FY 22 After School Programs – Non-school District Frequently Asked Questions

<mark>CHANGE TO NOFO/RFP</mark> (03/09/22): Page 1 and 6.

To be compliant with rules added as stated in Part 268 After School Program, Section 268.130 Program Specifications.

Removed: Each grantee **must** propose to serve students from schools that identify at least 90 percent of its students as low income.

Added: Each grantee must propose to serve a population of students that is at least 90 percent low-income.

Question 1:   Will the grant period be extended?

Answer: Yes, the grant period will be extended until **06/30/23**. The grant period will start no sooner than April 7, 2022 and go through June 30, 2023.

Question 2:   As a preschool program, we utilize 200% of the FPL as a low-income qualifier. Is this an allowable qualifier, or is there something different we need to use?

Answer: Please see changes made to the NOFO/RFP on 03/09/22.

Question 3:   The initial grant period is only going to be three months (April – June) and I'm assuming it will be extended. So how would we formulate a budget? If we just go with 3 months of expenses, that will not be enough to carry us through for a year and we would need to cut down services significantly. Could you let me know if you have any further guidance on this?

Answer: Please refer to Question 1 /Answer.

Question 4:   Are City youth departments are eligible?

Answer: Yes, please refer to the eligible applicants as stated in the NOFO/RFP.

Question 5:   Can you tell me if Court Appointed Special Advocacy (CASA) programs are eligible for this funding?

Answer: Yes, please refer to the eligible applicants as stated in the NOFO/RFP.

Question 6:   Can the funds be used by the programs to outsource after school activities for children in care?

Answer: Contracted services are an allowable item.

Question 7:   Each grantee must propose to serve students from schools that identify at least 90 percent of its students as low income." Does this mean only schools that are 90% low income on the school report card are eligible partners or can grantees serve a group of students who are 90% low-income but their school as a whole is not.

Answer: Please see update/change to the RFP dated 03/09/22. Update: Each grantee must propose to serve a population of students that is at least 90 percent low-income.

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Question 8: Is there a difference between administrative costs and indirect costs -- from reviewing the application it looks like admin costs are maxed out at 5% of total request -- but there is also a section that says indirect costs are available and maxed out at 8%. If they are not the same -- what is considered administrative costs -- or if they are the same -- what is the max percentage we can use for the Indirect Allocation.

Answer: Administrative costs are separate from indirect costs.

Administrative costs: Administrative costs are school district expenditures properly attributable to the expenditure functions specified in Section 17-1.5 of the School Code (105 ILCS 5/17-1.5). The following functions are included under "administrative expenditures" as prescribed by statute:

- 2320 Executive Administration Services (example: Superintendent & Assistants)
- 2330 Special Area Administration Services (example: Supervisor - Federal Programs, Special Programs & Title Programs)
- 2490 Other Support Services - School Administration (example: Department Heads and Deans [not principals])
- 2510 Direction of Business Support Services (example: Chief School Business Officials and Business Manager)
- 2570 Internal Services (example: Distributing supplies, duplicating, etc. for the school system)
- 2610 Direction of Central Support Services (example: Director / Manager of Planning, Information Services, Staff Services, etc.)

Indirect costs: Indirect costs are costs an organization incurs for common or joint objectives that cannot be readily and specifically identified with a particular grant project or other institutional activity. These are typically widespread costs for support service activities such as purchasing, budgeting, payroll, accounting, data processing, and staff services. Indirect costs are usually charged to the grant as a percentage of some or all of the direct cost items in the applicant's budget; this percentage is called the indirect cost rate.

Question 9: Is there a range of grant awards - minimum to maximum -- -- also is there an anticipated cost per student or cost per school -- we should consider when planning the application request.

Answer: There is no minimum or maximum allocation amount for grant awards.

Question 10: Can local park districts be the lead agent that a school districts partner with?
Answer: Yes, as long as the criteria is met as listed in the RFP.

Question 11: Please confirm that for profit organizations can be recipients of these funds.
Answer: Yes, as long as the criteria is met as listed in the RFP.

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Question 12: Do we need to submit with a school district or school buildings in mind OR can we submit a proposal for scope of work and then be matched with schools?

Answer: Please see update to NOFO/RFO on 03/09/22. Each grantee must propose to serve a population of students that is at least 90 percent low-income.

Question 13: Is there a list of schools that will be recipients of these funds? How is the school & provider matched?

Answer: Each grantee must propose to serve a population of students that is at least 90 p percent low-income.

Question 14: Is there a financial cap per school on what could be spent per year?

Answer: No.

Question 15: Is program space (ie. rent or other facility costs) an allowable expense?

Answer: Yes.

Question 16: What is the basis for the 90% low-income students?

Answer: Please see updated RFP, and Part 268 After-School Programs rules added.

Question 17: Eligibility requirements state "each grantee must propose to serve students from schools that identify at least 90% of its students as low income." What is ISBE's standard for low income? Is it what is indicated by the Federal Poverty Level? MFI? Something else? If the *school* received Universal lunch due mostly due to COVID, would this meet eligibility requirements?

Answer: Please see updated RFP, and Part 268 After-School Programs rules added.

Question 18: If the school has less than 90% of its students as low income, would it be possible to include our program site that serves that school *based on the income level of the participants*(which would be low income)?

Answer: Yes, please see update to RFP/NOFO from 03/09/22. Each grantee must propose to serve a population of students that is at least 90 percent low-income.

Question 19: Our program takes place on Saturdays during the school year (as opposed to "after school") and all day during the summer. Is that acceptable for this grant?

Answer: Yes, programming that is outside of the "normal school time" is acceptable.

Question 20: According to the webinar Information, 10 extra points are awarded if you serve a certain community. Can you provide more information about these 10 extra points?

Answer: Districts furthest away from adequacy, as identified by the most recent evidence-based funding data available.

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Question 21: Being that this is a state grant, would this be considered a reimbursement grant or would the organizations receive the money and then complete reporting? How does the funding process work?

Answer: Funding will be allocated based on the payment schedule selected. All funding will be allocated prior to the FY22 year end. Please refer to ISBE's Fiscal and Procedures Handbook.

Question 22: What is the usual amount granted to the after school programs applying for this grant?

Answer: There is no dollar amount limit for a request. However, ISBE staff must determine allocations as provided for in the RFP and ensure opportunities for as many students as possible.

Question 23: How do you define the performance measures, targets, and performance standards? Those terms mean the same thing to me. Yet, there are different percentages attributed to each of them for the outcomes expected. Why the differing percentages of 100%, 50% and 60%? Which one is what is expected?

Answer: Definitions are as follows:

Performance Measures: The target level of performance for a program expressed as a measurable objective, against which actual achievement can be compared, including a goal expressed as a quantitative standard, value, or rate.

Targets: The performance that grantees are expected to meet during each quarter of the grant.

Performance Standards: The minimum threshold for acceptable performance and should correlate to Performance Measures. Once the grantee goes below this threshold, remedial action should be implemented by the program area or the grantee can be removed from the program.

Question 24: Are need-based camp scholarships an allowable cost for this grant? Our goal is to reduce financial barriers to high-quality summer and after school programming.

Answer: Yes, as long as the criteria is met as listed in the RFP.