R3 Zone ID should be provided for Local Preference Points and the ID is based on the applicant organization's location, but the organization will not be limited to providing services in a single zone.

138. I looked up our organization's address, and I see an R3 zone ID, but I'm not sure what it stands for. Is there any way of knowing what the boundaries of the R3 zones are? How do they relate to census tracts? How did you decide which tracts to include in which R3 zone?

The R3 Zone ID is an indicator established just for this program to make it easier for grantees to find themselves where they seek to provide services on the eligibility map. Each R3 Zone maps onto a single census tract

R3 Zones are identified by color on the Eligibility map here: <https://r3.illinois.gov/eligibility>. Click on the color-coded areas to view the zones and their boundaries. Click on a zone to view Census tract and other information. This information also is presented in the table just below the map.

Data used to identify R3 zones can be found here: <https://r3.illinois.gov/resources>, under ANALYSIS.

139. Can you provide more information on what we need to be GATA compliant?

Click here for information on how to become GATA compliant: <https://icjia.illinois.gov/gata/>. ICJIA recommends that potential applicants immediately set up an account at <https://grants.illinois.gov/portal>, which also will help you determine what steps you will need to take for GATA compliance.

140. Does our organization need to be based in Illinois to be eligible?

While an organization's headquarters may be out of state, some presence in Illinois will be required. Program must serve Illinoisans residing in designated R3 zones.

141. LOCAL PREFERENCE: Applicants have submitted several questions on local preference. Here is more information:

Local Preference Points offer a boost in scoring to local organizations that provide services in their communities. Many community-based organizations have reported difficulty in obtaining grants when having to compete with established and wealthier organizations from outside of their communities. Local Preference Points will help even the playing field for local organizations trying to overcome initial grant barriers.

Only local organizations that have offices, workspace, and services rooted within a community should complete the Local Preference Point application questions.

Applicants should not enter addresses of satellite offices, P.O. boxes, or any other locations that do not accurately represent the location of the community organization or where services are provided.

142. The Program Narrative asks me to enter my four-digit R3 Zone ID. However, my R3 Zone ID from the eligibility map does not have four digits. Should I enter zeroes in front of the number to get up to four digits?

Either way is acceptable. The numbers were originally conceived of as four-digit numbers, but the numbers have been simplified. Applications with numbers in either format in the Program Narrative will be accepted.

143. Would it be better for multiple agencies with a plan to serve the same census tract to apply together as a coalition or apply separately as individual agencies?

Either approach is acceptable. While the program does encourage collaboration, it is understood that partnerships may occur formally within an application or informally between grantees. Applicants should decide which approach works better for their communities and their program designs.

144. Must a project partner receive award funds to count as a collaborative partner? Often we have MOUs with project partners who agree to accept referrals and then provide services with existing funding streams.

Collaborative members are not required to accept grant funding to be a part of an R3 program. The role of such a collaborative member should be explained in the application.

145. May organizations serve individuals who do not reside in an R3 zone with R3 funding as long as applicants demonstrate that a “significant portion” will come from an R3 zone?

Yes. Organizations may provide services to any client entering their facilities. However, they must demonstrate in their applications that a significant portion of the client base will be from the R3 zone to be deemed eligible for R3 funding. In addition, any outreach activities, advertising, or marketing geared toward new clients should occur within an R3 zone.

146. How far outside an R3 zone can the service location be located? Our facility is located less than a mile from the closest R3 zone. We serve clients for that R3 zone as well as clients from many other R3 zones that are further away. We would like to propose serving persons from many R3 zones.

If your facility is located just outside of an R3 zone and many (or all) of your clients are from that or other zones, you may provide services to any client who comes to your facility. However, you must demonstrate in your application that a significant portion of your client base will be from an R3 zone to be deemed eligible for funding. In addition, any outreach activities, advertising, or marketing geared toward new clients should occur within an R3 zone.

147. Must recipients measure and/or report the number of clients contacted through “outreach activities, advertising, or marketing geared toward new clients...within an R3 zone”?

Applicants are free to set their own goals, objectives, and performance measures based on the design of their proposed programs. If outreach is an important part of the proposed program design, applicants may include outreach activities as part of their goals, objectives, and performance measures. These goals will be part of the merit-based review of applications and, for successful grantees, will be incorporated into the grant agreement with ICJIA. Grantees will be required to report on any goals, objectives, and performance measures included in their proposal.

Questions and Answers from June 12, 2020 – June 18, 2020

148. If the collaborative organizations are located in different funding zones, but the serving area is the same, can we still submit one collaborative application?

Yes.

149. If we have a main office and a branch office, where the main office is the headquarters and the branch office will be doing the work of the program, should the branch office be listed as a collaborative partner in the application?

No. The branch office should not be listed as a collaborative partner in the application. However, you may include a description of the branch’s location and program involvement in the Program Narrative.

150. If we decide to go with a single-applicant application for an organization that has headquarters and branches, should we count all employees’ residence in the zone? Or only the employee working at the branch that will implement the program?

All employees of the organization should be considered in the calculation.

151. Our work will be in one funding region, but multiple funding zones. How do I determine the max funding award if we're working in multiple funding zones?

The maximum (and minimum) amounts are based on funding region. The maximum amount listed for any given region is the most that can be requested in an application, regardless of how many R3 zones are served by the proposed program.

152. If we are certifying that our employees come from an R3 zone, must those employees come from the zone in which our organization is based (and conducts our service), or can they come from any R3 zone?

They may come from (reside in) any R3 zone.

153. Must all program participants come from the same R3 area our organization is in, or are we allowed to draw from other R3 zones?

Multiple R3 zones may be served by a single program as long as they are all located within the same funding region.

154. My organization provides youth development services to local schools. Schools have been contracting with us directly, but we would like to ease their financial responsibilities by obtaining funding for our services through the grant as well as expand to new schools in the specified R3 needs zone.

Our organization will be responsible for hiring service providers to provide direct instruction to students as well as developing the curriculum for the training program. Still, we will be recruiting from the schools. Does this set-up require a collaborative application? If it does require a collaborative application, we would include at least twenty schools, do they all need to be listed as part of the collaborative?

If your organization is requesting R3 funding to hire staff and continue work in schools without reimbursement from the schools, then it appears they would not need to be part of the collaborative.

If, in the program design, the schools would be receiving grant funds, the schools would need to be included in the application as members of the collaborative and all participating schools should be included in the application.

Additionally, please note that funding for this program cannot be used merely to supplant other funding. In other words, this funding must be used to deliver new, expanded, or enhanced services, rather than simply substitute for a current funding source.

155. Can we apply as a collaborative and individuals, or we have to do one or the other?

An application must be either a single organization application or an application on behalf of a collaborative. Only one application for each NOFO can be submitted per applicant in any given

funding region. However, you may submit separate applications for each NOFO in a funding region. For example, an applicant may submit a single application for Service Delivery and also join a collaborative in an Assessment and Planning application.

156. Are capital costs allowed as it pertains to training skills?

This is difficult to answer without specifics, but capital investment, such as purchase of property or making significant property improvements, is generally not allowed with grant funds. Equipment purchases needed for skill building may be allowed.

157. For the program should we define the first 9 months as buildout and implementation then the next 24 months as operational? or do we need to plan for 33 months?

Unfortunately, we are unable to advise potential applicants on how to plan their programs. In your application, describe in detail your program design and how your program would be implemented.

158. For each zone do we need to submit a separate application?

No. You do not need to submit a separate application for each R3 *zone* to be served.

Separate applications must be submitted for each *funding region and/or NOFO*.

Applicants may only submit one application per NOFO per funding region.

159. Are reimbursements for stays in state-licensed recovery homes allowable expenses? Is subsidized employment as part of a transitional jobs program for reentering persons an allowable expense?

Subsidized employment for reentering persons as part of a transitional jobs program may be an allowable expense. Reimbursements for stays in recovery homes are generally covered under other state programs and likely would fall outside of the scope of this NOFO. However, the program design of this funding opportunity was broadened to allow organizations the freedom to define the best way for their programs to operate.

If you believe that reimbursement for stays in recovery homes (or another program activity) is a necessary part of your program design, you may explain that in your application. The program design, including the role of each activity, will be considered by the application reviewers and would factor into decisions of whether to award funding to your program.

160. I have a question about how the funds can be used for economic development. Can the funds be used to renovate a property this already owned by the organization that will be used to create a light manufacture co-working space, where we want to bring woodshop, photography, and other light textile products to the community. We will have classes for

the youth, to teach them these methods. However, the building would need to be renovated and we would need to purchase the equipment. Can the funding be used for this?

Equipment necessary for economic development and youth development programs could be an allowable expense. Renovation of existing space may be, but with some conditions. The renovation of the space generally cannot dramatically alter the function, size, or value of the building in which it is located. In addition, for both equipment and renovation expenditures, the expenditures should be clearly and extensively explained in the Program Narrative portion of the application in terms of how they will support your proposed program.