

**Pregnancy Assistance Fund  
2015 Funding Opportunity Announcement  
AH-SP1-15-001**

**Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)**

**ELIGIBILITY**

**Who's eligible to apply?**

**Answer:** Any State, which includes the District of Columbia, any commonwealth possession or other territory of the United States, **and any Federally-recognized Indian** tribe, reservation or **Consortium or Council** (hereafter referred to as "States or tribes"). A signed letter from the authorized representative must accompany the application; it should include documentation establishing the authorized representative's authority to apply for and administer the grant funds on behalf of the State or tribe. Interested State agencies are encouraged to partner with other interested State agencies early in the application process to ensure that the needs of the target population in that State will be met through this grant. Each State or tribe is allowed only one eligible application for submission.

**Are Tribal Consortia and/or Councils eligible to apply?**

**Answer:** Yes, the funding opportunity announcement was amended to clarify that any Federally-recognized Indian tribe, reservation or Consortium or Council (hereafter referred to as "States or tribes") is eligible to apply.

A Consortium or Council should provide documentation from each tribe participating authorizing the Council or Consortium to apply and administer the funds on their behalf. Also, the Consortium or Council must provide documentation that each tribe participating is a Federally-recognized tribe. If a tribal member of the Consortium or Council is not a Federally-recognized tribe that member would not be eligible to participate in the project if the Consortium or Council were funded. These documents must be submitted with the Consortium's or Council's application.

**Are Non-Profit eligible to apply?**

**Answer:** No, the authorizing legislation defines eligible applicants as States and Tribes only. Non-profits and local and county governments are not eligible. Non-profit, community-based organizations and local and county governments are encouraged to partner within the authorized State agency submitting the application.

**If authorized by the State Board of Health, is an Institution of Higher Education eligible to apply?**

**Answer:** No, Institutions of High Education are not eligible to apply.

**Does the Office of Adolescent Health have a list of State agencies who are the authorized representative in the State that can apply?**

**Answer:** No, the Office of Adolescent Health (OAH) does not have a listing of State agencies that are authorized to apply. Interested applicants should contact the Governor's office and inquire as to which office, agency or department in the State has the authority to apply.

**Define “State”**

**Answer:** The term “State” includes the District of Columbia, any commonwealth, possession or other territory of the United States.

**Can a State authorize a Community-Based Organization to carry out the program for the State?**

**Answer:** As outlined in the Eligibility section of the funding announcement, the State agency must submit the application and serve as the responsible party. However, the State may provide sub-awards to community-based organizations to assist with program implementation.

**Are currently funded Pregnancy Assistance Fund grantees eligible to apply for this funding opportunity announcement?**

**Answer:** No, currently funded PAF grantees are not eligible to apply as noted on page 4 of the funding announcement.

**DUE DATES****When are applications due?**

**Answer:**

Applications are due May 18, 2015 by 5:00pm (E.T.)

**How can I get information about the March 24, 2015 technical assistance webinar?**

**Answer:** The PowerPoint presentation, transcription, and audio will be available on the Office of Adolescent Health website two to three days after the webinar. Attached is the link to the website. <http://www.hhs.gov/ash/oah/index.html>

**APPLICATION SUBMISSION****How do I submit my application?**

**Answer:** All applications must be submitted electronically through [www.grants.gov](http://www.grants.gov), unless a waiver has been granted. Any application submitted via any other means of electronic communications, including facsimile or electronic mail, will not be accepted. To ensure adequate time to successfully submit the application, we recommend applicants register early in Grants.gov since the registration process can take some time.

**What if I cannot submit my application via Grants.gov?**

**Answer:** An applicant must obtain a written exemption from this requirement 48 hours in advance of the deadline by the Director, HHS/OASH Office of Grants Management. Applicants must request an exemption in writing via email from the HHA/OASH Office of Grants Management, and provide details as to why they are technologically unable to submit electronically through the Grants.gov portal.

**Does the authorized representative for the State need to submit the Letter of Intent or can the State agency that will be administering the grant submit the Letter of Intent?**

**Answer:** The Letter of Intent (LOI) is not required and non-binding. The LOI can be submitted by the State agency implementing the program. Non-binding LOI can be submitted via email to the Program Contract listed on page 68 of the funding opportunity announcement and are due by April 17, 2015 at 5:00pm (Eastern Time).

**CATEGORIES**

**Can we apply for funds from more than one category?**

**Answer:** Yes, an applicant can submit an application addressing more than one category. The applicant would submit only one application addressing each of the categories in which it intends services.

**Would we have to work with a high school and a community service center? Could we only use a community service center?**

**Answer:** A grantee would not have to work with both high schools and community service centers.

**For an Indian Tribe, does an after-school program or youth programs qualify as a “community service center”?**

**Answer:** Yes, to the extent these programs are consistent with the term, “Community service center” which means a non-profit organization that provides social services to residents of a specific geographical area via direct service or by contract with a local government agency. (See Appendix A) Under this grant program, funds may be used to make funding available to community service centers for the purpose of establishing, maintaining or operating pregnancy and parenting services as described in the authorizing legislation.

**Is an Institution of High Education required to provide matching funds?**

**Answer:** Yes, by statute (Public Law 111-148, sections 10211 - 10214), for those States or tribes that propose to work with Institutes of Higher Education, a 25% match from each of those institutions is required. We recognize that identifying matching funds can be challenging and encourage States and tribes to work closely with their partners to identify appropriate matching sources. The 25% match funds can come from cash or in-kind contributions. In-kind contributions can include a broad range of services, including space on campus, facilitator time, and use of transportation systems.

**Are applicants/grantees expected to address all four areas in Category 3 (Intervention Services, Accompaniment Services, Supportive Social Services and TA)?**

**Answer:** No, grantees are not required to address each of the four service areas described in Category 3. Grantees can select one or more of the areas. Through the grantees need assessment and in collaboration with its partners the grantee should determine where the most critical needs exist and focus their programmatic efforts appropriately. OAH fully expects that whichever areas a grantee selects that a comprehensive approach to each is undertaken.

**Is there a match for Category 3?**

**Answer:** No, there is no match requirement for categories 2, 3 or 4.

## **FUNDING AWARDS**

### **When will the funds be awarded?**

**Answer:** Anticipated Grant Awards date is August 1, 2015.

### **What is the funding range?**

**Answer:** OAH anticipates that up to \$1.6 million will be available to fund up to 3 grants in the amount of \$500,000 to \$800,000 per year for a five-year project period.

## **SELECTION CRITERIA**

### **How will grantee project be selected?**

**Answer:** An independent review panel will evaluate applications that pass the screening and meet the responsiveness criteria. These reviewers are experts in their fields, and are drawn from academic institutions, non-profit organizations, State and local government, and Federal government agencies. The reviewers will comment on and score the applications, focusing their comments and scoring decisions on the identified criteria. In addition to the independent review panel, Federal staff will review each application for programmatic, budgetary, and grants management compliance. Final award decisions will be made by the Director of the Office of Adolescent Health. In making these decisions, the following additional criteria will be taken into consideration: Extent to which all four possible categories of funding are represented by PAF awards.

## **MEMORANDUMS OF UNDERSTANDING AND/OR LETTERS OF INTENT**

**The funding opportunity announcement (page 42) indicates “Sub-awardees do not need to be identified at the time of the application...” however, on page 45 the guidance indicates “Include signed MOU’s or Letter of Commitment for all organizations and entities that are named as a sub-awardee or primary partner...”. Which guidance are applicants to follow?**

**Answer:** Sub-awardees do not need to be identified at the time of the application, but the applicant should describe how the sub-awardees will be identified. The applicant should describe the project management and partner monitoring plan for the grant, including a clear delineation of the roles and responsibilities of project staff and sub-awardees and partners and how they will contribute to achieving the project’s objectives and outcomes. Describe how it will ensure program integrity, including a description of the steps that will be taken to ensure that the grant funds are used effectively and efficiently. Address how the State or tribe will ensure the grant funds are used consistent with the authorizing statute and in accordance with the provisions set forth in this funding announcement. Describe the criteria it will establish in making any sub-awards, how it will monitor sub-awardees, and how it will coordinate efforts to assist expectant and parenting teens, women, fathers and their families. Describe the approach that will be used to monitor and track progress on the project’s tasks and objectives. OAH expects that, throughout the grant period, the grantee Project Director will have involvement in, and substantial knowledge about, all aspects of the project.

Grantees should provide Memoranda of Understanding or Letters of Commitment, if the applicant names the sub-awardee or primary partner to carry out any aspect of the project.

## **EVIDENCE-BASED, EVIDENCE-INFORMED PROGRAMS**

**Will applicants be limited to selecting evidence-based or evidence-informed programs from the websites (Homvee, SAMHSA, OAH) listed in the FOA or can other sources that might have a broader selection of evidence-based or evidence-informed interventions be used?**

**Answer:** All services provided to expectant and parenting teens, women, fathers, and their families in Categories 1, 2 and 3 should be evidence-based or evidence-informed. Evidence-based programs are those that have demonstrated impacts on key outcomes through rigorous research and evaluation and been identified through a systematic review. The websites provided in the funding opportunity announcement are just examples and are not an exhaustive list of evidence-based programs.

Evidence-informed programs includes new or emerging programs that are theory-based and have been implemented previously, even on a limited scale or in a limited setting, and yielded promising results. More information on evidence-based and evidence-informed programs can be found on page 15 of the FOA as well as in Appendix A, page 70.

## **PERFORMANCE MEASURES**

**What are the performance outcomes for the violence work?**

**Answer:** The draft performance measures associated with Category 3 can be found in Appendix B of the funding opportunity announcement.

**Under Category 3, how will the authors who are developing the common outcome measures address confidentiality and privacy concerns for victims of domestic violence, sexual violence, sexual assault and stalking?**

**Answer:** In collecting performance measures grantees will provide aggregated data. At no time does OAH expect grantees to provide the names of participants.

## **EVALUATION**

**How rigorous of an evaluation is expected if an evidence-informed program is implemented?**

**Answer:** The funding announcement permit grantees use up to 10 percent of their budget to conduct implementation evaluations (page 30) to assess participant knowledge, attitudes, and beliefs; and/or to assess participant satisfaction.

## **OTHER**

**Must a mother or expectant mother be enrolled before the father can receive services?**

**Answer:** Grantees can serve expectant or parenting fathers or partners on their own. If the expectant or parenting father is served in an Institution of High Education (IHE), the individual must be an enrolled student at the IHE.

**What is the range for “young women”?**

**Answer:** Category 2 encourages applications that target activities to serve expectant and parenting teens, expectant and parenting young women and men, and their families. OAH is interested in this group because they have particularly high rates of unplanned pregnancy. Page 7 provides background information about this target population which generally is teens and young women ages 15-24.