

Office of Child Care Discretionary Grant Competition

Tribal Maternal, Infant, and Early Childhood Home Visiting (TMIECHV) Grant Program under
the Affordable Care Act (ACA)
HHS-2012-ACF-OCC-TH-0302

The following questions have been received as of June 13, 2012. The responses have been provided by the Administration for Children and Families.

Question: What is the process for applying, i.e. do we submit an application for Phase I only or for Phase I and II?

Response: As stated on page 27 of the PDF version of the funding opportunity announcement, under Section IV.2 Project Description: Approach, the application for funding under this funding opportunity announcement should describe the approach the applicant proposes to take in Phase 1 (Year 1) to conduct a comprehensive community needs and readiness assessment and develop a plan and build capacity to respond to identified needs through an evidence-based home visiting program, track and report on program participants progress toward meeting legislatively mandated benchmarks, and rigorously evaluate the home visiting program. The required elements of this plan are listed on pp. 27-32.

Question: How likely is that grantees awarded Phase I would not get Phase II? What is the protocol for making that decision?

Response: Subject to availability of funds, pending successful Phase 1 activities and submission (within 10 months of the Year 1 award date) of an approvable non-competing continuation application that includes a needs assessment and approvable plan for responding to identified needs (including a plan for measuring and reporting on program participants' progress toward meeting legislatively mandated benchmarks and a plan for rigorous evaluation of the home visiting program), funds will be provided for Phase 2 (Implementation Phase Years 2-5).

Question: With regards to benchmark data, do we have to share our findings and with whom? How will the data be protected and remain anonymous and respect the Tribe's inherent right to the data?

Response: ACF understands and respects Tribes' inherent rights to data collected as part of their home visiting program. Benchmark data will be submitted in aggregate form only to ACF, with no individual identifiers, and ACF will work with grantees to determine the best methods for both reporting data to ACF and consolidating grantee data for a required report to Congress (Section 511(h)(4) of Title V of the Social Security Act, as added by the Affordable Care Act).

Question: How best do we handle the comparison for the quasi-experimental design? In our work we consider it morally unethical to withhold services to our families. How can we do this

in a way that is meaning for our clients and meet the requirements of the rigorous evaluation as outlined by the grant?

Response: As stated in the funding opportunity announcement, Section II Award Information, p. 14, under the terms of the cooperative agreement, ACF will provide technical assistance to grantees on topics including evaluation. ACF hopes and expects that grantees will develop tribally-driven evaluation plans that are designed to answer questions of interest to each grantee community.

Question: Do we only submit a narrative/abstract/logic model for Phase I for the initial application?

Response: As stated on page 27 of the PDF version of the funding opportunity announcement, under Section IV.2 Project Description: Approach, the application for funding under this funding opportunity announcement should describe the approach the applicant proposes to take in Phase 1 (Year 1) to conduct a comprehensive community needs and readiness assessment and develop a plan and build capacity to respond to identified needs through an evidence-based home visiting program, track and report on program participants progress toward meeting legislatively mandated benchmarks, and rigorously evaluate the home visiting program.

Question: Do we only need to submit a budget for Phase I only or for Phase I and Phase II for the initial application?

Response: As stated on p. 13 of the funding opportunity announcement, under Section II Award Information, applicants should provide a budget and budget justification only for the first 12-month budget period.

Question: How do we address a very recently completed community needs assessment? How best do we incorporate this into our needs assessment and keep the respondent burden to a minimum as well as the burden to our community?

Response: As stated on p. 8 of the funding opportunity announcement, under Section I Funding Opportunity Description: Required Grant Activities, the needs and readiness assessment must be coordinated with and take into account, to the greatest extent possible and as appropriate for the community(ies), other needs assessments conducted by Federal, State, tribal, local, and private entities within the community, such as those related to maternal and child health (such as the State MIECHV needs assessment and the Title V Maternal and Child Health block grant needs assessment); public health; mental health and substance abuse; child abuse and neglect; domestic violence, crime, and poverty; and those conducted by Head Start/Early Head Start and other early education and care programs in the community.

Question: The Funding Opportunity Announcement (FOA) outlines the three overall goals for the federal program. These goals are to: strengthen and improve maternal and child health programs; improve service coordination for at-risk communities; and identify and provide

comprehensive home visiting services to families who reside in at-risk communities. In the new 2012 Tribal TMIECHV Grant Program FOA, these same three overall goals are included again, along with a new set of four goals for the Tribal Home Visiting, which “mirror the State MIECHV program.” These goals are:

- Supporting the development of happy, healthy, and successful AIAN children and families through a coordinated home visiting strategy that addresses critical maternal and child health, development, early learning, family support, and child abuse and neglect prevention needs;
- Implementing high-quality, culturally-relevant, evidence-based home visiting programs in AIAN communities;
- Expanding the evidence base around home visiting interventions with Native populations; and
- Supporting and strengthening cooperation and coordination and promoting linkages among various programs that serve pregnant women, expectant fathers, young children, and families, resulting in coordinated, comprehensive early childhood systems in grantee communities

Which set of goals should be used for local projects in order to be consistent with the 2012 TMIECHV Grant Program (Tribal Home Visiting)?

Response: All goals listed are relevant to the Tribal Maternal, Infant, and Early Childhood Home Visiting Grant Program Under the Affordable Care Act, as the first set of goals (to strengthen and improve maternal and child health programs; improve service coordination for at-risk communities; and identify and provide comprehensive home visiting services to families who reside in at-risk communities) are legislatively mandated, but the latter set of goals reflect the specific aims of the Tribal Home Visiting program as described in the funding opportunity announcement.