# Advancing Equity in Adolescent Health through Replication of Evidence-based Teen Pregnancy Prevention Programs and Services

## AH-TP1-23-001

QUESTIONS & ANSWERS

**Updated March 20, 2023**

**HHS Office of Population Affairs**
Web: opa.hhs.gov | Email: opa@hhs.gov
Twitter: @HHSPopAffairs | YouTube: HHSOfficeofPopulationAffairs

# Contents



## Questions & Answers Issued March 9, 2023

### General

1. **Per NOFO page 21, I would like to confirm that the resumes can have a .50 margin? All resumes provided by staff are coming in at .40 to .60 margins, and font is typically 10 pt. Similarly, the accountant uses a budget detail document with .50 margins and 10 pt font. Here is what I found on page 22 of the NOFO: Budget tables may be single-spaced but should be laid out in an easily-readable format and within the printable margins of the page.**

   Correct, while the project narrative must have 1" margins and font size not less than 12 points (p. 20), these same requirements do not apply to resumes and budget tables." Please note that on page 21 under Section D.2.b. - Appendices Format, the NOFO states appendix items "should be easy to read. You should use the same formatting specified for the Project Narrative. However, documents such as resumes/curricula vitae, organizational charts, tables, or letters of commitment may use formatting common to those documents, but the pages must be easy to read." Also, on page 22 of the NOFO under Section D.2.d. - Budget Narrative Format, the NOFO states that the budget narrative should follow the same formatting required of the Project Narrative for the explanatory text. However, "budget tables may be single-spaced but should be laid out in an easily-readable format and within the printable margins of the page."

2. **I am a student of a higher institution in Brunei Darussalam and I am not living in America, is it possible for me to apply for this grant?**

   Grants are awarded to organizations rather than individuals. An application may be submitted by an individual authorized to act/sign for an organization and to assume the obligations imposed by the grant and any additional conditions of the grant. However, the award will not go directly to an individual but to the organization which the individual represents.

   In addition, entities not located in a State (which includes one of the 50 United States, District of Columbia, Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, U.S. Virgin Islands, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, American Samoa, Guam, Republic of Palau, Federated States of Micronesia, and the Republic of the Marshall Islands) are not eligible to apply. Please refer to page 18 of the NOFO for a listing of eligible applicants.

## Programmatic

1. **The link to the CDC Sexually Transmitted Disease Surveillance 2019 on p. 23 does not function. We have found various STI data on CDC's website, but none of that data is by age or gender. We would appreciate being directed to where we can find the data necessary to complete the STI table on p. 23 to demonstrate that the rate of at least one STI in our service area (or state) exceeds the threshold.**

   We apologize for the faulty link on page 23 for the CDC's STD Surveillance data. Please reference this link instead: [https://www.cdc.gov/std/statistics/2019/std-surveillance-2019.pdf](https://www.cdc.gov/std/statistics/2019/std-surveillance-2019.pdf)

2. **How does this grant distinguish a settlement center from a community-based organization for the purposes of determining types of settings served?**

   The NOFO does not make the distinction between a settlement center from a community-based organization. However, per the NOFO on page 9, "Recipients may include other settings if you demonstrate that such settings serve youth with the greatest disparities in the identified community(ies)."

   On page 24, the NOFO instructs applicants to clearly, "Describe plans to implement in three or more settings, including specifying where you will implement EBPs, clearly demonstrating implementing in at least 3 unique settings. Demonstrate how the settings clearly align with the need of the focus population and the various physical and social environments where youth live, learn, work, play, and worship."

   As a reminder, applicants are encouraged to carefully review the NOFO and should put forward the best proposal the organization can create based on application and evaluation criteria published in the announcement.

3. **I have a client that is interested in utilizing an evidence-informed curricula that was developed with tribal participation for the work they plan to do in tribal**

**communities—but we are not seeing it on the list of EBPs referenced in the Tier 1 TPP NOFO. Before proceeding, can you clarify whether awardees will be allowed to use TPP interventions that are not on the list of EBPs (i.e. TPPER)? If yes, can you clarify whether that would only be allowed if one or more of the approved EBPs also are employed?**

Recipients are not required to solely implement EBPs identified by HHS TPP Evidence Review (TPPER). EBPs eligible for replication are those that meet the criteria listed on page 10 of the NOFO. Selected EBPs must meet the first two bullets. However, as the 3rd bullet notes, "recipients *may also* implement EBPs that demonstrate impact on non-sexual behavioral risk factors underlying teenage pregnancy. *If* replicating such a program, the recipient must clearly demonstrate how the outcomes are related to preventing teen pregnancy and address the needs of the community and population of focus." Finally, as a reminder, you are not required to have finalized selection of EBPs in your application. (p. 24)

## Questions & Answers Issued March 2, 2023

### General

1. **On page 20 of the solicitation, it states:**

    f. **Your Project Narrative must not exceed 50 pages. The following items do not count toward the Project Narrative page limit: all required forms, including SF-424, SF-424A, SF-LLL, Project Abstract Summary, and Budget Narrative (including budget tables)(Section D.2.a).**

    g. **Your total application (i.e., the Project Narrative plus Appendices) must not exceed 100 pages. The following items do not count toward the Project Narrative page limit: all required forms, including SF-424, SF-424A, SF-LLL, Project Abstract Summary, and Budget Narrative (including budget tables)(Section D.2.a).**

    **I'm wondering if the repeated language in "g" is in error. Does it really mean that the following items do not count toward the Appendices (instead of Narrative) page limit, all required forms…. I'm asking because later we read that Budget Narrative is a separate file for submission, and not included with the Appendices. And the SF forms are never in the Appendices in grants.gov. Is this the case? If this is the case, and the Narrative has to be less than 50 pages and the Appendices (local model, map, work plan, MOAs, etc.) have to be less than 50 pages, is there a page limit for the budget narrative?**

    No, it is not an error. The NOFO is stating that your project narrative must not exceed 50 pages and the total application must not exceed 100 pages. For additional clarification, page 21 states, "The Project Narrative, and total application including appendices, must adhere to the page limit indicated in Application Disqualification Criteria listed in Section C.4. The page limit does not include the Budget Narrative (including budget tables), required forms, assurances, and certifications as described in the Application Disqualification Criteria… Your appendices should include any specific documents outlined in Section D.3.c, under the heading “Appendices” in the Application Content section of this announcement.” Page 58 also provides a list of application elements required for this funding opportunity. You will see that the required forms, including SF-424, SF-424A, SF-LLL, and Budget Narrative are listed separately from the appendices.

As for a page limit for the budget narrative, none has been specified. Page 29-35 does provide however detailed guidance regarding the budget narrative content.

**2. What is the anticipated start date for the NOFO, Advancing Equity in Adolescent Health through Evidence-Based Teen Pregnancy Prevention Programs and Services?**

Page 17 of the NOFO indicates that the anticipated start date is July 1, 2023.

**3. Particularly, I am wondering if this is a single submission opportunity. Can we submit more than one application for this grant if the applications are for two separate projects? I am seeking to clarify the language on page 19 of the application that reads as follows: If you successfully submit multiple applications from the same organization for the same project, we will only review the last application received by the deadline.**

Page 19 of the NOFO states, “If you successfully submit multiple applications from the same organization <u>for the same project</u>, we will only review the last application received by the deadline.” You may submit more than one application if each is for a different project.

4. **On page 36 it states that the work plan should cover all years of the period of performance. Can you clarify if the period of performance should just cover 1 year or if we should include plans for the anticipated 5 years?**

As you noted, page 36 of the NOFO state, “Include a detailed work plan that reflects, and is consistent with, the Project Narrative and Budget Narrative, and covers all years of the period of performance.” Page 17 of the NOFO clarifies that the estimated period of performance is not to exceed five years, therefore the detailed work plan should cover all 5 years of the period of performance. Consider the following from the NOFO (p. 29):

> For awards with an anticipated period of performance of one year or less, this will be the budget request for the entire project. Provide a budget justification, which includes explanatory text and line-item detail, for the entire first year of the proposed project. . . . For subsequent budget years in an anticipated multi-year project, provide a summary narrative and line-item budget for each year beyond the first. For categories or items that differ significantly from the first budget year, provide a detailed justification explaining these changes. Do not include costs beyond the first budget period in the object class budget in box 6 of the SF424A or box 18 of the SF-424; the amounts entered in these sections should only reflect the first budget period.

5. **I am attempting to apply to the NOFO (AH-TP1-23-001) - on Grants.gov. However, when I log into my account - the "Apply" button is not enabled. I will also need access to create a Workspace - as I am the Executive Director for the 501c3 agency applying.**

Please contact Grants.gov directly for any issues with their system. Below is the contact information for Grants.gov:

- Email: support@grants.gov
- Telephone: 800-518-4726

**6. What is the minimum and maximum amount of effort required of the Project Manager?**

The NOFO does not have a requirement for level of effort for any staff position including a Project Manager. An applicant should, "describe the composition of the project team, to include the roles and responsibilities of all staff and how they will contribute to achieving the project's objectives and activities. Describe who will have day-to-day responsibility for key tasks including, but not limited to, leadership of the overall program and of specific tasks, monitoring the program's progress, monitoring implementation partners, collection of performance measures, and preparation of reports" (p. 28).

Section D.3.b - Budget Narrative Content (p.29-35) also provides guidance on what information to include as it relates to personnel and staffing.

**6. To clarify, when you say that we can use "alternate fonts" in tables, is it correct to assume that alternate fonts refers to both (smaller) font size (as long as the table is easy to read) in addition to font type?**

Yes. As noted on page 21, "You may single-space tables or use alternate fonts but you must ensure the tables are easy to read."

## Programmatic

**1. Are communities required to have teen birth rates (TBR) and STI rates that are higher than the national average? Our region meets TBR requirements, but not STI. Are there exceptions for needing both TBR AND STI rates to be eligible to apply?**

Successful applications will provide current data on the community and population of focus within the defined geographic area(s) through various means that will clearly demonstrate your understanding of where the greatest need is, what the specific needs and resources are, who the key stakeholders are, and the relationship between all these components that may be driving disparities within the community(ies) (p.22). Applicants also need to "Demonstrate the need of the population related to sexual and reproductive health and positive youth development. Include any community context and/or historical factors and illustrate gaps in services that may help understand existing disparities. Also include data that supports the rationale for focusing on this community(ies) and population(s), specifically documenting a teen birth rate that is at least above the current national average (15.4 births for every 1,000 adolescent females ages 15-19 and 0.2 births for every 1,000 adolescent females ages 10-14, 2020) and at least one STI rate above the current national average (see CDC Sexually Transmitted Disease Surveillance 2019 and table below – Table 1 on page 23) for the population(s) served within the community" (p.23). See Section D.3.a.1 -

Focus on Areas of Greatest Need and Disparities (p.22-23) for more information on what should be submitted in your application to address this component.

Federal staff and an independent review panel will assess all eligible applications according to Section E.1 – Criteria (beginning on p.43). Of note related to your question is Section E.1.a - Focus on Areas of Greatest Need and Disparities which outlines the specific review criteria that will be used by Federal staff and an independent review panel to assess your application related to this component.

Since this is a competitive funding announcement, OPA cannot provide input regarding the content of individual grant applications and is therefore unable to answer questions specific to the content of an application. Applicants are encouraged to carefully review the NOFO and should put forward the best proposal the organization can create based on application and evaluation criteria published in the announcement.

2. **We have been developing a program to be used to deliver sex education and positive youth development to youth. We have been using a variety of sources to build the program and do not use the lesson as created exactly for each session. We are wondering if we would even be considered for this grant or if we are straying too far from the evidence-based preference and nature of the TPP grant?**

   Pages 2 and 8 of the NOFO define evidence-based programs as "programs that have been proven effective through rigorous evaluation to reduce teenage pregnancy, behavioral risk factors underlying teenage pregnancy, or other associated risk factors." EBPs eligible for replication are those that meet the following criteria:

   - Study Quality - Meets the criteria for the quality of an evaluation study per the criteria established in the HHS TPP Evidence Review (TPPER) protocol, version 6.0.
   - Evidence of Effectiveness on Sexual Risk Behaviors - At a minimum, one of the identified EBPs to be implemented must demonstrate impact on sexual risk behaviors using the evidence of effectiveness as outlined in the HHS TPP Evidence Review (TPPER) protocol, version 6.0.
   - Evidence of Effectiveness on Behavioral Risk Factors Underlying Teenage Pregnancy or Other Associated Risk Factors - In addition to implementing at least one EBP with evidence of effectiveness on sexual risk behaviors, recipients may also implement EBPs that demonstrate impact on non-sexual behavioral risk factors underlying teenage pregnancy. If replicating such a program, the recipient must clearly demonstrate how the outcomes are related to preventing teen pregnancy and address the needs of the community and population of focus.

   Please see Section A.2.c.2 - Eligibility of Programs to be Replicated and Implemented to Scale (p. 10-11) for more information.

   As a reminder, as noted on page 24, you are not required to have finalized selection of EBPs in your application but do need to describe the process that you will use to identify and select evidence-based programs (EBPs) that are a good fit for the needs of the community and population of focus you will serve.

Since this is a competitive funding announcement, OPA cannot provide input regarding the content of individual grant applications and is therefore unable to answer questions specific to the content of an application. Applicants are encouraged to carefully review the NOFO and should put forward the best proposal the organization can create based on application and evaluation criteria published in the announcement.

Finally, please see OPA's two other NOFOs, forecasted to be released this fiscal year, to determine if your proposed project may be better aligned with the goals of either NOFO:

- Teen Pregnancy Prevention Tier 2 Rigorous Evaluation Cooperative Agreements (AH-TP2-23-001) https://www.grants.gov/web/grants/view-opportunity.html?oppId=342732
- Adolescent Sexual Health Innovation Hubs (AH-TP2-23-002) https://www.grants.gov/web/grants/view-opportunity.html?oppId=342733

3. **The NOFO table shows that we need at least 500 youth per year. For one project we are looking at working with system involved youth, especially youth involved in foster care, LGBTQ+ youth, and youth in dyads with parents. Understandably, these youth will be harder to reach and retain. Is there any wiggle room on this number or is it a hard expectation? It seems hard to produce these numbers without using schools which isn't as strong of a help for advancing equity.**

   The table included on p.2 and 24 presents the historical annual reach per funding range based on prior TPP awards. The table is provided only as background information. Costs may differ based on various factors such as geographic region, specific focus population of participants, available resources, etc. The information also does not reflect inflation or cost-of-living adjustments that have been made over time. We do not use the information in the Table as the basis for determining funding levels. As a reminder though, OPA also expects that recipients replicate EBPs to scale in 3 or more settings, reaching communities, and youth within those communities, with the greatest need. For this NOFO, settings include, but are not limited to, schools, clinics, community-based organizations, houses of worship, detention centers, and group and residential care programs. We will count each setting listed above separately, considering each as one individual setting (p.9).

4. **When we talk about settings, is that total for the project or total for the community? For instance, we are looking at working in four states. Does each of those states need to use three settings (i.e., all states have programs in schools, CBOs, and health centers) or do we need three settings in total across the states (i.e., CBOs in one community, health centers in another, and schools in the other)?**

   Recipients are expected to replicate EBPs to scale in 3 or more settings in each defined community. Recipients may serve a single community or multiple communities within their project. Multiple communities could include communities within the same state, communities across states, etc. Recipients should have a defined community(ies), with clear geographic boundaries, in order to ensure that they identify the number of youth that they will serve. Within the community(ies), recipients should have a clearly identified population of focus (p.6-7).

5. **Can we please have a specific definition of geography requirements?**

   The responsibility is on the applicant to describe the community or communities and population(s) of focus including the geographic boundaries used to define each (p.22). Your application will also be assessed on the extent to which you clearly define the geographic boundaries and describe the community or communities and population(s) of focus (p.43). You should also include, in the appendices, a map of your defined geographic area(s) that you will serve, to include location of the proposed settings where EBP implementation will occur (p.36).

6. **Per page 23 of the NOFO, applicants are required to provide birth rates and STI rates for 15–19-year-olds and 10–14-year-olds. The applicants who are our clients define their communities by zip code. The problem with getting birth and STI rates for 10–14-year-olds is that, at the zip code-level, and sometimes even at the city level, the numbers are so small that either there were no births/cases or the state suppresses the numbers, which means there were between 1 and 5 births/cases. That said, do you have any suggestions about how we should respond to the requirement to provide thus data for 10–14-year-olds?**

   Successful applications will provide current data on the community and population of focus within the defined geographic area(s) through various means that will clearly demonstrate your understanding of where the greatest need is, what the specific needs and resources are, who the key stakeholders are, and the relationship between all these components that may be driving disparities within the community(ies) (p.22). Applicants also need to "Demonstrate the need of the population related to sexual and reproductive health and positive youth development. Include any community context and/or historical factors and illustrate gaps in services that may help understand existing disparities. Also include data that supports the rationale for focusing on this community(ies) and population(s), specifically documenting a teen birth rate that is at least above the current national average (15.4 births for every 1,000 adolescent females ages 15-19 and 0.2 births for every 1,000 adolescent females ages 10-14, 2020) and at least one STI rate above the current national average (see CDC Sexually Transmitted Disease Surveillance 2019 and table below – Table 1 on page 23) for the population(s) served within the community" (p.23)  See Section D.3.a.1 - Focus on Areas of Greatest Need and Disparities (p.22-23) for more information on what should be submitted in your application to address this component.

   Federal staff and an independent review panel will assess all eligible applications according to Section E.1 – Criteria (beginning on p.43). Of note related to your question is Section E.1.a - Focus on Areas of Greatest Need and Disparities which outlines the specific review criteria that will be used by Federal staff and an independent review panel to assess your application related to this component.

   Since this is a competitive funding announcement, OPA cannot provide input regarding the content of individual grant applications and is therefore unable to answer questions specific to the content of an application.  Applicants are encouraged to carefully review the NOFO and should put forward the best proposal the organization can create based on application and evaluation criteria published in the announcement.

7. **On page 22 of the RFA, applicants are directed to links for determining urban or rural status. The urban link brings us to a page where all of the 2020 designated "urban" municipalities are listed in a spreadsheet. We are asked to provide proof of designation; since it is just a line in an untitled spreadsheet, what should we submit as "proof?"**

   For the purposes of "urban" designation documentation, you may (for example):

   - Cite where the location is available on the document provided by the U.S. Census Bureau (e.g., Row 34 of "A list of all 2020 Census Urban Areas for the U.S., Puerto Rico, and Island Areas sorted by Urban Area Census (UACE) code".
   - Reference your Urban Area Census (UACE) code as provided by the U.S. Census Bureau.
   - Provide a screen shot demonstrating the proof
   - Other documentation that clearly links your geographic region to the designation identified by the U.S. Census Bureau.

   Please be sure any information provided follows the formatting guidance included in the NOFO on Section D.2 - Content and Form of Application Submission (p. 20-22).

8. **What does replication mean, exactly?**

   We refer to implementation of an EBP as "replication" (p.8).

9. **Is college or community college considered a setting that is different from the school category? Page 9 of the NOFO defines "school setting" as one setting that encompasses elementary, middle, high schools, charter schools, and alternative schools.**

   Yes, college and community colleges are considered a different setting from the "school setting." Applicants should clearly:

   - Describe plans to implement in three or more settings, including specifying where you will implement EBPs, clearly demonstrating implementing in at least 3 unique settings. Demonstrate how the settings clearly align with the need of the focus population and the various physical and social environments where youth live, learn, work, play, and worship. (p.24)

   As a reminder, applicants are encouraged to carefully review the NOFO and should put forward the best proposal the organization can create based on application and evaluation criteria published in the announcement.

10. **Based on pages 8 and 24, is it safe to assume that staff of a youth-serving agency could complete an EBP and be counted in the anticipated count of EBP participant reach? Similarly, if we serve youth ages 16-19 in a justice facility and there are peers in their housing pod who are ages 20-23, could they be counted as other individuals or trusted adults (maybe not trusted adults, but peers who influence their decisions)?**

Applicants should describe the community or communities and population(s) of focus including the geographic boundaries used to define each (p. 22). Primary participants to receive programming under an award should be adolescents and youth and, more specifically, projects should focus on serving youth who are at disproportionally affected by unintended teen pregnancies (including rapid repeat pregnancy) and STIs (p. 7). For purposes of this NOFO, OPA is defining adolescents and youth to be individuals between the ages of 10-24. However, applicants may propose also serving parents/caregivers and/or other individuals (e.g., youth-serving professionals) with EBPs. Applicants should describe in their application the following (p.24):

- Anticipated number of youths you will reach each year specifically through implementation of EBPs.
- Anticipated number of parent/caregivers and/or other individuals (e.g., youth-serving professionals) that will receive EBPs each year specifically through the implementation.
- Specific details on how you obtained the estimates for youth, parent/caregivers and other individuals receiving EBPs.
- How those that will receive EBPs aligns with the needs identified in the community.

We also recommend you review Section E.1 - Criteria. There you will find the criteria that will be used by federal staff and an independent review panel to assess all eligible applications (p.43-46).

**11. If an applicant wishes to use the planning period to attempt to reach parents with an EBP, but that plan ends up not coming to fruition, could the planned parent numbers be converted to the grantee serving pregnant or parenting teens or a similar population of focus?**

There is no requirement within the NOFO to serve parents/caregivers with evidence-based programs (EBPs). Federal staff and an independent review panel will assess all eligible applications on the “Extent to which the applicant clearly and separately describes the number of youth, parent/caregivers, and/or other individuals that they will reach each year with evidence-based programs in each of the 3 (or more) settings. The applicant includes specific details on how they obtained the estimates. The demographics of the community(ies) selected supports the estimates. Estimates also appear accurate and reasonable to achieve (p. 43).” Please review Section E.1 – Criteria (p.43-46) which outlines all of the criteria that will be used by federal staff and an independent review panel to assess all eligible applications.

We also expect recipients to engage in activities during the planning period that result in their ability to begin fully executing all expectations of the award. Failure of a recipient to make satisfactory progress toward completion of planning period milestones by the end of the six-month planning period may be deemed poor performance and affect future funding decisions (p.8). Each year of the approved period of performance, you will be required to submit a noncompeting application which includes a progress report for the current budget year, and work plan, budget, and budget justification for the upcoming year. OASH will award continuation funding based on availability of funds, satisfactory progress of the project, grants management compliance, including timely reporting, and continued best interests of the government. Progress is assessed relative to meeting the goals, objectives, and outcomes in the approved, funded project as described in the approved work plan and other supporting documents (p.56).

**12. We are using our current data to estimate numbers of youth, parents/caregivers, and community staff with whom we'll replicate EBPs. Due to the intensity of community involvement during the Planning Period, there may be shift up or down on these numbers. Is it known whether there will be flexibility based on what occurs in the Planning Period in terms of numbers?**

You do not have to have the same reach goal each year and we expect that recipient may have a different reach goal in Year 1 due to the up to six-month planning period. We do expect recipients to begin implementing selected EBPs in all identified settings by the end of the planning period (p.7). Failure of a recipient to make satisfactory progress toward completion of planning period milestones by the end of the six-month planning period may be deemed poor performance and affect future funding decisions (p.8).

Applicants should describe in their application the following (p.24):

- Anticipated number of youths you will reach *each year* specifically through implementation of EBPs.
- Anticipated number of parent/caregivers and/or other individuals (e.g., youth-serving professionals) that will receive EBPs *each year* specifically through the implementation.
- Specific details on how you obtained the estimates for youth, parent/caregivers and other individuals receiving EBPs.
- How those that will receive EBPs aligns with the needs identified in the community.

Federal staff and an independent review panel will assess all eligible applications on the "Extent to which the applicant clearly and separately describes the number of youth, parent/caregivers, and/or other individuals that they will reach **each year** with evidence-based programs in each of the 3 (or more) settings. The applicant includes specific details on how they obtained the estimates. The demographics of the community(ies) selected supports the estimates. Estimates also appear accurate and reasonable to achieve (p. 43)." Please review Section E.1 – Criteria (p.43-46) which outlines all of the criteria that will be used by federal staff and an independent review panel to assess all eligible applications.

Please be sure to review Section E.1 - Criteria. There you will find the criteria that will be used by federal staff and an independent review panel to assess all eligible applications (p.43-46).

**13. The NOFO states in multiple instances that recipients will be expected to replicate EBPs with "fidelity and quality." What is the definition of "Quality?"**

OPA uses this program [observation form](observation form) to measure the fidelity and quality of implementation of program delivery with *current* TPP grantees. This form is subject to change and will be provided to grantees with the final performance measures within the first six months of funding.

## Budget

1. **I am interested in the grant for reproductive prevention and health. Would this grant be able to cover the cost of condoms?**

   You are not allowed to provide birth control with TPP grant funds. We do expect you to identify, actively engage, collaborate with, and maintain a network of diverse, multisector partners to address the various needs of the community and population of focus while also complementing the implementation of EBPs. Such multi-sector partnerships can offer a continuum of supports to meet the physical, social, emotional, behavioral, and mental health needs of youth. We expect the partnerships to address the various needs of the community and population of focus while also complementing the implementation of EBPs. We expect this to include, but not be limited to, sexual and reproductive health services and mental health services (p.13-14)

   Please be sure to carefully review Section D.7 Funding Restrictions (p.40-41) for specific information regarding allowable, unallowable, and restricted costs. You can also look under the guidance within GENERAL PROVISIONS FOR SELECTED ITEMS OF COST and through the following link: https://www.ecfr.gov/current/title-45/subtitle-A/subchapter-A/part-75/subpart-E/subject-group-ECFR5d90ba314caea08

2. **Are indirect costs limited to 8% of MTDC for all applicants even if the applicant's organization has an approved rate that is higher?**

   Page 33 of the NOFO indicates that the indirect cost category has one of two methods that you may select. You may only select one and must clearly identify that selection in your submitted budget. These methods are as follows:

   - Your organization currently has an indirect cost rate approved by the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) or another cognizant federal agency. You should enclose a copy of the current approved rate agreement in your Budget Narrative file. If you request a rate that is less than allowed, your authorized representative must submit a signed acknowledgement that the organization is accepting a lower rate than allowed.

   - Per 45 C.F.R. § 75.414 (f) Indirect (F&A) costs, "any non-Federal entity [i.e., applicant] that has never received a negotiated indirect cost rate, … may elect to charge a de minimis rate of 10% of modified total direct costs (MTDC) which may be used indefinitely. As described in § 75.403, costs must be consistently charged as either indirect or direct costs but may not be double charged or inconsistently charged as both. If chosen, this methodology once elected must be used consistently

> for all Federal awards until such time as a non-Federal entity chooses to negotiate for a rate, which the non-Federal entity may apply to do at any time."

Note that the de minimis rate method only applies if you have never received an approved negotiated indirect cost rate from HHS or another cognizant federal agency. If you are waiting for approval of an indirect cost rate, you may request the 10% de minimis rate. If you choose this method, costs included in the indirect cost pool must not be charged as direct costs to the award. Indirect costs on Federal awards for training are limited to a fixed rate of eight percent of MTDC exclusive of tuition and related fees, direct expenditures for equipment, and subawards in excess of $25,000 (45 C.F.R. § 75.414 (c)(1)(i)).

Page 33 also explains how applicants should provide justification for and the calculation of their indirect costs total.

## Questions & Answers Updated February 23, 2023

### General

1. **We are currently in the process of planning to build a very large equestrian center and camp facility with hopes of helping these girls! Would we qualify for the grant you all are offering to assist with teen pregnancy prevention?**

   Applicants eligible to apply for this notice of funding opportunity are any public or private (profit or nonprofit) entity located in a State (which includes one of the 50 United States, District of Columbia, Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, U.S. Virgin Islands, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, American Samoa, Guam, Republic of Palau, Federated States of Micronesia, and the Republic of the Marshall Islands).

   Faith-based organizations and American Indian/Alaskan Native/Native American (AI/AN/NA) organizations that are public or private entities are eligible to apply. Public or private community-based organizations are eligible to apply.

   Please reference the Eligibility Information in the NOFO beginning on page 18 for additional examples of eligible Organizations.

2. **Can a co-ed or all-boys middle or high school qualify as our partners?**

   The NOFO does not detail what types of organizations may qualify as partners. Information regarding eligibility pertains only to applicants. For information on partnerships, please review Section D.3.a.5 - Collaboration and Partnerships (p.27-28) for information on what should be included in your application to describe your partnership efforts and those with whom you may want to partner. We recommend you also review Section E.1 - Criteria. There you will find the criteria that will be used by federal staff and an independent review panel to assess all eligible applications (p.43-46).

## Programmatic

1. **Does the number per year served include only adolescents/students, or does it also include their parents and/or family members that would be engaged in the community programming we would conduct?**

   Applicants should describe the community or communities and *population(s) of focus* including the geographic boundaries used to define each (p. 22). Primary participants to receive programming under an award should be adolescents and youth and, more specifically, projects should focus on serving youth who are disproportionally affected by unintended teen pregnancies (including rapid repeat pregnancy) and STIs (p. 7). However, applicants may propose also serving parents/caregivers and/or other individuals (e.g., youth-serving professionals) with EBPs. Applicants should describe in their application the following (p.24):
   - Anticipated number of youths you will reach each year specifically *through implementation of EBPs*.
   - Anticipated number of parent/caregivers and/or other individuals (e.g., youth-serving professionals) that *will receive EBPs* each year specifically through the implementation.
   - Specific details on how you obtained the estimates for youth, parent/caregivers and other individuals *receiving EBPs*.
   - How those that will receive EBPs aligns with the needs identified in the community.

   We also recommend you review Section E.1 - Criteria. There you will find the criteria that will be used by federal staff and an independent review panel to assess all eligible applications (p.43-46).

   Finally, your proposed estimate of number of participants to receive EBP implementation over the duration of the project should clearly align and be adequately supported by the budget narrative submitted (Section D.3.b – p.29-35). The table included on page 24 is the historical annual reach *with an evidence-based program (EBP)* of prior successful TPP awards with a typical funding range and is provided only as background information. OPA does not use the information in the Table as the basis for determining funding levels.

2. **In the opportunity, does "three settings" constitute "three partners"?**

   The number of partners does not have to equal the number of settings. In the NOFO, Section A.2.c - Replicate to Scale Evidence-Based Teen Pregnancy Prevention Programs with Fidelity and Quality (p.8-9), settings include, but are not limited to, schools, clinics, community-based organizations, houses of worship, detention centers, and group and residential care programs. Recipients may include other settings if you demonstrate that such settings serve youth with the greatest disparities in the identified community(ies). OPA will count each setting listed above separately, considering each as one individual setting (p.9). You should demonstrate how the settings clearly align with the need of the focus population and the various physical and social environments where youth live, learn, work, play, and worship (p.24). Please reference pages 24, 43, and 44 for more information on what to include in your application and the criteria that will be used by federal staff and the independent review panel to assess your application as it relates to “settings.”

3. **Is it possible to obtain a summary of curriculum adaptations already approved by OPA/curriculum developers in previous grant cycles?**

   OPA does not manage the adaptation process of, or decisions made by, curriculum developers/publishers regarding adaptations. Applicants are encouraged to reach out to EBP developers/publishers to obtain more information about individual programs. As a reminder, recipients may not significantly change the program's core components or compromise program fidelity (i.e., compromise the underlying elements/components of the program). Recipients may make minor adaptations to EBPs. Minor adaptations are allowable if they improve the fit and relevancy of the program to the community and population of focus. Upon award, and as part of recipient orientation and onboarding, OPA will share guidance with grantees regarding OPA's process for making decisions on proposed adaptations (see p. 17-18 for information on what OPA substantial involvement may entail). In the meantime, the Reproductive Health National Training Center does have a helpful resource to better understand adaptations https://rhntc.org/resources/introduction-adaptations-elearning.

4. **Do you have more details on when you expect the Teen Pregnancy Prevention Evidence Review to be updated (hopefully prior to the submission deadline)?**

   We do not have any further updates other than what has already been shared - that we do anticipate the new update to be publicly available on the HHS TPP Evidence Review (TPPER) website in *early 2023.* As the TPPER is simply a tool that can be used by recipients to assist in the selection of EBPs, we are directing your attention to pages 10-11 for more information on EBPs eligible for replication. Eligible EBPs for replication are those that meet the criteria listed below.
   - Study Quality - Meets the criteria for the quality of an evaluation study per the criteria established in the HHS TPP Evidence Review (TPPER) protocol, version 6.0.
   - Evidence of Effectiveness on Sexual Risk Behaviors - At a minimum, one of the identified EBPs to be implemented must demonstrate impact on sexual risk behaviors using the evidence of effectiveness as outlined in the HHS TPP Evidence Review (TPPER) protocol, version 6.0.
   - Evidence of Effectiveness on Behavioral Risk Factors Underlying Teenage Pregnancy or Other Associated Risk Factors - In addition to implementing at least one EBP with evidence of effectiveness on sexual risk behaviors, recipients may also implement EBPs that demonstrate impact on non-sexual behavioral risk factors underlying teenage pregnancy. If replicating such a program, the recipient must clearly demonstrate how the outcomes are related to preventing teen pregnancy **and** address the needs of the community and population of focus.

5. **Does OPA conduct a separate medical accuracy review in addition to the grantee-led review by subject-matter experts?**

   Yes, as we expect recipients to clearly understand the content that they disseminate through their project and to ensure that the content is responsive to the needs of and appropriate for the community and population of focus, recipients are expected to make all materials used and information disseminated within the funded project age appropriate, medically accurate, culturally, and linguistically appropriate, trauma-informed, and inclusive of all youth. Recipients will also be required to submit all program materials to OPA for a medical accuracy review. See Section A.2.d - Review Materials Prior to Implementation (p. 11) for more information.

6. **Does OPA have a list of approved parent-based education curricula that grantees should prioritize when engaging parents and trusted adults in the community, or are these supplemental programs more flexible and not required to be EBPs?**

   There is no requirement within the NOFO to serve parents/caregivers with evidence-based programs (EBPs). The NOFO *does* expect recipients to engage caregivers throughout the project (see Section A.2.e. Engage Youth, Caregivers, and the Community Throughout the Project (starting on p. 11) for more information on this expectation). If you choose to implement an EBP with parents/caregivers or other trusted adults, the EBP must meet the criteria listed in Section A.2.c.2 - Eligibility of Programs to be Replicated and Implemented to Scale (p.10).

7. **[UPDATED] When calculating the 5 percent goal, does one "session" translate to an entire program per cohort, or one lesson/module/class period?**

   OPA requires recipients to submit performance measures each year on a semi-annual basis. Included in the performance measures is a measure to assess fidelity where grantees report data on implementation by section and session. Final performance measures, along with supporting guidance, will be provided to recipients during the first six months of funding which will include how to assess fidelity and quality of EBP implementation. Within OPA's current performance measures, a session is defined as each meeting of the TPP programming within a section. A section is a group of participants receiving the TPP program together at the same time. Please note that final performance measures and accompanying guidance will be provided to recipients during the first six months of funding.

8. **When designing survey tools to monitor "the quality and fit of project activities" (page 16), does this mean that surveys would primarily assess participant satisfaction with the program? Or are questions pertaining to "knowledge, attitudes, and intentions on sex" (page 26) still acceptable if grantees obtain IRB approval?**

   To protect the rights and welfare of program participants, we expect those recipients that decide to ask survey questions such as those that assess knowledge, attitudes, and intentions on sex to consult with an IRB to determine whether the evaluation plan is (1) exempted or (2) requires a full IRB review. If your project includes asking survey questions (e.g., questions about knowledge, attitudes, and intentions on sex) provide the status of the Institutional Review Board's (IRB) determination of whether the evaluation plan is (1) exempted or (2) requires a full IRB review. Please include the IRB's Federalwide Assurance (FWA) number of the IRB registration number. As a reminder, you are not required to collect such data as it relates to knowledge, attitudes, and intentions on sex. OPA only requires that recipients meet the reporting requirements as stated in Section F.17 (p. 55) of the NOFO. In addition, you **should not** collect any data as it relates to changes in sexual behaviors outside of a rigorous impact evaluation that includes a comparison group because this is not a research award. Finally, you should not allocate more than 10% of requested federal funds to the collection and analysis of data related to the project. See pages 15-16 and page 26 for more information.

9. **Do you recommend that the logic model included in our application materials avoid language pertaining to changes in participants' sexual behavior if we cannot measure this directly, or is it a suitable long-term objective given the nature of the project to reduce pregnancy and STI rates?**

   OPA cannot answer any questions specific to the content of your application. Since this is a competitive funding announcement, we cannot provide input regarding the content of individual grant applications. Applicants are encouraged to carefully review the NOFO and put forward the best proposal the organization can create based on application and evaluation criteria published in the announcement. For resources on developing a logic model, please see page 67 of the NOFO. As a reminder, OPA does not endorse any of the resources listed other than those developed by OPA.

10. **From page 26: "If your project includes asking survey questions (e.g., questions about knowledge, attitudes, and intentions on sex) provide the status of the Institutional Review Board's (IRB) determination of whether the evaluation plan is (1) exempted or (2) requires a full IRB review. Please include the IRB's Federalwide Assurance (FWA) number of the IRB registration number." Does this mean applicants must apply for and obtain IRB determination prior to submission? I see elsewhere (page 54) that "OASH may require, as part of any award, the submission of all IRB approvals within 5 days of the IRB granting the approval and before any work requiring IRB approval begins." Based on these statements I could not tell whether applicants are expected to provide the IRB determination status in their *application*, or if this could occur during the *6-month planning period* while the evaluation plan is finalized.**

    Applications must provide the *status* of the Institutional Review Board's (IRB) determination of whether the evaluation plan is (1) exempted or (2) requires a full IRB review (p.26). If the IRB determines that your evaluation plan requires full IRB review, OASH may then require, as part of this award, the submission of IRB approval within 5 days of the IRB granting the approval and before any work requiring IRB approval begins (p.54). Within your application, please be sure to include the IRB's Federalwide Assurance (FWA) number of the IRB registration number if seeking IRB determination based on the guidance provided in the NOFO, Section A.2.h - Monitor and Improve the Overall Project (p.15-16).

11. **Can an applicant use 15–24-year-old data for STI/TP rates if the data for 15-19 year old's is not available?**

    Successful applications will provide current data on the community and population of focus within the defined geographic area(s) through various means that will clearly demonstrate your understanding of where the greatest need is, what the specific needs and resources are, who the key stakeholders are, and the relationship between all these components that may be driving disparities within the community(ies). See Section D.3.a.1 - Focus on Areas of Greatest Need and Disparities (p.22-23) for more information on what should be submitted in your application to address this component.

Federal staff and an independent review panel will assess all eligible applications according to **Section E.1 – Criteria (**beginning on p.43). Of note related to your question is Section E.1.a - Focus on Areas of Greatest Need and Disparities which outlines the specific review criteria that will be used by Federal staff and an independent review panel to assess your application related to this component.

Since this is a competitive funding announcement, OPA cannot provide input regarding the content of individual grant applications and is therefore unable to answer questions specific to the content of an application.

Applicants are encouraged to carefully review the NOFO and should put forward the best proposal the organization can create based on application and evaluation criteria published in the announcement.

**12. We are confirming that OPA wants us to present 2020 data for teen birth rate data for our target population and population of focus.**

Successful applications will provide *current data on the community and population of focus within the defined geographic area(s)* through various means that will clearly demonstrate your understanding of where the greatest need is, what the specific needs and resources are, who the key stakeholders are, and the relationship between all these components that may be driving disparities within the community(ies). See Section D.3.a.1 - Focus on Areas of Greatest Need and Disparities (p.22-23) for more information on what should be submitted in your application to address this component.

**13. Does OPA require us to present 2019 *or* 2020 data for STD Surveillance *and* will you use 2019 *or* 2020 STD Surveillance data that you want us to compare against our target community and population of focus?**

Federal staff and an independent review panel will assess all eligible applications according to **Section E.1 – Criteria (**beginning on p.43). Of note related to your question is Section E.1.a - Focus on Areas of Greatest Need and Disparities which outlines the specific review criteria that will be used by Federal staff and an independent review panel to assess your application related to this component.

The Deputy Assistant Secretary for Population Affairs will provide recommendations for funding to the Grants Management Officer to conduct risk analysis. No award decision is final until a Notice of Award is issued by the Grants Management Officer. In providing these recommendations the Deputy Assistant Secretary for Population Affairs will take into consideration the following additional factors(s) (p.46):

- Equitable geographic distribution.
- Equitable distribution of project sites among rural, suburban, and urban communities.
- Maximize benefit in historically underserved communities and populations of focus.
- Diversity of implementation settings (e.g., school, clinic, houses of worship, etc.)

**14. Does an after-school program that is conducted at a school building count as a separate setting?**

An after-school program that is conducted at a school building can be counted as a separate setting from the "school setting" if the program takes place outside of school hours. Applicants should clearly:

- Describe plans to implement in three or more settings, including specifying where you will implement EBPs, clearly demonstrating implementing **in at least 3 unique settings**. Demonstrate how the settings clearly align with the need of the focus population and the various physical and social environments where youth live, learn, work, play, and worship. (p.24)

As a reminder, applicants are encouraged to carefully review the NOFO and should put forward the best proposal the organization can create based on application and evaluation criteria published in the announcement.

**15. Would different school sites, different counties, or different districts qualify as multiple settings?**

We consider "school setting" as one setting that encompasses elementary, middle, high schools, charter schools, and alternative schools. The expectation is that recipients will replicate EBPs to scale in 3 or more settings (p.9). In each setting, recipients should adopt strategies to implement and scale the selected EBP to maximize youth participation. The NOFO provides an example relevant for your questions which is to "implement programs district-wide in the community rather than within individual schools or in individual classrooms" (p.9).

OPA also expects recipients to focus their project on a community(ies) and population(s) that are disproportionally affected by unintended teen pregnancy and STIs. Recipients may serve a single community or multiple communities within their project. Multiple communities could include communities within the same state, communities across states, etc. Recipients should have a defined community(ies), with clear geographic boundaries, in order to ensure that they identify the number of youth that they will serve. Within the community(ies), recipients should have a clearly identified population of focus (p.6-7).

Therefore, serving different counties would not constitute as serving different settings and school districts, whether individual or multiple, would still be considered a "school setting" and be considered ONE setting.

**16. If we are implementing two or more curricula, a primary sexual education one, and a complementary one (possibly life-skills related), are we to implement both with all youth we plan to serve, or only add the complementary curriculum to selected sub-populations within our targeted number?**

Selected EBPs should lay the foundation for developmentally appropriate behavioral skills related to improving sexual and reproductive health outcomes and promoting positive youth development. As such, youth should receive a complement of EBPs at multiple times over the course of their adolescence to have a lasting impact on improving outcomes and reducing disparities. The information provided should be sequential, consistent, and reinforcing. Recipients can and should implement programs that serve as a complement but not a replacement, to inclusive, evidence-based sex education, and sexual health services (p.10).

Programs eligible for replication are those that meet the following criteria (see bullets below and on p.10-11 of the NOFO). OPA does encourage recipients to implement several EBPs to align with the needs of the community and population of focus.

- Study Quality - Meets the criteria for the quality of an evaluation study per the criteria established in the HHS TPP Evidence Review (TPPER) protocol, version 6.0.
- Evidence of Effectiveness on Sexual Risk Behaviors - At a minimum, one of the identified EBPs to be implemented must demonstrate impact on sexual risk behaviors using the evidence of effectiveness as outlined in the HHS TPP Evidence Review (TPPER) protocol, version 6.0.
- Evidence of Effectiveness on Behavioral Risk Factors Underlying Teenage Pregnancy or Other Associated Risk Factors - In addition to implementing at least one EBP with evidence of effectiveness on sexual risk behaviors, recipients may also implement EBPs that demonstrate impact on non-sexual behavioral risk factors underlying teenage pregnancy. If replicating such a program, the recipient must clearly demonstrate how the outcomes are related to preventing teen pregnancy and address the needs of the community and population of focus.

Please see Section A.2.c. Replicate to Scale Evidence-Based Teen Pregnancy Prevention Programs with Fidelity and Quality (p.8-11) for more information.

Since this is a competitive funding announcement, OPA cannot provide input regarding the content of individual grant applications and is therefore unable to answer questions specific to the content of an application.

Applicants are encouraged to carefully review the NOFO and should put forward the best proposal the organization can create based on application and evaluation criteria published in the announcement.

**17. Please confirm the ages of youth eligible for the EBP.**

Primary participants to receive programming under an award should be adolescents and youth (p.7). OPA is defining adolescents and youth to be individuals between the ages of 10-24.

**18. For the past six months, we have conducted a needs assessment and stakeholders have identified the EBPs they would like to use. I realize that we will be reconfirming these decisions during the planning period. However, the NOFO gives the impression that we are not allowed to mention these EBPs in the application. Is that correct? We had hoped to identify in the proposal the preliminary curricula. In this manner, we would be able to prepare an accurate budget that included curricula training and cost of materials. If we do not list preliminary curricula in the application, how would we budget for things like training and curriculum materials?**

The NOFO does not preclude applicants from including proposed EBPs in their application. It does, however, note that applicants are not required to have finalized selection of EBPs in their application (p. 24). Recipients will be expected to obtain OPA approval from selected EBPs prior to piloting the programs and we will provide further guidance to recipients on the EBP approval process upon award (p.10).

**19. On page 12, the NOFO talks about providing services to caregivers and other trusted adults, but I do not see a mention of parental services needing to be an EBP on page 12. However, on page 24, there is a clear request to identify the number of parents and other adults that will go through an EBP. Is it a requirement that all parents who receive services through the project go through an EBP?**

We expect recipients to engage parents/caregivers throughout the project (see Section A.2.e. Engage Youth, Caregivers, and the Community Throughout the Project, p.11-13). As part of that expectation, we expect recipients to provide guidance and education to parents/caregivers that support them in developing and maintaining positive relationships and reinforce positive, healthy decision-making with youth. However, it is not required for parents/caregivers to receive evidence-based programs (EBPs).

**20. What kinds of EBPs are allowable for parents?**

It is not required for parents/caregivers to receive evidence-based programs (EBPs). However, if an applicant chooses to provide parents/caregivers with an EBP, they may propose, and recipients may implement, programs that meet the following criteria listed below:

- Study Quality - Meets the criteria for the quality of an evaluation study per the criteria established in the HHS TPP Evidence Review (TPPER) protocol, version 6.0.
- Evidence of Effectiveness on Sexual Risk Behaviors - At a minimum, one of the identified EBPs to be implemented must demonstrate impact on sexual risk behaviors using the evidence of effectiveness as outlined in the HHS TPP Evidence Review (TPPER) protocol, version 6.0.
- Evidence of Effectiveness on Behavioral Risk Factors Underlying Teenage Pregnancy or Other Associated Risk Factors - In addition to implementing at least one EBP with evidence of effectiveness on sexual risk behaviors, recipients may also implement EBPs that demonstrate impact on non-sexual behavioral risk factors underlying teenage pregnancy. If replicating such a program, the recipient must clearly demonstrate how the outcomes are related to preventing teen pregnancy and address the needs of the community and population of focus.

Please see Section A.2.c.2 - Eligibility of Programs to be Replicated and Implemented to Scale (p. 10-11) for more information.

**21. On page 24, there is a chart that describes the numbers to be served through the project. Is it correct to assume that parents are included in the count of unduplicated participants served each year? The table uses the term participant, so we are assuming participant includes youth and parents. Is that correct?**

The table included on p.24 is the historical annual reach, *with an evidence-based program (EBP),* of prior successful TPP awards with a typical funding range and is provided only as background information. OPA does not use the information in the Table as the basis for determining funding levels. Applicants should describe in their application the following (p.24):

- Anticipated number of youths you will reach each year specifically through implementation of EBPs.
- Anticipated number of parent/caregivers and/or other individuals (e.g., youth-serving professionals) that will receive EBPs each year specifically through the implementation.
- Specific details on how you obtained the estimates for youth, parent/caregivers and other individuals receiving EBPs.
- How those that will receive EBPs aligns with the needs identified in the community.

We recommend you review Section E.1 - Criteria. Here you will find the criteria that will be used by an independent review panel to assess all eligible applications (p.43).

Finally, your proposed estimate of number of participants to receive EBP implementation over the duration of the project should clearly align and be adequately supported by the budget narrative submitted (Section D.3.b – Budget Narrative Content, p.29-35).

**22. The NOFO states, “Funding for projects authorized under this Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) is to replicate EBPs and not for service delivery. While ancillary supportive services provided to complement replication of EBP (see Section A.2.f.) may be allowable, services are not the primary purpose of this NOFO.” My understanding is that this refers to clinical services, but I can't see where it says this explicitly. As I understand it, the NOFO is encouraging people to focus on replication of EBPs and then utilize networks and partnerships to help students receive services - but not fund those services. Can you please define more clearly what is meant by "services"?**

We expect recipients to identify, actively engage and collaborate with, and maintain a network of diverse, multi-sector partners in order to increase awareness of, access to, and utilization of adolescent-friendly services which address the needs of the population of focus (p.13). This is not limited to clinical services but should be those services that address the needs of the population of focus. Also, you are correct that this NOFO is not intended to fund direct service delivery (for example, vaccinations, therapy, STI tests, etc.) and the intent is to collaborate and coordinate with partners across systems to address the various needs of the community and population of focus while also complementing the implementation of EBPs. As a reminder, we expect this to include, but not be limited to, sexual and reproductive health services and mental health services (p.13).

Please review the expectation, Section A.2.f - Connect to a Network of Adolescent-Friendly Supportive Services (p.13-14) for more information.

**23. Does any questionnaire going to vulnerable populations (of which children and youth are one) still have to be IRB reviewed?**

In collecting performance measures and other project data, recipients must adhere to all relevant state laws, organizational policies, and other administrative procedures prior to collection (p.15). A copy of previously approved performance measures has been included in the NOFO (p.68-72) for your reference and does not require use of questionnaires to be collected from participants (including youth). If you choose to ask survey questions such as those that assess knowledge, attitudes, and intentions on sex, OPA expects you to consult with an IRB to determine whether the evaluation plan is (1) exempted or (2) requires a full IRB review. Please note that OPA only requires that recipients meet the reporting requirements as stated in Section F.17 (p.55). Recipients should not collect any data as it relates to changes in sexual behaviors outside of a rigorous impact evaluation that includes a comparison group because this is not a research award. Any evaluation-type activities should focus on monitoring the quality and fit of project activities. See Section A.2.h - Monitor and Improve the Overall Project (p.15-16) for more information.

## Budget

1. **The NOFO states on page 32 that "[w]henever you intend to transfer a substantive part of the project effort to another entity you must provide a detailed budget and budget narrative for each subrecipient/contractor…" Should a "substantive part" be defined by the budget allocated to the subrecipient/contractor and, if so, what percentage of the budget will be considered "substantive."**

   "Substantive" should be defined by the budget allocated to the subrecipient/contractor. The percentage of the budget that would be considered substantive is 10 percent or greater of total project funding for the budget period in question. Please see **45 CFR 75.308(b) and (c)(1)(vi)** https://www.ecfr.gov/current/title-45/subtitle-A/subchapter-A/part-75/subpart-D/subject-group-ECFR911e5e1a30bfbcb/section-75.308

2. **Can the prime recipient partner with a subrecipient/contractor on the collection and analysis of data AND additional services beyond the collection and analysis of data at a rate greater than ten percent of overall funds?**

   An applicant should not allocate more than ten percent (10%) of total requested federal funds for the collection and analysis of data related to the project; and in addition, funds may not be used for a rigorous impact evaluation (p.26). When engaging a subrecipient and providing budget information, an applicant will have to show how they will avoid exceeding the 10% percent limitation for the collection and analysis of data related to the project, the percentage of funding that will be devoted to potential subrecipient work on the data elements, and any other work for the project.

3. **How do we budget for curricula for the proposal when we don't select the curricula until after an award?**

   The NOFO does not preclude applicants from including proposed EBPs in their application. It does, however, note that applicants are not required to have finalized selection of EBPs in their application (p. 24). Recipients will be expected to obtain OPA approval from selected EBPs prior to piloting the programs and we will provide further guidance to recipients on the EBP approval process upon award (p.10).

   The historical annual reach per funding range based on prior TPP awards is presented in a table on pages 2 and 24 of the NOFO. The table is provided *only as background information*. Costs may differ based on various factors such as geographic region, specific focus population of participants, available resources, etc. The information also does not reflect inflation or cost-of-living adjustments that have been made over time. We do not use the information in the Table as the basis for determining funding levels.

## Questions & Answers | NOFO TA Webinar held February 21, 2023

### General

1. **Any FTE expectation or requirement for the PI/PD position?**

   There is no expectation or requirement regarding the FTE level of the PI/PD position. The NOFO does note that only one Project Director/Principal Investigator (PD/PI) will be named on any resulting award. You should clearly identify the individual in that role in your application. This individual should be the person who will be responsible for the programmatic aspects of the project if an award is made (p. 21).

   An applicant should, "describe the composition of the project team, to include the roles and responsibilities of all staff and how they will contribute to achieving the project's objectives and activities. Describe who will have day-to-day responsibility for key tasks including, but not limited to, leadership of the overall program and of specific tasks, monitoring the program's progress, monitoring implementation partners, collection of performance measures, and preparation of reports (p. 28).

   Section D.3.b - Budget Narrative Content (p.29-35) also provides guidance on what information to include as it relates to personnel and staffing.

2. **Do we need to include a header or footer with the organization name and the funding opportunity number?**

   You do not need to include a header or footer with any information. The only formatting requirements for the submission of your application are included in the NOFO in Section D.2 – Content and Form of Application Submission (p.20-22). You should also review Section. C.4 – Application Disqualification Criteria (p.19-20) for a bulleted list of criteria that your application must meet in order to be deemed eligible for review.

3. **What's allowable for images/graphics in the narrative?**

   Any files uploaded or attached to the Grants.gov application must be Adobe PDF, Microsoft Word, or image formats (JPG, GIF, TIFF, or BMP only) and must contain a valid file format extension in the filename. **We will not accept Microsoft Excel files**.

   In addition, the use of compressed file formats such as ZIP, RAR, or Adobe Portfolio will not be accepted. We will not contact you for resubmission of uncompressed versions of files. Compressed files in the application will not be forwarded to the independent merit review panel for consideration.

We strongly recommend that electronic applications be uploaded as Adobe PDF. If you convert to PDF prior to submission, you may prevent any unintentional formatting that might occur with submission of an editable document. Although Grants.gov allows you to attach any file format as part of your application, we restrict this practice and only accept the file formats identified above for compatibility with our other systems. Any file submitted as part of the Grants.gov application that is not in a file format listed above will not be accepted for processing and will be excluded from the application during the review process (p.42).

## Programmatic

**1. Is mentoring considered "service delivery"?**

For the purposes of this NOFO, mentoring is not considered service delivery.

**2. Could you please provide clarity on how the participant numbers are counted across settings? Are the participants meant to be unduplicated across all settings where they may receive an EBP?**

Applicants should describe plans to implement in three or more settings, including specifying where you will implement EBPs, clearly demonstrating implementing in at least 3 unique settings. Demonstrate how the settings clearly align with the need of the focus population and the various physical and social environments where youth live, learn, work, play, and worship (p.24-25).

For each setting, describe the total number of youth available in the setting and the percentage of them that will participate (e.g., the number and breakdown of schools and enrollment in each; number of youth in residential group homes, number of youth in juvenile detention center; etc.).

Applicants should also describe in their applications the following (p.24):

- Anticipated number of youths you will reach each year specifically through implementation of EBPs.
- Anticipated number of parent/caregivers and/or other individuals (e.g., youth-serving professionals) that will receive EBPs each year specifically through the implementation.
- Specific details on how you obtained the estimates for youth, parent/caregivers and other individuals receiving EBPs.
- How those that will receive EBPs aligns with the needs identified in the community.

We recommend you review Section E.1 - Criteria. Here you will find the criteria that will be used by an independent review panel to assess all eligible applications (p.43).

Finally, your proposed estimate of number of participants to receive EBP implementation over the duration of the project should clearly align and be adequately supported by the budget narrative submitted (Section D.3.b – Budget Narrative Content, p.29-35).

3. **Is there a reason why the focus is on "teen births" and not "teen pregnancies"?**

   The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) reports birth rates, on an annual basis, through the National Vital Statistics Reports. The report includes teen birth rates. The report uses data from the Natality Data File from the National Vital Statistics System. The vital statistics natality file is based on information derived from birth certificates and includes information for all births occurring in the United States (https://www.cdc.gov/nchs/data/nvsr/nvsr72/nvsr72-01.pdf). As this is the only published federal report that addresses teen births, OPA uses this data to assist in identifying the need for teen pregnancy prevention efforts.

4. **Is the requirement to implement EBP in three or more settings in each defined geographic community or can you implement in 3 or more settings with the identified population over various geographic communities?**

   Recipients are expected to replicate EBPs to scale in 3 or more settings in each defined community. Recipients may serve a single community or multiple communities within their project. Multiple communities could include communities within the same state, communities across states, etc. Recipients should have a defined community(ies) with clear geographic boundaries, in order to ensure that they identify the number of youth that they will serve. Within the communities, recipients should have a clearly identified population of focus (p.6-7).

5. **On page 10 it states we are encouraged to implement several EBPs. Is there a limit to how many we can implement, or do you have guidance for how many to use or how many youth each EBP should serve? Please define implementing "several EBPs"**

   There is no limit to the number of EBPs you may implement. Identifying and selecting EBPs requires an intentional process that ensures the programs selected are a good fit for the needs of the community and population(s) of focus. Fit refers to how well a program matches, or is appropriate for, the community, organization, stakeholders, and potential participants (e.g., youth) (p.9)

   Selected EBPs should lay the foundation for developmentally appropriate behavioral skills related to improving sexual and reproductive health outcomes and promoting positive youth development. As such, youth should receive a complement of EBPs at multiple times over the course of their adolescence to have a lasting impact on improving outcomes and reducing disparities (p.10).

   As reminder, **you are not** required to have finalized selection of EBPs in your application (p.24). We expect recipients to obtain approval from us for selected EBPs prior to piloting the programs. We will provide further guidance to recipients on the EBP approval process upon award (p.10).

6. **There are EBPs that were included in the current grant cycle, but no longer included. Two of those include Linking Families and Teens and Plan A. Are we not able to use those now in this new cycle?**

   Eligible EBPs for replication are those that meet the criteria listed below (p.10).

- Study Quality - Meets the criteria for the quality of an evaluation study per the criteria established in the HHS TPP Evidence Review (TPPER) protocol, version 6.0.
- Evidence of Effectiveness on Sexual Risk Behaviors - At a minimum, one of the identified EBPs to be implemented must demonstrate impact on sexual risk behaviors using the evidence of effectiveness as outlined in the HHS TPP Evidence Review (TPPER) protocol, version 6.0.
- Evidence of Effectiveness on Behavioral Risk Factors Underlying Teenage Pregnancy or Other Associated Risk Factors - In addition to implementing at least one EBP with evidence of effectiveness on sexual risk behaviors, recipients may also implement EBPs that demonstrate impact on non-sexual behavioral risk factors underlying teenage pregnancy. If replicating such a program, the recipient must clearly demonstrate how the outcomes are related to preventing teen pregnancy **and** address the needs of the community and population of focus.

ASPE recently updated the evidence review standards in Fall 2022 and we anticipate ASPE will make findings from this new update publicly available on the TPPER website in early 2023.

7. **Our school district has our own locally developed, culturally-responsive, comprehensive sexual health education curriculum PK-12. It's aligned to national and state standards. Is there a way to use our own curriculum rather than an existing EBPs? If so, what is the process for approval?**

Eligible EBPs for replication are those that meet the criteria listed below (p.10).

- Study Quality - Meets the criteria for the quality of an evaluation study per the criteria established in the HHS TPP Evidence Review (TPPER) protocol, version 6.0.
- Evidence of Effectiveness on Sexual Risk Behaviors - At a minimum, one of the identified EBPs to be implemented must demonstrate impact on sexual risk behaviors using the evidence of effectiveness as outlined in the HHS TPP Evidence Review (TPPER) protocol, version 6.0.
- Evidence of Effectiveness on Behavioral Risk Factors Underlying Teenage Pregnancy or Other Associated Risk Factors - In addition to implementing at least one EBP with evidence of effectiveness on sexual risk behaviors, recipients may also implement EBPs that demonstrate impact on non-sexual behavioral risk factors underlying teenage pregnancy. If replicating such a program, the recipient must clearly demonstrate how the outcomes are related to preventing teen pregnancy **and** address the needs of the community and population of focus.

We expect recipients to obtain approval from us for selected EBPs prior to piloting the programs. We will provide further guidance to recipients on the EBP approval process upon award (p.10).

8. **Related to expected # of youth served per funding level, does the # of youth represent the number each year or total across 5 years? So, for $2M level, 15,000 students have to be reached each year or a total of 15,000 across 5 years.**

   The table included on page 24 is the historical *annual reach* with an evidence-based program (EBP) of prior successful TPP awards with a typical funding range and is provided only as background information. OPA does not use the information in the Table as the basis for determining funding levels.

   Funding requests for the project should reasonably support the number of participants anticipated being served through EBP implementations over the duration of the project period. Recipients should be mindful of realistic and feasible goals based on funding level received (p.2).

9. **Can we provide LBGT Ally services?**

   We expect recipients to identify, actively engage and collaborate with, and maintain a network of diverse, multi-sector partners to **increase awareness of**, **access to**, and **utilization of** adolescent-friendly services which *address the needs of the population of focus* (p.13).

   Since this is a competitive funding announcement, OPA cannot provide input regarding the content of individual grant applications and is therefore unable to answer questions specific to the content of an application.

   Applicants are encouraged to carefully review the NOFO and should put forward the best proposal the organization can create based on application and evaluation criteria published in the announcement.

10. **Is a Needs Assessment required to be submitted with the application (p. 7 of NOFO under b. Engage in a Planning Period, first bullet)?**

    To demonstrate that the project is focused on areas of greatest need and disparities, applicants should provide current data on the community and population of focus within the defined geographic area(s) through various means that will clearly demonstrate your understanding of where the greatest need is, what the specific needs and resources are, who the key stakeholders are, and the relationship between all these components that may be driving disparities within the community(ies). See Section D.3.a.1 - Focus on Areas of Greatest Need and Disparities (p.22-23) for more information on what to include in your application.

    During the planning period, recipients will be expected to *review the initial needs assessment submitted as part of the application* and build upon it to ensure a clear understanding of the needs and resources of the community and specific population(s) of focus. (p.7)

    Applicants are encouraged to carefully review the NOFO and should put forward the best proposal the organization can create based on application and evaluation criteria published in the announcement.

**11. Will OPA be providing the survey to be used for this grant with participants?**

OPA requires the recipient to submit performance measures each year on a semi-annual basis. Performance measures from the TPP2020 Tier 1 cohort are available in the Supplemental Materials (Section I.7) These have been approved by the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) and assigned OMB No. 0990-0438 (Expires 8/31/2023, pending renewal). Final performance measures will be provided to recipients during the first six months of funding (p.55).

**12. Can you further define what is meant by "community"? For example, if a selected setting is juvenile detention facilities and there are 6 such facilities located and spread widely across the state, is the entire state considered the "community"?**

The responsibility is on the applicant to describe the community or communities and population(s) of focus including the geographic boundaries used to define each (p.22). Your application will also be assessed on the extent to which you clearly define the geographic boundaries and describe the community or communities and population(s) of focus (p.43). You should also include, in the appendices, a map of your defined geographic area(s) that you will serve, to include location of the proposed settings where EBP implementation will occur (p.36).

In the example you provided – if an applicant is implementing in 6 juvenile detention facilities spread widely across a state, then the state could be considered the "community." However, recipients are expected to replicate EBPs to scale in 3 or more settings in each defined community (p.9). Therefore, in your example above, the project will still have to implement EBPs in, at least, two additional settings.

Applicants are encouraged to carefully review the NOFO and should put forward the best proposal the organization can create based on application and evaluation criteria published in the announcement.

**13. Is the reach/funding amount table a guide, or must it be followed? Reaching certain sub-populations may be more challenging and require more resources, even if less reach.**

The table included on pages 2 and 24 presents the historical annual reach per funding range based on prior TPP awards. The table is provided only as background information. Costs may differ based on various factors such as geographic region, specific focus population of participants, available resources, etc. The information also does not reflect inflation or cost-of-living adjustments that have been made over time. We do not use the information in the Table as the basis for determining funding levels.

Funding requests for the project should reasonably support the number of participants anticipated being served through EBP implementations over the duration of the project period. Recipients should be mindful of realistic and feasible goals based on funding level received (p.2).

**14. Are awarded applicants prohibited from implementing EBPs during the 6-month planning period?**

Under this NOFO, we will allow *up to* a 6-month planning period for recipients to select EBPs that are the best fit for the youth and communities served, prepare all settings to implement selected EBPs to scale, and prepare for seamless execution of activities to achieve the goals of the project. The duration of the planning period is dependent upon a recipient's ability to demonstrate achievement of the milestones listed on pages 7-8 of the NOFO which include:

- Pilot, refine, and be ready to replicate selected EBP(s) to scale, including:
- Submitting and obtaining a decision on all proposed adaptations and
- Having implementation plans in place for each implementation site.

By the end of the planning period, we expect recipients to begin implementing selected EBPs in all identified settings (p.7).

**15. If we have existing staff for our current program that we don't want to lose during the planning period (assuming we are refunded), can we keep them on for planning and training activities?**

The NOFO does not indicate what the staffing composition should be for a project. The only requirement for staffing is the following:

- Only one Project Director/Principal Investigator (PD/PI) will be named on any resulting award. You should clearly identify the individual in that role in your application. This individual should be the person who will be responsible for the programmatic aspects of the project if an award is made. A placeholder PD/PI is strongly discouraged because this may not present a clear picture for the review. Furthermore, once an award is issued a request for a change in PD/PI requires prior approval of the grants management officer (45 C.F.R. § 75.308(c)(1)(ii-iii)) (p.21)
- You must register an authorizing official for your organization. OASH does not determine your organization's authorizing official; your organization makes that designation. For information on registering for Grants.gov, refer to https://grants.gov or contact the Grants.gov Contact Center 24 hours a day, 7 days a week (excluding Federal holidays) at 1-800-518-4726 or support@grants.gov. (p.40)

In your application, you should, describe the composition of the project team, to include the roles and responsibilities of all staff and how they will contribute to achieving the project's objectives and activities. Describe who will have day-to-day responsibility for key tasks including, but not limited to, leadership of the overall program and of specific tasks, monitoring the program's progress, monitoring implementation partners, collection of performance measures, and preparation of reports (p. 28).

Section D.3.b - Budget Narrative Content (p.29-35) also provides guidance on what information to include as it relates to personnel and staffing.

Finally, we recommend you review Section E.1 - Criteria. There you will find the criteria that will be used by federal staff and an independent review panel to assess all eligible applications (p.43-46).

**16. If the EBP we choose is one we have successfully used previously, can that count as the pilot?**

We are unable to answer this question as many factors influence whether a recipient may be able to include previous implementation as a pilot. Recipients will need to engage their Federal Project Officer in determining whether they have met the necessary milestones noted for the planning period (p.7-8) before moving forward with full implementation.

As a reminder, awards made under this NOFO will be cooperative agreements. A cooperative agreement is a form of assistance that allows for substantial involvement by the program office. Substantial involvement is in addition to the usual monitoring and technical assistance provided under a grant (e.g., assistance from the assigned Federal project officer, monthly conference calls, occasional site visits, ongoing review of plans and progress, participation in relevant meetings, provision of training and technical assistance). Substantial programmatic involvement for cooperative agreements under this NOFO may include (p.17):

- Review of recipient progress during the planning period and approval at significant milestones to move forward with full implementation.
- Review and approval of EBPs selected for replication, EBP implementation plans, and proposed adaptations to EBPs.

**17. Please clarify the statement on page 9, "Recipients should implement programs district-wide in the community rather than within individual schools or in individual classrooms." Can you or can you not offer EBP within schools? Does this also mean we should partner with school district, or we can work with schools in a specific district, or schools and CBOs in several districts?**

Yes, you may implement in schools. However, we consider "school setting" as one setting that encompasses elementary, middle, high schools, charter schools, **and** alternative schools. Therefore, you must pick two other settings in which to implement EBPs.

OPA is also interested in projects that will make the greatest impact on improving sexual and reproductive health outcomes and promoting positive youth development. Therefore, we expect recipients to replicate EBPs to scale with the goal of expanding the reach of programs and serving greater numbers of youth, their families, and other key stakeholders (e.g., youth-serving professionals, trusted adults) with EBPs. On page 9 of the NOFO, as you noted, we offer examples of strategies a recipient may take to replicate EBPs to scale. Note these are only examples.

Since this is a competitive funding announcement, OPA cannot provide input regarding the content of individual grant applications and is therefore unable to answer questions specific to the content of an application.

Applicants are encouraged to carefully review the NOFO and should put forward the best proposal the organization can create based on application and evaluation criteria published in the announcement.

**18. Do private schools count the same as public schools? As well as Homeschool groups include as one setting for school?**

Yes. Private schools and homeschool groups are both considered a “school setting.”

**19. Is a school program in a juvenile detention center separate from public schools?**

If the school program is located within the juvenile detention center – it would not be considered a “school setting.” Instead, this would be considered a detention center setting, which is a separate setting than “schools.”

**20. Can a School-Based Health Clinic be a separate than “schools” in general?**

Yes, OPA will consider EBPs delivered in a school-based health clinic as a separate setting from “schools.”

**21. Could you elaborate in Q&A on STD vs STI?**

For the purposes of this NOFO, STD and STI have the same meaning. In accordance with the CDC, sexually transmitted diseases (STDs) are also known as sexually transmitted infections (STIs): https://www.cdc.gov/std/general/default.htm#:~:text=Sexually%20transmitted%20diseases%20(STDs)%2C,%2C%20oral%2C%20and%20anal%20sex.

**22. Define "Replicate to Scale" vs replicate.**

We refer to implementation of an EBP as “replication” (p.8). The purpose of replicating to scale is to expand the reach of programs and serve greater numbers of youth, their families, and other key stakeholders (e.g., youth-serving professionals, trusted adults) with EBPs (p.8).

**23. Can you define reach versus numbers served?**

Reach and numbers served have the same meaning. Reach is number of youth, parent/caregivers, and/or other individuals that receive evidence-based programs each year.

**24. Do we need to break down the ages of adolescents, 10-14 and 15-19?**

It is not required to break down the ages of adolescents for the purposes of providing an estimated number of participants to receive EBP implementation over the duration of the project. An applicant should describe the following (p.24):

- Anticipated number of youths you will reach each year specifically through implementation of EBPs.
- Anticipated number of parent/caregivers and/or other individuals (e.g., youth-serving professionals) that will receive EBPs each year specifically through the implementation.
- Specific details on how you obtained the estimates for youth, parent/caregivers and other individuals receiving EBPs.
- How those that will receive EBPs aligns with the needs identified in the community.

Please see Section D.3.a.2 - Selection and Implementation of Evidence-Based Teen Pregnancy Prevention Programs (p.24-25) for more information.

For the purposes of demonstrating your focus on areas of greatest need and disparities, applicants should provide current data on the community and population of focus within the defined geographic area(s) through various means that will clearly demonstrate your understanding of where the greatest need is, what the specific needs and resources are, who the key stakeholders are, and the relationship between all these components that may be driving disparities within the community(ies) (p.22) Please see Section D.3.a.1 - Focus on Areas of Greatest Need and Disparities (p.22-23) for more information.

Applicants are encouraged to carefully review the NOFO and should put forward the best proposal the organization can create based on application and evaluation criteria published in the announcement.

**25. Is there guidance on preferred EBPs for different populations?**

There is no specific guidance on preferred EBPs for different populations. The HHS TPP Evidence Review (TPPER) is offered as a tool that can be used by recipients to assist in the selection of EBPs. EBPs eligible for replication are those that meet the following criteria (p.10):

- Study Quality - Meets the criteria for the quality of an evaluation study per the criteria established in the HHS TPP Evidence Review (TPPER) protocol, version 6.0.
- Evidence of Effectiveness on Sexual Risk Behaviors - At a minimum, one of the identified EBPs to be implemented must demonstrate impact on sexual risk behaviors using the evidence of effectiveness as outlined in the HHS TPP Evidence Review (TPPER) protocol, version 6.0.
- Evidence of Effectiveness on Behavioral Risk Factors Underlying Teenage Pregnancy or Other Associated Risk Factors - In addition to implementing at least one EBP with evidence of effectiveness on sexual risk behaviors, recipients may also implement EBPs that demonstrate impact on non-sexual behavioral risk factors underlying teenage pregnancy. If replicating such a

program, the recipient must clearly demonstrate how the outcomes are related to preventing teen pregnancy **and** address the needs of the community and population of focus.

Recipients should use the planning period (see Planning Period expectation) to revisit their project goals and desired outcomes, needs of the community and population, and capacity/readiness of the implementation sites and implementing organization(s) to identify and select EBPs that are a good fit for the needs of the community and population(s) of focus (p.9).

We strongly recommend that recipients leverage lessons learned and best practices from previous youth development and teen pregnancy prevention efforts. Such information will serve as a foundation from which to further refine selection of EBPs. It will also assist in efficiently ensuring an EBP that truly fits the needs of the community and population that you will serve (p.10). Resources are available in the NOFO (p.66-67) and on the NOFO TA webinar slides that share OPA's lessons learned from previous teen pregnancy prevention efforts.

As a reminder, recipients will be expected to obtain approval from us for selected EBPs prior to piloting the programs.

**26. Where can we find a list for evidence-based programs that aren't TPP?**

OPA does not have an exhaustive list of all evidence-based programs. The only resource offered in the NOFO is the HHS TPP Evidence Review (TPPER) (https://tppevidencereview.youth.gov ) which is one tool that can be used by recipients to assist in the selection of EBPs. However, EBPs identified by the TPPER measure program impacts on at least one measure of sexual risk behavior or its health consequences. Measures meeting this definition fall into the following five domains: (1) sexual activity; (2) number of sexual partners; (3) contraceptive use; (4) STIs or HIV; and (5) pregnancies (https://tppevidencereview.youth.gov/pdfs/TPPER-Review-Protocol-Version-6.0.pdf). Note EBPs identified that are not on the TPPER website may be implemented by recipients so long as they meet the following criteria (p.10):

- Study Quality - Meets the criteria for the quality of an evaluation study per the criteria established in the HHS TPP Evidence Review (TPPER) protocol, version 6.0.
- Evidence of Effectiveness on Sexual Risk Behaviors - At a minimum, one of the identified EBPs to be implemented must demonstrate impact on sexual risk behaviors using the evidence of effectiveness as outlined in the HHS TPP Evidence Review (TPPER) protocol, version 6.0.
- Evidence of Effectiveness on Behavioral Risk Factors Underlying Teenage Pregnancy or Other Associated Risk Factors - In addition to implementing at least one EBP with evidence of effectiveness on sexual risk behaviors, recipients may also implement EBPs that demonstrate impact on non-sexual behavioral risk factors underlying teenage pregnancy. If replicating such a program, the recipient must clearly demonstrate how the outcomes are

related to preventing teen pregnancy **and** address the needs of the community and population of focus.

Please see Section A.2.c.2 - Eligibility of Programs to be Replicated and Implemented to Scale (p. 10-11) for more information. Finally, as a reminder, we expect recipients to obtain approval from OPA for selected EBPs prior to piloting the programs (p.10).

**27. Our organization serves multiple counties in the same state. May we propose to serve both rural AND urban communities that are not proximate to one another, provided that we clearly define the geographic boundaries and needs of each community?**

Yes. Recipients may serve a single community or multiple communities within their project. Multiple communities could include communities within the same state, communities across states, etc. Within the community(ies), recipients should have a clearly identified population of focus (p.6-7). For your application, describe the community or communities and population(s) of focus including the geographic boundaries used to define each. In your description provide proof or urban or rural designation. The U.S. Census Bureau provides information on areas designated as Urban: https://www.census.gov/programs-surveys/geography/guidance/geo-areas/urban-rural.html. The Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) provides the definition for rural as well as accompanying resources for determining whether your community classifies as "rural": https://www.hrsa.gov/rural-health/about-us/what-is-rural. If you do not meet the definition for urban or rural, identify your community as "suburban." (p.22)

**28. Do we need to write in the grant our plan for the 6-month planning period?**

Per Section D.3.a.3 - Project Approach (p.25), in your application, clearly identify and describe the activities that will take place during the planning period that may not exceed 6 months. Describe how you will ensure successful completion of identified activities, include what challenges you anticipate and how you will mitigate those challenges. Also demonstrate how the planning period activities align with the key milestones in Section A.2.b (p.7-8) and how it will result in EBP implementation in all identified settings by the end of the planning period.

**29. If using more than one EBP, can we have one that "fit" a certain target population and another that "fit" another target population?**

Applicants may propose serving more than one population of focus. Recipients are expected to implement EBPs that are a good match to communities and *populations* of focus. We also encourage recipients to implement several EBPs to align with the needs of the community and population of focus (p.10).

**30. If our organization is a current TPP Tier 1 grantee, is it allowable to propose serving the same communities (though not the identical program) for this next round of support?**

You may be allowed to serve the same community; however, in your application, you should describe how the proposed project will meet unmet need in the community of focus and not duplicate already existing resources (p,23). Federal staff and an independent review panel will assess all eligible applications on the extent to which the applicant clearly demonstrates that the proposed project will fill gaps in TPP services for the community and population of focus and will not duplicate existing programs and activities.

We recommend you review Section E.1 - Criteria. There you will find the criteria that will be used by federal staff and an independent review panel to assess all eligible applications (p.43-46).

**31. If we make the case that text-messaging is an evidence-based strategy for impacting adolescent behavior, could a text-messaging intervention offered in addition to specific evidence-based curricula, be considered an appropriate adaptation?**

Since this is a competitive funding announcement, OPA cannot provide input regarding the content of individual grant applications and is therefore unable to answer questions specific to the content of an application.

Please note that adaptations are changes made to the program content, delivery, or other core components of the program. Recipients may not significantly change the program's core components or compromise program fidelity (i.e., compromise the underlying elements/components of the program). Recipients may make minor adaptations to EBPs. Minor adaptations are allowable if they improve the fit and relevancy of the program to the community and population of focus (p.9). Also, as this is a cooperative agreement, federal agency substantial involvement includes (p.17):

- Review and approval of EBPs selected for replication, EBP implementation plans, and proposed adaptations to EBPs.
- Consulting with OPA on adaptations proposed to ensure fidelity to EBPs core components.

Applicants are encouraged to carefully review the NOFO and should put forward the best proposal the organization can create based on application and evaluation criteria published in the announcement.

**32. Is there a requirement for who can perform observations?**

The Performance Measures guidance given to *current* OPA-funded TPP grantees defines observers (those who can perform observations of EBP implementation for fidelity and quality) as a person affiliated with the project, knowledgeable about the EBP being implemented, and not involved with the daily implementation of the EBP. This definition is subject to change and will be provided to grantees with the final performance measures within the first six months of funding.

**33. Does reach goal have to be the same year over year? Can it be less in year 1 due to the planning period?**

You do not have to have the same reach goal each year and we expect that recipients may have a different reach goal in Year 1 due to the up to six-month planning period. We do expect recipients to begin implementing selected EBPs in all identified settings by the end of the planning period (p.7). Failure of a recipient to make satisfactory progress toward completion of planning period milestones by the end of the six-month planning period may be deemed poor performance and affect future funding decisions (p.8).

Applicants should describe in their application the following (p.24):

- Anticipated number of youths you will reach *each year* specifically through implementation of EBPs.
- Anticipated number of parent/caregivers and/or other individuals (e.g., youth-serving professionals) that will receive EBPs *each year* specifically through the implementation.
- Specific details on how you obtained the estimates for youth, parent/caregivers and other individuals receiving EBPs.
- How those that will receive EBPs aligns with the needs identified in the community.

Federal staff and an independent review panel will assess all eligible applications on the "Extent to which the applicant clearly and separately describes the number of youth, parent/caregivers, and/or other individuals that they will reach **each year** with evidence-based programs in each of the 3 (or more) settings. The applicant includes specific details on how they obtained the estimates. The demographics of the community(ies) selected supports the estimates. Estimates also appear accurate and reasonable to achieve" (p.43). Please review Section E.1 – Criteria (p.43-46) which outlines all of the criteria that will be used by federal staff and an independent review panel to assess all eligible applications.

**34. If implementing an EBP within a justice setting, where youth enrollments are often limited - is it okay if we only have 400 youth statewide? Or does that make us ineligible for Tier 1?**

Your proposed estimate of number of participants to receive EBP implementation over the duration of the project should clearly align and be adequately supported by the budget narrative submitted. See Section D.3.b (p.29-35). The table included on page 24 is the historical annual reach *with an evidence-based program (EBP)* of prior successful TPP awards with a typical funding range and is provided only as background information. OPA does not use the information in the Table as the basis for determining funding levels.

Since this is a competitive funding announcement, OPA cannot provide input regarding the content of individual grant applications and is therefore unable to answer questions specific to the content of an application.

Applicants are encouraged to carefully review the NOFO and should put forward the best proposal the organization can create based on application and evaluation criteria published in the announcement.

**35. Do we need to include a STD chart as on p. 23 for our target area?**

Successful applications will provide current data on the community and population of focus within the defined geographic area(s) through various means that will clearly demonstrate your understanding of where the greatest need is, what the specific needs and resources are, who the key stakeholders are, and the relationship between all these components that may be driving disparities within the community(ies). See Section D.3.a.1 - Focus on Areas of Greatest Need and Disparities (p.22-23) for more information on what should be submitted in your application to address this component. Section D.2 (p.20-22) outlines the content and form of application submissions including the format of the project narrative. Please review this information as well as the Application Disqualification Criteria (p. 19-20) to ensure you submit an application in accordance with the requirements.

Since this is a competitive funding announcement, OPA cannot provide input regarding the content of individual grant applications and is therefore unable to answer questions specific to the content of an application.

Applicants are encouraged to carefully review the NOFO and should put forward the best proposal the organization can create based on application and evaluation criteria published in the announcement.

**36. Are the required STI and pregnancy rates for the geographic area with defined borders or for the community and population in the geographic area?**

Successful applications will provide current data on the community and population of focus *within the defined geographic area(s)* through various means that will clearly demonstrate your understanding of where the greatest need is, what the specific needs and resources are, who the key stakeholders are, and the relationship between all these components that may be driving disparities within the community(ies). See Section D.3.a.1 - Focus on Areas of Greatest Need and Disparities (p.22-23) for more information on what should be submitted in your application to address this component.

**37. If there are non-contiguous geographic areas, how do you suggest providing the STI and pregnancy rates? That is, a set of rates or an average? If an average, should it be weighted average?**

Successful applications will provide current data on the community and population of focus *within the defined geographic area(s)* through various means that will clearly demonstrate your understanding of where the greatest need is, what the specific needs and resources are, who the key stakeholders are, and the relationship between all these components that may be driving disparities within the community(ies). See Section D.3.a.1 - Focus on Areas of Greatest Need and Disparities (p.22-23) for more information on what should be submitted in your application to address this component.

Since this is a competitive funding announcement, OPA cannot provide input regarding the content of individual grant applications and is therefore unable to answer questions specific to the content of an application.

Applicants are encouraged to carefully review the NOFO and should put forward the best proposal the organization can create based on application and evaluation criteria published in the announcement.

## Budget

1. **To engage youth and families, particularly for marginalized communities, it would be appropriate to compensate them for their time in providing feedback on and input. Will compensation and/or incentives be approved budget items?**

   Yes, incentives can be provided for program participation. The program participation cost and or activities must be in support of the goals and objectives of the NOFO. Please see 45 CFR §75.456 - Participant support costs: https://www.ecfr.gov/current/title-45/subtitle-A/subchapter-A/part-75/subpart-E/subject-group-ECFR5d90ba314caea08/section-75.456

   If including incentives as part of your budget request, you must include a plan for oversight of federal award funds. The plan must describe for any program incentives proposed, the specific internal controls that will be used to ensure only qualified participants will receive them and how they will be tracked.

2. **I am at a university and our IDCs are 48%. When considering the number of participants and the range of funding we can request, do you take this rate into consideration when we request a higher amount than your stated funding range by participant reach? In other words, if we propose to serve 3,000 participants, but have to request more than the $1,249,999/year because of our IDCs, can you consider our Direct Costs only rather than the higher Direct Costs + Indirect Costs when scoring/evaluating our application?**

   No, we cannot consider Direct Costs only.

   Your proposed estimate of number of participants to receive EBP implementation over the duration of the project should clearly align and be adequately supported by the budget narrative submitted. See Section D.3.b (p.29-35). The table included on page 24 is the historical annual reach with an evidence-based program (EBP) of prior successful TPP awards with a typical funding range and is provided only as background information. OPA does not use the information in the Table as the basis for determining funding levels.

Federal staff and an independent review panel will assess all eligible applications on the extent to which the budget and budget narrative clearly aligns with the proposed work plan, especially to the degree it clearly aligns with the target reach (i.e., number of participants estimated to receive EBPs) (p.46).

We recommend you review Section E.1 - Criteria. There you will find the criteria that will be used by federal staff and an independent review panel to assess all eligible applications (p.43-46).

3. **On page 56 it states "For the optional competitive additional year of funding for transition to sustainability, application guidance and review criteria will be provided during the third year of the project". Does this mean that we may not be awarded for 5 years? Or does this mean that during the 3rd year an additional year past the 5th year will be offered; so a 6th year of funding?**

   We will fund awards in annual increments and generally for a period of performance up to 5 year(s), although we may approve shorter periods of performance. Budget periods may also vary from the estimate indicated below due to timing of award issuance or other administrative factors (p.16).

4. **Is Budget and Budget Narrative required for each year or just Year 1?**

   Provide a budget justification, which includes explanatory text and line-item detail, for the entire first year of the proposed project. For subsequent budget years in an anticipated multi-year project, provide a summary narrative and line-item budget for each year beyond the first. For categories or items that differ significantly from the first budget year, provide a detailed justification explaining these changes (p.29).

   Funding for all approved budget periods beyond the first is generally level with the initial award amount and is contingent upon the availability of funds, satisfactory progress of the project, adequate stewardship of Federal funds, and the best interests of the Government (p.16-17).

5. **Clarifying that the 100-page limit does not include budget and budget narrative. Only narrative and appendices.**

   Your total application (i.e., the Project Narrative plus Appendices) must not exceed 100 pages. The following items do not count toward the Project Narrative page limit:

   - All required forms, including SF-424, SF-424A, SF-LLL
   - Project Abstract Summary
   - Budget Narrative (including budget tables)(Section D.2.a) (p.20).

6. **Please confirm - if we don't have a link to our plan of federal oversight, this should be included at the end of our budget narrative and this section does not have a page limit, correct?**

If you do not have a link to your plan of federal oversight this should be included at the end of your budget narrative; however, this information should not cause an application to exceed the total page limit of 100 pages.

**7. Can we provide sub grants to some of the partners within our network of adolescent-friendly services?**

You can provide subawards to partners. Your budget narrative should describe how the categorical costs are derived. Discuss the necessity, reasonableness, and allocation of the proposed costs (p.29). Applicants should also justify the overall cost of the project as well as the proposed cost per activity, service delivered, and/or product. For example, the budget narrative should define the amount of work you have planned and expect to perform, what it will cost, and an explanation of how the result is cost effective. (p.29). For subawards – see Section D.3.b.1.k. Contractual Description and I. Contractual Justification for more information on what to include in this category of your budget (p.32).

You must include a plan for oversight of federal award funds which describes:

- How your organization will provide oversight of federal funds and how award activities and partner(s) will adhere to applicable federal award and programmatic regulations. Include identification of risks specific to your project as proposed and how your oversight plan addresses these risks.
- The organizational systems that demonstrate effective control over and accountability for federal funds and program income, compare outlays with budget amounts, and provide accounting records supported by source documentation.
- For any program incentives proposed, the specific internal controls that will be used to ensure only qualified participants will receive them and how they will be tracked.
- Organizational controls that will ensure timely and accurate submission of Federal Financial Reports to the OASH Grants and Acquisitions Management Division via the Payment Management System as well as timely and appropriate withdrawal of cash from the Payment Management System (p.35).

If your internal controls are available online, it is recommended that you provide the link as part of your plan in the budget narrative. We have also included supplementary information in Section I.1, which contains questions applicants may find useful in considering their Recipient Plans for Oversight of Federal Funds (p.35).

Should you successfully compete and receive an award, all first-tier sub-award recipients must have a UEI number at the time you, the recipient, make a sub-award to them. (p.38)

# Questions & Answers | Updated February 14, 2023

## General

1. **When are applications due for Opportunity Number: AH-TP1-23-001?**

   Applications are due on Tuesday, April 18, 2023 by 6pm ET

2. **Can the same organization submit separate applications to "Advancing Equity in Adolescent Health through Evidence-Based Teen Pregnancy Prevention Programs and Services" (Tier 1 NOFO) and the other NOFOs OPA has forecasted such as the Teen Pregnancy Prevention Tier 2 Rigorous Evaluation Cooperative Agreements?**

   Yes, an organization can submit an application to more than one NOFO. Each NOFO is different, and organizations should check the eligibility and expectations of each individual NOFO to determine whether or not to apply. HHS/OASH/GAM will deem each application submitted by an entity eligible according to the eligibility information included in the specific NOFO.

3. **Can an individual submit a grant application?**

   Grants are awarded to organizations rather than individuals. An application may be submitted by an individual authorized to act/sign for an organization and to assume the obligations imposed by the grant and any additional conditions of the grant. However, the award will not go directly to an individual but to the organization which the individual represents.

4. **What is page limit for the application?**

   Your total application (i.e., the Project Narrative plus Appendices) must not exceed 100 pages. The following items do not count toward the Project Narrative page limit: all required forms, including SF-424, SF-424A, SF-LLL, Project Abstract Summary, and Budget Narrative (including budget tables)(Section C.4) (p.20).

5. **What is page limit for the project narrative?**

   Your Project Narrative must not exceed 50 pages. The following items do not count toward the Project Narrative page limit: all required forms, including SF-424, SF-424A, SF-LLL, Project Abstract Summary, and Budget Narrative (including budget tables)(Section C.4) (p.20).

6. **Do the appendices count toward the 50 pages allowed for the project narrative?**

   No, but the Appendices do count toward the page limit for your total application. Your total application (i.e., the Project Narrative plus Appendices) must not exceed 100 pages. The following items do not count toward the Project Narrative page limit: all required forms, including SF-424, SF-424A, SF-LLL, Project Abstract Summary, and Budget Narrative (including budget tables)(Section C.4) (p.20).

7. **Will OPA advise or consult with our organization about potential ideas for my proposal before submission of the application?**

   No. Since this is a competitive funding announcement, OPA cannot provide input regarding the content of individual grant applications and is therefore unable to answer questions specific to the content of an application.

   Applicants are encouraged to carefully review the NOFO and should put forward the best proposal the organization can create based on application and evaluation criteria published in the announcement.

## Programmatic

8. **Does implementation in middle schools, high schools, and alternative schools meet the requirement to implement in 3 settings?**

   No. We consider “school setting” as one setting that encompasses elementary, middle, high schools, charter schools, and alternative schools. The expectation is that recipients will replicate EBPs to scale in 3 or more settings (p.9).

9. **The NOFO refers to serving youth as well as parents/caregivers. Is it acceptable to propose an evidence-based program that is designed to deliver services to youth only? In other words, does an applicant have to serve parents/caregivers, in addition to youth?**

   There is no requirement within the NOFO to serve parents/caregivers with evidence-based programs (EBPs). The NOFO states, the “Primary participants to receive programming under an award should be adolescents and youth” (p. 7). You are also not required to have finalized selection of EBPs in your application. (p. 24) Under this NOFO, we will allow up to a 6-month planning period for recipients to select EBPs that are the best fit for the youth and communities served, prepare all settings to implement selected EBPs to scale, and prepare for seamless execution of activities to achieve the goals of the project (p. 7-8). The NOFO *does* expect recipients to engage caregivers throughout the project (see Section A.2.e. Engage Youth, Caregivers, and the Community Throughout the Project (starting on p. 11) for more information on this expectation). Finally, we recommend you review Section E.1 - Criteria. Here you will find the criteria that will be used by an independent review panel to assess all eligible applications (p.43).

10. **Is it allowable to use the first six months of the grant period to decide on which evidence-based programs are the "best fit" for our organization?**

Yes. Under this NOFO, we will allow up to a 6-month planning period for recipients to select EBPs that are the best fit for the youth and communities served, prepare all settings to implement selected EBPs to scale, and prepare for seamless execution of activities to achieve the goals of the project (p.7-8). You are also not required to have finalized selection of EBPs in your application. (p.24)

**11. Do all MOA's have to be in place before we begin implementation?**

If available at the time of submission, you should submit signed Memoranda of Agreement (MOAs) or signed Letters of Commitment (LOCs) for each partner (or one signed MOA with all partners) and include specific roles, responsibilities, resources, and contributions of partner(s) to the project. If you are unable to submit signed MOAs, you should submit an unsigned MOA(s). The signed LOCs must detail the specific role and resources that the partner will provide, or activities that the partner will assume, in support of the project. The LOC should describe the organization's expertise, experience, and access to the targeted population(s). Fully executed MOAs will be required within 30 days following the issuance of any award made under this announcement (p.36).

**12. Where do we find which programs are evidenced-based?**

The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) anticipates reinstating and updating the HHS TPP Evidence Review (https://tppevidencereview.youth.gov) which is a tool that can be used by recipients to assist in the selection of EBPs. OPA expects findings from this new update will be made publicly available on the TPPER website in early 2023. Please see **Section A.2.c.2 - Eligibility of Programs to be Replicated and Implemented to Scale (p. 10-11)** for more information. Applicants may propose, and recipients may implement programs that meet the following criteria listed below.

- Study Quality - Meets the criteria for the quality of an evaluation study per the criteria established in the HHS TPP Evidence Review (TPPER) protocol, version 6.0.
- Evidence of Effectiveness on Sexual Risk Behaviors - At a minimum, one of the identified EBPs to be implemented must demonstrate impact on sexual risk behaviors using the evidence of effectiveness as outlined in the HHS TPP Evidence Review (TPPER) protocol, version 6.0.
- Evidence of Effectiveness on Behavioral Risk Factors Underlying Teenage Pregnancy or Other Associated Risk Factors - In addition to implementing at least one EBP with evidence of effectiveness on sexual risk behaviors, recipients may also implement EBPs that demonstrate impact on non-sexual behavioral risk factors underlying teenage pregnancy. If replicating such a program, the recipient must clearly demonstrate how the outcomes are related to preventing teen pregnancy **and** address the needs of the community and population of focus.

**13. Do I have to only implement EBPs identified by the HHS TPP Evidence Review?**

No, the HHS TPP Evidence Review (TPPER) is simply a tool that can be used by recipients to assist in the selection of EBPs. EBPs eligible for replication are those that meet the following criteria:

- Study Quality - Meets the criteria for the quality of an evaluation study per the criteria established in the HHS TPP Evidence Review (TPPER) protocol, version 6.0.
- Evidence of Effectiveness on Sexual Risk Behaviors - At a minimum, one of the identified EBPs to be implemented must demonstrate impact on sexual risk behaviors using the evidence of effectiveness as outlined in the HHS TPP Evidence Review (TPPER) protocol, version 6.0.
- Evidence of Effectiveness on Behavioral Risk Factors Underlying Teenage Pregnancy or Other Associated Risk Factors - In addition to implementing at least one EBP with evidence of effectiveness on sexual risk behaviors, recipients may also implement EBPs that demonstrate impact on non-sexual behavioral risk factors underlying teenage pregnancy. If replicating such a program, the recipient must clearly demonstrate how the outcomes are related to preventing teen pregnancy **and** address the needs of the community and population of focus.

Please see **Section A.2.c.2 - Eligibility of Programs to be Replicated and Implemented to Scale (p. 10-11)** for more information.

**14. Can we also provide other related services such as counseling or provide birth control as part of our grant?**

You are not allowed to provide birth control with TPP grant funds. We do expect you to identify, actively engage, collaborate with, and maintain a network of diverse, multi-sector partners to address the various needs of the community and population of focus while also complementing the implementation of EBPs (p.13-14). In other words, recipients of this award are expected to make connections to services but not provide services themselves.

**15. Should we use the funding table, (p.2 and p.24), of the NOFO to determine how much funding to request in our application?**

Funding requests for the project should reasonably support the number of participants anticipated being served through EBP implementations over the duration of the project period. Recipients should be mindful of realistic and feasible goals based on funding level received (p.2).

The table presents the historical annual reach of prior successful TPP awards with a typical funding range. However, costs may differ based on various factors such as geographic region, specific focus population of participants, available resources, etc. The information also does not reflect inflation or cost-of-living adjustments that have been made over time. The table is provided only as background information. OASH will not use the information in the Table as the basis for determining funding levels.

**16. Can we serve multiple communities?**

Yes. Recipients may serve a single community or multiple communities within their project. Multiple communities could include communities within the same state, communities across states, etc. Recipients should have a defined community(ies), with clear geographic boundaries, in order to ensure that they identify the number of youth that they will serve. Within the community(ies), recipients should have a clearly identified population of focus (p.6-7).

## Budget

1. **We have a question on construction/renovations. We have a room that needs minor alterations so it may be used for office space. Are renovations allowed under this funding opportunity?**

   The cost for construction is not allowable, but cost associated with minor alteration and renovation may be allowable if:
   - The proposed cost is specifically to support the Federal award as a direct cost with the prior approval of the HHS awarding agency.
   - The cost is considered necessary for the performance of the Federal award.
   - The cost is reasonable.

2. **The NOFO lists an award floor of $350,000 and an award ceiling of $2,000,000 are these totals referring to the total grant or annual amounts?**

   Those totals are annual amounts for each year which is a budget period.

3. **Is there a maximum percentage of the annual budget that is allowable for evaluation expenses?**

   You should not allocate more than ten percent (10%) of requested federal funds to the collection and analysis of data related to the project. In addition, you may not use funds for a rigorous impact evaluation (p.26).

4. **Where can I find information regarding unallowable costs?**

   Please be sure to carefully review **Section D.7 Funding Restrictions** (p.40-41) for specific information regarding allowable, unallowable, and restricted costs. You can also look under the guidance within **GENERAL PROVISIONS FOR SELECTED ITEMS OF COST** and through the following link: https://www.ecfr.gov/current/title-45/subtitle-A/subchapter-A/part-75/subpart-E/subject-group-ECFR5d90ba314caea08

5. **Can an applicant include in their budget request incentives for youth to participate in the grant program?**

   Yes, youth can be provided incentives for program participation. The program participation cost and or activities must be in support of the goals and objectives of the NOFO. Please see **45 CFR §75.456 - Participant support costs**: https://www.ecfr.gov/current/title-45/subtitle-A/subchapter-A/part-75/subpart-E/subject-group-ECFR5d90ba314caea08/section-75.456

If including incentives as part of your budget request, you must include a plan for oversight of federal award funds. The plan must describe for any program incentives proposed, the specific internal controls that will be used to ensure only qualified participants will receive them and how they will be tracked.

6. **Can youth who participate on an advisory board for the grant project or who serve as advisors for the grant project be provided with stipends?**

   Stipends for participants of an advisory board/council (such as a youth advisory board or community advisory board) and other costs associated with the advisory board/council may be allocable and charged directly to the TPP award if the aim of the advisory board/council is to meet the expectations of the NOFO. This includes providing guidance on the design, implementation, and monitoring of the project.  The scope of work and related budget narrative must describe the youth advisory board and/or community advisory board's membership, functions, and costs and explain why the advisory board is necessary to carry out the TPP funded project.

7. **Does the application require cost sharing or match funds?**

   No, it is not a requirement (p.19).