

Florida Teacher Quality Grant Request for Proposal

Frequently Asked Questions– Posted 08/30/11

Question: We were planning to submit one proposal that includes all three subject areas. This will result in administrative efficiencies across the three areas. The program for each subject will have the same cost since they will be structured similarly.

Is this allowable to do? Would a separate budget for each subject area then be required? As noted above, the budget for each subject area will be the same although the participants will differ for each.

Answer: We will accept one subject per application.

Question: For the eligibility requirements, it is noted that a high need LEA needs to be included (qualified participants in Attachment A). Are we allowed to include a high need LEA as indicated in Attachment A as well as a LEA that is not listed in Attachment A? Or does all LEAs involved need to be one eligible as listed in Attachment A?

Answer: At least one partner must be a high-need LEA. In addition, an eligible partnership **may** also include: another LEA.

Question: Starting on page 12 of the RFP, several charts are referenced (such as the Deliverables Form). Do these charts need to be included in the application or are these charts to be completed if selected for funding?

Answer: These charts are to be included in the application, but not part of the page limit.

Question: What is the maximum funding amount a grantee can request per year? Also, is this a cap on direct costs or total costs?

Answer: The maximum amount that can be awarded is \$500,000 per year. This is the cap on total costs.

Question: In regards to the SunCom number, would the general main office number suffice?

Answer: Yes.

Question: There is a requirement that no partner has more than 50% of the budget. If the College of Education (teacher degree granting college) and the College of Arts and Sciences within the same university are partners with a LEA, does each college constitute a partner, so this is three partners, each of which must have 50% or less or does the entire university constitute a partner, so there are two partners - the university and the school district?

Answer: Each IHE is considered one partner.

Question: Is it feasible for cycle one to be all or mostly planning and creation of professional development which would be implemented with teachers in cycles 2 and 3?

Answer: It is not feasible to plan all of Year 1 as your funding request will be what you receive each year.

Question: Our University has a College of Arts and Humanities and a College of Sciences, but not a College of Arts & Sciences. Additionally, we also have a College of Medicine that houses programs for bimolecular sciences and micro and molecular biology. Would the College of Medicine be eligible under this solicitation or does the College of Sciences specifically need to be involved?

Answer: According to the RFP, an eligible partnership is **required** and **must** include:

- A private or state IHE and the division of the institution that delivers a state-approved teacher preparation program pursuant to 1004.04, F. S.
- The College of Arts and Sciences of the above IHE
- A high need LEA, as defined by Federal regulations, has over 20% or 10,000 in poverty status, based on the most recent census data. (See Attachment A for qualified districts.)

In addition, an eligible partnership **may** also include:

- An educational service agency such as a consortium of school districts
- Another LEA
- An educational service agency
- A nonprofit educational organization
- Another IHE through its College of Arts and Sciences and College or School of Education teacher preparation
- A nonprofit cultural organization

Question: Are the required sections for the GEPA and the private school plan considered within or outside of the 20 page limit on the narrative?

Answer: Yes, they are a part of the 20 page limit.

Question: This question is regarding the required partnership letters. The school district is the grant applicant and fiscal agent in this partnership. The university partner letters are addressed to the school district superintendent. Does the school district - as the applicant - also have to submit a letter? Who should the applicant's letter be addressed to?

Answer: Since the school district is the fiscal agent, they do not have to submit a partnership letter.

Question: Is the cost for summer institute housing (dorm rooms) for teachers an allowable cost?

Answer: Costs are to be allowable, necessary, and reasonable. Housing costs are allowable, but must meet the other requirements as well as it relates to the project.

Question: On DOE 100A form, does that need to be the college president's signature or the superintendent of the county that we are working with?

Answer: The signature needs to be of the head of the agency submitting the application.

Question: Is the funding amount for each subject area of \$500,000.00 for just the first cycle September 1, 2011 – June 30, 2012 or for all three year?

Answer: The funding amount is per year.

Question: On the "Formal Third-Party Evaluation" requirement, can that person(s) be an employee of the school system from a county different than the one that we are working with for the Grant, or does any public school employee fall under the "auspices of the DOE"?

Answer: They would not be considered under the "auspices of the DOE".

Question: Is the budget included in the 20 page limit?

Answer: Yes, the budget narrative, but not the form DOE 100S.

Question: Are appendices for curriculum vitas allowed?

Answer: Yes.

Question: What about other supporting documentation?

Answer: Yes.

Question: As the project requests a proposal for the activities of year one and outlines for years two and three, should the budget address merely the first year or do you want a three year budget?

Answer: The budget can address Year 1 only.

Question: Should each of the project performance accountability forms (deliverables, training/ta/dissemination, student performance, service delivery and formal third-party evaluation) be included in the application?

Answer: Only use those areas that apply to your proposal.

Question: Should the budget be capped at \$500,000/year for three years or do we have the latitude to spend \$400,000 one year and \$600,000 the next.

Answer: Unless there are additional funds, applicants will not receive more in cycles 2 and 3 than requested in the original application.

Question: Our plan is to submit the budget from the school district with half of the budget amount going to the university by way of contract. In the budget narrative, this contract item will be very detailed, as though it is a complete budget narrative within the school district's budget narrative.

Is that correct? If not, please explain how the budget narrative should be presented from the partners.

Answer: Yes, but please note what and how much will be contracted to the university.

Frequently Asked Questions – Posted 08/23/11

Question: Can an applicant offer licensure for just the professional component with some of the courses already offered by the Institution? Masters of Arts in Alternative certification in addition to the licensure is offered online as well by the Institution.

Answer: No, the focus of Florida's Teacher Quality Grant is specific to three content areas (Geometry, Biology, and U.S. History.)

Question: Would the grant be strengthened by the recognition of the transition of NGSSS to Common Core standards and preparing teachers prior to 2014-2015 school year when the common core will be in use?

Answer: Yes; however, an applicant should not lose sight of the fact that the immediate intent is to help teachers improve their content knowledge and understanding of the Next Generation Sunshine State Standards that will be assessed on the End of Course Assessments.

Question: If an institution includes Arts and Sciences and offers a Bachelors of Arts Degree in Liberal Arts and Sciences through their Honors College, may they serve as the College of Arts and Sciences partner?

Answer: Yes, if they are recognized by the institution as the College of Arts and Sciences.

Question: Is an external evaluator required or recommended?

Answer: Required.

Question: Are pre-service high school teachers (as well as in-service teachers) eligible to be participants in professional development funded by the FL Teacher Quality Grant Program?

Answer: Yes.

Question: Would pre-service teachers be eligible if they do their student teaching in high-need districts and low-performing schools in other districts?

Answer: Yes.

Question: Can the project hire a full-time or part-time project director?

Answer: Yes.

Question: Would the full or partial funding of a resource teacher as the project coordinator be considered non-administrative and outside of the capped indirect cost?

Answer: This line item may be outside of the indirect costs amount.

Question: Should we build in the out-of-district travel costs for project staff from the partnering institutions to attend FLDOE project meetings?

Answer: Costs associated with the project that will be charged to the grant must be included in the submitted budget narrative.

Question: When assembling the application, where should we place the *one-page GEPA statement*?

Answer: There is no defined location in the application for this piece. However, it is to be included.

Question: When assembling the application, where should the *detailed plan of action for private schools* be placed?

Answer: There is no defined location in the application for this piece. However, it is to be included.

Question: How is “low performing school” defined?

Answer: There are a number of factors that determine if a school is low performing. Please refer to the link for more details: <http://www.fldoe.org/bsa/title1/doc/fdplps.doc>.

Question: Although we are not submitting a proposal for cycle one, would our institution be eligible to apply for cycle two?

Answer: Applications awarded will be awarded for all three cycles. A new application for Cycle 2 will not be accepted.

Question: Regarding eligibility, is it a requirement that a university be a partner in the project?

Answer: Please refer to the August 12th posting of the FAQs.

Question: Is a partnership consisting of a state college with an EPI teacher certification program utilizing faculty within the specified disciplines and teacher certification faculty (as the lead partner) along with high-need school districts/schools and a nonprofit partner eligible to apply for the program?

Answer: Please refer to the August 12th posting of the FAQs.

Question: The RFP specifies assisting teachers in their knowledge and instruction of the NGSSS (Next Generation Sunshine State Standards) for Geometry. Is this the 2010 Next Generation Sunshine State Standards (Common Core) - Mathematics or the 2007 Mathematics Next Generation Sunshine State Standards?

Answer: Please refer to the August 12th posting of the FAQs.

Question: May three subject areas be included in one application?

Answer: Only one subject per application

Frequently Asked Questions – Posted 08/12/11

Question: Can vendors apply for the grants? What exactly are the parameters?

Answer: Per the request for application, an eligible partnership is **required** and **must** include:

- A private or state Institute of Higher Education (IHE) and the division of the institution that delivers a state-approved teacher preparation program pursuant to 1004.04, F. S.
- The College of Arts and Sciences of the above IHE
- A high need LEA, as defined by Federal regulations, has over 20% or 10,000 in poverty status, based on the most recent census data.

Question: When this program is set to begin accepting applications?

Answer: We are currently accepting applications. They are due Tuesday, September 6, 2011.

Question: How long is the actual first cycle? How many months of work should be budget/plan for this first cycle of the grant?

Answer: Since grants will be received after September 1st and will undergo a review process. Planning (budget and activity) can be made for eight months (October 2011 – June 2012). The earliest funds will be received is October 2011.

Question: May a proposal be submitted for only one area such as Biology or does it need to include more than one (or all three)?

Answer: Applicants are able to submit more than one application addressing one subject per application.

Question: The approximate number of awards indicates two awards per subject; however, would it be acceptable to propose a mixed project that offers Geometry the first year and Biology topics the next two years?

Answer: Applicants are able to submit more than one application addressing one subject per application.

Question: Does the State Approved Program need to be in the area of the content that is providing staff development (High School Biology) or may the institution have State Approved Teacher Preparation programs in any area (Elementary Education and Middle Grades Education)?

Answer: The state approved teacher preparation programs should align with the content in the areas of focus: Biology, Geometry, or U. S. History.

Question: The deadline is September 5th, but that is Labor Day. Will you be changing the deadline?

Answer: We will accept applications submitted prior to the close of business (5:00 P.M. EST) on Tuesday, September 6, 2011.

Question: Will you please clarify the intent of the RFP regarding the three targeted subject areas?

Answer: Biology, Geometry, and U. S. History are subject areas that now require end-of-course exams. The intent of the RFP is to provide funding to support professional development programs for teachers to increase their content knowledge and pedagogical skills related to the delivery of high quality lessons and ultimately resulting in increased student achievement on these high stakes assessments.

Question: Is there any room to address PD based on the Common Core standards as some content areas are moving away from NGSSS?

Answer: The focus should be on the NGSSS, since all three end of course assessments are aligned to course descriptions defined by NGSSS in the areas of Biology, Geometry, and U.S. History.

Question: Are eligible partnership required to include all of the institutions?

Answer: Yes, all listed institutions are required in order to be considered an eligible partnership.