

A descriptive title for your paper

RPAD 500 - Spring 2021

Essay #2

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1 Introduction

Here, you will provide a very brief overview of the problem, a very brief overview of your proposed program to address the problem, and a set-up for considering contracting for the program or directly delivering the program.

2 Background

Here, you will provide background on 3 things: 1) the nature of the problem and research on its potential sources and consequences; 2) a more detailed description of your proposed program to address the problem (be sure to include a performance objective for the program overall, such as reducing recidivism by X% or reducing addiction by X%, and this can involve multiple overall goals); and 3) a brief review of evaluations/analysis of programs that have been tried/proposed in the past/in other states and how they relate to your proposed program.

2.1 Background on the problem (use a more specific title based on the problem you are assessing)

2.2 Proposed program

2.3 Previous research on other programs

Conclude this section with a transition to your two alternatives, contracting the program implementation or directly implementing the program.

3 Contracting proposal

Describe why you would consider contracting for the program. A good opportunity to review, discuss, and cite research on contracting public services.

3.1 Contracting process

Describe the characteristics of eligible firms for competing, the process you will use to assess proposals, and key aspects of the contract (e.g., how long, pricing structure, specific services being purchased). For each aspect, you should discuss why you made the decision you made (e.g., how it will influence accountability, the market of vendors, or performance).

3.2 Market of vendors

Here, you should discuss how many vendors are available and their relative skills and capacity to provide the services you need.

3.3 Contract evaluation

Specify performance measures for evaluating the contractor's performance. Do some research on the cost of similar contracts/salaries within organizations that provide similar services to estimate the likely costs of the contract.

4 Direct delivery proposal

Describe what agency would be responsible for implementing the new program and why.

4.1 Personnel plan

Describe the positions needed for implementing the new program. For each position, describe the roles and responsibilities of the position, the skills and qualifications expected for the position, and the cost of salary and benefits for the position.

4.2 Performance evaluation

Describe the performance expectations of each position in the new program, and relate the staffing to overall program outputs/outcomes clearly and precisely. Include the expected cost of the program here.

5 Discussion or trade-offs

Compare the costs and potential benefits of contracting versus direct delivery of your program.

6 Conclusion

Recommend contracting or direct delivery and justify.

7 References

Tables