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STRIVE Forward Juvenile Justice Initiative

Request-for-Proposals Questions & Answers

Week of August 24-28, 2015

STRIVE Forward RFP: Questions and Answers

Questions:

I.   Can we use an existing vendor to implement this program?

Answer:

i.   *This is permitted by STRIVE International. Appropriate MOU's / LOI's are needed if the vendor plays a significant role in program implementation (see p. 22 & 23 from SF-RFP) and each Affiliates procurement policies should be followed.*

Questions:

II.   Could you clarify the footnote on the bottom of Exhibit A: Outcomes and Outputs Table?

*STRIVE anticipate an approximate ratio of 70/30 In-School (ISY) to Out-of-School Youth (OSY) enrollment regardless of age. Of the In-School-Youth enrolled STRIVE anticipates an approximate ratio of 75/25 youth 17-and-Under to 18-and-Older.

Answer

i.   *STRIVE Forward does not intra-age group enrollment requirements. Youth meeting ALL eligibility requirements must be between 14-24 (see p. 5 from the SF-RFP). The Footnote from Exhibit A was used to clarify to USDOL-ETA a key assumption STRIVE National made about what our anticipated breakdown of youth would look like by age group with calculations extrapolated from STRIVE for the Future enrollments.*

STRIVE Forward RFP: Questions and Answers

Questions:

III.   What role will Youth Represent have? Will they provide legal services for program participants?

Answer:

i.   *It is anticipated that Youth Represent will provide Training and Technical Assistance to sub-grantees to provide expungement (as state law permits) and/or other criminal record mitigation legal services, as well as providing Training and Technical Assistance to assist sug-grantees to be designated as a diversion program. Sub-grantees will still need to engage local partners to provide direct participant legal services, though Youth Represent can support partner identification and guide partners on legal needs of particular youth.*

Questions:

IV.   How do we break down in-school vs. out-of-school youth, and 17 & under vs. 18 & older?

Answer

i.   *Please consider what ratio of in-school youth versus out-of school youth that you anticipate would enroll in your STRIVE Forward program if awarded a sub-grant. Note the categories from Exhibit A: STRIVE Forward Expected Outcomes and Outputs Table while as it pertains to this question while completing your Application.*

STRIVE Forward RFP: Questions and Answers

Questions:

V.   The RFP references the Juvenile Justice System (JJS), does that mean Juvenile Court, the DA's Office, or other? What entity is expected?

Answer:

i.   *Whichever entity has Juvenile Jurisdiction in the proposed community to be served must be enlisted to support participant acquisition.*

Questions:

VI.   On page 5 the checklist lists two federal forms (SF-424 and SF-424A) that are required. On pages 7 -8 it describes those forms. At the top of page 7 in section IV. A it mentions the SF-424 as one of the "4 separate and distinct parts" of applications submitted in response to the FOA, so should we understand that we need to complete the SF-424 and the SF-424A and submit both of these completed forms along with our Project Narrative and Attachments to the project narrative … in other words, we do NOT complete the SF-424 and SF-424A and submit them via grants.gov, correct?

Answer

i.   *Applicants should complete the SF-424 and SF-424A and submit them along with the other items as specified in the SF-RFP to STRIVE National via ShareFile. Nothing should be submitted to grants.gov.*

STRIVE Forward RFP: Questions and Answers

Questions:

VII. On page 13 b. Mentoring describes requirements for including mentoring as a program component, and we are wondering if there is a requirement that the recruited mentors be paid or unpaid? And, if it is it allowable that the recruited mentors be paid, are there any parameters around using grant funds to do

Answer:

i. *Mentors may not be paid with grant funds. However, applicants are permitted to sub-contract with agencies or individuals to function as mentor recruiters, screeners (background checks, matching, etc.), and trainers (preparing volunteers to serve as mentors to work with a court-involved / "at-risk" youth population.*

Questions:

VIII. On page 19 g. Follow-up Services last paragraph, last sentence it mentions "Applicants should use evidence informed practices to support participants in successfully interacting in their community" – can you provide examples of this or describe a bit more to exemplify what types of practices are applicable here?

Answer

i. *"Evidence informed" Follow-Up services include such practices as, but are not limited to, utilizing a primary point of contact approach to their staff engagement so that staff they've worked with during the program bridge the gap and continue to provide support and follow-up services, rather than passing the youth off to a "follow-up" department with different staff. Additionally, ensuring youth are properly engaged in additional constructive and positive community based activities prior to their completion of STRIVE programming. Building this bridge before young people transition has been shown to increase successful outcomes by offering a supported transition for the youth in order to ensure that they maintain positive peer and community activity engagement.*

STRIVE Forward RFP: Questions and Answers

Questions:

IX.   On pages 22 – 23 the Additional Program Collaboration section, clearly we will seek signed/dated MOUs or LOCs from external collaborating partners. However should we similarly provide signed/dated MOUs/LOCs if we intend to use an inter-agency collaborating partner program (meaning the collaborating partner would be an internal program within our agency/organization)?

Answer:

i.   *It is anticipated that Youth Represent will provide Training and Technical Assistance to sub-grantees to provide expungement and/or other criminal record mitigation legal services, as well as providing Training and Technical Assistance to assist sub-grantees to be designated as a diversion program. Sub-grantees will still need to engage local partners to provide direct participant legal services, though Youth Represent can support partner identification and guide partners on legal needs of particular youth.*

Questions:

X.   On page 24 #4 Required Attachments a. it mentions the requirement for the "up to two-page abstract" – should we understand that because this abstract is an attachment to the narrative that it does not count against the 20 pages double-spaced page limit for the Project Narrative as mentioned on 10 top of page?

Answer

i.   *The two-page Abstract is considered an attachment and therefore does NOT count against the 20-page project narrative limit.*

STRIVE Forward RFP: Questions and Answers

Questions:

XI. Page 5 lists the eligibility requirements for the target population/participants. Should organizations design their programs to serve individuals that fall within the full spectrum of the age range or could organizations focus on a particular subset of the target population (i.e. ages 18 -24 instead of ages 14 -24)?

Answer:

i. *As stated on p. 5, participants within the age range of 14-24 that meet ALL additional program eligibility requirements are eligible to receive services. Applicants are not requited to identify a subset of the population for services, but may do so as a means to targeting services to an age appropriate group should they so choose. As a point of reference, while the forthcoming STRIVE for the Future Program Manual is specifically targeted to serve youth ages 15-22, it is easily adaptable to slightly younger and older population.*

Questions:

XII. We previously submitted a number of commitment letters for the Face Forward 3 solicitation. May we use the same letters of commitment for the STRIVE Forward solicitation given that it is the same initiative or should we plan to submit new letters from the same organizations who are still committed to assisting with this initiative if selected? (Reference: page 22)?

Answer

i. *While Letters of Commitment / Memorandum of Understanding obtained by STRIVE Affiliates in support of their application for a USDOL ETA Face Forward 3 grant will be allowed to be submitted in reference to demonstrating support for an Affiliates' STRIVE Forward application, National STRONGLY encourages Affiliates to review such letters and ensure that the organization is still best suited to support the implementation of the STRIVE for the Future Program Manual as specified within the STRIVE Forward solicitation.*

STRIVE Forward RFP: Questions and Answers

Questions:

XIII. **American Community Survey Data:** We recruit youth from the Illinois Department of Juvenile Justice. Theses youth can come from across the City of Chicago. Using the instructions provided in the RFP for accessing the Poverty Level of Target Area, The Census Bureau website limits us to a target area of 250 census tracts. As there are over two thousand census tracts within the city, we can not select the city at large. Further, the tool specifies the target area must be contiguous. A majority of our clients come from 5 community areas scattered across the South and West Sides of Chicago. Should we select the area of the city in which services will be offered?

Answer:

i. *All sub-grantee applicants are required to use the American Community Survey data to show the aforementioned statistics (*poverty and violent crime rates *) of the communities to be served.* ***If an applicant propose a target community showing poverty/crime rates under the thresholds they do not receive the 10 Bonus Points.***

STRIVE Forward RFP: Questions and Answers

Questions:

XIV. Exhibit A- Expected Outcomes and Outputs: *College and Career Placement.* Can you advise what this benchmark is measuring? Is it the number of youth enrolled in college AND THEN placed in a career upon graduation. OR is this benchmark measuring the combined college placements and successful career placements?

Answer:

i.   From p. 14 of FOA-ETA 15-04: *The College and Career placement rate is defined as the unduplicated number of youth who were out-of-school at enrollment who are placed into long-term occupational skills training, post-secondary opportunities, the military or unsubsidized employment, divided by the unduplicated number of youth who were and out-of-school at enrollment. For those youth aged 17 and younger at enrollment, placement into high school or a high school equivalency training program will also count for this measure.*

Questions:

XV. Exhibit A- Expected Outcomes and Outputs: The footnote at the bottom of the table states STRIVE's anticipates an approximate ratio of 70/30 ISY to OSY, and of the ISY, an approximate ratio of 75/25 17-and-under to 18-and-old. **a)** Are the ISY/OSY and age distribution ratios required benchmarks? It was our understanding that WIOA flipped this ratio to 70% OSY, 30% ISY. The population ASHF serves is more reflective of out-of-school youth. **b)** What is STRIVE's definition of ISY? Are youth enrolled in Alternative Schools considered In-School-Youth?

Answer

i.   *A) ISY/OSY and age distribution ratios are NOT required benchmarks, but this ratio affects the nature of an appropriate programmatic outcome. B) Based on prior USDOL-ETA grant administration, the definition of In-School Youth was any youth who at the time of program enrollment was legally required to go to school, meaning they had not officially withdrawn nor graduated. This is subject to change as determined by USDOL ETA.*

STRIVE Forward RFP: Questions and Answers

Questions:

XVI. Does this support have to come from a nonprofit entity? Can an attorney with their own practice be contracted to provide these services? Especially if their background is in social justice?

XVII. They aren't a non profit organization. Legal Aid, who is a non profit legal service, referred me to them as they don't handle record sealing. Can we use the public defender's office in place of a non profit organization?

Answer:

i. *From pg. 22: "Non-profit Legal Services Centers: The agreement must provide participants with assistance in expunging juvenile records and other allowable services." The emphasis and importance is that STRIVE Forward participants have STRIVE facilitated ease-of-access to no-cost legal services to support record expungmeent, adjudication diversion, and any other legal obstacles the young person is facing.*

Questions:

XVIII. **Mentoring Program**: Can you clarify the intended structure of the mentoring program? The RFP notes the structure should mirror TEN 42-10 small group job club settings, while also discusses matching mentors to mentees. While we intend to tailor our mentoring program to meet the requirements of the forthcoming STRIVE curriculum, can you advise if you are looking for small group AND one-on-one mentoring, or if we have the flexibility to create our own program design?

Answer:

i. *Applicants are encouraged to utilize a flexible mentoring program design presuming it compatible and in alignment with the small group mentoring specified in the forthcoming STRIVE for the Future Program Manual. Please consult p.13 & 14 of the SF-RFP for further guidance.*

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Thank You for your interest in the STRIVE Forward Juvenile Justice Initiative.
Please continue to forward and all SF-RFP related questions to
Gwise@striveinternational.org
Answers will be shared with the group weekly.