

Refugee Career Pathway Program – RFA #19-300-001

FAQ (May 26, 2020)

Question:

The RFA requires the following:

The applicant must clearly demonstrate that the applicant will be serving a county that serves at least 40 percent of the total population of eligible participants in the state during the 2016–17 fiscal year, is projected to serve at least 40 percent of the total eligible participants that will resettle in the state in the 2018–19 and/or the 2019-20 fiscal year....

Based on our research no county serves 40% of the entire state's refugees.

Answer:

According to the Worldwide Refugee Admissions Processing System (WRAPS), Sacramento County is the only county that meets the threshold of serving at least 40% of eligible participants in the years listed above. This data was made possible by the California Community Colleges Chancellor's Office (Chancellor's Office) partnership with the California Department of Social Services (CDSS).

The Chancellor's Office Workforce and Economic Development Division is collaborating with the California Department Social Services (CDSS), Immigrant Integration Branch, Refugee Program Bureau (RPB) to provide oversight of the Refugee Career Pathways Program. The RPB, as the state administrator, on behalf of CDSS, has access to data provided by the *Resettlement Support Centers (RSCs) interactive computer system called the WRAPS. The RPB conducted a data run on WRAPS, which was the basis for the response to the question above.

* The Refugee Processing Center (RPC) is operated by the U.S Department of State (DOS) Bureau of Population, Refugees, and Migration (PRM) in the Rosslyn section of Arlington, Virginia USA.

At the RPC and at Resettlement Support Centers (RSCs), the computer system called the Worldwide Refugee Admissions Processing System (WRAPS) is used to process and track the movement of refugees from various countries around the world to the U.S. for resettlement under the U.S. Refugee Admissions Program (USRAP).

Question:

Based on the response in the FAQ (above), the only eligible county for this program is Sacramento County. Is this correct?

Answer:

Correct, please note that in accordance to the criteria provided in law and the data provided by the California Department Social Services (CDSS), Immigrant Integration Branch, Refugee Program Bureau (RPB); on a Community College District(s) serving Sacramento County are eligible.

Question:

Will the Bidders' Conference scheduled on May 14, 2020 provide the same information as the information provided on the webinar on March 19, 2020?

Answer:

No, the March 19, 2020 webinar was provided to announce the change in key dates to accommodate RFA applicants that were unable to conduct the activities (e.g., meetings with partners and stakeholders) necessary to complete a timely application due to required measures to prevent the spread of the COVID-19 virus. The Bidders' Conference will be a webinar that provides an overview of the RFA #19-300-001 requirements and process.

Please note; the Bidder's Conference is postponed until May 27, 2020. Please see memo regarding Addendum #2.

Question:

Can you confirm what the "intended services listed above" on P5 of the RFP are? Are you referring to the list of activities 1) – 6) listed on P10 of the RFP?

Answer:

Yes, page 10 lists examples of the "intended services."

Question:

Do you have intended objectives for the project or are applicants given the flexibility to come up with their own objectives? If you have specific objectives, please share what these are.

Answer:

The following summarizes the objective; *the RFA will fund programs that integrate eligible participants into quality CTE programs and career pathway programs supported by the Strong Workforce Program. However, it is the expectation of the Chancellor's Office that the applicant describe the Vision for Success goals that will be furthered should it be awarded the Refugee Career Pathways Grant Program grant.* Moreover, the applicant is highly encouraged to examine the Vision for Success commitments and strategies that can be adopted to achieve the objectives of this RFA. Please see Appendix D of the RFA (Vision for Success).

Question:

Is there a requirement to specify the number of refugee students the project will serve over the project timeframe?

Answer:

The Chancellor's Office highly encourages applicants to provide a projection of the number of refugees that will be served. Applications will be scored, sections such as Response to Need, Performance Outcomes, or Program Viability will be negatively impacted by an application that does not include projections of the number of refugee students that will be served.

Additionally, should an application successfully receive a grant award, the eventual grant agreement will be required to provide the number of students that will be served and the success of the grant will be measured by student outcomes.

Question:

On P16 of the RFP, applicants are asked to specify which Strong Workforce metrics each objective will contribute to. Should we list these within the Performance Outcomes column of the work plan or somewhere else?

Answer:

At minimum, applicants must list the performance outcomes in the column of the work plan.

Question:

Do we need to include "intent to participate" letters from each of the colleges within our district or will the Cover Letter suffice?

Answer:

As provided in the RFA, applicants are required to include any *Intent-to-Participate form letter from participating community colleges or subcontracts that are identified within this grant.*

Should an applicant be unable to coordinate with a community college or subcontractor to obtain Intent-to-Participate Letters due to measures taken to avoid the spread of COVID-19, a cover letter will suffice and please provide that justification in the cover letter.

Question:

Do we need "intent to participate" letters from each of our community partners? And, if we have these, do we also need to include MOUs?

Answer:

As stated above, "intent to participate" letters are required for the colleges and sub-contractors, however, a cover letter would suffice for the reasons provided above.

Additionally, as part of your management plan, applicants are required to *provide evidence of a formal partnership with eligible organizations who have agreed to provide services*. However, you are not required to provide an MOU. *A copy of a signed MOU is an example of evidence of a formal partnership.*

Question:

Can you confirm that the budget is \$5,000,000 for the time period 10/1/2020 – 12/31/2022. The RFP mentions it is renewable annually up to 5 years. Do you mean renewable annually beginning 1/1/2023 for 5 years? At what budget level per year?

Answer:

The grant award may be up to \$5,000,000 for a grant period beginning October 1, 2020 through December 31, 2022. The Board of Governor's allows the California Community Colleges Chancellor's Office to renew grants, but a grant may not be renewed beyond 5 years without conducting a new competitive bid process or seeking specific board approval to renew a grant beyond 5 years. At this time, the Chancellor's Office has no intent to renew this grant and it should be noted that this was one-time funding.

Question:

What is "Key Talent" e.g. P15 of RFP: "Applicants should pay close attention to how the Key Talent will advance these Vision for Success goals"?

Answer:

"Key Talent," for the purposes of this RFA refers to staff hired or assigned by the grantee to ensure the success of the Refugee Career Pathways Grant Program.