



GOVERNOR'S OFFICE OF FAITH BASED AND COMMUNITY INITIATIVES

Strengthening Ohio Families Initiative (SOFI) Mentoring Vulnerable Youth Project Executive Summary

Overview

The SOFI Vulnerable Youth project will award up to twelve grants of up to \$250,000.00 to Ohio faith based and/or community organizations to provide mentoring and wrap-around services to youth who reside in low-income households. Priority consideration will be given to organizations serving youth who are either homeless, engaged in the foster care system, or who are ex-offenders (including youth on probation or parole).

Scope of Work

Selected applicants, referred to as Mentoring Service Providers (MSPs), will provide financial and administrative support for the delivery of mentoring and wrap-around services that enhance a mentee's ability to succeed through the prevention and reduction of out-of-wedlock births through social, character and leadership skills development. For the purpose of this project, wrap-around services are defined as comprehensive services that further enhance the ability of a young person participating in the mentoring program to succeed through the prevention and reduction of out-of-wedlock births through social, character and leadership skills development.

Proposed programs must be designed to permit the youth participants, or "mentees" to choose from mentoring services that they believe are most suitable for them, including mentoring that incorporates faith components or activities. Proposals must incorporate a plan for wrap-around service delivery that includes a preliminary assessment and referral, if necessary, to local entities that provide additional social and health services beyond the scope of work described in the applicant's proposal. Wrap-around service delivery as specified in the approved proposal is reimbursable through this grant. Additional services may not be reimbursable through this grant; however, applicants are required to provide such information to participants.

Selection of projects for funding will be based on applicants' carefully developed applications, which must be designed in full accordance with information provided in the RFGA.

Mandatory Applicant Qualifications

Interested applicants **must** meet, at minimum, **all** the following qualification requirements:

1. Applicant organization must be an Ohio 501(c)3 faith-based and/or community organization.
2. Applicant organization must demonstrate a minimum of three (3) years experience dealing with one or more of the SOFI priority populations
3. At least one member of the project staff must have a bachelor's degree in social work or a related field, and a copy of current Ohio licensure to practice must be included in the

proposal.

Deliverables

Mentoring is a one-to-one structured and trusting relationship that brings young people together with caring individuals who offer guidance, support and encouragement aimed at developing the competence and character of the mentee. 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. Mentors are expected to establish relationships with youth and make a commitment to investing time in the youth's life to offer guidance and support. Mentoring can take place in a wide array of settings, including but not limited to, the workplace, school, at a faith-based organization, or community organization.

Activities that improve the well-being and self-confidence of youth in an effort to achieve TANF Goal 3 are eligible activities. To ensure a beneficial experience for both the mentor and mentee, mentoring relationships should be sustained for a minimum of a year and involve at least four meetings per month, preferably once a week.

The contracted services must include, but may not be limited to, the following areas:

1. Providing mentoring and wrap-around services to one or more of the SOFI designated priority populations;
2. Performing work as specified in this RFGA that promotes the formation and sustainability of mentoring relationships in an effort to reduce the incidence of out-of-wedlock pregnancies among youth enrolled in the program;
3. Delivering services that support TANF Goal 3 and can be easily tracked and reviewed to assess program/project performance; and,
4. Creating a collaborative network of faith-based and/or community organizations to aid in service delivery.

Anticipated Timeline

December 31, 2007 – RFGA posted to ODJFS Procurement website; Q&A Period Opens

January 14, 2008 – Applicant Q & A Period Closes, 10 am

January 18, 2008 – ODJFS provides Final Q & A Document (estimated date)

February 19, 2008 – Deadline for Applicants to submit proposals (3 pm)

February 29, 2008 – ODJFS Issues Contract Award Notification Letter (estimated)

March 28, 2008 – Project Implementation (estimated)

June 30, 2009 – Project Completion