

FAQ

Competitive Abstinence Education Grant Program

Program Requirements

- 1) **Our program is using the curriculum Managing Pressures Before Marriage for Preteens, which incorporates all of the A-H elements, in classroom programming. In your opinion, would it be appropriate to propose using this same curriculum in an application for Competitive Abstinence Education Grant Program funding?**

ACF does not provide direct guidance or instruction in the development of an applicant's project design or in writing their applications. Applicants should use their best judgment based on program requirements and evaluation criteria in determining whether they are able to meet the requirements contained in the funding opportunity announcement (FOA), whether they are able to develop an application they believe to be responsive to the FOA, and in designing and writing their applications. Applications will be reviewed and evaluated by objective review panels using the criteria described in Section V.1 of the FOA. The review panels will use the FOA as their principal guidance available to them in the same way that it is the principal guidance for applicants. See Section I.9(Content Requirements).

- 2) **I have been concerned about the Promoting Health Among Teens-Abstinence and Making A Difference curricula. Obviously, we have had a difficult time with Select Media, but our State's concern is that while we understand that it is evidence-based, and that the Feds would like to encourage evidence based models, both curricula are on the borderline of being A-H compliant. We have reviewed it, and even though we did not necessarily want it as our first choice, we encouraged our grantees to implement it since it was encouraged by the Feds. Many of our grantees have complained about it because they do not feel as if it is an abstinence curriculum or A-H compliant. In reading the recent FOA, it does not seem as if the Feds think it is A-H compliant either. Should I remove this as an option to our grantees under Title V?**

ACF does not provide direct guidance or instruction in the development of an applicant's project design or in writing their applications. Applicants should use their best judgment in determining whether they are able to meet the requirements contained in the FOA, whether they are able to develop an application they believe to be responsive to the FOA, and in designing and writing their applications. Applications will be reviewed and evaluated by objective review panels using the criteria described in Section V.1 of the FOA. The review panels will use the FOA as their principal guidance available to them in the same way that it is the principal guidance for applicants.

- 3) **With regard to curricula, is it ACF's expectation that the one of the three curricula (Promoting Health Among Teens, Making a Difference, Heritage Keepers) cited in the FOA are to be used or are they to be seen as models?**

ACF does not provide direct guidance or instruction in the development of an applicant's project design or in writing their applications. Applicants should use their best judgment based on program requirements and evaluation criteria in determining whether they are able to meet the requirements contained in the funding opportunity announcement (FOA), whether they are able to develop an application they believe to be responsive to the FOA, and in designing and writing their applications. Applications will be reviewed and evaluated by objective review panels using the criteria described in Section V.1 of the FOA. The review panels will use the FOA as their principal guidance available to them in the same way that it is the principal guidance for applicants. See Section I.9 (Content Requirements).

- 4) Our organization provides abstinence education as defined by Section 510(b)(2)(A)-(H) of the Social Security Act. Is there a particular curriculum under the Competitive Abstinence Education program that is necessary to deliver if awarded these funds?**

See reply to Question 3

- 5) We provide medically accurate information, including the fact that abstinence is the only 100 percent guaranteed way to prevent pregnancy and STDs. We do not specifically mention marriage. It seems like there is room for this type of program to be supported with this funding. Do you think I'm reading this correctly, or do I definitely need to be implementing a program that focuses on marriage and pregnancy "out-of-wedlock" in order to be considered?**

See reply to Question 3

- 6) Can you confirm that the age range for those to be served is 10-19? I have found this reference on page 25: "Break out the types of participants by age groups, specifically ages 10 to 14 and 15 to 19 - and race and ethnicity and other risk factors." But I want to be sure I did not miss a more specific reference for the age of the target populations to be served.**

Abstinence education programs are to focus on the social, psychological, and health development of groups that are most likely to bear children out-of-wedlock. Applicants should cite local and state demographics to support the population of interest in their specific plans.

- 7) What are the ages of the youth to be served?**

Abstinence education programs are to focus on the social, psychological, and health development of groups that are most likely to bear children out-of-wedlock. Applicants should cite local and state demographics to support the population of interest in their specific plans.

- 8) I was wondering if there is an expectation as to how many youth the program would need to serve, if an award was made of \$500,000, for the 2-year period?**

See reply to Question 3

- 9) Is there a set number of youth that need to be served?**

See reply to Question 3

10) There is no indication of the number of youth that should be served with the grant. Is there a stipulation for that?

See reply to Question 3

11) Do we have to be specific as to the number of youth we are serving per center?

See reply to Question 3

12) Can we use the same kids for the second year?

See reply to Question 3

13) Is it ACF's expectation that all projects will be 14 hours of dosage? (See page 5.)

See reply to Question 3

14) Can you please provide the citations for Kirby, 2001, and Kirby, 2007 (page 5)?

Kirby, D. (2001). Understanding What Works and What Doesn't in Reducing Adolescent Sexual Risk-Taking. *Family Planning Perspectives*, 33(6), 276–281.

Kirby, D. (2001). [Emerging Answers: Research Findings on Programs To Reduce Teen Pregnancy](#). National Campaign To Prevent Teen Pregnancy, Washington, DC.

Kirby, D. (2007). [Emerging Answers 2007: Research Findings on Programs To Reduce Teen Pregnancy](#) (PDF, 4MB). National Campaign To Prevent Teen and Unplanned Pregnancy, Washington, DC.

Data Collection

15) Page 4 of the FOA asks us to submit "up to three outcome objectives." Page 44, states that in the first year of the project, HHS will provide suitable performance measures that will be uniformly collected by grantees. Will we need to collect data on both our stated outcome objectives and the outcomes that HHS will ask for or will the HHS outcomes be the only ones required?

The section on Performance Measures further states, "[p]erformance measures are intended for monitoring purposes and to provide feedback about whether grantees are implementing programs as intended and seeing outcomes as expected. " Outcome objectives and performance measures are two differing ways of overall assessment of progress . "ACF does not provide direct guidance or instruction in the development of an applicant's project design or in writing their applications. Applicants should use their best judgment in determining" how they develop and deploy outcome objectives in ways that allow for addressing HHS Performance Measures.

16) Regarding a “Protection of Human Subjects Assurance Identification/IRB Certification/Declaration of Exemption (Common Rule)” form with the Competitive Abstinence Education application: My understanding is that we are prohibited from conducting research as part of this project. Given that we will not be conducting research activities, should we indicate that this activity qualifies for exemption?

The review panels will use the FOA as their principal guidance available to them in the same way that it is the principal guidance for applicants. The completion of assurances is scored for their submission as part of a complete package, not their content. **“Protection of Human Subjects Assurance Identification/IRB Certification/Declaration of Exemption (Common Rule) is an online fillable form.** Applicants are advised to be aware of the need to complete it accurately. There is no prohibition on research per se and ACF anticipates data collection as a facet of program evaluation and assessment strategies.

Eligibility

17) Are faith-based groups eligible to apply and do novice applicants get a priority?

Faith-based and community organizations that meet eligibility requirements are eligible to receive awards under this funding opportunity announcement.

To be selected to receive a grant, an applicant must demonstrate the following:

- Documented experience in the areas of abstinence and/or adolescent pregnancy prevention education;
- Organizational executive leadership and staffing structure that will support full program implementation within 90 days of grant award;
- A record of demonstrated effectiveness in providing services which are culturally and linguistically relevant to the populations being served.

18) Is ACF attempting to only award states?

Applicants may include, but are not limited to:

- State or county governments
- City or township governments
- Special district governments
- Independent and local school districts
- Public and state controlled institutions of higher education
- Native American tribal governments (federally recognized)
- Public housing authorities/Indian housing authorities
- Nonprofits having 501(c)(3) status with the IRS
- Nonprofits without 501 (c)(3) status the IRS
- Private institutions of higher education
- For profit organizations other than small businesses

- Small businesses

19) Is it FYSB's intention to award funding to already existing State Title V grantees, or would you prefer for the grants to go to local, community-based organizations?

See the reply to Question 18

20) South Dakota currently has an Abstinence Grant. The announcement received this week indicates there is a competitive grant FOA for abstinence. Is this a new funding opportunity and SD would not need to apply if they are receiving dollars under the current formula grant allotted for states?

Eligibility information is addressed in Section III. The FOA states, "[e]ligible applicants are public and private entities that agree that, for adolescents to whom they provide, abstinence education under such grant, they will not provide any other education regarding sexual conduct, except that, in the case of being expressly required by law to provide health information or services, they shall not preclude the adolescent from seeking health information or services from them in a different setting than the setting in which abstinence education was provided." Applicants may include state or county governments.,

21) Can sub-awardees that are receiving Title V funding apply for this FOA?

See the reply to Question 18

Funding Levels

22) Is there a required percentage of funds requested to be allocated to an independent evaluator?

See reply to Question 3

23) Please explain the floor and ceiling award?

Applications that request an award amount exceeding the award ceiling per budget period, or per project period, as stated in Section II (Award Information), will be disqualified from competitive review and from funding under this announcement. This disqualification applies only to the award ceiling listed for the first 12-month budget period for projects with multiple budget periods. If the project and budget period are the same, the disqualification applies to the award ceiling listed for the project period.

24) If we are selected and awarded a grant, will we draw down the funds as needed or send in for reimbursement?

Grantees will draw down funds as needed

25) Can we write in the cost to use a facility to deliver the curriculum?

See Section IV.5 (Funding Restrictions)

26) Can you please tell me roughly how many applications your office received in the last round of funding, and of those, how many were awarded? This will help me approximate the relative competitiveness of the program

.See reply to Question 3

27) Is ACYF holding a bidders' conference related to the Competitive Abstinence Education Grant Program?

No, there will not be a bidders' conference.

Proposal Formatting and Documentation

28) Is the Table of Contents included in the 50-page limit of the Project Description?

The Table of Contents should reference the order of the application sections and provide page numbers. It should be page 1 of the application.

29) Does the Logic Model need to be in 12-point type? We have submitted Visio files for other Department of Health and Human Services grants in which the font was 10-point and still readable. We have found it is difficult to convey the information required in one page in a logic model format at the larger font size.

All elements of the application submission, with the exception of the 1-page Project Summary/Abstract, the Budget Justification, required Assurances and Certifications, and proof of legal status/non-profit status, must be in double-spaced format in 12-point font.

30) Is it correct to assume that documents that already exist such as resumes and job descriptions can be scanned as is even if the font size is not 12 point as long as the type is readable?

The font size on scanned documents must be large enough to be readable.

31) I would like to request that we submit the signed MOUs at a later date prior to the award being granted.

Under Section III. *Eligibility* the FOA states that "[t]he primary applicant must include a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) for each partner organization. In reviewing the application, reviewers will consider the extent to which the application includes an organizational chart and Board of Directors list and a partnership agreement for each project entity (if a consortium or partners are proposed). Applicants are encouraged to submit complete application packages.

32) Will applicants be penalized or disqualified if they are unable to obtain the MOUs at submission of application?

See reply to Question 29

33) Is there a limit on the number of letter of support we should provide?

Applicants should provide letters of support. Provide statements from community, public, and commercial leaders that support the project proposed for funding. All submissions should be included in the application package or by the application deadline.

The Appendices are limited to 50 pages. These documents may include but are not limited to: composition of board of directors; resumes and job descriptions for key staff; letters of support; third-party agreements such as letters of commitment or memoranda of agreement; and/or statistical information.

34) Will ACF be providing a webinar to discuss and/or explain the funding opportunity announcement?

There will not be a webinar on the funding opportunity announcement.

35) Will there be a webinar providing more information on the RFP?

There will not be a webinar on the funding opportunity announcement.

36) Will an FAQ be compiled related to this program?

Yes, it will be available on the FYSB website.