

FAQ for FY 2023 Cooperative Agreement for Schools-Based Trauma-Informed Support Services and Mental Health Care for Children and Youth (TISS) SM-23-025

Pre-Application Webinar 04/05/2023

- 1. Can you please define "State Education Agency" and "Local Education Agency." Are private schools excluded?**

State Education Agency or SEA is the agency primarily responsible for the State supervision of public elementary schools and secondary schools.

Local Education Agency or LEA means a public board of education or other public authority legally constituted within a State for either administrative control or direction of, or to perform a service function for, public elementary schools or secondary schools in a city, county, township, school district, or other political subdivision of a State, or for a combination of school districts or counties as are recognized in a State as an administrative agency for its public elementary schools or secondary schools.

- 2. Are these processes only for the prime or for all partners/subs as well?**

These processes pertain to the applicant.

- 3. Has this grant been awarded before? If so, is it possible to see what projects were awarded?**

Yes, this grant has been awarded in Sept 2022 and Dec 2022. The webpage will be available soon. The following is the website for the grant announcement.

<https://www.samhsa.gov/grants/grant-announcements/sm-22-017>

- 4. What does NOFO stand for?**

NOFO stands for Notice of Funding Opportunity

- 5. I just came on - how can I access information what is being shared - is there a website?**

The NOFO is available at <https://www.samhsa.gov/grants/grant-announcements/sm-23-025>.

- 6. Would linking tribal youth who are attending (non-tribal) school systems in two different counties to trauma support and mental health care provided by the Tribe's Behavioral Health Center meet the intent of this grant? (The training plan, family/community engagement plan and local interagency agreements would be specific to tribal youth)**

We cannot respond to what is appropriate for the grant outside of the technical aspect of the NOFO. Please read the required and allowable activities, as well as purpose of this grant program.

- 7. As an SEA we are not able to contract with agencies without a simplified bid process which will take longer than the time we have to complete this application. What recommendations do you have?**

You do not have to have a contract at time of application. You will need to submit a letter of commitment.

- 8. Can we partner with an LEA and their community TIC MH provider could be the required partner? Getting an LOC from a provider may imply future contracting which would also violate procurement rules.**

A LOC from a local community trauma-informed service provider/system is required. The LEA can be their own applicant if that is a less cumbersome process for the state.

If you are an SEA and selecting an LEA to partner with, the LEA will partner with local provider and a LOC will be included in your application.

- 9. Would this be available for a school starting in August? The school is new. So no clear student data yet. Just data from the community. The grant begins in September. Are we eligible if we haven't opened yet? Our school opens in August.**

Anticipated Start Date: Saturday, September 30, 2023. The grant cannot start before then.

- 10. Would the ideal applicant be an agency or a school district?**

There is no ideal applicant. Please just review the eligibility.

- 11. Can you confirm again who is eligible to complete the NOFO?**

Eligibility is statutorily limited to:

State Education Agencies,

Local Educational Agencies, and

Indian Tribes (as defined in section 4 of the Indian Self Determination and Education assistance Act) or their Tribal Educational Agencies, a school operated by the Bureau of Indian Education, a Regional Corporation, or a Native Hawaiian Educational Organization.

- 12. To clarify, a public for profit agency is not eligible?**

The eligibility of this grant is limited to the entities stated in the above question.

- 13. Can the implementation plan (and all the components) be for multiple LEAs who are committed or is it required that each LEA has its own plan?**

Upon being awarded, a written guidance and further support on the Implementation Plan will be given.

- 14. Just to be clear hiring is considered implementation and training and onboarding new staff?**

Hiring, training, and onboarding new staff is considered operational programming, but in this grant, there is an Implementation Plan that is due six months after award. See page 8-9 in the NOFO.

- 15. What if implementation has already started in July?**

Anticipated Start Date: Saturday, September 30, 2023

16. How is a cooperative agreement different from a grant?

A cooperative agreement involves substantial federal staff involvement in the program; grants require the applicant to complete all the requirements on their own. Section 2-2 page 16-17 for cooperative agreements and grants.

17. I am not sure if I missed this but is there an age range for "youth"? We primarily service students within higher education.

The NOFO does not specify age range, however the purpose contains the following language - The purpose of this program is to increase student access to evidence-based and culturally relevant trauma support services and mental health care by developing innovative initiatives, activities, and programs to link local school systems with local trauma-informed support and mental health systems, including those under the Indian Health Service. With this program, SAMHSA aims to further enhance and improve trauma-informed support and mental health services for children and youth. Additionally, please review the required and allowable activities.

18. Head start/early head start was mentioned which implies infant mental health as well.

This grant is designated for school age. Pre-kindergarten is considered schools aged, as school districts are responsible for a child's education beginning at age 3.

19. What happens if all the money awarded for a year is not spent up. Can some funds be carried over?

The grantee can request a Post Award Amendment/ Carry Over. It is not assured and will be reviewed by the GMS and GPO. Please see <https://www.samhsa.gov/grants/grants-management/post-award-amendments> for more details.

20. Would LEAs / applicant need to be consistent with using one measurement tool going forward? For example, we likely have more than one committed LEA - some of their districts use SABRS, others use SDQ, some a School Climate by Panorama. So, should we just name each of these in the application or choose only instruments we anticipate using across all LEAs involved?

Please see pages 10-12 and Appendix F

21. We are a state funded higher education organization that works with community organizations providing MH services. Are we eligible?

Eligibility is statutorily limited to

State Education Agencies,

Local Educational Agencies, and

Indian Tribes (as defined in section 4 of the Indian Self Determination and Education assistance Act) or their Tribal Educational Agencies, a school operated by the Bureau of Indian Education, a Regional Corporation, or a Native Hawaiian Educational Organization.

[See Section III-1 (of the NOFO) for complete eligibility information.]

22. If the award occurs in September can the applicant implement the direct services starting in January during the spring semester and use sept-dec for planning?

There is no set planning period for the grant. Generally, the first few months of a grant is used to complete hiring, set up system pathways, and to complete items/ Special Conditions listed in the Notice of Awards.

23. How many grants will be awarded in this cycle?

Anticipated number of awards: 5

24. We are an SEA. Can we start with one LEA and local mental health partner and add additional LEAs/partners later?

Yes, you can start off with one LEA and complete a Post Award Amendment/ Change of Scope to add additional LEAs and Partners later?

<https://www.samhsa.gov/grants/grants-management/post-award-amendments>

25. If we add additional LEAs, we'd need the LOCs at that time, correct?

Yes, if you add additional LEAs to your grant, you will need to also have LOCs for each LEA.

26. Can you provide a training pertaining to Grants?

Please check the following websites for training on grants:

<https://www.samhsa.gov/grants>

<https://www.samhsa.gov/grants/applying>