

QUESTION

There does not seem to be any funding associated with this RFP, either for the lead entity or to support the work of the team. Is that correct?

ANSWER

There is no funding associated with this RFP, and financial assistance will not be provided to the lead entity to support the work of the team. Lead entities are also required to have the capacity to send a representative to Strategic Planning Action Committee (SPAC) meetings when requested, with no compensation provided for time, travel, or any other related expense. These meetings occur quarterly, and it is not expected that requests to attend will be for all or even a majority of the SPAC meetings.

In addition, the Office of the Deputy Secretary for Public Safety, in collaboration with other state agencies and stakeholders, will provide technical assistance and training within available appropriations to the extent possible. State staff will also be available to travel to the various regions to attend and help facilitate some of the meetings of the Regional Youth Justice Teams.

QUESTION

Would team member agencies or the lead entity be precluded from responding to any RFPs that the team itself would be coordinating or having a significant impact upon? Also, could projects already embraced by a lead entity or its team member agencies in any way be jeopardized by participation in a Regional Youth Justice Team?

ANSWER

The SPAC is mindful of and follows procurement rules and regulations, and will not conduct its work in a way that will preclude the Regional Youth Justice Teams or its members from being eligible for juvenile justice funding opportunities or projects in any way.

QUESTION

What is a *qualified regional community collaboration*? Can you give an example of an existing one?

ANSWER

A qualified regional community collaboration is the proposed team that meets the membership requirements of this RFP and is led by an entity whose mission is aligned with the stated goals for the juvenile justice system as outlined in the State's strategic plan (<http://www.nysjag.org/documents/safe-communities-successful-youth-full-version.pdf>) and that has experience in providing leadership in juvenile justice issues in New York. It could evolve from an existing collaboration or be an entirely new one. Since a qualified regional community collaboration is defined specifically by meeting the objectives and requirements of this RFP, there are no examples of an existing one.

QUESTION

Is the lead entity required to gather MOUs, letters of support, etc. from all of the stakeholders throughout all of the individual counties in their particular region?

ANSWER

The lead entity is required to include letters of support from each proposed team member that is included on the roster. If the applicant is unable to include certain stakeholders on the roster at the time of the application, then a plan for soliciting their participation should be described as outlined in section 3 (b) on page 9 of the RFP. In addition, section 3 (d) on pages 9 and 10 of the RFP requests the applicant to provide evidence that the proposed team has the support of local government, community-based agencies and community leaders who may not be represented on the team roster, but are key stakeholders involved in juvenile justice issues in the region. This evidence could include MOA's, letters of agreement or support, or other existing contracts or agreements. The goal of these requirements is to ensure that the lead entity has buy-in from all of the major juvenile justice players in the region so that the team is successful in its work.

QUESTION

What happens if a key stakeholder declines to participate?

ANSWER

As stated in the RFP, teams should include broad community representation, key representatives from each county and major city in the region, and a wide spectrum of juvenile justice professionals, youth and families. Who each specific key stakeholder is in a particular region is not defined, and is up to the applicant to determine. Therefore, applications will not be judged by the omission of any particular individual key stakeholder, but overall team membership will be evaluated to ensure broad representation. If a stakeholder deemed important by the applicant was invited to participate and declined, the applicant should state such in the application. The hope is that all key juvenile justice stakeholders within a region will come together to support a lead entity that is most likely to be successful in leading a Regional Youth Justice Team.

QUESTION

Is it the hope that a system actor/stakeholder (an entity involved in working directly with youth) will be the lead entity, or are other entities (advocacy groups, consultants, research entities) eligible and competitive? Does the lead entity need to be a government agency, or could it be a voluntary agency?

ANSWER

There is no preference as to the specific nature of the lead entity's organization. The lead entity can be any type of organization that has demonstrated leadership skills and experience and interest in community engagement and juvenile justice issues.

QUESTION

Is there an option to have a team with co-leads consisting of a government agency and a voluntary agency?

ANSWER

Although there is no specific option outlined in the RFP to have a team led by two entities, applications that include two lead entities with either one chair or two co-chairs will be considered as long as each lead entity provides separate responses, where applicable, and includes a signed agreement that outlines their commitment to lead the effort together.

QUESTION

In 2010, our region formed a steering committee to spearhead its juvenile realignment/reform work, and, more recently, expanded the scope of this entity to include the entire juvenile justice continuum. The committee is co-chaired by two government agencies. On page 6 of the RFP, it states that one lead entity should be identified to represent the team. Could an application be accepted if it proposes to have two lead entities co-convene the Team?

ANSWER

Again, as stated above, while there is no specific option outlined in the RFP to have a team led by two entities, applications that include two lead entities with either one chair or two co-chairs will be considered as long as each lead entity provides separate responses, where applicable, and includes a signed agreement that outlines their commitment to lead the effort together. In addition, as stated in the RFP, the SPAC will consider approaches to regionalization that preserve existing relationships. If there is an existing collaboration that has been in existence, then that collaboration is eligible to apply as the lead entity as outlined in section 3 (e) on page 10 of the RFP.