

Mission:

To protect, promote and improve the health of all people in Florida through integrated state, county and community efforts.



Ron DeSantis
Governor

Joseph A. Ladapo, MD, PhD
State Surgeon General

Vision: To be the **Healthiest State** in the Nation

Questions and Answers
RFA #23-007
Sickle Cell Disease Research and Treatment Grant Program
Office of Minority Health

DATE: July 22, 2024
TO: Applicants
FROM: Office of Minority Health
Florida Department of Health
SUBJECT: Questions and Answers: RFA #23-007

Question #1.

Please clarify the due date. There is a discrepancy within the RFA between July 31st (p. 1) and July 15th (p. 21).

Department Response: The application must be received by July 31, 2024, 11:59 p.m. ET.

Question #2.

Based on page 2, Definitions, please clarify if our program will meet the criteria for a Community-based Organization (CBO). Currently, our Sickle Cell Medical Home consists of both an outpatient service line for hematology, which falls under physician billing and an ambulatory infusion center, which falls under hospital billing.

Department Response:

An organization will meet the criteria of a community-based organization as defined on page 2 of the RFA. It is incumbent upon each applicant to determine if all criteria as defined are met prior to submission.

Question #3.

Based on the RFA Page 5, #3B, numbers 1 and 2 (see below), please list the names of all organizations that are designated as Sickle Cell Disease Treatment Centers of Excellence.

3. Program Expectations

B. Sickle Cell Disease Treatment Centers of Excellence projects should include, but are not limited to:

- 1. Operations support for existing centers of excellence.**
- 2. Facility enhancement of existing centers of excellence.**
- 3. Establishment of new centers of excellence.**

Florida Department of Health**Office of Minority Health**

4052 Bald Cypress Way, Bin A-25 • Tallahassee, FL 32399
PHONE: 850-245-4941 • FAX: 850-245-4124

FloridaHealth.gov



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Department Response: Please refer to the definition of a Center of Excellence in the RFA #23-007 (page 2): “Center of Excellence: A community-based organization that is assembled to supply an exceptionally high concentration of expertise and related resources dedicated to sickle cell disease, delivering associated care in a comprehensive, interdisciplinary fashion to afford the best patient outcomes possible.”

Question #4.

Based on the RFA Page 5, #3B number 3, please list the criteria, the steps, or the formal process in detail to establish a new “Center of Excellence?”

Department Response: DOH does not provide a list of the criteria, the steps, or the formal process in detail for establishing a new Center of Excellence.

Question #5.

How many grants do you anticipate will be awarded in each category?

Department Response: DOH cannot provide a number of anticipated applications or awards in each category.

Question #6.

If an applicant applies for a region, will they need to have a physical site in each county?

Department Response: It is not a requirement to have a physical site in each county if an application will propose a regional approach.

Question #7. Based on the RFP page 6, Project Requirements for sickle cell disease workforce development and education projects, please list the various components that would be needed for and/or give an example of “the incorporation of expert input.”

Department Response: The applicant must provide evidence of an expert related to specific education, training, and/or continuing education curriculum either participated in the development or reviewed the proposed project.

Question #8.

Will the timeline and work plan cover only the first 10-month budget period (Sept 1, 2024 – June 30, 2025, OR will we need to include each for the full proposed 3 year and 10-month program period?

Department Response: The project timeline and work plan must cover the initial period of funding.

Question #9.

Will indirect costs be limited to 5% even if an organization has a Federally Negotiated Indirect Cost Rate?

Department Response: Administrative and/or indirect costs should not exceed 5% of the total budget.

Question #10.

Based on RFA p. 16, # 2C, may we send our staff to off-site (non-facility-based evidence-based workforce trainings?

Department Response: Workforce development and education projects should include, but are not limited to:

1. Facility-based education programs.

2. **Continuing education curriculum development.**
3. **Outreach and education activities with the local health care practitioner community.**

Question #11.

Based on RFA p. 16, # 2C, may we provide education through conferences, symposiums, journal club workshops, etc. conferences that occur off-site (non-facility based?) If so, will a pre and posttest assessment be needed from participants to satisfy the requirement?

Department Response: Workforce development and education projects should include, but are not limited to:

1. **Facility-based education programs.**
2. **Continuing education curriculum development.**
3. **Outreach and education activities with the local health care practitioner community.**

Question #12. .

For the Workforce component, may we include funding for infrastructure for a clinical outcomes study so we can capture pre and post data on clinicians to demonstrate improvements in knowledge? May we include funding for marketing and stakeholder engagement?

Department Response: Workforce development and education projects should include, but are not limited to:

1. **Facility-based education programs.**
2. **Continuing education curriculum development.**
3. **Outreach and education activities with the local health care practitioner community.**

Question #13. Can an applicant apply as a center of excellence with one organization and for the workgroup component with another?

Department Response: An applicant meeting the criteria specified on Page 9, Section 3, 2. Eligibility Criteria can submit projects consistent with the criteria specified on Page 10, Section 3, 8. Project Proposals.

Question #14: Are applicants allowed to partner and apply for funding with more than one organization? Is this considered a conflict of interest?

Department Response: An applicant meeting the criteria specified on Page 9, Section 3, 2. Eligibility Criteria can submit projects consistent with the criteria specified on Page 10, Section 3, 8. Project Proposals.

This is not a competitive solicitation subject to the notice or challenge provisions of section 120.57(3), Florida Statutes.