

**VENDOR QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS**  
**SOFI Vulnerable Youth Mentoring Project**  
**R-89-01-0765**  
**Q & A period: January 4, 2008-January 14, 2008**  
**Final Question and Answer Document**

**Robin Brandy**  
**Project Nehemiah**  
**1/4/2008 (Date of Inquiry)**

**Q1.** Does a faith-based organization need to have a 501(c)3?

**A1.** Yes, according to *Section 2.1 Mandatory Applicant Qualifications*, “[the] Applicant organization must be an Ohio 501(c)3 faith-based and community organization.

**Mike Nygren**  
**Director of the School of Urban Studies**  
**1/5/2008 (Date of Inquiry)**

**Q2.** We currently have about 50 at-risk fifth grade girls within our Young Women of Distinction program and because of the guidelines of our grant we were not able to include them in the program funding because of age. Our current program is centered around high school girls mentoring fifth grade girls. IS THERE AN AGE REQUIREMENT?

**A2.** Yes, all mentors must be adults. According to *Section 3.4 Specifications of Deliverables* “For the purpose of this RFGA, mentoring is defined as a one-to-one, face-to-face relationship between a caring, supportive adult (mentor) a youth (mentee) identified as a member of one (or more) of the designated SOFI populations.”

**Q3.** I am a little confused if the only grants you offer are \$250,000 per agency or per region. Our total need would be \$50,000, thus I was wondering if that makes us eligible to apply. We are only five years old as a non-profit and have one full and one part time staff person. We rely on over 40 adult volunteers to be involved with our 300 total students.

**A3.** Yes, your non-profit organization may apply and up to \$250,000.00 will be awarded per agency. According to *Section 1.4 Overview of the Project* “Proposals will be scored based on a variety of criteria, and multiple grants may be awarded in a specific region.”

**Q4.** We do not technically fit into any of the three categories - but we have students from each of those 'at-risk' population within our current program. SO WHEN IT SAYS, the highest priority is given to those three initiatives - is it worth the effort to submit an application?

**A4.** Yes, proposals will be scored on a variety of criteria, and all applications will be considered, including projects that service the general vulnerable youth population.

**Bill Feldmann, Vice President of Marketing and Development**  
**Unified Health Solutions**  
**1/5/2008 (Date of Inquiry)**

**Q5.** The Gov mentioned priority to be given to applicants focusing all their efforts on homeless, ex-offender and foster care. Does that mean focusing on those areas for this Project or the entire organization focusing on those areas, 100% of its total budget as an example? Please clarify. Thank you

**A5.** According to *Section 1.4 Overview of the Project* “Priority consideration will be given to organizations that focus all of their project activities on one or more of the SOFI priority populations.” For the purposes of this RFGA, priority consideration will be given to organizations who focus 100% of their proposed project to homeless youth, ex-offender youth and/or foster care youth. Proposals will be scored on a variety of criteria, and all applications will be considered, including projects that service the general vulnerable youth population.

**Annette Vasulka**  
**Central Ohio Youth for Christ**  
**1/7/2008 (Date of Inquiry)**

**Q6.** Our organization works mainly with youth who are incarcerated and those who are on parole. Does this exclude us from pursuing this opportunity?

**A6.** Your organization may apply. Youth on probation and parole ARE ELIGIBLE for services through this grant. The RFGA will be amended to reflect this change. That said, the SOFI Mentoring Vulnerable Youth Project is a TANF (Temporary Assistance for Needy Families) funded project and these funds can not be used to deliver services to youth in the care of the juvenile justice system (incarcerated youth).

**Toni Dosik**  
**Antonia Atlas Dosik**  
**Hyden Consulting, Inc.**  
**1/7/2008 (Date of Inquiry)**

**Q7.** Under Section 1.1 Purpose, the following is stated: "Only applicants with demonstrated success in delivering outcomes-based mentoring and wrap-around services to the targeted SOFI sub-populations and with demonstrated success in adhering to financial accountability standards, will be considered." Under Section 1.4 Overview of the Project it states, "The selected MSPs will provide services either to vulnerable youth in general or may focus on one or more of the three SOFI priority populations -- foster care youth, homeless youth, and juvenile ex-offenders."

These two sentences seem to contradict each other. The first sentence implies that ONLY applicants who work with the targeted sub-populations will be considered. The second says that MSP's can work with vulnerable youth in general OR SOFI subpopulations. Can you help resolve this?

**A7. The language referenced in *Section 1.1 Purpose* is incorrect and the RFGA will be amended to reflect this change. Applicants may submit proposals for projects that service vulnerable youth in general, foster care youth, homeless youth and juvenile ex-offenders.**

**Margaret Jenkins, M.Ed.,NBCT  
Extension Educator  
Family & Consumer Sciences  
Ohio State University Extension Clermont County  
1/8s/2008 (Date of Inquiry)**

**Q8. Can you forward examples of previously funded programs?**

**A8. Please refer to Section 1.9, Communications Prohibitions. GOFBCI and ODJFS staff are prohibited from discussing this funding opportunity. Please review the Q&A document, clarification document and RFGA and any amendments for information on this RFGA.**

**Marty Sweterlitsch  
Benesch, Friedlander, Coplan & Aronoff LLP  
1/8/2008 (Date of Inquiry)**

**Q9. Please provide me with the name and number of someone with whom I can discuss this program. There is some interest on the part of the YMCA's in Ohio.**

**A9. The SOFI Mentoring Vulnerable Youth Mentoring Project is a new initiative thus, copies of previously funded programs are unavailable. However, examples of previously funded programs through this Project's precedent, The Ohio Strengthening Families Initiative Mentoring Initiative are available. According to *Section 1.9 Communication Prohibitions*, requests for information on previously funded programs must be made to the ODJFS Office of Legal Services.**

**Linda Hercenberg  
Executive Director  
Teen Challenge Columbus for Women  
1/8/2008 (Date of Inquiry)**

**Q10. I just read the grant opportunity for vulnerable youth mentoring and am curious as how we as a womens mentoring program could have the opportunity to be a part of this program. We are a nonprofit 501 c3 organization. We are a one year+ residential recovery center for women who are struggling with life-controlling problems with our main focus on drugs and alcohol. We have a very high success rate in what we do. We do have qualified people who do mentoring. Again I am requesting information on what part we could play in this area of reaching our community.**

**A10. Applicants may only submit proposals for projects servicing youth. Programs providing mentoring services to adult women do not qualify for this funding opportunity.**

**Ray Khoramshahi, MPA, LSW  
Foundation & Government Funding Manager  
1/8/2008 (Date of Inquiry)**

**Q11. Is stipend (or other form of financial reimbursement) for a Mentor an allowable cost? If yes, would this be included in the Category 4 of the Attachment F?**

**A11. Stipends are not allowable costs; however, expenses submitted by the grantee related to mentor/mentee activity will be reimbursed. According to *Section 3.1 Scope of Work*, “Activities qualified for reimbursement include those that provide cultural enrichment, teach life skills, promote job readiness and any other activities that comply with TANF Goal 3 that have been included in the approved proposal.”**

**Sharon George, Director  
Seneca County Family & Children First Council  
1/9/2008 (Date of Inquiry)**

**Q12. Is it permissible for counties from different regions to work together on an application? Seneca, Sandusky & Wyandot Counties share a Mental Health & Recovery Services Board and have a history of collaboration on projects. Seneca and Wyandot are in one region according to your breakout and Sandusky is in another.**

**A12. Organizations may only apply to deliver services in one of the Economic Development Regions (EDRS) listed in the RFGA. According to *Section 1.4 Overview of Project* “Applicants must specify a single geographic region (one of the twelve Economic Development Regions, or EDRs, as defined by the Ohio Department of Development and listed below) in which they are located and the specific area in which the project will be implemented.”**

**Sondra Anderson, Director of Homeless Services at Volunteers of  
America Northwest Ohio  
1/9/2008 (Date of Inquiry)**

**Q13. I am very interested in the youth mentoring grants and was wondering if there was a list of past recipients and examples of what was funded.**

**A13. Please see answer to question eight(8) above.**

**Sharon Conyers**  
**Project Impact-Dayton, Inc.**  
**1/9/2008 (Date of Inquiry)**

**Q14.** I have been unable to find where we can read the question that have been asked about the grant as well as any amendments that could have been added to the grant. How do I get access to this information?

**A14.** **The Final Q&A document and amendments to the grant will be added to the RFGA website** ([http://www.jfs.ohio.gov/rfp/R89010765VulYouth/FINAL\\_FINAL\\_R-89-01-0765\\_MentorVulnerYouth\\_12-27-07\\_AN.pdf](http://www.jfs.ohio.gov/rfp/R89010765VulYouth/FINAL_FINAL_R-89-01-0765_MentorVulnerYouth_12-27-07_AN.pdf)).

**Shari Amigo, MSW intern**  
**Public Children Services Assoc. of Ohio**  
**1/9/2008 (Date of Inquiry)**

**Q15.** PCSAO is currently involved in a pilot program for a mentorship program involved in matching foster youth with former foster young adult mentors. It is based here in Franklin County. We are interested in extending this program to other counties, and are interested in applying for the grant. PCSAO is a non-profit agency, but the agencies that we would be setting up the programs in would be public county agencies. Could we be eligible to apply for the grant since PCSAO is a non-profit agency and will be the ones organizing and instituting the mentorship program?

**A15.** **Your organization is ineligible to apply if public county agencies will be performing the direct work and service delivery. The terms of the RFGA require that an applicant organization perform all of the direct work and service delivery as stated in *Section 4.9 Subcontractor Identification and Participation Information*:** “Applicants must perform all of the direct work and subcontractors are ineligible for reimbursement in this Project for providing direct service delivery to participants as specified in this RFGA. However, applicants may choose to contract with organizations for marketing, outreach and supply purposes as specified in their proposals. Such contracts will exist solely between the selected applicant and will not be considered as sub-contracts through this RFGA.”

**Dan Kieffer**  
**Court Director**  
**Muskingum County Juvenile Court**  
**1/9/2008 (Date of Inquiry)**

**Q16.** I can only assume this a Federal requirement to eliminate these youth. It makes no sense. 3.) Ex-Offender Youth: Qualified youth ages 12 – 21 years of age who have been incarcerated in the past five years and are not currently on parole or under the care of the juvenile justice system. Youth serviced must be no less than twelve years of age and no more than 20.5 years of age at the culmination of services. Youth who turn 21 during the program, are eligible for services if

they were enrolled, and receiving services from the SOFI project, six months prior to their 21st birthday.

**A16. Youth on probation and parole ARE ELIGIBLE for services through this grant. The RFGA will be amended to reflect this change. That said, the SOFI Mentoring Vulnerable Youth Project is a TANF (Temporary Assistance for Needy Families) funded project and these funds can not be used to deliver services to youth in the care of the juvenile justice system (incarcerated youth).**

**Patrice M. Fetzer, LISW  
Mgr of Community Based Services/Community Liaison  
Community Services of Stark County, Inc.  
1/9/2008 (Date of Inquiry)**

**Q17.** We have an organized network/collaboration of mentoring providers in our county that is governed by an advisory board and MOU's which provide organized mentor and mentee choice of mentor provider organizations and maximizes our recruitment, marketing, and training efforts. Can we apply for this grant as a network under our agency that administrates this network (in order to give the priority populations identified maximum choice of mentors) or should we just identify 1 or 2 of our mentoring provider organizations to apply individually? I see that you are looking for collaboration to ensure that the identified youth get their needs met which is what we are all about.

**A17. Applicants are ineligible to apply for this grant opportunity as a network, unless the network functions as a single, non-profit faith based or community organization and has 501(c)3 status under the network's name. If the organizations within the network have individual 501(c)3 status, they must apply for the grant opportunity individually. The terms of the RFGA require that an applicant organization perform all of the direct work and service delivery as stated in *Section 4.9 Subcontractor Identification and Participation Information*: "Applicants must perform all of the direct work and subcontractors are ineligible for reimbursement in this Project for providing direct service delivery to participants as specified in this RFGA. However, applicants may choose to contract with organizations for marketing, outreach and supply purposes as specified in their proposals. Such contracts will exist solely between the selected applicant and will not be considered as sub-contracts through this RFGA."**

**Michael Haverkamp  
Grants Manager  
Big Brothers Big Sisters of Central Ohio  
1/10/2008 (Date of Inquiry)**

**Q18.** This section, Section 4.9 Subcontractor Identification and Participation, states that subcontractors are ineligible for reimbursement for providing direct service delivery. Does

subcontractors refer exclusively to for-profit entities, or would this include faith-based and community-based non-profit partners as well?

**A18. This includes FBCOs, only the applicant is eligible for direct reimbursement for services. The terms of the RFGA require that an applicant organization perform all of the direct work and service delivery as stated in *Section 4.9 Subcontractor Identification and Participation Information*: “Applicants must perform all of the direct work and subcontractors are ineligible for reimbursement in this Project for providing direct service delivery to participants as specified in this RFGA. However, if the participants will be attending an event, or there is a typical, reasonable cost for participation, the applicant agency may pay for these services as listed in the approved budget. Reimbursement from ODJFS may be issued to the applicant agency only.**

**Q19. For instance, if our agency provides mentoring services, and wants to partner with a non-profit arts agency who would provide activities for mentors and mentees to participate in together, could the arts agency be reimbursed for their services?**

**A19. Only the applicant agency will be directly reimbursed for services. However, if the participants will be attending an event, or there is a typical, reasonable cost for participation, the applicant agency may pay for these services as listed in the approved budget. Reimbursement from ODJFS may be issued to the applicant agency only. The agreements with any successful applicant organizations will be two-party agreements between the grantee and ODJFS; in all such agreements, ODJFS provides funding to the primary grantee or contractor & never to any subcontractors.**

**Q20. Likewise, if we wanted to partner with an agency that provided a life skills module for mentors and mentees, could that agency be reimbursed for their services?**

**A20. ODJFS will only provide funding to the selected applicant agencies. Only the applicant agency will be directly reimbursed for services. However, if the module is curricula that is purchased and then delivered by the applicant agency, the curricula purchase is reimbursable as long as it has been included in the approved project budget. Payment for any such module would be made by the selected applicant agency.**

**Linda Lindsey  
1/10/2008 (Date of Inquiry)**

**Q21. I attend So Help Me God Church of Christ at 2300 Parkwood Ave. My question that I would like to know is: Are there any more programs for the young people and the young adults?**

**A21. The SOFI Mentoring Vulnerable Youth Project is the only currently available grant opportunity for youth through the Governor’s Office of Faith-Based and Community Initiatives (GOFBCI). The other programs we have that serve the vulnerable youth population are the Returning Home/Children of Incarcerated Parents project and the Feed Ohio: Summer Food Service Support Project. More information on GOFBCI programs and funding opportunities can be found at <http://gofbci.ohio.gov>.**

**Q22.** We are a congregation that tries to help out the community and if we can have something for them to do all Summer. My other question is will we be able to get help in writing a grant proposal to get help with the Summer programs that will be available?

**A22.** The Governor's Office of Faith-based and Community Initiatives authored this grant opportunity and is unable to assist organizations with preparing their proposals.

**Jerry Strausbaugh M.A. L.P.C.C.-S**  
**Executive Director**  
**Appleseed C.M.H.C., Inc.**  
**1/10/2008 (Date of Inquiry)**

**Q23.** DO ORGANIZATIONS HAVE TO BE BOTH FAITH BASED AND COMMUNITY OR CAN A COMMUNITY MENTAL HEALTH CENTER --NOT A FAITH-BASED ORGANIZATION APPLY FOR THE VULNERABLE YOUTH GRANT?

**A23.** Organizations may be an Ohio faith-based OR community organization that meets the criteria set forth in the RFGA.

**Melissa M. Vitucci-Marzec**  
**Youth Development Program**  
**1/10/2008 (Date of Inquiry)**

**Q24.** Please clarify/define "facilitating a collaborative network". Is contact with all providers in each of the counties in Region 9 required in the proposal?

**A24.** Awarded organizations are expected to form a collaborative network focused on addressing the needs of the designated SOFI Population. Facilitating the network includes, but is not limited to, collaborating with other faith-based and community organizations to ensure youth have access to services they may need that are beyond the scope of the Project, devising strategies to leverage community resources to serve vulnerable youth, and to ensure that the program has access to volunteers that can provide a non faith-based experience for those mentees that choose to have a non faith-based experience.

Please also note that according to *Section 1.4 Overview of the Project*, "Proposals must also include a plan for establishing and facilitating a collaborative network in at least one of the region's areas based on the needs of youth in the area" Thus, applicants must specify where in the region they are planning to establish their network, this may include the entire region, specific counties within the region or specific areas within the region. Applicants are not required to contact or collaborate with all of the providers in their county, and should make the determination of who will comprise their network based on the unique needs of the applicant organization.

**Q25.** Please define establish numeric goals for preventing and reducing the incidence of these pregnancies. Is it a required part of the proposal?

**A25. Applicants must include numerical goals (such as percentages, numbers, etc.) that can demonstrate how the program aims to prevent and reduce the occurrence and number of out of wedlock pregnancies within the geographic area specified in their proposal. This is a required part of the proposal as listed in *Section 1.3 Background* “The SOFI Mentoring Vulnerable Youth Project will fund programs that are structured in accordance with Federal TANF Goal 3 - to prevent and reduce the incidence of out-of-wedlock pregnancies and establish numerical goals for preventing and reducing the incidence of these pregnancies. Proposals should include research that reflects the program model has been proven to prevent and reduce the rate of out-of-wedlock pregnancies among participants or provide justification for how the proposed model will achieve this goal. For example, “strategy x will result in an x% decrease in the rate of out of wedlock pregnancies among participants compared to their peers.”**

**Q26. Are youth on probation ineligible for the program?**

**A26. Youth on probation and parole ARE ELIGIBLE for services through this grant. The RFGA will be amended to reflect this change. That said, the SOFI Mentoring Vulnerable Youth Project is a TANF (Temporary Assistance for Needy Families) funded project and these funds can not be used to deliver services to youth in the care of the juvenile justice system (incarcerated youth).**

**Q27. Please define "low income area" and what is the relationship between low income areas and eligibility? Who defines low income areas? Is eligibility the same as other TANF programs?**

**A27. For the purposes of this RFGA, the term "low-income household" is defined as a household whose taxable income for the preceding year did not exceed 200 percent of the amounts listed in the 2008 Federal Poverty Guidelines. This information is also available at <http://aspe.hhs.gov/poverty/08poverty.shtml>. Applicants must establish eligibility prior to service delivery and maintain this information in their files.**

**Q28. If there is already a Faith-Based component to our proposed program, where youth are already choosing between a faith-based and other mentor, is that alternative provider provision already satisfied?**

**A28. Yes, each program must provide youth with an option of either a faith-based mentoring experience or a non faith-based mentoring experience. Youth must have a choice. This requirement is satisfied in accordance with *Section 1.11 Eligibility and Eligible Populations* “Required NOTICE regarding Charitable Choice and Faith-Based Initiatives. Charitable Choice provisions apply when that applicant for services must be given written notice of their right to request an alternative provider, and must receive notice of their right to request an alternative provider.”**

**Q29.** Please define "related field".

**A29.** In Sections *2.1 Mandatory Applicant Qualifications* and *2.3 Staff Experience, Capabilities and Capacity*, the term related field refers to a degree in a field other than social work that would allow an individual to become a licensed social worker.

**Additional information can be found on licensing requirements on The Counselor, Social Worker and Marriage and Family Therapist Board website (<http://www.cswmft.ohio.gov/swFact.stm>).**

**Annette Vasulka, grants coordinator  
1/11/2008 (Date of Inquiry)**

**Q30.** Given the prohibition against sub-contracting with other direct service providers (sec. 4.9 Subcontractor Identification and Participation Information, pg. 26), is it possible for a faith-based organization that is part of a specific faith community - and requires mentor volunteers to adhere to a specific statement of faith - to provide services under this RFGA (sec. 1.4 Overview of the Project, pg. 2 & sec. 3.1 Scope of Work; Multiple Programs of Choice, pg. 15)?

1a.) Or said another way, would such an organization be required to drop such a requirement and recruit secular volunteer mentors as well as volunteer mentors from alternative faith communities in order to be eligible for this RFGA?

**A30.** Faith-based organizations are not required to drop any requirement regarding adherence to a specific statement of faith. In addition, faith-based organizations have the right to retain use of religious criteria in hiring Faith based organizations with statements of faith are encouraged to apply for this funding opportunity. Adhering to Charitable Choice provisions, this RFGA requires that youth be given a choice of either a faith-based mentoring experience or a non faith-based mentoring experience. The youth must be given written notice of their right to request an alternative provider, and must receive notice of their right to request an alternative provider. Faith-based providers can offer that alternative by providing a non faith-based mentoring experience from within their own volunteer pool, or through a partnership with another mentoring organization. If the latter is pursued, the partner organization would supply volunteer mentors to participate in the program, providing a non faith-based experience.

Please also note that for the purpose of this RFGA, "secular" is defined as a relationship or mentor that does not involve faith components in service delivery even if the mentor is a person of faith. Said another way, mentors of faith may deliver services for youth who request either a faith-based or secular mentoring relationships. If the youth chooses a non faith-based mentoring relationship, that person of faith would need to provide an experience devoid of religious activity.

**Q31.** Is it possible for a faith based organization that is part of a specific faith community - and requires employees to adhere to a specific statement of faith - to provide services under this RFGA (sec. 1.8 Applicant's Library pg.8, bullet 5 - Civil Rights Laws )?

**A31. See answer number 30, above.**

**Q32.** Or said another way, are these TANF funds under the Charitable Choice exclusion allowing faith-based providers to hire based upon religious affiliation?

**A32. Faith-based organizations are not required to drop any requirement regarding adherence to a specific statement of faith. In addition, faith-based organizations have the right to retain use of religious criteria in hiring.**

**Faith based applicants may hire staff based upon religious affiliation to work on this project. Applicants' proposals must address all the minimum qualifications as well as organizational and staff experience and capabilities listed in the RFGA.**

**Q33.** In sec. 1.4 Overview of the Project, pg.4, point 3.) To qualify for reimbursement for services under this RFGA is an "ex-offender youth" one that has been incarcerated by one of the following departments or facilities: The Ohio Department of Youth services (ODYS), The Ohio Department of Corrections (ODRS), Or incarcerated in a county jail?

3a.) Or, does the definition of incarceration encompass juveniles who have only been detained at a county juvenile court detention facility (JDF)?

**A33. For the purposes of this RFGA, ex-offender youth are youth who have been under the care of the juvenile justice system. The term "ex-offender youth" refers to youth who were incarcerated in any local, county or state juvenile detention facility, correctional institution, or jail, or who have been convicted of an offense and are not currently serving a court-ordered sentence.**

**Youth who were incarcerated in other states and are qualified youth, as defined in the RFGA, are also eligible for services. Youth who are on probation and parole, and who have been incarcerated ARE ELIGIBLE for services and the RFGA will be amended to reflect this change.**

**Q34.** In sec. 1.4 Overview of the Project, pg.4, point 3.) appears to state that services provided to ex-offender youth who are currently on ODYS or ODOC parole, or on probation within a county juvenile system can not be reimbursed under this RFGP.

4a) If this is the case, are we correct in our conclusion that programs focused on re-entry mentoring of youth released from an ODYS facility and assigned to a regional ODYS parole office would not qualify for reimbursement under this RFGP?

4b.) And if so, we assume the same would be true of programs focused on mentoring youth released on probation from a county juvenile detention facility.

**A34. Youth on probation and parole ARE ELIGIBLE for services through this grant. The RFGA will be amended to reflect this change. That said, the SOFI Mentoring Vulnerable Youth Project is a TANF (Temporary Assistance for Needy Families) funded project and these funds can not be used to deliver services to youth in the care of the juvenile justice system (incarcerated youth).**

**Evelyn Santos**  
**Prevention Programs Director**  
**Hispanic UMADAOP**  
**1/11/2008 (Date of Inquiry)**

**Q35.** I would like to know the final date to submit to this opportunity.

**A35.** The proposal deadline is February 19, 2008 at 3 pm. Additional details can be found in Section V. Proposal Format and Submission.

**Michael Haverkamp**  
**Grants Manager**  
**Big Brothers Big Sisters of Central Ohio**  
**1/11/2008 (Date of Inquiry)**

**Q36.** If an applicant is proposing a program that would serve vulnerable, low-income youth in general, rather than a program that would focus on one of the three SOFI priority populations, can the applicant submit samples of similar-sized projects demonstrating expertise working with vulnerable, low-income youth in general, or would the samples still need to pertain to working with one of the three SOFI priority populations?

**A36.** Applicants should provide samples of similar-sized projects that are relevant to the SOFI population they are proposing to service through the SOFI Mentoring Vulnerable Youth Project.

**Amy Fent**  
**OIC of Clark County**  
**1/11/08 (Date of Inquiry)**

**Q37.** In describing the three priority populations on page 4, (the ex-offender youth), it states that the youth may not be currently on parole, can the youth be on probation?

**A37.** Youth on probation and parole ARE ELIGIBLE for services through this grant. The RFGA will be amended to reflect this change. That said, the SOFI Mentoring Vulnerable Youth Project is a TANF (Temporary Assistance for Needy Families) funded project and these funds can not be used to deliver services to youth *in* the care of the juvenile justice system (incarcerated youth).

**Q38.** Also, please describe what "under the care of the juvenile justice system" entitles.

**A38.** For the purposes of this RFGA, "under the care of the juvenile justice system" refers to youth who are incarcerated in any local, county or state juvenile detention facility, correctional institution, jail or who have been convicted of an offense and are currently serving a court-ordered sentence.

**Rstandiford9@aol.com**  
**1/12/08 (Date of Inquiry)**

**Q39.** Is there a formal letter of inquiry that needs to be submitted?

**A39.** No formal letter of inquiry is needed.

**Jim Baker**  
**WMCAP**  
**1/12/08 (Date of Inquiry)**

**Q40.** Are the documents for this grant application available as a word documents.

**Q40.** The RFP documents are only available in .pdf format.

**Aundrey J. Somerville, Grants Administrator**  
**Charisma Community Connections**  
**1/13/08 (Date of Inquiry)**

**Q41.** What are TANF eligible services?

**A41.** Please see *Section 1.8 Applicant's Library* for a list of resources that define TANF eligible services and activities. This list includes *Basic TANF Requirements in general* (<http://www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/ofa/funds2.htm> and [http://ifs.ohio.gov/RFGA/R67170735/attach\\_f.pdf](http://ifs.ohio.gov/RFGA/R67170735/attach_f.pdf)) and *Helping Families Achieve Self Sufficiency: A Guide for Funding Services for Children and Families through the TANF Program.*(<http://www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/ofa/funds2.htm>).

**Q42.** We are in Akron, and our target here, but we have a strong relationship with organizations located out of Cleveland. Can we establish and facilitate a network in Cleveland even though they are defined as the Northern Region and we are Northeastern?

**A42.** For the purpose of this Project, applicants must establish and facilitate their collaborative network within the area specified in their proposal. According to *Section 1.4 Overview of Project* "Applicants must specify a single geographic region (one of the twelve Economic Development Regions, or EDRs, as defined by the Ohio Department of Development and listed below) in which they are located and the specific area in which the project will be implemented."

**Abdur Rashid Ali**  
**1/14/08 (Date of Inquiry)**

**Q43.** I'm seeking clarification as to whether or not Hamilton County-Cincinnati, Ohio is included in the Title I & II considerations.

**A43. Unfortunately, we were unable to determine the Section of the RFGA your inquiry concerns. Title I and Title II considerations are not part of this RFGA. However, applicants that meet the criteria set forth in the RFGA are eligible to apply. This includes organizations throughout the State.**

**John Barnes  
Program Manager  
Youth Development Program  
Family and Community Services, Inc.  
1/14/08 (Date of Inquiry)**

**Q44. What software programs and versions should the CD-ROM contain? For example, Microsoft Word 2003 and Microsoft Excel 2003.**

**A44. There are no software requirements for the CD-ROM. According to Section 5.1 *Proposal Submission Information*, “The requested CD will be used by ODJFS for archiving purposes and for fulfillment of Public Records Requests” so applicants should prepare the CD-ROM using commonly used software programs and versions.**

**Q45. How should the paper copies be bound? Is three-hole punched and placed in binders (with needed tabs) acceptable?**

**A45. Bound copies are not a requirement of the RFGA, and proposals in three-hole binders with needed tabs will be accepted. Proposal submissions must adhere to the requirements stated in Section 5.1 of the RFGA.**

**Q46. Are there specific formatting requirements, such as margins, font type or font size?**

**A46. No.**

**Q47. Is there a maximum allowable number of pages for the MSP proposal?**

**A47. No.**

**Q48. RFGA states: Applicants must perform all of the direct work and subcontractors are ineligible for reimbursement in this Project for providing direct service delivery to participants as specified in this RFGA. Several questions regarding this statement: Q47A. Does this statement mean that ODJFS will not receive invoices nor reimburse costs from any agency except the actual vendor who received the grant? If so, I assume it is the MSP's responsibility to write subcontractor expenses into their budget and issue checks directly to the subcontractor. Correct?**

**A48. Correct. Invoices will only be accepted by the grantee and the State will issue reimbursement to the grantee. This Project does not allow subcontractors to deliver services. ( See answers # 17, 18, 19 & 20)**

However, as stated in *Section 4.9 Subcontractor Identification and Participation* MSPs “may choose to contract with organizations for marketing, outreach and supply purposes as specified in their proposals. Such contracts will exist solely between the selected applicant and will not be considered as sub-contracts through this RFGA.”

Awarded organizations are expected to form a collaborative network focused on addressing the needs of the designated SOFI Population and ensuring youth have access to services they may need that are beyond the scope of the Project.

Although direct service delivery from other agencies and organizations is not a reimbursable cost, awarded applicants are expected to devise strategies to leverage community resources to serve vulnerable youth. This includes, but may not be limited to, referral to other agencies that can offer services that will further enhance the youth’s development, and collaboration with programs that have access to volunteers that can provide a non faith-based experience for those mentees that choose to have a non faith-based experience.

**Q49.** Can a MSP who receives this grant subcontract with other social service agencies to provide portions of the programming? For example, can our agency contract with a drug and alcohol counseling center to provide assessments for youth as part of wrap-around service?

**A49.** The MSP is expected to deliver all services to participants; subcontractors for service delivery are not allowed through this RFGA. However, as stated in *Section 1.4 Overview of the Project*, MSPs are expected to incorporate a plan for assessment and referral, if necessary, to local entities [such as a drug and alcohol counseling center] that provide additional social and health services beyond the scope of work described in the applicant’s proposal.

**Q50.** Can a MSP who receives this grant subcontract with other agencies' staff to provide mentoring? For example, several staff members at a drug and alcohol counseling center have expressed interest in working as mentors. Can we, as the MSP, agree upon an hourly rate of reimbursement for the other agency's staff time.

**A50.** The MSP is expected to deliver all services to participants and subcontractors for service delivery are not allowed through this RFGA. Mentors are not eligible for reimbursement of time or stipends; nor are other agencies eligible for reimbursement by providing employees as mentors. Grantees must recruit and retain volunteer mentors. In addition, according to *Section 3.3 Administrative Structures—Proposed Work Plan* “Applicants should make every effort to avoid the appearance of impropriety in administering the project, thus project staff are prohibited from, but not limited to the following: serving as mentors and seeking reimbursement for services, and businesses owned by staff members, their spouses or children are prohibited from receiving funds for services through the project. GOFBCI and ODJFS retain the right to require revisions to the project before and during the grant term, to ensure this requirement is upheld.

**Melissa M. Vitucci-Marzec**  
**School Based Services**  
**1/14/08 (Date of Inquiry)**

**Q51.** What happens if a youth is placed on probation while participating in the program? Are they removed from the program at that time?

**A51.** If a youth participant is placed on probation, they will still eligible to receive services.

Youth on probation and parole **ARE ELIGIBLE** for services through this grant. The RFGA will be amended to reflect this change. That said, the SOFI Mentoring Vulnerable Youth Project is a TANF (Temporary Assistance for Needy Families) funded project and these funds can not be used to deliver services to youth *in* the care of the juvenile justice system (incarcerated youth).

**Rachel Rosenzweig, Ph.D.**  
**Senior Development Writer**  
**Bellefaire JCB**  
**1/14/08 (Date of Inquiry)**

**Q52.** Is there a minimum number of youth/clients that must be served within the grant period?

**A52.** No, however, applicants should consider a number of factors, including community needs and the ability of their organization to deliver services, in determining the number of youth they plan to service within the grant period.

As stated in *Section 3.2 Number of Participants*, “Potential applicants must demonstrate a need in their area for the services they are proposing to offer and the correlation between local needs and their ability to provide services.

Given the monetary amount of the awards, organizations are expected to demonstrate that they will maximize resources to reach as many youth as possible through the Project.

**Q53.** Is there a definition difference between "out of wedlock birth" and "out of wedlock pregnancy" as they pertain to this RFGA?

**A53.** No the terms were used interchangeably. In an effort to be consistent with TANF Goal 3, the RFGA will be amended to state “out of wedlock pregnancy” rather than “out of wedlock birth”.

**Q54.** Is the focus of this project to be both male and female clients? Can a proposal deal with one group specifically?

**A54.** Applicants may submit proposals for Projects servicing either gender or both.

**Q55.** is there a preferred methodology to be implemented in reducing out of wedlock pregnancies?

**A55.** No, applicants may be creative in their approaches. However, as stated in *Section 1.5 Objectives of the Project* “Proposals should include research that reflects the program model has been proven to prevent and reduce the rate of out-of-wedlock pregnancies among participants or provide justification for how the proposed model will achieve this goal.

**Q56.** if a subgrantee is not allowed in this proposal, what is the purpose of the subgrantee form included in the application?

**A56.** That form is standard for all ODJFS procurement activities. When no subcontractors are to be used, applicants/vendors simply skip over the subcontractor portion of the form.

**Q57.** will further details be provided regarding ROMA to the awarded agency following the award of the grant?

**A57.** Yes, grantees will receive ROMA training after the grants are awarded.

**Q58.** is a particular evaluation method required to determine project outcomes dictated?

**A58.** Applicants must include in their proposals, as listed in **Section 3.3 Administrative Structures—Proposed Work Plan, a plan to:** (see answer # 57 above)

“Ensure program quality and effectiveness through use of the ROMA system to:

- Develop a plan to measure program process:
  - o Select indicators of program implementation viability and volunteer fidelity, such as, training hours, meeting frequency and relationship duration; and
  - o Develop a system for collecting and managing specified data.
- Develop a plan to measure expected outcomes:
  - o Specify expected outcomes;
  - o Select appropriate instruments to measure outcomes, such as, questionnaires, surveys and interviews; and
  - o Select and implement an evaluation design.
- Create a process to reflect on and disseminate evaluation findings:
  - o Refine the program design and operations based on the findings;”.

**MARY SHANNON**

**1/14/08 (Date of Inquiry)**

**Q59.** We are trying to determine if the RFP/RLB # for the SOFI Vulnerable Youth Mentoring Project is R-89-01-0765 as listed on the top of the Attachment A page.

**A59.** Yes; the RFGA number is **R-89-01-0765**. This may be referenced as the RFP/RLB # in some of the supporting documentation.

**Rishan Andai**  
**1/14/08 (Date of Inquiry)**

**Q60.** I was just unsure as to what the deadline was for this proposal. Please let me know.

**A60.** The deadline for the proposal is February 19, 2008 at 3 pm. Please see Section 1.6 Anticipated Procurement Timetable, for dates related to this RFGA. Any changes to the proposal deadline date will be posted to the website. Please check the website frequently for amendments and changes to the RFGA.

**Ann Marie Williams**  
**Grant Specialist**  
**YMCA of Greater Dayton**  
**1/14/08 (Date of Inquiry)**

**Q61.** Please clarify the definition of "Ex-offender Youth" as stated in the SOFI Vulnerable Youth RFGA on page 4 (#3). The YMCA program, Y-CAP is an early intervention for boys involved in the juvenile justice system. In order for us to proceed with the grant application process, I'd first like confirmation of whether this program would be disqualified from competing for the SOFI grant.

**A61.** For the purposes of this RFGA, ex-offender youth are youth who have been under the care of the juvenile justice system. The term "ex-offender youth" refers to youth who were incarcerated in any local, county or state juvenile detention facility, correctional institution, or jail, or who have been convicted of an offense and are not currently serving a court-ordered sentence.

Youth on probation and parole ARE ELIGIBLE for services through this grant. The RFGA will be amended to reflect this change. That said, the SOFI Mentoring Vulnerable Youth Project is a TANF (Temporary Assistance for Needy Families) funded project and these funds can not be used to deliver services to youth *in* the care of the juvenile justice system (incarcerated youth).

**THIS CONCLUDES THE QUESTION & ANSWER DOCUMENT  
FOR ODJFS RFP#: R-89-01-0765.**