

RFA-CE-20-001 Questions and Answers

1. How do I approach applying for Component B funding?
 - a. Please approach applying for Component B funds through NOFO RFA-CE-20-001 as you would any other competitive extramural funding announcement.
 - b. Please be sure to carefully review the entire NOFO to ensure that your application is meeting the application requirements for Component B as described in the funding announcement. Please closely review the entire NOFO for the requirements for the application and pay particular attention to **Section I. Funding Opportunity Description, Part 2. Approach** which includes a sub-section on “*Research Plans for Component B*” and “*Research Objectives for Component B*” for guidance on the application requirements related to Component B.
 - c. Also pay special attention to the elements highlighted in orange as they indicate modifications made to RFA-CE-20-001 for Component B applications. For example, per the Executive Summary “Applications for RFA-CE-20-001 Component B funding must be submitted as Type 3 Competing Revision applications. Applicants should ensure to include their existing grant number in Column 4a.”
2. How will the funding announcement be reviewed?
 - a. We recommend applicants closely review **Section V. Application Review Information** for more information on the review criteria that the external panel of peer reviewers will be using to evaluate applications. This section also includes information on additional review criteria and the review and selection process for this NOFO.
 - b. Applicants should also closely review **Section III. Eligibility Information, Part 5. Responsiveness** for responsiveness criteria for Component B applications for CE-20-001. It is incumbent upon the applicant to ensure that they meet all relevant responsiveness criteria outlined.
3. Is there a template or example for the research strategy for the grant?
 - a. There is not a template or example.
 - b. Please closely review the entire NOFO for the requirements for the application and pay particular attention to **Section I. Funding Opportunity Description, Part 2. Approach** which includes a sub-section on “*Research Plans for Component B*” and “*Research Objectives for Component B*” for guidance on the application requirements related to Component B.
 - c. Applicants should also review **Section IV. Application and Submission Information** for more information about the requirements to submit an application, including required forms.
4. Is the application to RFA-CE-20-001 a progress report?
 - a. This is not a progress report; this is a competitive application for Component B funds that will be reviewed by an external objective review panel. Per **Section I. Funding Opportunity Description, Part 2. Approach**, “While the original information below in this section is still relevant, applications to this amended NOFO for Component B are expected to focus on the research plan to conduct the rigorous evaluation expected of Component B, informed by the results of the activities conducted to date for Component A and consistent with the guidance presented in this section.” Also, per **Section V. Application Review Information, Part 1. Criteria**, “Reviewers will use the criteria stated below in their evaluation of the scientific and technical merit of the application to this NOFO. The application is expected to describe the research

plans and accomplishments of Component A and the research plans of Component B as described in this NOFO. Reviewers will assign a single impact score for the entire application. These review criteria will also serve as the basis of the criteria to evaluate the scientific and technical merit of the Component A Progress Report / Component B Application to complete the full-scale, rigorous evaluation.”

- b. Please be sure to carefully review the entire NOFO to ensure that your application is meeting the requirements of the NOFO. Please pay special attention to the elements highlighted in orange as they indicate modifications made to RFA-CE-20-001 for Component B applications.
5. What is the page limitations for applications submitted for Component B funding?
 - a. Per **Section IV. Application and Submission Information, Part 7. Page Limitations** the NOFO states the following, “All page limitations described in this individual NOFO must be followed. For this specific NOFO, the Research Strategy component of the Research Plan narrative is limited to 20 pages. Supporting materials for the Research Plan narrative included as appendices may not exceed 5 PDF files with a maximum of 25 pages for all appendices. Pages that exceed page limits described in this NOFO will be removed and not forwarded for peer review, potentially affecting an application's score”.
6. Will the objective reviewers have access to original proposal?
 - a. No, the objective reviewers will not have access to the original proposal. This proposal will be reviewed by a new panel of peer reviewers and development of the application should be approached similarly to the development of applications for any competitive extramural funding announcement. We recommend applicants closely review the entire NOFO and to consider reviewing **Section V. Application Review Information** for more information on the review criteria peer reviewers will be using to evaluate applications. This section also includes information on additional review criteria, and the review and selection process for this NOFO.
7. How much flexibility is there to change the methods proposed in the original application to what is proposed in the application for Component B funding?
 - a. We are not able to provide specific guidance on the aspects of your project or application. Please closely review the entire NOFO for the requirements for the application and pay particular attention to **Section I. Funding Opportunity Description, Part 2. Approach** which includes a sub-section on “*Research Plans for Component B*” and “*Research Objectives for Component B*” for guidance on the application requirements related to Component B.
8. Should we include in the application for Component B funding the impact of COVID-19 on Component A activities?
 - a. There is nothing in the NOFO that precludes or requires a discussion of the impact of COVID-19 on the impact of the project.
 - b. We recommend closely reviewing the entire NOFO for the requirements for the application. Please consider paying particular attention to **Section I. Funding Opportunity Description, Part 2. Approach** which includes a sub-section on “*Research Plans for Component B*” and “*Research Objectives for Component B*.” These sections outline requirements for the research plan and the objectives for Component B.

9. I just received a notification from grants.gov that there has been an update to the NOFO for RFA-CE-20-001 (Evaluating Practice-based Programs, Policies, and Practices from CDC's Rape Prevention and Education (RPE) Program). When I check the version history it says "No change to synopsis. Application Kit has been updated to include correct forms." However, I cannot tell what forms it is referencing, I don't see any changes. Can you let me know what has changed so I can make sure my grants officer is using the correct forms when we submit?
 - a. The update you received is a reflection of the NOFO being re-opened so that you would be able to submit your application for Component B funding. No changes have been made to the content of the NOFO. Please note that the mandatory forms that are to be used can be found under the "Package" tab on the grant opportunity page.