

Questions and Answers

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1. Q. How many dollars are available in the Homeless Initiative?

**1. A. \$ 1,000,000.00**

2. Q. Can you tell me the deadline for submission?

**2. A. Proposal Due Date: March 2, 2010, by 4:30 p.m.**

3. Q. Do you have a sense of which organizations will be applying?

**3. A. Those eligible to apply are local or statewide public or quasi-public agencies, non-profit (meeting the requirements of non-profit status as determined by the IRS) and for-profit organizations.**

4. Q. I assume this is not limited to units of local government and the Continuum of Care agencies, correct?

**4. A. Yes, that is correct.**

5. Q. Can the RFP respondent limit its response to propose to serve the population of a specific geographical area?

**5. A. Yes**

6. Q. What databases (state, federal, other) and data sources will be made available to develop a list of potential clients to be served by the program?

**6. A. None**

7. Q. In lieu of a Board of Directors, is it permissible for a for-profit entity to develop an Advisory Board, comprised of members of the community, to help direct this particular program?

**7. A. Yes, if the for-profit entity is not incorporated and no, if the for-profit entity is incorporated.**

8. Q. Will information be provided from other programs, such as Rapid Re-housing programs and Housing Choice Voucher programs, regarding individuals to ensure that duplication of benefits are not obtained? Are the prohibitions against duplication of benefits applicable?

**8. A. This information will not be provided, however proposers should take appropriate action to ensure that benefits are not duplicated.**

9. Q. Since the RFP is a Housing First approach, is this RFP directly connected with any of the housing development projects scheduled by the State of Louisiana?

**9. A. No**

10. Q. What standards are to be followed regarding an approved unit/residence for a participant (e.g., HUD's Housing Quality Standards)? Are there any particular guidelines the State of Louisiana requires be followed?
- 10. A. Yes, if housing is offered directly then any proposer who intends to provide shelter or temporary housing will be responsible for ensuring that housing occupied by a family or individual receiving TANF assistance meet habitability standards and the housing is in compliance with all applicable federal, state, and local housing codes, licensing requirements, and any other requirements in the jurisdiction in which the housing is located. Further, contractors should include in their proposal a plan to ensure habitability standards are met.**
11. Q. Can a respondent respond to the RFP with a narrow scope of services to be offered, such as providing program management over a specific service?
- 11. A. Refer to the RFP, sections 2.3 & 2.4.**
12. Q. Are there established payment standards for a participants' portion of costs, such as 30% of income?
- 12. A. No**
13. Q. Does the program allow for the ability to work/partner with the Louisiana Workforce Commission to provide training programs for unemployed residents?
- 13. A. The proposer may choose to work with the Louisiana Workforce Commission or any other partner(s).**
14. Q. Is the 10% cap on administrative fees a cap per expense category or an overall cap?
- 14. A. An overall cap.**
15. Q. The RFP asks for information about how the applicant will market the project. Can funds be used to purchase advertising (such as newspaper ads or billboards) for the services provided?
- 15. A. Yes, funds may be used and must include the DSS logo, refer to the RFP, section 2.3.**
16. Q. My question for the Homeless initiative is what is the maximum size of each contract and the number of contracts you anticipate awarding?
- 16. A. There is no predetermined number of contracts and see question and answer #1 above regarding the maximum size.**
17. Q. What is the total amount of funding available through this RFP?
- 17. A. Refer to question and answer # 1.**
18. Q. Can more than one organization be funded through this RFP? If so, what is the maximum amount that each organization can receive?
- 18. A. Refer to question and answer # 16.**

19. Q. Do certain funds (i.e. staff salaries, direct assistance) need to be expended before June 2011?

**19. A. Yes, all funds need to be expended before June 30, 2011.**

20. Q. What type of financial assistance services are eligible through this program (i.e. rental arrears, rental payments, late fees, court costs, security deposits, utility deposits, utility arrears, utility payments, hotel payments etc)?

**20. A. There is no specific type of financial assistance, however proposals will be scored and awarded using a 100 point scale. The evaluation criteria are noted in the RFP, refer to section 4.3, which includes a total of 20 points for Budget and Cost Effectiveness. A contract shall be awarded, if at all, to the proposal(s) deemed by the Department in its sole discretion to be the most advantageous to the Department and its clients based on quality of service, cost effectiveness and other considered factors.**

21. Q. Does the funding need to target homeless families and "at risk" homeless families? For example, would it be allowable to focus only on a specific population (i.e. families residing in shelters)?

**21. A. Refer to the RFP, section 2.1.**