ARI SFY21 Notice of Funding Opportunity

Questions & Answers

Round 1:

3/3/2020

I was wondering if there was a place that listed any offenses that are prohibited from entering the ARI program. I know that it is open to any probation-eligible offender, but does that include EVERY client that gets probation? For example, if someone gets TASC on a Class X or 1, would they still be eligible? Are the “usual” offenses such as Aggravated Arson, Kidnapping, etc. also excluded?

Public Act 100-999 amended ARI’s enabling legislation, the [Crime Reduction Act](http://ilga.gov/legislation/ilcs/ilcs3.asp?ActID=3156) (730 ILCS 190/1), so that expanded eligibility means any offense that can get probation is eligible. Offenses ineligible for probation are listed in 730 ILCS 5/5-5-3(c)(2). ARI does not maintain a separate list of prohibited offenses.  
  
Please check with your local state’s attorney’s office about what offenses are excluded from eligibility based on mandatory prison sentences. In some cases, offense-specifics and/or criminal history may be relevant. Your local state’s attorney may know the specifics and/or may reduce charges in order to allow an individual into the program. Such decisions are up to the local stakeholders.

3/5/2020

I just completed the notice of intent to apply for this next year.  One question I have after viewing the recorded video is are we expected to stay within our previous years funding award ? Or are we allowed to request additional funds ?

3/9/2020

We will be submitting an application for renewal. I was wondering if there are restrictions on what to request for the budget total? I was not certain if we were limited to at-level funding from SFY20 or if any amount could be requested as long as it is cost-effective.

Current sites are not restricted to the previous year’s funding level. Applicants can request up to the amount they need and can reasonably spend to operate an effective prison diversion strategy in their jurisdiction, which should be clearly explained in the Program Narrative and detailed in the Budget and Budget Narrative. The anticipated range for award amounts is $50,000 to $1 million. Proposed programs must be designed to serve “prison-bound” individuals, with at least 80% of those enrolled scoring medium- to high-risk. Proposed programs must incorporate the principles of effective interventions; invest in evidence-based or -informed practices; and demonstrate cost-effectiveness, representing substantial savings to the state compared to incarceration (currently, the cost-effectiveness cap is $15,000 per person served). Award amounts are subject to the availability of funds and the competitiveness of the proposal.

3/7/2020

I am beginning to write the 2021 Implementation grant. I see it more like the federal grant template than prior grant cycles. There is a page length on the #1. Summary of Program, but I do not see a page length on any other section. Is there no specific page length? Is the[re] a total page length maximum? Must it be formatted in a specific font or margin?

As indicated on pages 17-18 of the [Notice of Funding Opportunity instructions](https://icjia.illinois.gov/gata/materials/funding/2020-ari-sfy21/ARISFY21NOFO.pdf), under “Application Formatting,” the total page limit for the Program Narrative is 20 pages, single-spaced, with 12-point font (Times New Roman preferred) and 1-inch margins. The Uniform Application for State Grant Assistance, Budget and Budget Narrative, and other required documents are not included in the 20-page limit.

Round 2:

3/10/2020

We are hoping to clarify the cost-effectiveness cap. Last year (SF20), it was our understanding that the cost per person diverted had a cap of $15,000. This application year (SFY21), the application reads the cost-effectiveness cap will be based upon cost per person served. This is a significant difference for our program and I wanted to ensure that it is in fact based upon cost per person served?

Section #8 in the Program Narrative requires applicants to calculate cost-effectiveness based both on the number served and the number diverted (enrolled). As ARI transitions to the new *diverted* definition, we will review both numbers but apply the cost-effectiveness cap to the cost per person served as it provides a more complete picture of what it takes to operate a diversion program. All information will be taken into account during the application review process.

3/11/2020

In the last two fiscal year applications, the reduction goal we’ve calculate based upon the numbers provided with the target population is less than what our program is able to achieve. In order to keep cost-effectiveness, we have historically increased that number. On the current application, should we only list the reduction goal that is figured from the equation provided? OR can we go ahead and bump that number up to a figure that better reflects what we believe we will be able to achieve?

Applicants are required to complete the cost-effectiveness calculations as required in Section #8 in the Program Narrative. You may include additional information as to how you reach a more cost-effective number for the cost per person diverted. All information will be taken into account during the application review process.

3/12/2020

Are we supposed to complete the Implementation Grant Program Narrative on the actual form titled Program Narrative deleting the instructions for each heading using the NOFO as a guide for what we write for each section and filling in the tables provided or are we supposed to create our own Narrative just using the titles??

Please include your answers directly on the Program Narrative form provided using the fillable answer blocks. Do not delete any questions, formatting or instructions. We anticipate applicants will be able to complete the narrative within the 20-page limit without deleting the instructions.

Are we considered a new or continuation under type of application in the Uniform Application for Grant Assistance. We have been a continuation, but with the new format is it different?

All applicants are considered “new” under this Notice of Funding Opportunity, which initiates a funding cycle of up to 36 months, renewable annually and contingent upon funding availability.

3/13/2020

Would it be required that the [ARI program] grant have a separate project coordinator funded under the ARI grant? The individual who would be taking over the reporting would be a coordinator who is already 100% funded by a BJA grant which funds another portion of the [ARI program].

No. The at least .25 FTE requirement is to ensure that some dedicated time is included for reporting purposes. If the BJA-funded coordinator can also fulfill ARI reporting requirements then that should suffice.

3/16/2020

Due to issues related to the Covid19, such as limited staffing, focus of management in trying to continue day to day operations, and events changing on a daily basis, will the grant deadline of March 31, 2020 be extended?

We are discussing the impact of the historic disruptions created by the COVID-19 public health crisis and will provide updates and guidance as soon as possible as they relate to this NOFO.