

Strong Families, Safe Communities FAQ (FY 2018-19)

Q&A Update Issued May 8, 2017

Q1: Would Wraparound Services and IHBT (Intensive Home Based Services) be eligible as services within the grant?

A: Wraparound costs can be supported by the Strong Families, Safe Communities program. For IHBT, only the costs for non-Medicaid eligible clients can be reimbursed with this award.

Q2: Can the fiscal agent of the grant be a OHMHAS Community Mental Health Agency in collaboration with public schools?

A: Yes. Only one organization should act as the fiscal agent to manage the funding for the award. Other area organizations can be collaborative partners and submit invoices to the fiscal agent.

Q3: (Seeking further clarification on the term “intervening variables”) Do you mean that you want to know what “things” that we considered when deciding upon what we would do? For example, we considered current community capacity, available resources, services needed to enhance protective factors, etc. and describe how these things played into our decisions OR do you mean that you want us to document in this section the things that are apt to change or vary?

A: The term refers to the latter examples (community capacity, available resources, services needed, etc.) and how these examples lead to the project model, strategy, and service selection.

Q4: (Seeking forms for the RFP)

A: The only template provided is the Budget Expenditure Reporting Tool. The written narrative should be created in a Word document. It may include agency letterhead, but is not required. The narrative should follow the instructions on page 3, regarding page limit, font, and spacing.

Q5: If writing a proposal for a two-year period, can \$350,000 be requested for each year? Resulting in \$700,000 for the two-year period.

A: Yes, this is correct. A project covering two years must include two budgets (one for each fiscal year)

Q6: Part III, Section D it states "proposals that include collaboration with agencies and organizations that are Trauma-Informed will receive 3 bonus points." Can you explain how the grant defines a Trauma-Informed organization?

A: OhioMHAS promotes SAMHSA's publication on this, "TIP 57." Page 157 – Part 2 – Implementation Guide for Behavioral Health Program Administrators. This provides very clear steps for an organization to become a trauma informed organization. Here is the link:

<http://store.samhsa.gov/shin/content//SMA14-4816/SMA14-4816.pdf>

Q7: Part III, Section D it states "proposals that include Youth and Parent Peer Support specialists as full-time or part-positions will receive 3 bonus points." Are there any specific education, training or certification required for those positions?

A: A youth or parent that is identified in the proposal as a paid peer supporter must have received some training. See answer below to Q6 from the FAQ posted on April 14, 2017.

Q8: Regarding the entire scope of the work, will models of care that include youth-led prevention programming (e.g., school-based youth-led interventions) be considered in combination with treatment services or does all funding need to support treatment?

A: The population of focus for this program is children and youth who present a risk to themselves, their families, or others because of mental illness and/or an intellectual or developmental disability. The program is aimed at improving care coordination and support for families with children and youth in crisis. Information about school-based youth-led interventions can be found here: <https://www.drugfreeactionalliance.org/oylpn> . The proposal must identify how the youth-led intervention directly supports the identified area of focus to be awarded.

Q&A Issued April 28, 2017

Q1: Our Board serving three counties, in conjunction with a local Board of DD serving two of the same three counties, was a recipient of a SFY 2015 and SFY 2016 SFSC grant. However, we did not apply for SFY 2017 funding. This section states: Applicants that have received previous awards are eligible to apply for up to \$350,00 but MUST INCLUDE at least one additional county that has not been included in a previous award. Since we did not receive funding for FY 2017 does this requirement apply?

A: A grantee that was awarded in FY's 2014, 2015, 2016 or FY 2017 is considered a prior awardee. These applicants are welcome to apply in FY 2018/19 so long as the application adds at least one additional county that was not included in the prior project.

Q2: Since we were not the recipient of a grant in FY 2017, are we eligible to be included with another board that has previously received an award as "one additional county that has not been included in a previous award?"

A: The definition of "applicants that have received previous awards" means a county partner (MH or DD board, MH or DD youth-serving provider agency, or non-profit youth serving organization) that received funding directly, or as a partner in a Strong Families, Safe Communities project in FY 2014, 2015, 2016 or 2017. The definition of "one additional county that has not been included in a previous award" means a board, provider agency, or organization (as described above) that has not participated in any Strong Families, Safe Communities projects since 2014.

Q3: Does this grant require any type of match?

A: No match is required, but in the scope of work, proposals must include an outline of how services will be sustained after the grant period.

Q4: Could you please describe what is meant by the term “intervening variables” that we need to include in the project description?

A: Intervening Variable mean a hypothetical variable that is used to explain causal links between the independent and dependent variables. In this RFP, we want to know the key variables used in determining the strategy or intervention that will be used in the proposal.

Q5: Does the target population for this grant have to include BOTH youth with developmental disabilities and youth with BH problems or can the target population be only youth with BH problems?

A: The target population are children and youth with intensive needs, including children and youth with intellectual/developmental disabilities and/or behavioral health needs.

Q6: Is it be acceptable to include in the target population those youth who present a risk to themselves, their families, or others because of mental illness and/or intellectual disabilities and who are not living with their family of origin, but are instead supported by foster families, provider organizations, etc.?

A: Yes, this is permitted.

Q7: If two currently funded counties apply with a third county, but that third county is a current SFSC recipient, will that meet the requirement for the engagement of a new county in order to apply?

A: Applications from previously awarded applicants must include at least one additional partner system (see Q&A2 above) who has not received SFSC funding, either directly or as a partner in a previous year, to meet the new FY 2018-19 requirement.

Q8: Can a local MH agency participate in more than 1 grant rfp as long as there is no duplication of services?

A: Yes, a MH agency may participate in more than one project.

Q&A Issued April 14, 2017

Q1: Funding period is from July 1, 2017- June 30, 2018, but project can't start until the NOSA is received. Can you pay for camps and respite services in July even if the service occurred before the NOSA, but the invoice is provided after the NOSA?

A: Yes, because the funding period starts July 1, 2017, any approved proposals can reimburse costs that are incurred between July 1, 2017 and the date that the NOSA is received.

Q2: If you are currently funded and are a three-county collaboration, do you have to keep all three counties and add another county?

A: Any currently funded projects that apply under the new FY 2018-19 RFP are not required to keep the same collaborative partners as in any prior year of the program, so long as the new proposal includes one new county partner organization.

Q3: Is there a list that we could review to see whether we are eligible to apply as a single county or whether we would need to partner with another county?

A: Refer to page 1 of the RFP, which states that no single county proposals will be considered. The Strong Families, Safe Communities web page lists the current and prior awarded counties. Here is a link:

<http://mha.ohio.gov/Default.aspx?tabid=439>

Q4: Are counties that were not formally part of a project during the last two years count as "new" counties if they haven't been receiving funds?

A: Counties that were not part of the FY 16-17 project would be considered new for FY 2018-19 period.

Q5: Can a county be named in more than one application (pertaining to situations where the ADAMHS Board covers more than one county)?

A: A county can participate in more than one proposal, so long as the proposals align with the needs of youth and families identified. Each proposal will be reviewed separately for quality and individual county participation.

Q6: Are the youth and peer parent roles described in the RFP based in the Adult MH & Recovery peer support model or tied to the roles more typically associated with Wraparound projects? Are there specific qualifications to meet the criteria of being deemed a peer support specialist?

A: If the proposal includes youth and parent peer support specialists as paid positions, the person needs to have completed some formal training as a peer supporter, which includes programs such as: Ohio Peer Recovery Supporter Certification, Parent Advocacy Connection (PAC), or similar state or national training programs. Proposals should include the name and type of training completed for the type of position named.

Additional information and resources about Youth Peer Support (with lived behavioral health experience) is available here: <http://www.youthmovenational.org/youth-peer-to-peer.html>

Additional information about PAC is available here:

http://www.namiohio.org/mental_health_programs/parent_advocacy

Q7: Does the fiscal agent for SFSC multicounty collaborative need to be an MH Board? In the RFP this is not clear and so we are assuming that if the Board of County Commissioners is the Administrative/Fiscal Agent for an FCFC that they can be the Fiscal Agent on this grant – is that a correct assumption?

A: Fiscal Agents for the collaborative proposal should be either the local government agency assigned as the fiscal agent, or, in the case of a non-profit organization, it should be the fiscal agent for the organization.

Q8: In review your website for this grant, the only documents available were the RFP and the Budget Expenditure form for RFP- Reporting tool. Please let me know where I can obtain the actual Grant.

A: The RFP documents are posted on the OhioMHAS website under “Funding Opportunities.”

Information on Strong Families, Safe Communities projects is available here:

<http://mha.ohio.gov/Default.aspx?tabid=439>

Applications need to be submitted via email to: BCYFgrants@mha.ohio.gov