2019 Youth Reinvestment Grant – Frequently Asked Questions
Bidder's Conference – December 12, 2019

Amendments shown in red were made on February 13, 2020

<u>**Applicant Eligibility:**</u>

1. We have several departments in our county, for example, the Department of probation received 2018 YRG funding, does this prevent the department of health services from applying for the 2019 grant?
   a. No.

2. As an NGO subcontracting with a 2018 YRG grantee, can we apply for the 2019 YRG funding?
   a. ~~No. If you are receiving 2018 Youth Reinvestment Grant funds either directly or indirectly, you are not eligible to apply for 2019 YRG funding.~~ **Yes, in some cases that is allowed. An NGO that received $100,000 or less as a 2018 YRG subgrantee is eligible to apply for 2019 YRG funds.**

3. Can an NGO in a specialized service (mental/behavioral health) apply for 2019 YRG funding and continue to subcontract with a 2018 YRG-funded diversion program?
   a. ~~No.~~
      Yes, in some cases that is allowed. An NGO that received $100,000 or less as a 2018 YRG subgrantee is eligible to apply for 2019 YRG funds.

4. As a 2018 subcontracted NGO can we apply as a Lead Agency for 2019?
   a. There is no "Lead Public Agency" role in the 2019 YRG program. ~~Additionally, recipients of 2018 YRG funds are precluded from receiving 2019 YRG funds.~~ **However, an NGO that received $100,000 or less as a 2018 YRG subgrantee is eligible to apply for 2019 YRG funds.**

5. When will 2018 YRG recipients be eligible to apply again?
   a. Should there be additional funding allocated for this program, the decision would be made by the Executive Steering Committee appointed at that time.

6. Do 2019 YRG applicants have to partner with a city, state, or councilmember?
   a. No.

7. Can an NGO be lead and have a Local Government as a subgrantee?
   a. Yes. You are allowed to work with the partners you feel are needed to make your project successful. **However, it should be noted that direct services may not be provided by government agencies.**

8. If a CBO applies but does not get funded through this process, are they then eligible to be a subcontractor for another grantee?
   a. Yes.

9. If we plan to deliver educational services or mental health services those are going to be specialized, professional people. Are we only allowed to partner with nonprofit organizations?
   a. No. **However, it should be noted that direct services may not be provided by government agencies.**

10. Is it okay to apply as a Regional Network?
    a. There are no "regional applications" under the 2019 YRG; however, you may partner with any partners necessary for the successful implementation of your project.

Fiscal Questions:

11. Is the $11.8 million for a 3-year period or annually?
    a. It is for the 3-year cycle that is expected to begin on July 1, 2020.

12. Is there a cap on the portion of the award that can be used for salaries?
    a. No.

13. If we hire an outside evaluation firm that is not a non-profit organization, would they be budgeted under professional services or data collection?
    a. Although it could go in either line item, we would ask that you put that under data collection.

14. Do we pay employees based on our current rate or is there a specific rate you require?
    a. Grantees set their own salary rates.

15. When identifying nonprofit organization staff in the budget, are names required or is the position sufficient?
    a. In the budget attachment submitted with the application, the salaries and benefits detail can include the name and title, or just the title, for positions to be funded under this grant.

16. Can local funding (city, foundation, etc.) be used as match?
    a. Yes.

17. If we request a 10% match but aren't selected for funding, can we be reconsidered for funding if we provide a 25% match? What if we provide a 25% match and lower the requested amount?
    a. Neither of these scenarios is allowed. The amount of the match must be designated at the time the application is submitted. There is no opportunity to change it after the application due date of February 14, 2020 at 5:00 p.m. PST.

18. Can unreimbursed volunteer time apply to the 25% match?
    a. Volunteers are, by definition, unpaid; however, if you have a professional that donates their time, that donation of time and services can be applied toward the match.

19. What is allowed for indirect costs?
    a. Applicants are allowed to claim indirect costs using one of the following options:
       - 10% of total direct salaries and wages, including or excluding benefits or
       - 5% of total direct project costs, excluding equipment.

20. Why are the allowable indirect costs so low?
    a. At this time, applicants are allowed to choose one of the two options noted above. More information about Indirect Cost Rates can be found in the BSCC's Grant Administration Guide at http://www.bscc.ca.gov/downloads/BSCC%20Grant%20Admin%20Guide%20July%202016.pdf.

21. Are we allowed to use our federal indirect cost rate?
    a. No. You are restricted to using the indirect costs rates in the RFP-Budget Attachment, provided in the BSCC Grant Administration Guide, and noted above.

22. Is it possible to scale up or scale down a proposal size and budget amount during contract negotiations depending on available funds? How would that occur?
    a. No. Proposals are either selected for funding or not, there is no "contract negotiation."

23. What is the definition of supplanting of funds?
    a. Supplanting is the deliberate reduction in the amount of funds being appropriated to an existing program or activity because grant funds have been awarded for the same purposes. When the Grantee or a subcontractor replaces funds in this manner, it reduces the total amount that would have been available for the stated grant purpose. Supplanting is strictly prohibited for all BSCC grant funds and it is the responsibility of the Grantee to ensure that supplanting does not occur. More information about supplanting can be found in the BSCC's Grant Guide at http://www.bscc.ca.gov/downloads/BSCC%20Grant%20Admin%20Guide%20July%202016.pdf.

24. Do you have a recommendation regarding the number of youth served in relation to the size of the requested grant amount? For example, for a request of $50,000, how many clients would you expect to see served?
    a. No, we do not have a guideline on this. It is up to each applicant to develop a strong proposal.

25. On the budget, if we need more lines on the form can we add lines? For example, we might have a lot of NGO Partners.
    a. Please don't add lines to the budget attachment. The narrative cells do not have a limit on the number of words you can add so please use those cells to add any additional information you may have. We will expand the cells when we receive the applications to ensure the raters can see all of your entries.

Application Content:

26. Does the prohibition against multiple applications mean we cannot submit multiple programs on one application?
    a. An applicant may not submit two separate applications. However, a single application may, for example, propose to include more than one program component or serve more than one community.

27. Are we required to identify our sub-contractors in the application, or can we identify our subcontractors after the application is approved?
    a. You can wait until after the funding decision has been made to identify them.

28. The RFP prohibits website links in the proposal narrative. Are footnotes to support quantitative data allowed in the narrative?
    a. Yes, as long as they conform to the formatting requirements and page limit.

29. Would Letters of Commitment be from our partners?
    a. Letters of Commitment could be from anyone who will have a role in the success of your diversion project. Typically, this includes partners and/or subcontractors.

30. Is 1-2 pages a hard limit for the Work Plan?
    a. Yes.

31. Can parameters for "Community" be other than "Zip Code or Neighborhood" as named in the RFP? For instance, can "jurisdictions" be used to define a target area, or a city planning zone?
    a. Yes. There is flexibility within this RFP for applicants to define the service area in whatever way makes the most sense given local considerations.

32. Do you have recommendations for de-aggregated juvenile arrest data sources at levels of zip-codes or neighborhoods? Most DOJ report resources are aggregated by larger geographical units.
    a. The California Department of Justice's Open Justice System provides juvenile arrest data at the city level. If applicants are looking for more focused data, they could try contacting the local Police Department or Sheriff's Office.

33. Can the arrest rate used include law enforcement booking or issuing a citation in lieu of arrest?
    a. Each applicant should use the data available to support their request. Although that will vary by applicant, each has the opportunity to explain the data they are using and how it supports their request.

34. Can an out of state university be assigned to do the evaluation or must that evaluator be within the state of California?
    a. You are not precluded from using an out of state evaluator. However, if you want to use the grant funds to pay for their costs, there will be some restrictions so you'll want to take a close look at that in the RFP. You should not plan to pay for out of state travel with grant funds.

35. Is an evidence-based program required or can it be a promising practice?
    a. It can be promising.

36. The RFP says that certain documents must be signed in blue ink and include an original signature. How will that work since we will be sending in a PDF?
    a. Please obtain original signatures in blue ink on all documents calling for that and then scan/submit that version.

General Questions:

37. What is the required content within the Letter of Intent?
    a. From RFP page 2:
       • Name of the Applicant;
       • Identification of the applicant as a local governmental entity or a nonprofit organization;
       • Name of a contact person; and
       • A brief statement indicating the Applicant's intent to submit a proposal.

38. Can you elaborate on the level of confidentiality required for participants?
    a. The RFP states "Applicants must demonstrate a clear referral plan and process that ensures participant confidentiality." We expect applicants to be aware of, and ready to comply with, all requirements related to maintaining the confidentiality of the minors they work with. This could include HIPAA requirements or policies related to the confidentiality of juvenile records and/or criminal history records.

39. Would you say more about net-widening?
    a. By disallowing net-widening, YRG seeks to ensure that all youth are served in the least restrictive manner possible. Each proposed project should have a mechanism in place to ensure that services are only provided to youth for whom they are appropriate.

40. Will there be consideration for a geographic distribution?
    a. There is no specific consideration for that, so each proposal will be rated on its own merits. And the only categorization that is being used in this cycle is the request amount for small, medium, and large counties.

41. Do you anticipate that recipients of the award will do marketing or community outreach to people other then direct participants of the program, say to the families, or to the broader community neighbors for this diversion resource?
    a. There is no mandate that you include outreach as part of your proposal.

42. What does ESC stand for?
    a. Executive Steering Committee.

43. Is the Local Evaluation Plan written after the funding decision is made or do we have to submit it with the application?
    a. The Local Evaluation Plan is only completed by those applicants that are selected for funding. It is typically due about 3 months after the start of the grant term.

44. Where can I find a list of projects funded through the 2018 YRG awards?
    a. The abstracts for funded projects are provided on the grant webpage, http://www.bscc.ca.gov/s_youthreinvestmentgrant/, under Cohort 1.

45. Is the Bidder's Conference and PowerPoint available on your website?
    a. Yes. Both are available on the grant webpage, http://www.bscc.ca.gov/s_youthreinvestmentgrant/, under the first accordion.