

**NYS Department of State
NYS Department of State Division of Community Services
Public Health Support for COVID-19 Early Release Persons**

Request for Applications # 21-CSBG-14 Questions & Answers

The responses to questions included herein are the official responses by the State to questions submitted by potential applicants and are hereby incorporated into RFA # 21-CSBG-14 issued on May 21, 2021. In the event of any conflict between the RFA and these responses, the requirements or information contained in these responses will prevail.

Important Dates are hereby amended to read:

RFA Release Date: May 21, 2021

Questions Due: ~~May 31, 2021~~ **June 3, 2021 at 2:00 pm**

RFA Updates Posted: June 4, 2021

Application Due Date: June 18, 2021

Section II Funding and Project Period paragraph 2 is hereby amended to read:

Eligible organizations may apply for more than one Area however the organization must submit all required application documentation separately for each proposed Area they wish to serve and these applications cannot reference each other. Please see the regional map to locate the regions and their corresponding counties (Appendix C.)

Section IX Completing the Application, Requirements for Submission, Letter A.1. is hereby amended to read:

A. General Information:

1. Application must include Face Page (ATTACHMENT A) as the cover page of each copy of completed application, or as the cover page for the electronic version of the application. Applicants must indicate on the Face Page the Area for which they are applying. Eligible organizations may apply for more than one Area however the organization must submit all required application documentation separately for each proposed Area they wish to serve and these applications cannot reference each other. Applicant should also complete and submit Organization Contact Sheet (ATTACHMENT B).

Questions and Answers

Q1: On p. 4, under Section II (Funding and Project Period), the RFA notes that "Eligible applicants will apply for funding in one of three geographic areas" -- does this mean that organizations may only apply to serve either Area 1, Area 2, or Area 3? If an applicant already provides services in each geographic area, can we submit separate proposals for multiple Areas?

A1: Eligible organizations may apply for more than one Area however the organization must submit all required application documentation separately for each proposed Area they wish to serve and these applications cannot reference each other.

Q2: On p. 4-5, under Section III (Eligibility), the RFA shared the definition of a community-based organization ("any organization incorporated for the purpose of providing services or other assistance to economically or socially disadvantaged persons within its designated community") and notes that applicants "must have a board of directors of which more than half of the members reside in such designated community." Our organization's principal place of business is within New York State, but we provide services to 29 cities across 11 states. Given that information, how would "designated community" be defined for us?

A2: An organization's designated community is defined in its Articles of Incorporation. If an organization's designated community as defined in the Articles of Incorporation is New York State, then more than half of the Board of Directors must reside within New York State.

Q3: Must more than 50% of board members reside in the designated community identified in our articles/certificate of incorporation, or must more than 50% of board members reside in the economic region we are applying to serve with this funding? Or is it both?

- **For example, if the designated community in our articles of incorporation is all of NYS and >50% of our board members reside in NYS, would we be able to apply to serve Area 3, even though fewer than 50% of our board lives in that area?**

A3: More than 50% of board members must reside in the designated community identified in an applicant's articles/certificate of incorporation. If an organization's designated community is New York State, then more than half of the Board of Directors must reside within New York State.

Q4: Page 4: Area 1 – Do we need to serve Early Release Persons from each county/region in an Area?

A4: There is no requirement for an applicant to serve each county or region within a geographic area outlined within the RFA.

Q5: Page 7: If people are released early, are they ineligible to get Medicaid until their actual release date?

A5: COVID-19 early releases are ineligible for Medicaid until the actual release date. Federal law and regulations require Medicaid suspension until an individual's end of incarceration. The

State has submitted a Medicaid waiver to allow for earlier Medicaid enrollment, activation, and billing prior to an individual's end of incarceration.

Q6: Page 7: If people released are identified through the County Reentry Task Forces, what tag will they have? How are the CRTFs identifying who is released due to COVID? Or is any early release person eligible under this program?

A6: CRTFs will identify COVID-19 early releases. Applicants should consult and coordinate with CRTFs to identify enrolled individuals who were referred by DOCCS to receive CRTF services. As noted on p. 8 of the RFA, of Section V. General Program Services, “Early Release Persons are defined as those persons who were released early under DOCCS due to the ongoing novel coronavirus pandemic starting in March 2020 through the present, as well as any pending early release persons during the contract period.”

Q7: Page 8: In NYC, how many people were released to non-shelter addresses?

A7: DOS does not have this information readily available however the early release persons to be served under this grant must meet income eligibility requirements regardless of their housing status.

Q8: Page 8: Can we pick one primary location and accept referrals from all NYC locations?

A8: An applicant applying to serve Area 1 can designate a primary location to accept referrals from anyplace within the geographic area.

Q9: Page 9: What is the definition of Early Release Persons due to COVID from 3/2020 to date? Non-violent people released up to 120 days prior?

A9: As noted on p. 8 of the RFA, of Section V. General Program Services, “Early Release Persons are defined as those persons who were released early under DOCCS due to the ongoing novel coronavirus pandemic starting in March 2020 through the present, as well as any pending early release persons during the contract period.”

Q10: Page 9 – What constitutes income verification?

A10: Grantees are required to maintain documentation verifying the income eligibility of each candidate. This documentation can include, but is not limited to, unemployment benefits, pay stubs, and W-2s. Additional direction will be provided to grantees after award.

Q11: What’s the page limit?

A11: Applicants should respond to the RFA using the Application Form available for download here: <https://dos.ny.gov/nys-department-state-division-community-services-public-health->

[support-covid-19-early-release](#). If there is a page limitation for a response, it will be noted in the specific prompt on the Application Form.