

HOPE RFA
Applications Due July 1, 2026, 12:00 pm EST
RFA Questions and Responses

Questions may have been edited for clarity and/or to avoid duplication.

Question 1

In the eligibility requirements for the HOPE NY RFA, the document states: "Area/organization must not be currently receiving funding by DCJS Project RISE or NYS OASAS Youth Club Houses." If an organization is receiving DCJS Project RISE or NYS OASAS Youth Club Houses funding, but the funding is not directed to a program in the target ZIP codes for the HOPE NY RFA, would the organization be eligible to apply?

Answer:

No, if an entity is receiving Project RISE, NYS OASAS Youth Club Houses or SNUG funding, even if the current funded program is not in the designated zip codes, the agency is not eligible to apply.

Question 2

What are considered indirect costs?

Answer:

Indirect costs, often referred to as overhead expenses, are expenses that support the overall operations but cannot be directly traced to a specific product, services or project.

Question 3

What is the maximum allowable indirect cost rate, and will the State accept federally negotiated indirect cost rate agreements (NICRA) where applicable?

Answer:

Please refer to page 19 of the application that states that indirect costs are capped at 15%.

Question 4

Will organizations be able to apply indirect costs to all subcontractor costs? Is there any limit to this?

Answer:

Indirect costs are based on direct costs in the budget, and all indirect costs are capped at 15%.

Question 5

Are stipends or incentives for youth participation (e.g., workforce readiness stipends, gift cards) considered allowable expenses?

Answer:

Stipends are an allowable expense for this grant opportunity.

Question 6

Can funds be used for minor facilities or safety improvements?

Answer:

Yes, however, Capital Improvements will not be an allowable expense.

Question 7

Are capital improvements, facility upgrades, vehicle costs, security infrastructure, technology, youth stipends, and family support costs (such as meals and transportation) allowable line items under this funding?

Answer:

Capital improvements are not an allowable expense. Minor alterations and renovations may be allowed. It's not possible to give an exhaustive list of allowable and unallowable costs. DCJS will work with successful applicants to finalize budget items.

Question 8

What specific performance metrics or outcomes will grantees be required to track and report? Are there certain percentages or categories that need to be met? (ex: gun violence reduced by 50% within the [targeted] zip code.)

Answer:

The minimum expectations for reporting indicators can be found on page 11 of the RFA. Applicants can also propose additional data elements to be tracked in their application.

Question 9

If our main non-profit has a smaller 'sister' group or a program we started that has its own tax ID, can we give them part of the grant to meet the 40% subcontracting rule? Or, does 40% have to go to a completely different outside group?

Answer:

At least 40% of each award must be subcontracted to local grassroots organizations, ensuring that programming and services are delivered by trusted community partners. The grassroots organizations **must be distinct** from the applying entity.

Question 10

For any car services that need to be provided for the participants, are these costs considered part of the Direct Service budget or under the Infrastructure/Staffing budget?

Answer:

Transportation provided to participants would be considered a direct service and would be in the All-Other Section of the Budget.

Question 11

Will participating youth be drawn from the grantee organization's existing community-based cohort and outreach pipeline, or does DCJS intend to refer or assign youth to grantee haven sites? If a hybrid model is anticipated, what role will community-based organizations play in shaping intake criteria, and how will trust and credibility, the foundation of effective community violence intervention work, be protected in the referral process?

Answer:

DCJS will not play any role in referring youth.

Question 12

What is the maximum and minimum number of youth we have to serve?

Answer:

DCJS has not set a maximum or minimum about of youth to be served.

Question 13

For organizations that already operate trusted, community-based programming in target zip codes referenced in the RFA, will the State consider the existing site and infrastructure as the qualifying "haven," and view HOPE funding as enhancement and expansion of those operations? Or does the RFA contemplate the establishment of a new, separate haven location?

Answer:

The goal of this RFA is to develop or expand programming in physical spaces in neighborhoods most impacted by gun violence. Using an existing location or establishing a new location would be allowable.

Question 14

How will the State view applications from organizations with active CVI, CMS, or related state and city contracts that operate in or adjacent to the same target zip codes? Specifically, are there supplanting concerns the State would like applicants to address

proactively, and is layered or complementary funding considered a strength or a risk in the review?

Answer:

Funding and applicant eligibility requirements can be found on page 8 of the RFA, which states:

- Area/organization must not be currently receiving funding by DCJS Project RISE or NYS OASA Youth Club Houses.
- You are not eligible if you are one of the 14 SNUG Sites listed in the Appendix: List of 14 SNUG Sites.
- Funding under this program must supplement, not supplant, non-grant funds that would otherwise be available for expenditure on the programs proposed.

All application evaluation criteria can be found in sections V and VI in the RFA.

Question 15

What is the minimum and maximum number of staff required?

Answer:

There is no minimum or maximum number of staff required.

Question 16

Can the State clarify the minimum required days and hours of haven programming per week? What is the minimum or maximum number of days per week?

Answer:

DCJS will not set a minimum or maximum of required days or number of hours. The only requirement set for is that programming be during high-risk evening hours (5-9pm) and weekends as stated on page 4 of the application.

Question 17

Will the State allow 'haven' programming to include off-site, field-based, and overnight experiences, such as wilderness retreats, camping, college visits, equine therapy, and partnerships with established outdoor youth-serving organizations? Trauma-informed programming often requires young people to leave the environment of harm in order to heal, and we want to ensure these experiences are both allowable and viewed favorably under HOPE.

Answer:

Yes.

Question 18

Will the State allow lead applicants to subcontract specialized programming components such as wellness, mental health, equine therapy, arts, or culturally specific healing practices to partner organizations? If so, is there a cap on the percentage of the budget that may be sub-contracted, and are formal MOUs required at the time of application or only at award? Are there established outside organizations and camp sites?

Answer:

Please refer to page 9 of the application that speaks to the necessary Core Program offerings. A minimum of 40% of the budget is required to be subcontracted to grassroots organizations for direct service delivery of programming. MOUs are not required at the time of application but will be required if awarded. There are no pre-established organizations.

Question 19

Is there a match or cost-share requirement, and if so, may in-kind contributions (volunteer hours, donated space, donated services from partner organizations) be counted toward the match?

Answer:

There is no match or cost share requirement for this funding.

Question 20

How will payments be structured across the two-year contract (advance, milestone-based, or reimbursement) and is there a startup advance available to support the first 90 days of programming?

Answer:

The contract is a reimbursement-based contract and will be paid out on a quarterly basis. An advance of 25% of the award may be requested and can be claimed upon execution of the contract.

Question 21

Can the State provide detail on the scoring mechanism for this RFA, specifically the scoring rubric, point allocations across each application section, and the composition of the review panel? Applicants would benefit from understanding the relative weight given to organizational track record, community credibility, programmatic design, budget reasonableness, and partnership infrastructure. What does the success rubric look like?

Answer:

The points for each section are indicated in the RFA. The review panel will consist of DCJS employees. DCJS cannot provide more specific information on the scoring process beyond what is already provided for in the RFA (See page 15).

Question 22

For organizations with prior or current DCJS funding history and demonstrated outcomes, including measurable, sustained reductions in shootings and killings within their catchment area, how will that track record factor into scoring? Additionally, will applicants have the opportunity to submit supporting documentation (independent evaluations, precinct-level violence data, letters of support from city and state partners) as part of the application, or is the application limited to the narrative and budget templates provided?

Answer:

Scoring for this RFA will only be based on the application submitted. Letters of Support are allowable but will not be evaluated or scored.

Question 23

Can you confirm what the source of this funding is? Are any federal funds, in part or in whole, supporting this program?

Answer:

The funding for this RFA is 100% state funded.

Question 24

Can organizations allocate staff time to the budget to support the procurement process for vendors? This is anticipated to be a major administrative need given the RFA requirements to subcontract 40% of the total award.

Answer:

Yes, administrative staff time for grant and procurement time can be included in the budget.

Question 25

Must organizations provide all of the components listed on Page 9 of the RFA (“following holistic suite of wraparound services...”) ? Are activities not included in this list allowable?

Answer:

Yes, all of the Core Program Offerings must be provided. Should the applicant wish to propose providing services or offerings above and beyond the required Core Program Offerings, that would be allowable.

Question 26

Are rent and utilities for the haven allowable costs?

Answer:

Yes.

Question 27

Is staff travel an allowable cost? Or will this be covered by the state? Asking primarily in relation to p14: "Havens will participate in ongoing activities to share best practices and lessons learned through DCJS and OGVP. Activities may include statewide convenings, learning communities, and peer exchange sessions. Occasional travel for in-person events and collaborative meetings may be required."

Answer:

Staff travel is an allowable budget cost. DCJS will not be covering those costs outside of the grant award.

Question 28

Are there hours during the weekend during which havens are expected or required to operate?

Answer:

The successful application must include weekend hours but there are no set hours determined by the state. The successful applicant will need to address what works in their community.

Question 29

What level of detail is expected for proposal budgets regarding subcontractors? (p19) Given a potential need for open competitive bidding processes for subcontractors, does DCJS expect budgets to identify prospective partners? Can budgets outline estimated amounts per service anticipated to be subcontracted, with TBD listed as the vendor?

Answer:

Sub-contractor budgets can be an estimation based on the grantees proposed programming needs. The Vendor can be listed as TBD.