

VENDOR QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

Refugee Social Services

R-1415-17-8076

Q & A period: April 25, 2014-May 23, 2014

Q&A Deadline Extension: April 25-2014 – May 26, 2014

Final Question and Answer Document

April 29, 2014 (Date of Inquiry)

Lori Byrd, CPPB
JFS Supervisor -
Contracting & Payment Office
Montgomery County
Dept. of Job & Family Services

Q1. I wanted to inquire how our county would be affected by this if we do not apply for this opportunity. How will we as a county be affected if our vendors solely take over providing RSSP services to our refugee community? I realize we will still be responsible for providing cash and medical assistance when appropriate. However, will we as a county have any other responsibilities?

A1. County agencies will still remain responsible for the eligibility determination and benefit issuance for Refugee Cash Assistance (RCA). RCA recipients that are required to participate in RSSP services, or non-recipients that choose to participate in RSSP services as a voluntary participant, must be referred by the county agency to the RSSP provider in their region.

Also, please reference county agency responsibilities as outlined in OAC Rule 5101:1-2-40.1.

May 1, 2014 (Date of Inquiry)

Beth Watkins
Employment Services Program Manager
Community Refugee & Immigration Services (CRIS)

Q2. Sections 1.5 and 4.1 Do the phrases "Refugees who are receiving cash assistance" and "Refugee Cash Recipients" (4.1 only) include refugees who are receiving TANF/OWF cash assistance?

A2. Yes.

Q3. Section 4.1 Follow-up If the answer to question 1. is "Yes"; must the services provided under section 4.1 provide sufficient programming hours to enable TANF/OWF recipients to meet their monthly work participation requirements?

A3. Refugees who are OWF recipients may be referred to services with an RSSP provider, if appropriate. Keep in mind, RSSP has different and more restrictive activities as compared to OWF. If an OWF recipient is referred to an RSSP activity as part of their OWF work activity requirement, there may be an hourly requirement attached to that activity. For information about OWF work activity hourly requirements, please contact TANF-FSTA@jfs.ohio.gov.

May 12, 2014 (Date of Inquiry)

Angela Rowe
Ethiopian Tewahedo Social Services
Development Manager

- Q4.** What is the total funding available to the state for this program?
- A4.** **The actual dollar amounts awarded for selected applications will be based on federal funding made available to ODJFS, and the number of grant applications which are both qualified and selected for the award.**
- Q5.** Will priority be given to regions with higher populations of refugees?
- A5.** **The methodology used to distribute available funds to available regions is described in 2.4**
- Q6.** Our agency is concerned with meeting requirements for hours in addition to job placement. If a client is required to attend classes and trainings 40 hours a week, when will they have time to schedule appointments, visit companies, and attend job interviews?
- A6.** **There is no hourly requirement for any RSSP activities for required RCA recipients or non-recipients who choose to participate in RSSP as a voluntary participant. If an OWF recipient is referred to an RSSP activity as part of their OWF work activity requirement, there may be an hourly requirement attached to that activity. For information about OWF work activity hourly requirements, please contact TANF-FSTA@jfs.ohio.gov.**
- Q7.** This requirement will severely limit our ability to complete job placements. Will we be able to require homework in order to make sure clients complete their hours?
- A7.** **We are not sure what requirement you are referring to. There is no hourly requirement for any RSSP activities for required RCA recipients or non-recipients who choose to participate as a voluntary participant. If an OWF recipient is referred to an RSSP activity as part of their OWF work activity requirement, there may be an hourly requirement attached to that activity.**

May 13, 2014 (Date of Inquiry)

Amiee Bowie

Deputy Director, Development Support Services

FCDJFS

- Q8.** 1.4 Overview of the Project: Can a CDJFS in an identified region opt to not participate
- A8.** **County agencies will remain responsible for the eligibility determination and benefit issuance for Refugee Cash Assistance (RCA). Please refer to county agency responsibilities as outlined in OAC Rule 5101:1-2-40.1**

Q9. 3.1 Mandatory Qualifications: Please provide data for the refugee populations by region (county within the regions) as it related to (1) number of refugees; (2) Case type - Refugee Cash Assistance or OWF; (3) country of origin and (4) date of entry

A9. Please see information regarding refugee populations in Ohio in the RFGA resource library located <http://jfs.ohio.gov/refugee/index.stm>

Q10. 3.1 Mandatory Qualifications: Can a CDJFS have a for-profit vendor as a sub-contractor or partner

A10. Potential applicants that are either a government entity or non-profit may partner with a for-profit organization.

Q11. 4.1 Scope of Project Work: Please clarify the expectations related to CDJFS' referring customers to contracted providers - the RFP states referrals for RCA's - what is the expectation for OWF

A11. County agencies shall refer OWF and RCA recipients to RSSP service providers. There is no hourly requirement for any RSSP activities for required RCA recipients or non-recipients who choose to as a voluntary participant. If an OWF recipient is referred to an RSSP activity as part of their OWF work activity requirement, there may be an hourly requirement attached to that activity.

Q12. 4.2 Proposed Work Plan: "in-person" translation services - should this be read to mean interpretation services? What is the reasoning for in-person? Can interpretation services not be provided via the telephone?

A12. In-person translation services will ensure requirements are understood and quality services are delivered.

Q13. 4.2 Proposed Work Plan: If the metro CDJFS applies, what is the process for submitting the 2 letters of support?

A13. A metro county may submit a letter of support from an executive of their own agency that would not be directly involved in providing the services.

Q14. 4.3 Project Outcomes: Who is responsible for verifying each CDJFS' SAVE and Self-Sufficiency Contract and Plan?

A14. When necessary, providers may need to verify a refugee's status in SAVE. Memorandums of Understanding will be completed for providers so they can have access. RSSP providers are responsible for self- sufficiency plans for RSSP activities for RCA recipients and voluntary participants. County agencies remain responsible for completing OWF self-sufficiency contacts and plans for OWF applicants and recipients.

Q15. 4.3 Project Outcomes: If the metro CDJFS applies, will it have access to the other CDJFS CRIS-E

A15. RSSP services are not in CRIS-E, and no CRIS-E profiles will be changed.

Q16. 4.3 Project Outcomes: What level of access and functionality will sub-partners or sub-contractors have for the RSSP web reporting tool

A16. If a provider partners with other entities to provide RSSP services, it will be up to the provider who has access to update the RSSP web tool.

Q17. 4.3 Project Outcomes: Is there a defined/expected timeframe for which to report job advancements

A17. The RSSP provider is responsible for updating the Refugee Services Web Tool weekly to reflect any changes in status of RSSP participant's activities and employment.

May 14, 2014 (Date of Inquiry)

Angela Rowe
Ethiopian Tewahedo Social Services
Development Manager

Q18. How many refugees are expected to be resettled in Franklin County?

A18. For FFY 2014, Franklin County is expected to resettle 1,335 refugees. For FFY 2015, we do not yet know the number of anticipated arrivals for Franklin County.

Q19. How many refugees are expected to be resettled in Ohio?

A19. For FFY 2014, Ohio is expected to resettle 2,825 refugees. For FFY 2015, we do not yet know the number of anticipated arrivals for the state

May 16, 2014 (Date of Inquiry)

Alisa Berry, Director of Refugee Resettlement
Catholic Charities SW Ohio
Archdiocese of Cincinnati

Q20. Can material assistance money be allotted for under this grant? For example, money for bus tickets to allow clients to travel to and from job interviews or employment readiness classes?

A20. Material assistance is not specifically referenced in RSSP services. Transportation is allowable when necessary for participation in an employability service or for the acceptance or retention of employment. 45 CFR 400.154 (h)

Q21. The grant that was subcontracted with the County was on a per unit cost basis. Meaning there was a cost paid per hour of service depending on the service type. Can budgets for this grant be made to fund the needed FTE's necessary to carry out the grant objectives?

A21. Please see attachment D for a project budget summary. As a sub-recipient grant, a cost per unit will not be used.

Q22. Can money for interpretive service be included in the budget and paid for through this grant?

A22. Yes.

Q23. Is administrative cost allowable and if so at what rate?

A23. Administrative costs are allowable. Specific rates and plans will be negotiated with selected grantees prior to the signing of the agreement.

Q24. Is there any cash or in-kind match requirements for this grant?

A24. No.

May 21, 2014 (Date of Inquiry)

Angela Rowe

Ethiopian Tewahedo Social Services

Development Manager

Q25. Please provide more information as to what will constitute eligibility for refugees in this program. The target population section clearly identifies refugees who have been here longer than eight months (secondary migrants and employed), yet typically RSS is only for the first eight months. If this the only eligible population, how will we get funding to serve the other identified populations? Will awarded applicants be recommended for funding through TANF and OWF in order to continue services after clients are “timed out”?

A25. Please see OAC Rule 5101:1-2-40.2 (A) which outline eligibility for RSSP services.

Q26. What is the recommended reporting procedure for determining benefit eligibility? Benefits are not usually available until the first 90 days of employment are completed.

A26. If you are referencing 4.3 (C) regarding health insurance benefits, specific reporting will be discussed with selected grantees when doing grant agreements.

**THIS CONCLUDES THE QUESTION & ANSWER DOCUMENT
FOR ODJFS RFP#: R-1415-17-8076.**