

FY 23 After School Programs – Non-school District

Frequently Asked Questions

CHANGE TO NOFO/RFP (10/05/22): 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: We understand that we will not receive notification of whether we are funded until February. If we are funded, will we be reimbursed for items in our approved budget back to the start date of our project that can be as early as November 14, 2022? If we are funded, is March 1 a realistic start date for incurring expenses in our approved budget if we are unable to take the risk of not being funded?

Answer: Grant award notification are estimated to be announced January – March 2023. Grantees will be reimbursed for approvable items as early as November 14, 2022, however this is at the own risk of the grantee.

Question 2: May we include pre-kindergarten age children in our project?

Answer: Yes, as long as the requirements of the RFP are met.

Question 3: Are organizations that received FY22 awards eligible for FY23 awards?

Answer: Yes.

Question 4: I see the maximum award amount of \$500,000. We plan an application to expand our current after school programming and therefore will only request between \$100,000 and \$150,000 for the first year. Will this lower request be viewed unfavorably by the reviewers?

Answer: Your proposal will be scored using the Merit Based Review and based on the requirements of the NOFO/RFP. This grant is an annual grant and does not have any continuation options.

Question 5: The NOFO allows for 15% indirect costs. Are these separate from the allowed 5% administrative costs?

Answer: Administrative costs are not included in the indirect cost rate; it is a separate budgeted item. Please review the indirect costs rates listed on page 1 of the NOFO/RFP.

Question 6: How do we gather community education goals before establishing the community collaborative that will be developed as part of this project?

Answer: This would be decided upon the entity applying.

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Question 7: The NOFO has 100% for Performance Measures, 50% for Targets and 60% for Performance Standards. Please explain how these 3 categories are related and how to differentiate between them in the application.

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 8: Are applicants expected to begin the project before award notification near the end of February 2023? I see that pre-award costs are at the risk of the applicant but the Feb -Mar 2023 notification date gives little time to get the project implemented and evaluated by the end of the grant period. Any suggestions on a timeline are appreciated.

Answer: Grant award notification are estimated to be announced January – March 2023. Grantees will be reimbursed for approvable items as early as November 14, 2022, however this is at the own risk of the grantee.

Question 9: I just wanted to know is this open to all entities non for profit and regular after school programs.

Answer: It is open to all entities that are non-school districts.

Question 10: Is there a webinar or anything for new organizations filling out the application especially the budget format.

Answer: The Technical Assistance Webinar that was held on Friday, October 14 that will be posted before the end of today. It doesn't include a section directly related to the budget, but I will include a link below to ISBE's Fiscal Handbook, on pages 59-60 it reviews budgets. Link: [2020 Fiscal Policies and Procedures Handbook March Final.docx \(isbe.net\)](#)

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

Question 13: How do I apply for an award notice?

Answer: The application you submitted will be reviewed and scored. Your score will determine if you receive funding, if you do ISBE will send you an award notice. If you do not receive funding ISBE will send you non-award notice.

Page 2 of the RFP: **Grant Award Notice:** It is anticipated that successful applicants will receive a Notice of Award via email approximately 90 days after the application deadline. The award letter is NOT an authorization to begin performance or expenditures. After the merit-based appeal timeframe has ended, awardees will receive additional information from the program area that includes the next steps for finalizing the grant. Monies spent prior to programmatic approval are done so at the applicant's own risk.