

**North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services
Division of Public Health**

Section/Branch: Chronic Disease and Injury Section/Injury and Violence Prevention Branch

RFA Questions and Answers

RFA # A386

RFA Title: Community Approaches to Preventing Sexual Violence

Addendum Number: 1

Date: August 30, 2021

Questions and Answers *(list all questions and answers in numerical order)*

1. Question: Are colleges and universities excluded from the requirement to be a nonprofit or local government? Or are they excluded from eligibility?

Answer: Colleges and universities are excluded from eligibility.

2. Question: Are university-affiliated research centers eligible to apply for this request for applications (RFA)?

Answer: University research centers are not eligible to apply as they are part of a college/university. However, they may be involved in a project under this RFA as an applicant's subcontractor or as a community partner.

3. Question: The RFA says it's open to agencies that do not have addressing sexual violence as their primary mission. Does that mean my agency is ineligible to apply if addressing sexual violence is part of our primary mission?

Answer: No, it does not. This statement in the RFA is intended to broaden inclusion criteria to also include agencies that do not have addressing sexual violence as their primary mission, not to exclude those who do. Non-profit or local government agencies that have addressing sexual violence as part of their primary mission are eligible to apply.

4. Question: Does this grant award funds to more than one agency in the same county?

Answer: Yes, it is possible that more than one agency in the same county may be funded.

5. Question: Can a few organizations collaborate to submit one proposal?

Answer: Multiple organizations can partner on one proposal, but there must be one lead applicant. Additional organizations can be subcontractors or unpaid partners. See the third paragraph under the "Eligibility" section on page 7, Applicant Requirements item #5 on page 14, and question #7.a. under "Section II. Description of Organization/Organizational Capacity" on page 42 for more information.

6. Question: Is there an expectation in terms of scope, size of population or region served through this funding?

Answer: No. As long as the community is within North Carolina and the need is supported by Applicant Response, particularly in “Section I. Community Description and Context” on page 41, that is acceptable.

7. Question: How much time does an agency have to commit to the Rape Prevention and Education (RPE) program?

Answer: There needs to be at least one staff person, the RPE Coordinator, who spends 100% of their full-time equivalent position on the RPE program.

8. Question: We are concerned about the time commitment. Is the 35% requirement per week, month, or year?

Answer: There seem to be two issues in this question. First, the minimum time commitment is one full-time staff person working on RPE for 100% of their full-time equivalence. Second, Category A applicants are expected to spend at least 35% of their total staff time on the project on community- or societal-level strategies. This total staff time includes the 100% FTE Prevention Coordinator and possibly some of the supervisor’s or other staff time. Up to 65% of other total staff time spent on the project can be spent on individual- or relationship-level strategies.

9. Question: Would two staff members at 50% RPE be considered or does it need to be one 100% person?

Answer: It is strongly preferred for there to be a single staff member at 100% full time equivalence. Per the Project Budget section on page 31, “All awardees receiving Rape Prevention and Education funds are required to maintain a full-time Prevention Coordinator dedicated at 100% effort (1.0 FTE) to the RPE program throughout the project period.” The RPE Program believes that outcomes are of higher quality when one staff member holds the Prevention Coordinator position. Programs may make an argument for dividing the Prevention Coordinator work among two staff people, but supporting arguments should be detailed and strong and should address how using a split staff model will increase the quality of programming. The Prevention Coordinator is expected to carry out a coordination role.

10. Question: Is it correct that the RPE Coordinator would not be able to participate in crisis line rotations of taking calls or being on call as they would have to be providing direct services to clients?

Answer: Yes, that is correct. The RPE Coordinator is not allowed to have regular shifts on the crisis line or provide direct services to clients. They can do so on rare occasions when no other staff is available, but not as part of their regular job. This is detailed in ineligible expense #9 (“Victim Services/Response”) on pages 9 and 33 of the RFA.

11. Question: Is a Letter of Support from the North Carolina Coalition Against Sexual Assault (NCCASA) required?

Answer: No, there is no requirement that applicants should submit a Letter of Support from NCCASA, nor from any other specific community agency or organization. Letters should be from community agencies/organizations/leaders with whom the applicant has a relationship.

12. Question: What are the expectations for Letters of Commitment?

Answer: Per item 6 in the Application Checklist on page 50, “and Letters of Commitment should be individualized and should speak to the unique relationship the author and/or their agency has with the applicant... [They] should show community trust in the applicant organization, strong support for the proposed project, and/or verification of the applicant’s capacity for sexual violence primary prevention. Letters should also demonstrate ongoing support of and involvement with the applicant agency... Letters of Commitment must outline how the key project partner plans to support the RPE project, should funding be awarded. These plans must align with the applicant’s description of the key project partner’s involvement in the Applicant’s Response section.... Letters must be current, dated no more than 6 months before the application deadline.” Per the Application Scoring Rubric on page 57, “...Letters of Commitment are individualized and show community trust in the applicant organization, strong support for the proposed project, and/or verification of the applicant’s capacity for sexual violence primary prevention. Letters should also demonstrate ongoing support of and involvement with the applicant agency... Letter(s) of Commitment outline how the key project partner plans to support the RPE project, should funding be awarded. These plans align with the applicant’s description of the key project partner’s involvement in the Applicant’s Response section.”

13. Question: Can you share a clearer copy of the application scoring sheet than the image in the appendix?

Answer: Yes, the application scoring sheet is now posted as a PDF on the RFA webpage, <https://www.injuryfreenc.ncdhhs.gov/A386.htm>

14. Question: We would like to add a medical room to do follow up exams for sexual assault. Would that qualify for this grant?

Answer: No. All strategies and activities for the grant must be primary prevention, i.e., preventing sexual violence from happening in the first place, rather than responding to sexual violence once it has occurred.

15. Question: Does an existing committee (dedicated to this issue) of a coalition meet the definition of a task force?

Answer: Yes, it is acceptable for an existing committee to be the proposed task force, provided it meets all the requirements for the task force listed in the RFA. See item 5 under “Applicant Requirements” on page 14 for a description of the task force requirements.

16. Question: If you apply for Category B but are not selected, would you be considered for Category A funding?

Answer: Yes, applicants who apply to Category B but are not selected will be considered for Category A. If that applicant should be selected for Category A funding, they would be required to work with IVPB to adjust their proposed projects to align with the Category A funding limit.

17. Question: If 5 Category B grants are awarded, how many Category A awards there would be?

Answer: There is enough funding for 11 grants total, so if all 5 Category B grants are awarded, there would be 6 Category A grants.

18. Question: How long is the funding cycle?

Answer: The funding cycle is 3 years, from 2/1/2022 to 1/31/2025, contingent upon available funding from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and from the American Rescue Plan. Contracts will be renewed every year and progress reports will be due on a quarterly basis, but there will be no continuation application between funding years.

19. Question: What do you anticipate the Annual Leadership Training will look like; what cost should be budgeted?

Answer: Applicants should budget for travel for the RPE Coordinator, their immediate supervisor, and at least one member of agency senior leadership to attend each of the following events in person in central North Carolina:

- A one-day Essentials of Sexual Violence Primary Prevention Training;
- A one-day, in-person Annual Leadership Training in central North Carolina; and
- A two-day Foundational Anti-Oppression Training.

It is possible that these events will be converted into online trainings due to COVID-19. In that case, grantees would be able to submit budget redirect requests to reallocate funds allotted to travel for these events to other existing line items in their budget.

20. Question: Will the recording of the Bidder’s Conference go out to everyone?

Answer: Yes, the slides and the recording of the Bidder’s Conference are posted on the RFA webpage: <https://www.injuryfreenc.ncdhhs.gov/A386.htm>