U.S. Department of Health and Human Services

Office of Population Affairs

Notice of Funding Opportunity
Teenage Pregnancy Prevention Evaluation Grants

Opportunity Number
PA-PHE-26-001

Application Due Date
August 5, 2026

Technical Assistance Webinar Date
July 10, 2026

Table of Contents

BASIC INFORMATION	
Opportunity Title Teenage Pregnancy Prevention Evaluation Grants	
Program Office Office of Population Affairs	**Application Submission and Format** Electronic application submitted via Grants.gov ONLY.
Opportunity Number PA-PHE-26-001	
Award Type Grant	**Application Deadline** 8/5/2026
Announcement Type Initial	**Technical Assistance Webinar Date** 7/10/2026
Assistance Listing 93.343 – Public Health Service Evaluation	**Technical Assistance Webinar Details** visit the OPA website at https://opa.hhs.gov/grant-programs/funding-opportunities for details
Eligible Applicants (see Section A.1 for full details) _____	
Executive Order 12372 does apply to this NOFO (see section E.3.D)	
Estimated Total Funding Available $2,200,000	**Estimated Period of Performance (months)** 36
Estimated Number of Awards Up to 7	**Anticipated Award Date** 09/30/2026
Anticipated Award Funding Range $150,000-$1,100,000	**Anticipated Project Start Date** 09/30/2026
QUESTIONS? **Additional contact information in Section I**	

SUMMARY

The Office of Population Affairs (OPA) announces the anticipated availability of funds for Fiscal Year (FY) 2026 grants under the authority of Section 241 of the Public Health Service Act and Division B of the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2026 (Public Law 119-75).

This notice solicits applications for projects to carry out evaluations of teen pregnancy prevention (TPP) approaches that would make significant contributions to preventing teen pregnancy. OPA intends to make available an estimated $2.2 million for up to seven (7) grant awards for a period of up to three (3) years. The actual amount available will not be determined until enactment of the FY2027 federal budget.

OPA will consider evaluation projects that explore new questions in teen pregnancy prevention and improve the efficiency, effectiveness, and quality of programs and services. These grants are for projects that can be conducted within two to three years, such as secondary data analyses or research using existing program, evaluation, research, or administrative data. Evaluations of teen pregnancy approaches must include one or more approach which (1) strengthens adolescent body and health literacy, supports informed consent, promotes optimal health, and prevents teen pregnancy through medically accurate, age-appropriate programming; (2) builds the capacity of local community organizations to implement programs with fidelity, quality, and transparency, consistent with OASH Priorities; (3) equips young people with the knowledge, skills, and decision-making capabilities necessary to support lifelong optimal health and healthy relationships while reducing risk behaviors associated with teen pregnancy through reproductive goals counseling; (4) upholds parental rights by providing advance notice of program content and meaningful opportunities for parental review and opt-out participation procedures, consistent with applicable law and program requirements; or (5) incorporates sexual risk avoidance education.

OPA encourages applicants to review all program requirements, eligibility information, application format and submission information, evaluation criteria, OASH Priorities, and other information in this funding announcement to ensure that their application complies with all requirements and instructions.

The Office of the Assistant Secretary for Health (OASH) Grants and Acquisitions Management Division (GAM) will administer this competition.

We encourage you to review all program requirements, eligibility information, application format and submission instructions, OASH Priorities, and other content of this notice to ensure your application complies with all requirements.

A. ELIGIBILITY INFORMATION

1. Eligible Applicants

Any public or private nonprofit entity is eligible to apply. For-profit entities are also eligible to apply.

You must meet all of the eligibility requirements in order for us to review your application.

a. Eligible Entities

Additional examples of eligible organizations include:

Any public or private nonprofit entity located in a State (which includes one of the 50 United States, District of Columbia, Guam, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, the Northern Mariana Islands, the U.S. Virgin Islands, American Samoa, the U.S. Outlaying Islands (Midway, Wake, et al.), the Marshall Islands, the Federated State of Micronesia, and the Republic of Palau (hereafter, States)) is eligible to apply for a grant under this announcement. Faith-based organizations and American Indian/Alaska Native/Native American (AI/AN/NA) organizations are eligible to apply. Examples of eligible Organizations include:

- State Governments
- U.S. territories
- County Governments
- City or township governments
- Special district governments
- Independent school districts
- Public and State controlled institutions of higher education
- Native American tribal governments (Federally recognized)
- Public Housing authorities/Indian housing authorities
- Native American tribal organizations (other than federally recognized tribal governments)
- Nonprofits having 501(c)(3) status with the IRS, other than institutions of higher education
- Nonprofits without 501(c)(3) status with the IRS, other than institutions of higher education
- Non-profit private institutions of higher education
- For-profit organizations, including small businesses

b. PD/PI Eligibility

There is no restriction on an individual's eligibility to be Project Director (PD)/Principal Investigator (PI) on an application. However, we will not make an award with a PD/PI who has an active government-wide exclusion, suspension, or debarment recorded in SAM.gov.

We expect that throughout the period of performance the PD/PI will be involved in, and have substantial knowledge about, all aspects of the project. Although your organization may recognize co-PD/PIs on team-managed projects, we recognize only a single PD/PI who will be responsible for the programmatic aspects of the project.

c. Other Considerations

Submitting Multiple Applications

You may submit more than one application, but each application must be for a distinctly different project.

If you submit multiple applications for the same project, we will accept only the last application submitted a Grants.gov timestamp that is before the due date and time. We will disqualify all other versions of the application. See Section F.1.b for all disqualification factors.

Submitting an Application as a Group or Consortium

For any given project, we will only make an award to a single eligible entity. More than one entity may choose to work together on a project under this opportunity, but only one entity may submit the application. If awarded, that entity will be the award recipient and will be responsible for conducting the project.

The other entities may participate in the project, if awarded, and would be responsible to the recipient for their respective roles, typically as subrecipients.

Groups may form a consortium, partnership, or other legally recognized entity for the purpose of applying for this opportunity and carrying out any awarded project. The resulting entity must exist and be legally recognized when it applies and must have an active registration in SAM.gov. We will conduct a risk assessment on the applying entity (Section F.4) prior to making any award.

Eligibility Documentation

We do not require you to submit documentation of your eligibility (e.g., proof of 501(c)(3) status as determined by the Internal Revenue Service or an authorizing tribal resolution) when you submit your application. It is important that your organization is correctly classified in your SAM registration (Section E.2.a).

During our review of your application, we might request additional documentation to support your eligibility. This request means only that your application is under review and not that you will receive an award.

More specific information on the type of documentation that we might request specific to this opportunity appears in Section E.4.b.

Application Disqualification

We will disqualify applications that fail to meet the eligibility, responsiveness, formatting, and submission requirements (Sections F.1.b) prior to conducting merit review. Disqualified applications will not undergo further review.

We will notify disqualified applicants at the end of the competition when we announce the award recipients.

2. Application Responsiveness Criteria

We will review your application to determine whether it meets the responsiveness criteria below. If your application does not meet the responsiveness criteria, we will disqualify it from the competition; we will not review it beyond the initial screening.

The responsiveness criteria are as follows:

- Not applicable

3. Cost Sharing or Matching

You are not required to provide cost sharing or matching in your proposed budget.

B. PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

The Office of the Assistant Secretary for Health (OASH), Office of Population Affairs (OPA) announces the anticipated availability of funds for Fiscal Year (FY) 2026 grants under the authority of Section 241 of the Public Health Service Act and Division B, Title II of the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2026 (Public Law No. 119–75).

The primary focus of OASH is to lead Americans toward healthier lives by promoting health and well-being across the lifespan. This includes the reproductive lifespan, supported through innovative, evidence-based programs, services, partnerships, and research that strengthen family formation and promote healthy pregnancies.

Grants funded through this NOFO will conduct evaluations that explore new questions in teen pregnancy prevention and improve the efficiency, effectiveness, and quality of programs and services. Evaluations of reducing teen pregnancy approaches must include one or more of the following approaches which:

1. strengthen adolescent body and health literacy, support informed consent, promote optimal health, and prevent teen pregnancy through medically accurate, age-appropriate programming;

2. build the capacity of local community organizations to implement programs with fidelity, quality, and transparency, consistent with OASH priorities;

3. equip young people with the knowledge, skills, and decision-making capabilities necessary to support lifelong optimal health and healthy relationships while reducing risk behaviors associated with teen pregnancy through reproductive goals counseling;

4. uphold parental rights by providing advance notice of program content and meaningful opportunities for parental review and opt-out participation procedures, consistent with applicable law and program requirements; or

5. incorporate sexual risk avoidance education.

"Age-appropriate" content assures that topics and themes are appropriate for the age group and other specific characteristics of the target audience. All program content must be suitable for the developmental stage of the intended audience and support healthy, informed decision-making, including promoting delayed sexual initiation as a behavior associated with reduced teen pregnancy.

Medically accurate materials and instruction are expected to be grounded in current, evidence-based scientific and clinical knowledge, and be within the scope of TPP statutory requirements to prevent teenage pregnancy. When materials provide information on widely prescribed medications for sexual and reproductive health, for example, the information should reference potential health risks to support minors and their parents or guardians in informed decision-making, which may include a desire to consult with their healthcare provider.

Required Alignment with OASH Mission and Agency Priorities

Consistent with OASH's mission, in carrying out any project that is funded under this NOFO, recipients must align program design and activities with agency priorities where consistent with program authority and the scope of the award (Priorities of the Office of the Assistant Secretary for Health," available online at: https://health.gov/priorities), and when authorized by law according to the TPP statute, regulations, legislative mandates, and additional program guidance. Funded activities must advance and support OASH's mission to improve the health and well-being of Americans.

In addition, the recipient is required to administer any project that is awarded under this NOFO in accordance with the following objectives in the TPP program that are authorized to advance them:

1. Promote body literacy education for making informed and healthy decisions that advance optimal health
2. Advance reproductive goals counseling

The recipients must demonstrate ongoing compliance with these priorities, in all programs that are authorized to advance them, through program design, implementation, reporting, and evaluation. Failure to meaningfully align funded activities with the applicable requirements may result in corrective action, additional reporting requirements, or other actions consistent with federal grant regulations found at 2 C.F.R. Part 200 and the terms and conditions of this award (including termination pursuant to 2 C.F.R. 200.340(a)(4) for no longer effectuating program goals or agency priorities).

1. Background

The Teen Pregnancy Prevention Program

The Teen Pregnancy Prevention (TPP) program is a national, evidence-based program that funds organizations working to give adolescents, and the adults supporting them, the knowledge and tools needed to advance optimal health, prevent teen pregnancy, and promote positive experiences, relationships, and environments to help our nation's youth thrive. Through medically accurate, age-appropriate education and counseling, the program aims to help young people make informed, future-oriented decisions that promote lifelong optimal health and well-being. It utilizes gold standard science and prioritizes a strength-based approach to serve communities and populations with the greatest needs and facing significant challenges. To learn more about the TPP program, please visit the OPA website https://opa.hhs.gov/grant-programs/teen-pregnancy-prevention-program/about-tpp-program.

With an annual budget of approximately $101 million, OPA invests in "medically accurate and age appropriate programs that reduce teen pregnancy," which includes "replicating programs that have been proven effective through rigorous evaluation to reduce teenage pregnancy, behavioral risk factors underlying teenage pregnancy, or other associated risk factors" (known as Tier 1), and "research and demonstration grants to develop, replicate, refine, and test additional models and innovate strategies for preventing teenage pregnancy" (known as Tier 2).

PHS/TPP Evaluation Program

Since 2010, the Office of Adolescent Health (OAH), now part of the Office of Population Affairs (OPA), has conducted evaluations as part of its TPP grant program. OPA currently administers multiple large assistance programs and several research and evaluation activities that aim to prevent teenage pregnancy rates and improve adolescent health. At OPA, TPP evaluations build upon previous evidence. These projects aim to provide greater detail about how the different components of TPP programs work together with the goal of improving how communities approach TPP efforts, bringing context to research, and strengthening how new programs are designed.

2. Expectations for Recipients

OPA will consider projects to carry out evaluations (including longitudinal evaluations) of teenage pregnancy prevention approaches. These grants are for projects that can be conducted within two to three years, such as secondary data analyses and research using existing research, program and evaluation data or administrative data. OPA is especially interested in projects that propose to conduct evaluations in one or more of the priority areas listed below:

(1) Strengthening adolescent body and health literacy, supporting informed consent, promoting optimal health, and preventing teen pregnancy through medically accurate, age-appropriate programming;
(2) Building the capacity of local community organizations to implement programs with fidelity, quality, and transparency, consistent with OASH priorities;
(3) Equipping young people with the knowledge, skills, and decision-making capabilities necessary to support lifelong optimal health and healthy relationships while reducing risk behaviors associated with teen pregnancy through reproductive goals counseling;

(4) Upholding parental rights by providing advance notice of program content and meaningful opportunities for parental review and opt-out participation procedures, consistent with applicable law and program requirements;
(5) Incorporating sexual risk avoidance education

When effective programs are replicated or scaled up, it is critical to know which program elements are essential in making the program successful. Unfortunately, there is little evidence to date about which program features are critical core components and which features can be adapted without jeopardizing outcomes in these evidence-based interventions. Applicants may propose projects aimed at identifying specific core components of effective TPP programs. For more information about core components please refer to: https://aspe.hhs.gov/reports/core-intervention-components-identifying-operationalizing-what-makes-programs-work-0.

Applicants may also propose a project investigating program adaptations. Adaptations to effective programs are changes to the program content, program delivery, or core components of a program. Some adaptations are minor and might be necessary to better meet the needs of a population, to implement in a different setting, and/or be more engaging; however, some adaptations are major and significantly change the core components of a program. By exploring the impacts of adaptations made to effective TPP programs, we may be better able to identify when adaptations should be made and when they shouldn't be and how to help facilitators and others implement adaptations effectively to improve outcomes of programs.

Projects may:

- Synthesize and translate existing research into practice to help stakeholders prevent teen pregnancy and improve adolescent health. Stakeholders may include but are not limited to healthcare professionals, youth-serving professionals, parents and caregivers;
- Evaluate or assess best practices or strategies that make information easily available to best promote adolescent health educational materials and messaging;
- Study how fostering engagement among various stakeholders may ultimately lead to healthier relationships, healthier behaviors, improved confidence and decision-making skills and prevent teen pregnancy;
- Engage partners to carry out the work, in the form of a collaborative or research alliance, which may include researchers, businesses, community groups, state and local governments, health departments, and other relevant stakeholders for the proposed topic area.

3. Federal Involvement in the Project

If you receive an award, we will encourage you to seek the advice and opinion of federal staff when problems arise. However, you would be responsible for making sound programmatic and administrative judgments. The responsibility for operating decisions will be yours and does not shift to HHS, OASH, or Office of Population Affairs.

Under a grant, the program office's involvement may include routine monitoring and technical assistance such as monthly conference calls, occasional site visits, ongoing review of plans and progress, participation in relevant meetings, provision of training and technical assistance

4. Eligibility criteria for project participants

You must not restrict participation in the project on the basis of race, color, national origin, religion, sex, disability, age, or another protected characteristic (See Section H.5).

C. AWARD INFORMATION

Budget period(s)

We expect to fund awards in 12-month budget periods for a total period of performance up to 36 month(s). However, we may approve shorter periods of performance. Budget periods may vary from the estimated 12 months because of the timing of award issuance or other administrative factors.

For multi-year projects, recipients must submit a non-competing continuation (NCC) application for each budget period after the first. We will provide guidance generally 3 months prior to the end of the active budget period. Continuation funding is contingent upon the availability of funds, satisfactory progress of the project, appropriate stewardship of federal funds, and the best interests of the government. Funding for all approved budget periods after the first is generally the same as the initial award amount and may be subject to any offset with funds unused in a previous budget period.

D. APPLICATION CONTENTS AND FORMAT

1. Format of the Application

You must prepare your application using the forms and information described in this NOFO. The official online application package on Grants.gov contains all necessary forms and guidance for preparing an application. This package includes but is not limited to:

- Full Text of the NOFO
- Standard forms (required) and their instructions
    - SF-424 Application for Federal Assistance
    - SF-424A Budget Information for Non-Construction Programs
    - SF-LLL Disclosure of Lobbying Activities
    - Project Abstract Summary
- Sample templates, if available.

In addition to the four standard forms in the application package, your application will consist of 3 sections of materials you prepare:

1. Project Narrative
2. Appendices to the Project Narrative
3. Budget Package.

We strongly encourage you to read all instructions for the application format and content to avoid disqualification of your application. An application checklist is available in Section J.1.

a. Project Narrative – Formatting

Following the formatting instructions below will help ensure that your application is readable for review process. Acceptable electronic file formats are in Section E.3.a.

Names of Individuals

We encourage you to use individuals' full names (first, middle, last) on the standard forms and any other documents such as résumés/curricula vitae/biographical sketches to distinguish them for verification in the SAM exclusion records. Delays may result in award processing if full names are not provided.

You should avoid submitting personally identifiable information such as personal contact information (e.g., home address and telephone number) on résumés/curricula vitae/biographical sketches. Do not submit social security numbers.

If you receive an award, only one Project Director/Principal Investigator (PD/PI) will be named on the award documents. (Section A.1.b) Avoid using a placeholder or honorary PD/PI. If you have not hired an individual to be the PD/PI, you should name an interim PD/PI, and your application should clearly identify that person as such.

We typically expect the PD/PI to be named on the SF-424 in box 8.f. Avoid naming grant writers in box 8.f unless they have the expertise to respond to technical questions about the proposed project in a timely manner.

Identify other personnel who are essential or key to the execution of the proposed project clearly in your project narrative.

If you receive an award, a request for a change in PD/PI or key personnel under any circumstance requires prior approval of the grants management officer before becoming effective. We may disallow any costs incurred as a result of that change prior to our approval. See Section H.1.c.

Page Formatting

If you submit documents that do not conform to the following instructions, GAM will disqualify your application during the review process (SectionF.1.b).

Use an easily readable typeface, such as Times New Roman or Arial.

Use a 12-point font.

Use an 8.5" X 11" page size. Any other size page (e.g., A4, legal) will disqualify your application.

You must double-space the Project Narrative pages or we will disqualify your application. You may single-space tables or use alternate fonts, but you must ensure the tables are easy to read.

Do not number pages or include a table of contents. Our grants management system will generate page numbers once your application is complete.

You must submit your application in the English language and in terms of U.S. dollars (https://www.ecfr.gov/current/title-45/section-75.1112 C.F.R. § 200.111(a)).

Page Limits

Your project narrative and appendices must adhere to these page limits.

The page limits do not include the budget package (Section D.2.c)

The page limits do not include the required forms (SF-424, SF-424A, SF-LLL, and the Project Abstract Summary)

If your application exceeds the specified page limits when printed on 8.5" X 11" page, we will not review your application further.

We encourage you to print out your application before submitting it to ensure that it is within the page limits and is easy to read. Do not reduce pages to fit multiple pages on a single sheet to avoid exceeding the page limitation.

Do not hyperlink to documents or sites outside of your application to augment your application. Reviewers will not be permitted to follow links to external content during their assessment of your application. The one exception to this is a link to your internal controls as part of your budget package (Section D.2.c.3).

	Page Limit
Project Narrative	_____30____
Project Narrative plus Appendices	____60_____

Labeling Proprietary Information

Proprietary information includes patentable ideas, trade secrets, privileged or confidential commercial or financial information, the disclosure of which may harm the applicant. You should include proprietary information in your application only to the extent that it is essential to the reviewers' understanding of the project. Proprietary information should not appear in your Project Abstract Summary.

If your application contains proprietary information, you should clearly label the top of the first page of the project narrative. For example,

Contains proprietary or confidential information that [Your Organization Name] requests not be released to persons outside the government, except for purposes of review and evaluation.

Awarded applications are subject to release under the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) with redactions as the FOIA statute permits.

b. Appendices to the Project Narrative – Formatting
Your appendices should include any specific items outlined in Section D.2.b. Your documents should be easy to read.

You should use the same formatting specified for the Project Narrative. However, documents such as résumés/curricula vitae/biographical sketches, organizational charts, tables, Memoranda of Agreement (MOAs) or Letters of Commitment (LOCs) may have formatting common to those documents, so long as the pages are easy to read. For example, resumes, MOAs and LOCs may be single-spaced.

You must upload all of your appendices as a single, consolidated file in the Attachments section of your Grants.gov application. You must use an acceptable file format (Section E.3.a). We strongly encourage you to convert your file(s) to PDF format before uploading and review them to ensure accurate conversion.

Your Project Narrative plus the Appendices may not exceed the total number of pages for the application (Section D.1.a).

c. Budget Package - Formatting
The budget narrative should use the formatting required of the project narrative for the explanatory text. Budget tables may be single-spaced but should be laid out in an easily readable format and within the printable margins of an 8.5" x 11" page. You must use an acceptable file format (Section E.3.a). We do not accept Excel or other similar spreadsheet formats.

The application page limit does not include the SF-424A or the budget narrative (including budget tables).

We recommend you present budget amounts and computations in a columnar format: first column, object class categories; second column, federal funds requested; third column, non-federal resources; and last column, total budget.

Object Class	Federal Funds Requested	Non-Federal Resources	Total Budget
Personnel	$100,000	$25,000	$125,000

2. Content

a. Project Narrative - Content

The Project Narrative is the most important part of your application. We will use it as the primary basis for determining whether your project merits an award. The Project Narrative should provide a clear, concise, and well-organized description of the proposed evaluation project and demonstrate how the proposed work aligns with the purpose of this NOFO and OASH priorities.

Applications should clearly describe how the proposed evaluation will contribute to improving the efficiency, effectiveness, quality, transparency, and implementation of teen pregnancy prevention programs and services that support adolescent optimal health and well-being. Applicants should organize the Project Narrative using the sections below.

1. Project Significance and Alignment with Priority Areas

Applicants must clearly identify the priority area(s) addressed by the proposed project and explain how the evaluation aligns with the purpose of this NOFO and OASH priorities described in Section B. Applications should describe the significance of the proposed work and explain how the project will contribute to improving teen pregnancy prevention approaches, adolescent health outcomes, healthy decision-making, and long-term well-being.

Applicants should clearly describe:

- The teen pregnancy prevention issue, implementation challenge, evidence gap, or research question to be addressed;
- Why the issue is important to adolescent optimal health and well-being;
- How the proposed evaluation will improve understanding of effective approaches to preventing teen pregnancy and supporting optimal health;
- The relevance of the project to practitioners, families, youth-serving organizations, healthcare providers, educators, parents/caregivers, policymakers, and other stakeholders; and;
- How the proposed project supports medically accurate, age-appropriate, and evidence-informed approaches to adolescent health education and teen pregnancy prevention.

Projects should align with one or more of the following priority areas:

- Strengthening adolescent body and health literacy, supporting informed consent, promoting optimal health, and preventing teen pregnancy through medically accurate, age-appropriate programming;
- Building the capacity of local community organizations to implement programs with fidelity, quality, and transparency, consistent with OASH Priorities;
- Equipping young people with the knowledge, skills, and decision-making capabilities necessary to support lifelong optimal health and healthy relationships while reducing risk behaviors associated with teen pregnancy;
- Upholding parental rights by providing advance notice of program content and meaningful opportunities for parental review and opt-out participation procedures, consistent with applicable law and program requirements; and/or
- Evaluating or incorporating sexual risk avoidance education approaches.

Applicants should also describe how the proposed evaluation may strengthen implementation quality, improve transparency, support informed decision-making, identify protective factors, or improve delivery of evidence-informed programming for adolescents and their families.

2. Technical Approach and Evaluation Design

Applicants should provide a detailed description of the proposed evaluation design, methodology, and analytic approach. The application should clearly explain what activities will be conducted, why the proposed methods are appropriate, and how the project will produce meaningful and actionable findings within the proposed project period.

Applicants should describe:

- The proposed evaluation design and rationale;
- The research questions and hypotheses to be examined;
- The program, intervention, strategy, dataset, or implementation approach to be evaluated;
- The target population and setting;
- The proposed data sources, including existing research, evaluation, programmatic, administrative, or longitudinal data, as applicable;
- Any proposed data collection activities;
- The analytic methods that will be used;
- Any anticipated barriers or limitations and proposed mitigation strategies; and
- How findings will contribute to improving the quality, effectiveness, implementation, or dissemination of teen pregnancy prevention programs and services.

Projects may include, but are not limited to:

- Secondary analyses of existing datasets;
- Longitudinal analyses;
- Evaluations of implementation quality or fidelity;
- Assessments of parental engagement approaches;
- Studies examining adolescent decision-making, health literacy, or protective factors;
- Evaluations of medically accurate and age-appropriate programming approaches;
- Studies examining transparency, informed consent, or opt-out implementation practices;
- Research examining factors associated with successful program delivery in community settings; and/or
- Research synthesizing existing evidence to support translation into practice.

Applicants proposing to use existing datasets or administrative data should clearly describe data availability, access, permissions, and readiness to begin the proposed work.

Recipients are responsible for obtaining and documenting all necessary permissions, approvals, and agreements required to access or use proposed data sources. Documentation may include memoranda of understanding (MOUs), data use agreements, institutional approvals, school district approvals, parental consent materials, or other applicable documentation. OASH may request supporting documentation during the project period.

3. Measurable Outcomes and Evaluation Measures

Applicants must identify clear, measurable outcomes that align with the goals and objectives of the proposed project. Proposed outcomes should be specific, feasible, and directly connected to the proposed evaluation activities.

Examples of measurable outcomes may include:

- Improvements in adolescent knowledge, body literacy, health literacy, or informed decision-making;
- Improved understanding of implementation fidelity or program quality;
- Increased parental engagement or transparency practices;
- Identification of protective factors associated with preventing teen pregnancy;
- Improved understanding of effective implementation practices;
- Improvements in healthy relationship skills, attitudes, or behaviors;
- Increased organizational capacity to deliver programming with fidelity and quality; and/or
- Findings that strengthen the evidence base for medically accurate and age-appropriate teen pregnancy prevention approaches.

Outputs alone, such as the number of participants served or trainings conducted, are not considered measurable outcomes unless clearly connected to meaningful evaluation findings or impacts.

Applicants should also describe:
- How outcomes will be measured;
- The instruments or measures that will be used;
- Plans for ensuring data quality and reliability; and
- Any validated tools or evidence-informed measures that will be utilized.

4. Organizational Capacity and Experience

Applicants should demonstrate the organizational capability, staffing, infrastructure, and experience necessary to successfully complete the proposed project within the proposed project period.

Applications should describe:
- Relevant experience conducting evaluations, research, or analyses related to adolescent health or teen pregnancy prevention;
- Experience working with adolescents, families, schools, community organizations, healthcare providers, or other relevant stakeholders;
- Experience managing projects of similar size and scope;
- Experience using existing datasets or conducting quantitative and/or qualitative analyses;
- Experience implementing or evaluating medically accurate and age-appropriate programming;
- Experience supporting implementation fidelity, transparency, parental engagement, or informed consent practices, where applicable; and
- Capacity to manage data privacy, confidentiality, and human subjects protections, as applicable.

Applicants should identify all key personnel and describe their qualifications, expertise, roles, and level of effort. Applications should clearly describe the responsibilities of the Project Director/Principal Investigator and any key partners, subcontractors, consultants, or collaborating organizations.

If positions are not yet filled, applicants should describe the qualifications and expertise required for those positions and provide a timeline for hiring.

5. Project Management and Dissemination

Applicants should describe how the project will be managed and monitored throughout the period of performance.

Applications should describe:

- The project management structure;
- Roles and responsibilities of key personnel;
- Plans for monitoring progress and ensuring timely completion of activities;
- Coordination among partners or collaborators;
- Procedures for monitoring project milestones and deliverables; and
- Strategies to address implementation challenges or delays.

Applicants should also describe how findings will be disseminated to relevant audiences in a timely, accessible, and practical manner.

Dissemination plans should identify how findings will be shared with:

- Community organizations;
- Practitioners and educators;
- Parents and caregivers;
- Public health professionals;
- Researchers;
- Policymakers; and/or
- Other stakeholders involved in adolescent health and teen pregnancy prevention.

HHS/OASH may publish your findings (including online). Applicants are encouraged to propose dissemination approaches that support translation of findings into practice and improve implementation quality, transparency, fidelity, and adolescent health outcomes.

Recipients may be expected to participate in meetings, presentations, technical assistance activities, or other dissemination efforts coordinated by OASH during the project period.

b. Appendices to the Project Narrative – Content

All items described in this section will count toward the total page limit of your application. You must submit them as **a single electronic file** uploaded to the Attachments section of your Grants.gov application.

Samples and optional forms/templates for some of these items are located under the Related Documents tab for this NOFO on Grants.gov.

Your application should include the following appendices:

1) Work Plan

Your work plan should reflect, and be consistent with, the Project Narrative and Budget Narrative, and must cover all years of the period of performance. However, each year's activities should be fully attainable in one budget year. You may propose multi-year activities, as well as activities that build upon each other, but each phase of the project must be discrete and attainable within a single budget year.

Your work plan should include a statement of the project's overall goal, anticipated outcome(s), key objectives, and the major tasks, action steps, or products that will be pursued or developed to achieve the goal and outcome(s). For each major task of each year, action step, or product, your work plan should identify the timeframes involved (including start and end dates), and the lead person responsible for completing the task.

2) Letters of Commitment from Project Partners

You may include signed Letters of Commitment for the organizations that have been specifically named to carry out any aspects of the project. The signed letters of commitment should include the specific role and resources that will be provided (if any), or activities that will be undertaken, in support of the applicant. The entity's expertise, experience, and access to the targeted population(s) should also be described in the letter of commitment.

Letters of commitment are not the same as letters of support. Letters of support are letters that are general in nature that speak to the writer's belief in the capability of an applicant to accomplish a goal/task. Letters of support also may indicate an intent or interest to work together in the future, but they lack specificity. You should NOT provide letters of support, and letters of support such as this will not be considered during the review.

3) Curriculum Vitae/Resume for Key Project Personnel

You must submit with your application curriculum vitae and/or resumes of all key personnel. Key Personnel includes those individuals who will oversee the technical, professional, and managerial functions and/or assume responsibility for assuring the validity and quality of your organization's program. This includes at a minimum the Project Director and Program Manager/Coordinator. We encourage individuals to use their full name (first, middle, last) on these documents to distinguish them for verification in the System for Award Management exclusion records.

4) Organizational Chart

You must submit a staff organization chart that includes all key personnel, project personnel, and any proposed subawards or collaborators. If subaward organizations or collaborators are part of the proposed project, the organization chart should make clear how they will interact with key personnel on the project.

c. Budget Package - Content

A complete budget package consists of the following required components:

- SF-424A "Budget Information Non-Construction Programs"
- Budget narrative with detailed justification by cost category/object class, and
- Plan for oversight of federal funds.

You should include supporting documentation for your budget (e.g., a copy of your approved indirect cost rate) as part of the budget package, not as part of your appendices to the project narrative. There is no page limit for the budget package contents. If you are recommended for an award, you may be asked to provide additional information about your budget package.

Throughout your budget package, "Federal resources" refers only to the funds you are requesting from the program office for this project. "Non-federal resources" are all other non-HHS/OASH federal and non-federal resources. Funds from federal grant programs typically are not eligible as cost share for other federal grants. It is your responsibility to confirm with other federal agencies whether funds you receive from them are eligible resources to apply to your proposed project.

1. Standard Form SF-424A

You must enter the project budget according to the directions provided with the standard form.

You must provide costs by object class category for the first 12 months (i.e., first budget period) of the proposed project using Section B, box 6 of SF-424A. If the estimated period of performance is 12 months or less, this will be your total budget request for the entire project.

"Federal resources" refers only to the funds for which you are applying under this NOFO. "Non-federal resources" are all other resources (federal and non-federal).

Do not include costs beyond the first budget period in the object class budget in box 6 of SF-424A or box 18 of SF-424. The amounts entered in these sections should only reflect the first budget period.

If there is a discrepancy between your SF-424A and budget narrative and justification, we will rely on the narrative and justification to determine the final amounts.

2. Budget Narrative with Justification

Your budget narrative must include a detailed line-item budget and must include calculations for all costs and activities by the "object class categories" identified on SF-424A. You must provide a detailed justification for the costs by object class. The object class budget organizes your proposed costs into a set of defined categories.

Use the guidelines in Section J.4 for preparing the detailed object class budget.

Budget Periods

Your budget narrative must describe the first budget period in detail. For each proposed cost for the first budget period, provide a justification that includes explanatory text and line-item detail.

You should describe how you derived your categorical costs. Your justification should show the necessity and reasonableness of the proposed costs for the project.

For subsequent budget years in an anticipated multi-year period of performance, provide a summary narrative and line-item budget for each year beyond the first. For categories or items that differ significantly from the first budget period, provide a detailed justification explaining these changes.

Funding levels for all approved budget periods after the first are generally the same as the initial award amount and are subject to an offset with funds unused in the previous budget period. Carryover of unobligated funds from one budget period to the next requires prior approval.

Determining Proposed Costs

Your budget narrative should justify the overall cost of the project as well as the proposed cost per activity, service delivered, and/or product. For example, the budget narrative should define the amount of work you have planned and expect to perform, what it will cost, and an explanation of how the result is cost effective. If you are proposing to provide services to clients, you should describe how many clients you expect to serve, the unit cost of serving each client, and how this is cost effective.

Proposed costs must adhere to the cost principles described in 2 C.F.R. §200.416. We have provided additional information on the most common cost categories for applications for OASH awards in Section J.4.

Budget calculations must include estimation methods, quantities, unit costs, and other similar quantitative detail sufficient to verify the calculations. Carefully review Funding Restrictions (below) for specific information regarding allowable, unallowable, and restricted costs.

Describing Federal and Non-federal Share

Both federal and non-federal resources (if applicable) must be detailed and justified in the budget narrative. “Federal resources” refers only to the HHS/OASH funds for which you are applying under this NOFO. “Non-federal resources” are all other non-HHS/OASH federal and non-federal resources.

If matching or cost sharing is required or offered voluntarily, you must include a detailed listing of any funding sources identified in box 18 of SF-424 (Application for Federal Assistance).

Indirect Costs

Indirect costs for training are limited to a fixed rate of eight percent of the modified total direct costs (MTDC) exclusive of tuition and related fees, direct expenditures for equipment, and subawards in excess of $50,000 (2 C.F.R. § 200.414 (c)(1).

Funding Restrictions

The following restrictions apply to costs you may propose and be awarded.

Pre-Award Costs

Pre-award costs are NOT allowed. Pre-award costs (2 C.F.R. § 200.458) are those incurred prior to the effective date of the Federal award directly pursuant to the negotiation and in anticipation of the Federal award where such costs are necessary for efficient and timely performance of the scope of work.

Salary Rate Limitation

Each year's appropriations act limits the salary rate that you may charge to the grants and cooperative agreements that we award. You must not use award funds to pay the salary of an individual at a rate in excess of Federal Executive Pay Scale Executive Level II.

As of January 2026, the Executive Level II maximum salary is $228,000. This amount reflects an individual's base salary exclusive of fringe benefits and any income that an individual working on the award project may be permitted to earn outside of the duties to the applicant organization. This salary rate limitation also applies to subawards/subcontracts under an HHS/OASH award.

An example of the application of this limitation for an individual devoting 50% of their time to this award is broken down below:

Salary Rate Limitation	
Individual's *actual* base full-time salary $350,000 with 50% of time devoted to project, i.e., 0.5 FTE	**Direct salary ($350,000 x 0.5) =** $175,000
	Fringe (25% of salary) = $43,750
	Total = $218,750
Individual's base full-time salary *adjusted* to Executive Level II: $225,700 with 50% of time devoted to the project	**Direct salary ($225,700 x 0.5) =** $112,850
	Fringe (25% of salary) = $28,212.50
	Total amount allowed = $141,062.50

Appropriate salary rate limits will apply as required by law.

Vehicle Purchase

We will not approve a vehicle purchase at the time of award even when included in your application. You must obtain prior approval before the purchase of a mobile health unit

or any other vehicle with award funds. A request for prior approval must include a detailed justification of the need for the vehicle that includes an analysis of comparing purchase, lease, and other alternatives. Equipment purchases are subject to transfer to another federal project or sale at the end of the period of performance (2 C.F.R. § 200.313(e)).

Construction Costs

We will not approve construction costs. This includes major improvements to or significant renovations of facilities.

3. Plan for Recipient Oversight of Federal Award Funds

You must include a plan for oversight of federal award funds which describes:

- how your organization will provide oversight of federal funds and how award activities and partner(s) will adhere to applicable federal award and programmatic regulations. Include identification of risks specific to your project as proposed and how your oversight plan addresses these risks.
- the organizational systems that demonstrate effective control over and accountability for federal funds and program income, compare outlays with budget amounts, and provide accounting records supported by source documentation.
- for any program incentives proposed, the specific internal controls that will be used to ensure only qualified participants will receive them and how they will be tracked.
- organizational controls that will ensure timely and accurate submission of Federal Financial Reports to the OASH Grants and Acquisitions Management Division via the Payment Management System as well as timely and appropriate withdrawal of cash from the Payment Management System.

If your internal controls are available online, you may provide a link as part of your plan in the budget narrative. Although merit reviewers are not permitted to access any external materials linked in the application as part of their review, this link would facilitate review of your proposal if recommended for risk assessment (Section F.4).

Section J.5 contains questions you may find useful in preparing your Recipient Plans for Oversight of Federal Funds.

d. Project Abstract Summary Guidance

You must complete the Project Abstract Summary form. The application page limit does not include the Project Abstract Summary Form. Research projects may enter zero for "Estimated number of people to be served as a result of the award of this grant."

The abstract will serve as the application summary going forward. Do not include sensitive or proprietary information in your abstract.

If your project is funded, we will publish the abstract on TAGGS.hhs.gov and USASpending.gov as you submitted it. You may request to edit it later, or we may ask you to edit it later to reflect any negotiated changes to the project. The abstract may also appear on the program office website or other government websites.

Your abstract should contain:

- Specifics about the project purpose
- Activities that you will perform
- Expected deliverables and outcomes
- Intended project beneficiary(ies) or participant(s)

Your description of the project should be brief and use plain language an average reader can understand. You should limit abbreviations, acronyms, or jargon without definitions. The abstract should be unique to your project.

E. SUBMISSION REQUIREMENTS AND DATES

1. Obtaining an Application Package

The official complete application package is available on Grants.gov. Search either the Assistance Listing number or the NOFO number PA-PHE-26-001.

The package consists of several Adobe PDF format documents. This is a standard format widely accessible across multiple platforms including mobile devices. The Acrobat Reader application is available at https://www.adobe.com/acrobat/pdf-reader.html.

All materials will be under the Package tab on the page for this opportunity on Grants.gov. If you have problems locating the application package, contact Grants.gov Helpdesk.

2. Required Registrations

You must have an active registration in SAM.gov and Grants.gov to apply for this opportunity.

It is your responsibility to plan ahead to ensure adequate time to register in both systems before submitting your application. We recommend beginning the registration process immediately, but **no later than** 30 days prior to the application deadline with a goal of your registration being complete at least 15 days prior to the application deadline.

a. Unique Entity Identifier and System for Award Management (SAM)

Grants.gov will not accept an application unless you have an active SAM.gov registration and received a Unique Entity Identifier (UEI). There is no fee for registering in SAM.gov.

In cases where an individual is an eligible applicant (see Section A.1.a), the individual does not need a SAM.gov registration. However, the individual must still create a Grants.gov account. Grants.gov will assign a default UEI value where applicable.

We cannot make an award to your entity unless it has an active SAM registration. In accordance with 2 C.F.R. § 25.205, if you have not complied with this requirement, we may:

- determine that you are not qualified to receive an award; and
- use that determination as a basis for making an award to another applicant.

Should you successfully compete and receive an award, all first-tier subrecipients must have a UEI number at the time you make a subaward to them.

Registering in SAM

Your organization must register online in the System for Award Management (SAM). Grants.gov will reject submissions from applicants with nonexistent or expired SAM Registrations. You will find instructions on the Grants.gov website as part of the organization registration process.

Complete a SAM registration (or renewal) as soon as possible if you do not currently have an active registration that will remain active through the competitive process. Registration will include obtaining a unique entity identifier (UEI). SAM.gov provides an Entity Registration Checklist to help you prepare the necessary documentation.

You may register in SAM as an entity applying for either

- Federal Assistance Awards Only (e.g., grants and cooperative agreements) or
- All Awards (including procurement awards).

If you chose to register for All Awards, you must answer Yes to the question "Do you wish to apply for a federal financial assistance project or program, or is your entity currently the recipient of funding under any federal financial assistance project or program?" Failure to do so will require us to obtain a separate assurance document from you during our risk assessment (Section F.4) and may delay any award.

The list of representations and certifications to be certified as part of your registration is reproduced in Section J.6 with the corresponding HHS regulation citations. By submitting your application to this NOFO, your authorized representative certifies to these representations and certifications by signing Box 21 of SF-424A.

Make sure your SAM registration information is accurate, especially your organization's legal name and physical address including your ZIP+4. Should you successfully compete and receive an award, this is the legal name and address we must use on the NOA.

During your registration, your organization will need to designate an E-Business Point of Contact (EBiz POC). The EBiz POC will need to be the individual to set up your Grants.gov account.

SAM Registration Renewal

If your organization has previously registered in SAM, confirm your status and determine whether you need to update or renew it. You must renew your SAM registration each year.

If you are successful and receive an award, you must maintain an active SAM registration with current information at all times during an active award or an application or plan under consideration by an HHS agency.

Timing of Registration

It may take up to 2-3 weeks (or longer during periods of high volume) for a registration to become active in SAM. After that, it may take an additional 24-72 hours for SAM to synchronize with Grants.gov. Grants.gov must recognize your SAM registration as active to accept your application. We strongly encourage confirming your registration status well before you are ready to submit your application to Grants.gov.

b. Grants.gov Registration

The Grants.gov Applicant Registration page provides the most up to date guidance on registering. There is no fee for registering to use Grants.gov.

Your EBiz POC may begin creating your account prior to receiving your UEI from SAM.gov. However, your will need to complete the SAM.gov registration prior to complete your Grants.gov registration.

Grants.gov is a platform that allows you to have multiple users with a variety of role-based access to perform actions on application(s). You must register an authorizing official for your organization. We do not determine who your organization's authorizing official is; your organization makes that decision. However, your authorizing official(s) must have the authority to act on behalf of your organization.

You may consider registering a backup authorized organization representative(s) in Grants.gov to ensure someone is available to submit your application. We will not extend due dates because your authorized official is unavailable.

We encourage potential applicants to familiarize themselves with the Workspace Overview and options as soon as possible.

3. Submission Instructions

It is your responsibility to read and understand the instructions to submit a complete and properly formatted application.

a. Electronic Application Submission

We require that all applications be submitted electronically via Grants.gov unless the Grants Management Officer has granted an exemption in writing (See Section E.3).

Grants.gov Information

You may access the application for this opportunity on Grants.gov. Search for the downloadable application page by the NOFO number PA-PHE-26-001 or Assistance Listing number 93.343.

To ensure successful submission of your application, you should carefully follow the step-by-step instructions on the site. These instructions are kept up-to-date and also provide links to Frequently Asked Questions and other troubleshooting information. You are responsible for reviewing all Grants.gov submission requirements on the Grants.gov site.

You should contact Grants.gov with any questions or concerns regarding the technical system questions about the electronic application process (Section I).

See Section E.2 for requirements related to UEI numbers and SAM registration.

Electronic File Submission

Applications, excluding required standard forms, must be submitted as three (3) files. Any additional files submitted as part of the Grants.gov application will not be accepted for processing and will be excluded from the application during the review process. Merit reviewers are not permitted to follow embedded links to materials outside of the application. Your content must fit within the page limits of the application.

File 1	The complete Project Narrative
File 2	All documents that make up the Appendices described in Section D.2.b
File 3	The entire Budget Package including supporting documentation described in the Budget Narrative content section.

Acceptable File Formats

All files uploaded for your application must be in an acceptable file format and must contain a valid file format extension in the filename.

We only accept the file formats identified in the table to ensure compatibility across our other systems although Grants.gov will allow you to attach unacceptable formats.

We strongly encourage you to upload your application in Adobe PDF format. By converting to PDF prior to submission, you may prevent any unintentional changes that might occur with submission of an editable document. Most commonly available applications for document preparation have the ability to "Save As" or "Print To PDF."

We do not recommend submitting scanned copies through Grants.gov unless you have confirmed the clarity of the scan and the readability of the documents.

Any file submitted as part of the Grants.gov application that is not in a file format listed as acceptable will not be imported for processing and will be excluded from the application during the review.

We will not contact you for resubmission of files to the correct the file type.

We will not contact you for passwords or for resubmission of unprotected files. We will forward unprotected information in the application forwarded for consideration, but we will not forward password protected portions.

Acceptable File Formats (extension)

• Adobe PDF (.pdf) • Microsoft Word (.doc or .docx) • Image formats (.jpg, .gif, .tif, or .bmp only)
Unacceptable File Formats (extension)
• Microsoft Excel files (.xls) or other similar spreadsheet files • Any compressed file formats (e.g., .zip, .rar, or Adobe Portfolio) • Any password protected files

Timing Considerations

We strongly encourage you to submit your application a minimum of 4-5 days prior to the application closing date. You are responsible for allowing time for system registrations and where applicable State Single Point of Contact (SPOC) notifications (Section E.3.d).

Do not wait until the last day in case you encounter technical difficulties, either on your end or with Grants.gov. Grants.gov can take up to 48 hours to notify you of a successful or rejected submission. You are better off having a less-than-perfect application successfully submitted and under consideration than no application.

If your submission fails due to a system problem with Grants.gov, we may accept your application if you provide verification from Grants.gov indicating system problems existed at the time of your submission and that time was before the submission deadline. If you have reported a system problem to the Grants.gov helpdesk, obtain a ticket number to provide us so that we can verify the problem.

A "system problem" does not include known issues for which Grants.gov has posted instructions regarding how to submit an application successfully, such as compatible Adobe versions or file naming conventions. Nor does a "system problem" include issues that should have been identified by reviewing and confirming your account status prior to the submission deadline.

Exemption to the Grants.gov Submission Requirement

We will consider an exemption to the Grants.gov submission requirement only under limited circumstances. To obtain an exemption, you must request one via email from GAM point of contact Eric West at eric.west@hhs.gov. Your request **must provide details as to why you are technologically unable to submit** electronically through Grants.gov. You should submit your request at least 4 business days prior to the application deadline to ensure we can review your request at least to 2 business days before the deadline.

In your e-mail requesting an exemption include:

- the NOFO number;
- your organization's UEI number;

- your organization's name, address and telephone number;
- the name and telephone number of your Authorizing Official;
- the Grants.gov Tracking Number (e.g., GRANT####) assigned to your submission; and
- a copy of the "Rejected with Errors" notification from Grants.gov.

We will not grant an exemption to the electronic submission requirement for:

- Failure to have an active System for Account Management (SAM) registration prior to the application due date.
- Failure to follow Grants.gov instructions to ensure software compatibility.
- Failure to have the correct permission levels configured in your Grants.gov workspace.

GAM will only accept applications via alternate methods (i.e., PDF via email or hardcopy paper via U.S. mail or other provider) from applicants with prior written approval. If you receive an exemption, you must still submit your complete application, and we must receive it by the due date.

We will accept only applications submitted through Grants.gov or a pre-approved alternate format.

b. Submission Dates and Times

You must submit your application for this funding opportunity by August 5, 2026.

Your submission time is the date and time stamp provided by Grants.gov when you **complete** your submission. If you do not submit your application by the due date and time, we will not review it, and it will receive no further consideration.

It is your responsibility to review all instructions available on Grants.gov for successfully submitting an application. For information on registering for Grants.gov or to receive assistance on any technical system questions, contact Grants.gov directly (Section I).

c. NOFO Technical Assistance Webinar

We will provide a technical assistance webinar for applicants on July 10, 2026.

You should review the entire announcement prior to attending to have any questions answered well in advance of the application due date. You should also subscribe to this opportunity on Grants.gov to receive any amendments, revisions, question and answer documents, or other updates.

Following the webinar, we will typically post an FAQ addressing common questions including those of general applicability asked during the webinar. We will also post a link to the recorded TA webinar.

Out for fairness to all applicants, we do not provide one-on-one consultation on the specific content development for any applications.

d. Intergovernmental Review

Applications under this opportunity are subject to the requirements of Executive Order 12372, ''Intergovernmental Review of Federal Programs,'' as implemented by 45 C.F.R. part 100, ''Intergovernmental Review of Department of Health and Human Services Programs and Activities.''

As soon as possible, you should discuss the project with the State Single Point of Contact (SPOC) for the State in which your organization is located.

4. Other Submission Requirements

a. Program-Specific Requirements

Non-profit Status

If you are a non-profit organization, you **may be required** to submit documentation of nonprofit status to confirm your status. Any of the following constitutes acceptable proof of such status:

(a) A reference to the Applicant organization's listing in the Internal Revenue Service's (IRS) most recent list of tax-exempt organizations described in the IRS code;

(b) A copy of a currently valid IRS tax exemption certificate;

(c) A statement from a State taxing body, State attorney general, or other appropriate State official certifying that the applicant organization has a nonprofit status and that none of the net earnings accrue to any private shareholders or individuals; or

(d) A certified copy of the organization's certificate of incorporation or similar document that clearly establishes nonprofit status.

b. Follow-up Submission Requirements

We may request additional documentation during the review process. We suggest having these documents readily available. Requests will only come from the OASH GAM staff. If you have any concern about the validity of a request, please contact us through the contact information provided in Section I.

Requested documentation may include a copy of your:

- Approved negotiated indirect cost rate, if not submitted in your budget package
- Internal controls
- Documentation of non-profit status
- Authorizing Tribal Resolution

We may request additional documentation as needed during our risk assessment process in Section F.4.

Failure to provide the requested documentation by the requested deadline may result in our no longer considering your application and moving on to another to make an award.

You should not interpret a request for information as an indication that we will make an award to you. A request only means that we are continuing to review your application.

F. APPLICATION REVIEW INFORMATION

Your application will undergo a series of reviews designed to ensure compliance with statutory and regulatory requirements, alignment with agency priorities, and responsible stewardship of Federal funds, consistent with Executive Order 14332, "Improving Oversight of Federal Grantmaking" (available at https://www.whitehouse.gov/presidentialactions/2025/08/improving-oversight-of-federal-grantmaking/, which aims to "strengthen oversight and coordination of, and to streamline, agency grantmaking to address […] problems, prevent them from recurring, and ensure greater accountability for use of public funds more broadly."

Application Qualification

GAM personnel in coordination with Federal program staff, including senior Department officials or other designated Presidential appointees, consistent with the Executive Order on "Improving Oversight of Federal Grantmaking" will conduct a qualification review. There are several components to qualifying an application to proceed to merit review.

- **Eligibility Review** to determine whether you are an eligible applicant as described in Section A.
- **Responsiveness Review** to determine whether the responsiveness criteria have been met as described in Section F.1.
- **Formatting Review** to determine whether your application meets the formatting requirements described in Section D.1.

The Grants Management Officer will make the final determination on whether an application is eligible and qualified to proceed to merit review. This decision is not appealable.

Merit Review

An independent merit review panel will evaluate applications that are qualified and eligible. These reviewers are experts in their fields, and are drawn from academic institutions, non-profit organizations, state and local government, and Federal government agencies.

We do not disclose the identities of our review panelists. Each is vetted during the selection process to identify and manage any real or apparent conflict of interests.

Using the Merit Review Criteria, the reviewers will provide comments and rate the applications. We will provide reviewer comments to applicants after we have made final award decisions and issued notices of award. We do not provide scores.

Programmatic Technical Review and Risk Assessment

In addition to the independent merit review panel, federal staff will review each application for technical (programmatic), budgetary, and grants management compliance.

1. Responsiveness Review

The responsiveness review assesses your application at a high level to determine whether the application has addressed the subject matter of the opportunity or met any legal requirements. The criteria, if any, we describe below facilitate a go/no-go determination by the review team. Failure to address the responsiveness criteria clearly and provide the required information will result in disqualification.

a. Responsiveness Criteria

For this opportunity, the responsiveness criteria are:

- Not applicable

b. Disqualifying Criteria

Disqualification means we will not review the application and will give it no further consideration.

We will disqualify applications:

• not submitted electronically via Grants.gov (unless an exemption was granted by the grants management officer in writing 2 business days prior to the deadline)
• not submitted by the due date and time (Section E.3.b)
• not submitted by an eligible applicant (Section A.1.a)
• submitted multiple times for the same project from the same organization, *except* for the last application received by the deadline (Section A.1.c)
• not meeting the Responsiveness Criteria (Section F.1.a), if any
• not including a non-federal sources justification in the budget narrative when including cost-sharing (voluntary or required) (Section A.3)
• requesting total funds (direct plus indirect costs) that are either: o Above the Award Ceiling of $1,100,000 or o Below the Award Floor of $150,000
• missing or incomplete required forms in the application package found on Grants.gov including SF-424; SF-424A, SF-LLL, and the Project Abstract Summary (Section D)
• not meeting the formatting requirements (Section D), specifically: o not submitted in the English language and U.S. dollars (2 C.F.R. § 200.111(a)) o not submitted with ▪ an 8 ½ ” x 11” page size ▪ 1” margins on all sides (top, bottom, left and right) ▪ a font size of not less than 12 points ▪ a Project Narrative that is double-spaced

- exceeding the 30-page limit for the Project Narrative
- exceeding the total 60-page limit for the Project Narrative plus Appendices combined, excluding SF-424, SF-424A, SF-LLL, Project Abstract Summary, and Budget Narrative with budget tables

2. Merit Review Criteria

Federal staff and an independent merit review panel will assess all qualified eligible applications according to the following criteria. Disqualified applications will not be reviewed against these criteria.

- Project Significance and Alignment with Priority Areas (30 points)
- Technical Approach and Evaluation Design (30 points)
- Measurable Outcomes and Evaluation Measures (15 points)
- Organizational Capacity and Experience (15 points)
- Project Management and Dissemination (5 points)
- Budget (5 points)

Scores will be calculated with a total possible score of 100 points for each application.

PROJECT SIGNIFICANCE AND ALIGNMENT WITH PRIORITY AREAS (30 points)

The application will be assessed based on the degree to which the applicant:

- Clearly identifies and addresses one or more of the priority areas described in Section D.2.a.1 and demonstrates alignment with the purpose of this NOFO and OASH priorities described in Section B.
- Clearly explains the teen pregnancy prevention issue, implementation challenge, evidence gap, or research question to be addressed.
- Demonstrates a strong understanding of the proposed topic area and clearly explains the significance of the proposed work.
- Clearly describes how the proposed project will contribute to improving the efficiency, effectiveness, quality, transparency, implementation, or dissemination of teen pregnancy prevention programs and services.
- Demonstrates how the project supports medically accurate, age-appropriate, and evidence-informed approaches to adolescent health education and teen pregnancy prevention.
- Clearly explains the potential contribution of the project to improving adolescent optimal health and well-being, healthy decision-making, healthy relationships, parental engagement, implementation quality, or informed consent associated with preventing teen pregnancy.
- Clearly describes the relevance and potential utility of the project findings for youth-serving organizations, healthcare providers, educators, parents/caregivers, policymakers, practitioners, researchers, community organizations, or other stakeholders.

TECHNICAL APPROACH AND EVALUATION DESIGN (30 points)

The application will be assessed based on the degree to which:

- The proposed evaluation design, methodology, and analytic approach are clearly described, appropriate, and feasible.
- The research questions and hypotheses are clearly stated and aligned with the proposed evaluation activities.
- The proposed program, intervention, strategy, implementation approach, or dataset to be evaluated is clearly described.
- The target population and setting are clearly identified and appropriate for the proposed project.
- The proposed data sources, including existing research, evaluation, programmatic, administrative, or longitudinal data, are clearly described and appropriate for the proposed analyses.
- The application demonstrates readiness and feasibility to access and use proposed data sources, including any necessary permissions, approvals, or agreements.
- Proposed data collection activities, if applicable, are appropriate and feasible.
- The analytic methods are clearly described, appropriate to the evaluation questions, and likely to produce meaningful and actionable findings.
- The proposal includes thoughtful consideration of anticipated barriers, limitations, or implementation challenges, along with reasonable mitigation strategies.
- The proposed project is feasible within the proposed project period and is likely to contribute meaningful findings that improve teen pregnancy prevention programs and services.
- The proposed activities align with the goals, objectives, work plan, proposed outcomes, and OASH priorities where applicable.
- The application includes a clear plan for identifying, documenting, and incorporating lessons learned.

MEASURABLE OUTCOMES AND EVALUATION MEASURES (15 points)

The application will be assessed based on the degree to which:

- The proposed measurable outcomes are clearly identified, realistic, and aligned with the goals and objectives of the proposed project.
- The proposed outcomes are meaningful, specific, and directly connected to the proposed evaluation activities.
- The application clearly distinguishes measurable outcomes from outputs or process measures.
- The proposed measures and instruments are appropriate, evidence-informed, and likely to produce reliable and valid information.
- The methods for measuring outcomes and assessing project success are clearly described and appropriate.
- The proposal includes reasonable plans to ensure data quality, reliability, and consistency.
- The proposed evaluation measures are likely to strengthen understanding of adolescent health outcomes, implementation quality, parental engagement, informed decision-

making, healthy relationships, implementation fidelity, or other relevant outcomes associated with the proposed project.

ORGANIZATIONAL CAPACITY AND EXPERIENCE (15 points)

The application will be assessed based on the degree to which:

- The applicant organization demonstrates the capability, infrastructure, and experience necessary to successfully complete the proposed project.
- The Project Director/Principal Investigator and key personnel possess relevant expertise and experience conducting evaluations, research, analyses, or projects related to adolescent health or teen pregnancy prevention.
- The organization and proposed personnel demonstrate experience working with adolescents, families, schools, healthcare providers, community organizations, researchers, or other relevant stakeholders.
- The applicant demonstrates experience managing projects of similar size, scope, and complexity.
- The application demonstrates experience using existing datasets and conducting quantitative and/or qualitative analyses, where applicable.
- The applicant demonstrates experience implementing or evaluating medically accurate and age-appropriate programming, implementation fidelity, transparency practices, parental engagement, informed consent practices, or related approaches, where applicable.
- The organization demonstrates sufficient capacity to manage data privacy, confidentiality, and human subjects protections, as applicable.
- Roles, qualifications, expertise, and level of effort for key personnel, subcontractors, consultants, and collaborating organizations are clearly described and appropriate.
- For positions not yet filled, the application clearly describes the qualifications, expertise, and timeline for recruitment.

PROJECT MANAGEMENT AND DISSEMINATION (5 points)

The application will be assessed based on the degree to which:

- The proposal includes a clear and feasible project management structure with appropriate roles and responsibilities for key personnel and partners.
- The proposal includes reasonable plans for monitoring project progress, milestones, deliverables, timelines, and implementation activities.
- The application demonstrates the ability to coordinate effectively among project partners, subcontractors, consultants, or collaborating organizations.
- The proposal includes appropriate strategies to address implementation challenges, delays, or project risks.
- The dissemination plan clearly describes how findings will be shared with relevant stakeholders, including community organizations, practitioners, educators, parents/caregivers, public health professionals, researchers, policymakers, or other relevant audiences.

- The dissemination plan demonstrates reasonable strategies to support translation of findings into practice and improve implementation quality, transparency, fidelity, adolescent health outcomes, or teen pregnancy prevention efforts.

BUDGET (5 points)

The application will be assessed based on the degree to which:

- The budget and budget narrative clearly explain how the requested funding amounts were determined.
- Proposed costs are reasonable, allowable, allocable, cost efficient, and adequately justified.
- The proposed budget aligns with the scope, complexity, timeline, staffing, and activities of the proposed project.
- The budget demonstrates appropriate stewardship of federal funds and sufficient resources to successfully complete the proposed activities.

3. Merit Review and Selection Process

Application Status Inquiries

During the review process, we do not release information about individual applications. If you would like to track your application, please see the instructions on Grants.gov.

If you receive communications to negotiate an award or request additional or clarifying information, this does not mean you will receive an award. It only means that your application is still under consideration.

Federal Staff Review

In addition to the independent merit review panel, Federal staff will review each application for technical (programmatic), budgetary, and grants management compliance.

The Office of Population Affairs will coordinate with a senior appointee to provide recommendations for funding to the Grants Management Officer to conduct the required risk analysis consistent with 2 CFR 200 and applicable HHS policy. No award decision is final until a Notice of Award is issued by the Grants Management Officer, in coordination with a senior appointee or appointee's designee, consistent with the Executive Order on "Improving Oversight of Federal Grantmaking."

4. Review of Risk Posed by Applicant

Before issuing any award, GAM evaluates each recommended application for risks in accordance with 2 C.F.R. § 200.206. This evaluation may incorporate results of the evaluation for eligibility or of the quality of an application.

Risk Factors Considered

We will use a risk-based approach and may consider any items such as the following:

a. Your financial stability;
b. Quality of management systems and ability to meet the management standards prescribed in 2 C.F.R. Part 200;
c. History of performance. Your record in managing Federal awards, if you are a prior recipient of Federal awards, including timeliness of compliance with applicable reporting requirements, conformance to the terms and conditions of previous Federal awards, and if applicable, the extent to which any previously awarded amounts will be expended prior to future awards;
d. Reports and findings from audits performed; and
e. Your ability to effectively implement statutory, regulatory, or other requirements imposed on non-Federal entities.

Also, prior to making a Federal award with a total Federal share greater than the simplified acquisition threshold (currently $250,000), GAM must review and consider any information about you that is in the designated integrity and performance system accessible through the System for Award Management (SAM) (formerly the Federal Awardee Performance and Integrity Information System (FAPIIS)).

If you are a prior Federal award recipient, the information in the system must, at a minimum, "demonstrate a satisfactory record of executing programs or activities under Federal grants, cooperative agreements, or procurement awards; and integrity and business ethics." 2 C.F.R. § 300; see also 2 C.F.R. §200.206. You have the option to review information in SAM and comment on any information about your organization that a Federal awarding agency previously entered and is currently available through SAM.

GAM will consider any comments by you, in addition to the other information in the designated system, in making a judgment about your integrity, business ethics, and record of performance under Federal awards.

Risk Review Outcomes

If GAM does not make an award to you because we determine that your organization does not meet either or both of the minimum qualification standards as described in , we must report that determination to SAM.gov, if certain conditions apply. See 2 C.F.R. § 200.206, we must report that determination to SAM.gov, if certain conditions apply. See 2 C.F.R. § Part 300. If GAM determines that a federal award will be made, specific conditions that correspond to the degree of risk assessed will be applied to the Federal award. Such conditions may include additional programmatic or financial reporting or releasing funds on a reimbursable rather than cash advance basis.

Funding Priorities

A funding priority adds points to merit review scores if we determine that the application meets the listed criteria. Qualifying for a funding priority does not guarantee that your application will be successful.

Priority 1: Not currently funded by this opportunity (2 Points)

We will give you a funding priority if:

Your organization does not hold an active award under this opportunity at the time you apply.

Priority 2: Never funded by this opportunity (2 Points)

We will give you a funding priority if:

Your organization has never received an award under this opportunity.

G. AWARD NOTICES

Upon completion of risk analysis and concurrence of the GMO, GAM will issue Notices of Award (NOAs). No award decision is final until the GMO issues a NOA. All award decisions, including the level of funding, if an award is made, are final and you may not appeal.

We are not obligated to make any federal award as a result of this NOFO. If we make awards, the awards may be for periods shorter than indicated. Only the GMO can bind the federal government to the expenditure of funds.

Funded Applications

If you are successful, you will receive official notice of your award with a Notice of Award (NOA) via a system notification from our grants management system (Grant Solutions) and/or via e-mail. The NOA includes the amount awarded for the specified budget period, the purpose(s) of the award, the anticipated length of the period of performance, terms and conditions of the award, and the amount of cost share or matching, if applicable.

If you receive an NOA, we strongly encourage you to read the entire document to ensure your organization's information is correct and that you understand all terms and conditions. You should pay specific attention to the terms and conditions, as some may require a time-limited response. The NOA will also identify the Grants Management Specialist (GMS) and Federal Project Officer (FPO) assigned to the award for assistance and monitoring. The GMS and FPO will work as a team. Any questions or concerns during the project should be communicated to both the GMS and FPO.

Pre-award costs are not allowed. If you begin a project prior to receiving a NOA or the project period start date on the NOA, you incur costs at your own risk. We will disallow the costs and will not approve them retroactively.

We intend to award funds as much in advance of the anticipated project start date (See Overview, page 1) as practicable, with a goal of 10-15 days. Note this is an estimated start date and award announcements may be made at a later date and with a later period of performance start date.

Unfunded Applications

If you are unsuccessful or your application was disqualified, OASH will notify you by email and/or letter. If the merit review panel reviewed your application, you may receive summary comments pertaining to the application resulting from the review process. We do not release application scores.

You may receive a letter indicating that your application was "approved, but unfunded" (ABU). This does not mean you will receive an award or funding. Applications designated ABU are kept active for up to 12 months. During that time, a program office may consider an ABU application for award should funds become available. However, an ABU status does not guarantee that we will fund your project.

We will not transfer an ABU application for consideration under a new NOFO. You would have the option to resubmit your application, with any updated material, for consideration under that new NOFO.

H. AWARD REQUIREMENTS AND ADMINISTRATION

The following subsections describe the administrative requirements and the terms and conditions that will apply to any award you might receive under this NOFO. As of October 1, 2025, HHS has adopted 2 CFR Part 200, with some modifications included in 2 CFR Part 300. These regulations replace those in 45 CFR Part 75.

1. Administrative and National Policy Requirements

a. Recipient Responsibilities

You will have the full responsibility for the conduct of the approved project or activity and for adherence to all award terms and conditions, statutory, regulatory, or policy requirements applicable to grants and cooperative agreements. The approved project or activity is the project described in your application subject to any OASH GMO approved amendments. Approval of the project does not waive or negate any statutory, regulatory, or policy requirements applicable to grants and cooperative agreements.

You will be encouraged to seek the advice and opinion of the federal project officer and grants management specialist on special problems that may arise. Such advice does not diminish your responsibility for making sound programmatic and administrative judgments and does not imply that the responsibility for operating decisions has shifted to HHS, OASH, or the program office.

b. Accepting an Award

You accept an award and its terms and conditions by drawing or otherwise obtaining funds for the award from the grant payment system. By accepting an award, you agree to comply with the applicable federal requirements for grants and cooperative agreements, including those in the SAM registration certifications and representations, and to the prudent management of all expenditures and actions affecting the award, including the monitoring of any subrecipients.

You must comply with all terms, conditions, and requirements outlined in the Notice of Award, including: award policy terms and conditions contained in the HHS Grant Policy Statement

(GPS), and its subsequent updates, all requirements imposed by program statutes and regulations, Executive Orders, and HHS grant administration regulations; and requirements or limitations in any applicable appropriations acts.

c. Scope of the Award and Prior Approvals

You may only use award funds to support activities in your funded project. HHS GPS Section II and https://www.ecfr.gov/current/title-45/part-75/section-75.3082 CFR §200.308 describe the aspects of your funded project that will require prior approval from the OASH GMO for any changes. Some of the award modifications to an approved project that will require prior GMO approval include:

- a change in the scope or the objective(s) of the project (even if there is no associated budget revision, such as reduction in services, closing of service or program site(s)).
- significant budget revisions, including changes in the approved cost-sharing or matching;
- a change in a key person(s) specified in your application;
- reduction in time devoted to the project by the approved PD/PI, either as percentage of full-time equivalent of 25% or more or absence for 3 months or more; or
- the transferring of any work to another entity or individual through contract, subaward, or other means that differs from described in the awarded proposal.

d. Alignment with HHS Priorities

As applicable here, recipients must use funds awarded under this NOFO to implement program goals or agency priorities in accordance with the HHS' vision, mission, core values, and strategic priorities, where authorized by law.

Funded activities must advance HHS's vision of protecting and improving the health and well-being of Americans. The particular focus is on those who are medically underserved, medically vulnerable, or live in areas with limited access to care. HHS's duty is to serve wisely, effectively, and with measurable results that justify every taxpayer dollar invested.

In carrying out any project funded under this NOFO, the recipient must adhere to the HHS priorities (available online at: https://www.hhs.gov/about/priorities/index.html), where they are consistent with the authority and scope of the award and its activities.

HHS will implement these priorities consistent with applicable laws, regulations, court orders, and any required procedures.

The recipient must demonstrate ongoing compliance with these priorities, in all programs that are authorized to advance them, through program design, implementation, reporting, and evaluation.

e. Applicable Termination Provisions

If you receive an award, HHS may terminate it if any of the conditions in 2 C.F.R. §§ 200.340(a)(1)-(4) are met.

f. Discretionary Awards Terms

All activities proposed in your application and budget narrative must align with applicable law, including but not limited to statutes, executive orders, federal regulations, and applicable judicial holdings. Accordingly, discretionary awards shall not be used to fund, promote, encourage, subsidize, or facilitate: racial preferences or other forms of racial discrimination by the recipient, including activities where race or intentional proxies for race will be used as a selection criterion for employment or program participation; denial by the recipient of the sex binary in humans, or the belief that sex is a chosen or mutable characteristic; illegal immigration; or any other initiatives that compromise public safety. If an application does not align, the application will not receive funding to the extent permitted by law and applicable court orders.

2. Program Specific Terms and Conditions

We may include on any awards made under this opportunity the following as special terms and requirements.

a. Paperwork Reduction Act Clearance Packages

Any collection of information you conduct as defined in 5 C.F.R. § 1320.3(c) may require OMB clearance under the Paperwork Reduction Act (PRA) if it is a requirement of your award to collect that information. You would be responsible for preparing the clearance package necessary to obtain PRA clearance and submitting it to the project officer. The project officer will assist in the submission of the package to OMB and notify you when the approval has been received or request additional information.

3. Award Closeout

When the award expires, you must submit within 120 days all necessary documentation to closeout your award. If we do not receive acceptable final performance, financial, and property reports in a timely fashion and we determine that closeout cannot be completed with your cooperation, we must complete a unilateral closeout with the information available to us (2 C.F.R. § 200.344). See Section H.16 for specific detail.

If you do not submit all reports within one year of the period of performance end date, we must report your material failure to comply with the terms and conditions of the award with the OMB-designated integrity and performance system. As a result, we may also determine that enforcement actions are necessary, including actions such as withholding support or a high-risk designation on an existing or future award.

4. Lobbying Prohibitions

In general, any funds from an award made under this NOFO must not be used for other than normal and recognized executive legislative relationships. See 2 C.F.R. § 200.450.You must not use funds for publicity or propaganda purposes, for the preparation, distribution, or use of any kit, pamphlet, booklet, publication, electronic communication, radio, television, or video presentation designed to support or defeat:

- the enactment of legislation before the Congress or any State or local legislature or legislative body, except in presentation to the Congress or any State or local legislature itself, or
- any proposed or pending regulation, administrative action, or order issued by the executive branch of any State or local government, except in presentation to the executive branch of any State or local government itself.

You must not use any funds awarded to pay the salary or expenses of any employee or subrecipient, or agent acting for you, related to any activity designed to influence the enactment of legislation, appropriations, regulation, administrative action, or Executive Order proposed or pending.

5. Non-Discrimination Requirements

If you receive an award, you must follow all applicable nondiscrimination laws. You agree to this when you register in SAM.gov. You must also submit an Assurance of Compliance (HHS-690). To learn more, see the HHS Office for Civil Rights website.

6. Smoke- and Tobacco-free Workplace

We strongly encourage all award recipients to provide a smoke-free workplace and to promote the non-use of all tobacco products. This is consistent with the HHS mission to protect and advance the physical and mental health of the American people.

7. Acknowledgement of Funding

Each year's annual appropriation requires that when issuing statements, press releases, requests for proposals, bid solicitations and other documents describing projects or programs funded in whole or in part with Federal money, all organizations receiving Federal funds, including but not limited to State and local governments and recipients of Federal research grants, shall clearly state— (1) the percentage of the total costs of the program or project which will be financed with Federal money; (2) the dollar amount of Federal funds for the project or program; and (3) percentage and dollar amount of the total costs of the project or program that will be financed by non-governmental sources.

You must also acknowledge Federal support in any publication you develop using funds awarded under this program, with language such as:

> This [project/publication/program/website, etc.] was supported by [Award Number] issued by the Office of the Assistant Secretary for Health of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) as part of a financial assistance award totaling $XX with 100 percent funded by Organization Name.

You must also include a disclaimer stating the following:

> The contents are solely the responsibility of the author(s) and do not necessarily represent the official views of, nor an endorsement by, Organization Name, OASH,

HHS, or the U.S. Government. For more information, please visit [Organization Name website, if available].

8. HHS Rights to Materials and Data

All publications you develop or purchase with funds awarded under this announcement must adhere to the requirements of the program. You own the copyright for materials that you develop under an award, and pursuant to 2 C.F.R. § 200.448, the HHS awarding agency reserves a royalty-free, nonexclusive, and irrevocable right to reproduce, publish, or otherwise use those materials for federal purposes, and to authorize others to do so.

In addition, pursuant to 2 C.F.R. § 200.448, the federal government has the right to obtain, reproduce, publish, or otherwise use data produced under this award and has the right to authorize others to receive, reproduce, publish, or otherwise use such data for federal purposes.

9. Trafficking in Persons

Awards are subject to the requirements of Section 106(g) of the Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000, as amended (22 U.S.C. § 7104).

10. Efficient Spending

Awards will be subject to the HHS Policy on Promoting Efficient Spending: Use of Appropriated Funds for Conferences and Meetings, Food, Promotional Items, and Printing and Publications.

11. Whistleblower Protection

Awards will include a term and condition that applies the terms of 2 C.F.R. § 200.217 to the award, and requires that you inform your employees in writing of employee whistleblower rights and protections under 41 U.S.C. § 4712 in the predominant native language of the workforce.

12. Health Information Technology (IT) Interoperability

Health information technology is defined in Section 3000 of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. § 300jj). HHS has substantially adopted and codified that definition at 45 C.F.R. § 170.102. The regulation defines health information technology as hardware, software, integrated technologies or related licenses, IP, upgrades, or packaged solutions sold as services that are designed for or support the use by health care entities or patients for the electronic creation, maintenance, access, or exchange of health information.

If you receive an award that involves:

a. implementing, acquiring, or upgrading health IT for activities, you are required to utilize health IT that meets standards and implementation specifications adopted in 45 C.F.R.

part 170, Subpart B, if such standards and implementation specifications can support the activity.

b. implementing, acquiring, or upgrading health IT for activities by eligible clinicians in ambulatory settings, or hospitals, eligible under Section 4101, 4102, and 4201 of the HITECH Act, you are required to utilize health IT certified under the Office of the HHS Office of the National Coordinator for Health Information technology (ONC) Health IT Certification Program, if certified technology can support the activity. See https://www.healthit.gov/topic/certification-ehrs/certification-health-it.

If standards and implementation specifications adopted in 45 CFR Part 170, Subpart B cannot support the activity, recipients and subrecipients are encouraged to utilize health IT that meets non-proprietary standards and implementation specifications developed by consensus-based standards development organizations. This may include standards identified in the ONC Interoperability Standards Advisory, available at https://www.healthit.gov/isa/.

13. Certain telecommunications and video surveillance services or equipment

As described in 2 C.F.R. 200.216, recipients and subrecipients are prohibited from obligating or spending grant funds (to include direct and indirect expenditures as well as cost share and program) to:

a. Procure or obtain;
b. Extend or renew a contract to procure or obtain; or
c. Enter into a contract (or extend or renew a contract) to procure or obtain equipment, services, or systems that use covered telecommunications equipment or services as a substantial or essential component of any system, or as critical technology as part of any system. As described in Pub. L. 115-232, section 889, covered telecommunications equipment is telecommunications equipment produced by Huawei Technologies Company or ZTE Corporation (or any subsidiary or affiliate of such entities).
    1. For the purpose of public safety, security of government facilities, physical security surveillance of critical infrastructure, and other national security purposes, video surveillance and telecommunications equipment produced by Hytera Communications Corporation, Hangzhou Hikvision Digital Technology Company, or Dahua Technology Company (or any subsidiary or affiliate of such entities).
    2. Telecommunications or video surveillance services provided by such entities or using such equipment.
    3. Telecommunications or video surveillance equipment or services produced or provided by an entity that the Secretary of Defense, in consultation with the Director of the National Intelligence or the Director of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, reasonably believes to be an entity owned or controlled by, or otherwise, connected to the government of a covered foreign country.

14. Human Subjects Protection

Federal regulations (45 C.F.R part 46) require that applications and proposals involving human subjects be evaluated with reference to the risks to the subjects, the adequacy of protection against these risks, the potential benefits of the research to the subjects and others, and the importance of the knowledge gained or to be gained. If research involving human subjects is anticipated, you must meet the requirements of the HHS regulations to protect human subjects from research risks as specified in 45 C.F.R. part 46. Additional information is available on the Office of Human Research Protections website. This includes a series of decision charts to help assess whether an activity is human subjects research covered by the regulation and when an exemption may apply.

OASH requires, as part of any award involving human subjects, that recipients submit copies of all IRB approvals (not full protocols), or documentation of exemption determinations, within 5 days of the IRB approving the research or documentation of the specific exemption applied. Recipients must receive IRB approval or determine an exemption is applicable before any human subjects research begins.

15. Research Integrity

Federal regulations require that an applicant for or recipient of Public Health Service support for biomedical or behavioral research, biomedical or behavioral research training, or activities related to that research or research training must comply with the Public Health Service Policies on Research Misconduct in 42 C.F.R. part 93. Compliance includes having written policies and procedures for addressing allegations of research misconduct that meet the requirements of part 93, unless exempt; responding to each allegation of research misconduct for which the applicant or recipient is responsible under part 93 in a thorough, competent, objective, and fair manner; fostering a research environment that promotes the responsible conduct of research and discourages research misconduct; and maintaining an active assurance. More information about assurances is available in 42 CFR Part 93 Subpart C and on the Office of Research Integrity assurance program website.

16. Reporting

Recipients must report on project progress (2 C.F.R. § 200.329) and financial status (2 C.F.R. § 200.328) during the course of the project. At the end of the project, acceptable final progress and financial reports are a requirement of the award closeout process. Failure to provide final progress or financial reports on any HHS award may affect decisions on future new or continuation funding.

a. Performance Project Reports (PPR)

Performance Project Reports (PPR)

You must submit periodic performance project reports on an annual basis via the Performance Project Report (PPR) module in GrantSolutions. We must receive the PPR by the due date included in the terms and conditions on the NOA. PPRs must address the content required by 2

C.F.R. § 200.329. The program office may provide additional guidance on the content of the progress report.

At the end of the project, you must submit a final performance report covering the entire period of performance no later than 120 days after the end of the period of performance. The program office may provide additional guidance on the content of the final report, which you must submit in the PPR module.

Project Performance and Continuation Awards

For projects with multiple budget periods anticipated, you will be required each year of the approved period of performance to submit in addition to your PPRs, a noncompeting continuation application. This application will include a summary of progress the last PPR, an updated work plan, and a budget package (SF-424A, narrative, and justification) for the upcoming budget period. Specific guidance will be provided via Grant Solutions well in advance of the application due date.

For the optional competitive additional year of funding intended to transition successful projects to sustainability, application guidance and review criteria will be provided during the final year of the period of performance.

We will award continuation funding based on availability of funds, satisfactory progress of the project, grants management compliance, including timely reporting, and continued best interests of the government. Progress is assessed relative to meeting the goals, objectives, and outcomes in the approved, funded project as described in the approved application and other supporting documents.

Performance Measures

Each year of the project period, recipients will be required to report on project performance measures and progress toward achieving the approved goals, objectives, measurable outcomes, and deliverables described in the funded application, work plan, and supporting documents.

Performance reporting should describe progress related to the proposed evaluation activities and measurable outcomes identified in the approved project narrative, including progress toward improving the efficiency, effectiveness, quality, transparency, implementation, dissemination, or evaluation of teen pregnancy prevention programs and services.

At the end of each reporting period, recipients should be able to describe, as applicable:

- Progress toward achieving the project's stated goals, objectives, measurable outcomes, and evaluation milestones;
- Activities completed during the reporting period and progress toward planned deliverables;
- Progress implementing the proposed evaluation design, analytic activities, or data collection activities;
- Any barriers, limitations, delays, or implementation challenges encountered and actions taken to address them;

- Collaboration and coordination with any project partners, subcontractors, consultants, community organizations, healthcare providers, schools, or other stakeholders involved in the project;
- Progress obtaining and maintaining any required approvals, agreements, permissions, or data use authorizations necessary to conduct the project;
- Data sources, evaluation measures, instruments, or analytic methods utilized during the reporting period and how they contributed to project findings;
- Findings, lessons learned, or emerging results related to adolescent health, implementation quality, implementation fidelity, parental engagement, healthy decision-making, informed consent, transparency practices, medically accurate and age-appropriate programming, or other relevant project outcomes;
- Dissemination activities conducted during the reporting period, including presentations, publications, reports, briefs, manuscripts, stakeholder engagement activities, or other efforts to translate findings into practice;
- How project findings, products, or activities contribute to the goals and priorities of OASH and the purpose of this NOFO; and
- Plans for upcoming activities during the next reporting period.

Recipients may also be required to report additional performance information identified by OASH during the project period to support federal monitoring, technical assistance, evaluation, dissemination, or program improvement activities.

b. Financial Reports

You must submit quarterly Federal Financial Reports (FFR) (SF-425). Your specific reporting schedule will be issued as a condition of award. Typically, we align the FFR reporting periods with the quarters of the federal fiscal year. FFRs are cumulative and due 30 days after the end of each reporting period or more specifically for the:

Quarter ending September 30, your FFR is due October 30
Quarter ending December 31, your FFR is due January 30
Quarter ending March 30, your FFR is due April 30
Quarter ending June 30, your FFR is due July 30.

In lieu of the last quarterly FFR, you will also be required to submit a final FFR covering the entire award 120 days after the end of the period of performance. You must submit FFRs via HHS Payment Management System (PMS) (https://pms.psc.gov).

Once submitted and accepted, your financial report data will be available in GrantSolutions, which is our grant management system.

c. Audits

If your organization expends $1,000,000 or greater in federal funds, it must undergo an independent audit in accordance with 2 C.F.R. § 200.501, often referred to as the Single Audit requirement.

d. Reporting of Matters Relating to Recipient Integrity and Performance

If the total value of your currently active grants, cooperative agreements, and procurement contracts from all Federal awarding agencies exceeds $10,000,000 for any period of time during the period of performance of this Federal award, then you must maintain the currency of

information reported to SAM.gov that is made available in the designated integrity and performance system (currently FAPIIS) about civil, criminal, or administrative proceedings described in 2 C.F.R. part 200. This is a statutory requirement (41 U.S.C. § 2313).

All information posted in the designated integrity and performance system will be publicly available. For more information about this reporting requirement related to recipient integrity and performance matters, see Appendix XII to 2 C.F.R. part 200.

e. Other Required Notifications

Before you enter into a covered transaction at the primary tier, in accordance with 2 C.F.R. § 180.335, you as the participant must notify OASH, if you know that you or any of the principals for that covered transaction:

- Are presently excluded or disqualified;
- Have been convicted within the preceding three years of any of the offenses listed in 2 C.F.R. § 180.800(a) or had a civil judgment rendered against you for one of those offenses within that time period;
- Are presently indicted for or otherwise criminally or civilly charged by a governmental entity (Federal, State or local) with commission of any of the offenses listed in 2 C.F.R. § 180.800(a); or
- Have had one or more public transactions (Federal, State, or local) terminated within the preceding three years for cause or default.

At any time after you enter into a covered transaction, in accordance with 2 C.F.R. § 180.350, you must give immediate written notice to OASH if you learn either that—

- You failed to disclose information earlier, as required by 2 C.F.R. § 180.335; or
- Due to changed circumstances, you or any of the principals for the transaction now meet any of the criteria in 2 C.F.R. § 180.335.

I. CONTACTS

Administrative and Budgetary Requirements

For information related to administrative and budgetary requirements, contact the HHS/OASH grants management specialist listed below.

Eric West
OASH Grants and Acquisitions Management
Email: eric.west@hhs.gov

Program Requirements

For information on program requirements, please contact the program office representative listed below.

Callie Koesters
Office of Population Affairs

Phone: 240-453-8128
Email: callie.koesters@hhs.gov

Grants.gov Support

For information or assistance on submitting your application electronically via Grants.gov, contact Grants.gov directly. Assistance is available 24 hours a day, 7 days per week.

GRANTS.GOV Applicant Support

Website: https://www.grants.gov

Phone: 1-800-518-4726

Email: support@grants.gov

SAM.gov Registration Support

For information or assistance on registering with SAM.gov, contact the General Services Administration (GSA) Federal Service Desk (FSD) Monday through Friday 8:00 AM to 8:00 PM Eastern at:

Website: https://www.fsd.gov/gsafsd_sp (Live Chat option available)

U.S. Phone: 866-606-8220

International Phone: +1 334-206-7828

J. OTHER INFORMATION

1. Application Checklist

The below is a summary listing of all the application elements required for this funding opportunity.

	Application Checklist
	SAM.gov Registration/Renewal – start as soon as possible (recommended minimum of 6-8 weeks prior to submission deadline
	Grants.gov Registration (recommended minimum of 6-8 weeks prior to submission deadline)
	Application for Federal Assistance (SF-424)
	Budget Information for Non-construction Programs (SF-424A)
	Disclosure of Lobbying Activities (SF-LLL)
	Project Abstract Summary, including any responsiveness criteria (Section F.1.a)
	Project Narrative – Submit all Project Narrative content (Section D.2.a) as a single acceptable file (Section E.3.a).
	Project Narrative Appendices – Submit all Appendix content (Section D.2.b) as a single acceptable file (Section E.3.a).
	Budget Package – Submit all Budget Package content (Section D.2.c) as a single acceptable file (Section E.3.a). Note SF-424A is not included in the package and should be uploaded with the standard forms. Must include documentation of any cost-share or matching proposed regardless of whether it is voluntary or mandatory. (Section A.3)
	Other Submission Requirements (Section E.4).

2. Acronyms

ABU	Approved, but Unfunded
FAPIIS	Federal Awardee Performance and Integrity Information System
FFATA	Federal Financial Accountability and Transparency Act
FFR	Federal Financial Report (SF-425)
FSD	Federal Service Desk (GSA)
FSRS	FFATA Subaward Reporting System
GAM	Grants and Acquisitions Management Division
GMO	Grants Management Officer
GMS	Grants Management Specialist
GPS	Grants Policy Statement
GSA	General Services Administration
HHS	Department of Health and Human Services
MTDC	Modified Total Direct Costs
NCC	Non-competing Continuation
NOA	Notice of Award
NOFO	Notice of Funding Opportunity
OASH	Office of the Assistant Secretary for Health
OMB	Office of Management and Budget
PD/PI	Project Director/Principal Investigator
PHS	Public Health Service
PPR	Performance Project Report
SF	Standard Form
SPOC	State Single Point of Contact

3. Glossary

Age appropriate content assures that topics and themes are appropriate for the age group and other specific characteristics of the target audience. All program content must be suitable for the developmental stage of the intended audience and support healthy, informed decision-making, including promoting delayed sexual initiation as a behavior associated with reduced teen pregnancy.

Body literacy is the ability to understand how the body functions in a state of health, including knowledge of reproductive anatomy, physiology, and hormonal patterns, and to interpret biological signals to support informed decision-making, self-awareness, and long-term physical, mental, and reproductive well-being.

Core components are the key ingredients of an intervention or its implementation determined by the developer to be the key ingredients related to achieving the outcomes.

Key Personnel includes those individuals who are essential to the project because of specialized training, skills, or expertise. This also includes those who will oversee the technical, professional, managerial, and support functions and/or assume responsibility for assuring the validity and quality of the project. This does not include individuals who provide routine administrative support to the project as part of their broader support of the organization.

Medically accurate materials and instruction are expected to be grounded in current, evidence-based scientific and clinical knowledge, and be within the scope of TPP statutory requirements to prevent teenage pregnancy. When materials provide information on widely prescribed medications for sexual and reproductive health, for example, the information should reference potential health risks to support minors and their parents or guardians in informed decision-making, which may include a desire to consult with their healthcare provider.

Optimal health is a dynamic balance of physical, emotional social, spiritual and intellectual well-being, and not merely the absence of disease or dysfunction. It reflects the highest level of health an individual can achieve and is supported by knowledge, skills, and behaviors that promote resilience, functioning, and long-term well-being across the lifespan.

Parent, for the purpose of this NOFO, refers to the main adult who takes care of an adolescent's basic needs, like food and safety. This can include biological parents, relatives like grandparents, aunts, uncles, or siblings, and nonbiological parents such as adoptive, foster, or stepparents. "Parents" play an important role in raising adolescents and helping them grow emotionally and socially through their daily interactions.

Quasi-Experimental Design (QED) is a design that forms a counterfactual group by means other than random assignment. Researchers use this approach for comparing observed changes in the treatment group with a comparison group (as a counterfactual representing an absence of intervention) to assess and estimate the impact of the program on participants. However, groups formed in these designs typically differ for reasons other than chance, and these differences may influence the impact estimate. There are different types of approaches used in quasi-experimental

designs such as those using Propensity Score Matching (PSM), Regression Discontinuity, Interrupted Time Series (ITS) and others.

Randomized Control Trial (RCT) is an experimental design study that assigns program participants to two distinct groups (at random): the treatment group, which receives program services, and the control group, which does not. The control group is the "counterfactual," representing the condition in which the program or intervention is absent. Random assignment ensures that the treatment and control groups are initially similar and do not differ on background characteristics or other factors. Random assignment, thus, creates an evaluation design where any observed differences between the two groups after the program intervention takes place can be attributed to the intervention with a high degree of confidence.

Random assignment is process that uses randomly generated numbers or other approaches to assign study units to groups in ways that are unaffected by the characteristics of the study units. With random assignment, any differences between the groups at pre-test can be attributed only to chance. The use, or lack of use, of this process differentiates experimental designs from non-experimental designs.

Statistically significant is when a result has statistical significance and is very unlikely to have occurred given the null hypothesis (no relationship between two measured phenomena) or by chance. Typically, statistical significance is measured at the $p<.05$ level.

4. Object Class Descriptions and Required Justifications

Personnel

Description

Includes costs of employee salaries and wages, excluding benefits.

Does NOT include consultants, subrecipient personnel costs, personnel costs outside of your organization. 2 C.F.R. § 200.459.

Justification

Clearly identify the PD/PI, if known. Provide a separate table for personnel costs detailing for each proposed staff person: the title; full name (if known at time of application), time commitment to the project as a percentage or full-time equivalent: annual salary and/or annual wage rate; federally funded award salary; non-federal award salary, if applicable; and total salary.

No salary rate may exceed the statutory limitation in effect at the time you submit your application (see E.2.c.2).

Sample Personnel Table

Position Title and Full Name	Percent Time	Annual Salary	Federally-Funded Salary	Non-Federal Salary	Total Project Salary
Project Director, John K. Doe	50%	$100,000	$50,000	$0	$50,000
Data Assistant, Susan R. Smith	10%	$30,000		$3,000	$3,000

Fringe Benefits

Description

Includes costs of personnel fringe benefits, unless treated as part of an approved indirect cost rate.

Justification

Provide a breakdown of the amounts and percentages that comprise fringe benefit costs such as health insurance, Federal Insurance Contributions Act (FICA) taxes, retirement insurance, and taxes.

Travel

Description

Includes costs of travel by staff of the applicant organization only.

Does NOT include travel costs for subrecipients or contractors under this object class.

Justification

For each trip proposed for your organization employees only, show the date of the proposed travel, total number of traveler(s); travel destination; duration of trip; per diem; mileage allowances, if privately owned vehicles will be used; and other transportation costs and subsistence allowances.

Equipment

Description

Includes tangible personal property (including information technology systems) having a useful life of more than one year and a per-unit acquisition cost that equals or exceeds the lesser of the capitalization level established by the recipient or subrecipient for financial statement purposes, or $10,000 ((2 C.F.R. § 200.1 and § 200.313(e)).

Acquisition cost means the cost of the asset including the cost to ready the asset for its intended use. Acquisition cost for equipment, for example, means the net invoice price of the equipment, including the cost of any modifications, attachments, accessories, or auxiliary apparatus necessary to make it usable for the purpose for which it is acquired. Acquisition

costs for software includes those development costs capitalized in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles (GAAP). Ancillary charges, such as taxes, duty, protective in transit insurance, freight, and installation may be included in or excluded from the acquisition cost in accordance with the non- Federal entity's regular accounting practices.

Justification

For each type of equipment requested you must provide a description of the equipment; the cost per unit; the number of units; the total cost; and a plan for use of the equipment in the project; AND a plan for the use, and/or disposal of, the equipment after the project ends.

If your organization uses its own definition for equipment you should include in the budget narrative a copy of the policy, or section of your policy, that includes the equipment definition. Reference the policy in your justification. Do not include this policy in your appendices.

Supplies

Description

Includes costs of all tangible personal property other than those included under the Equipment category. This includes office and other consumable supplies with a per-unit cost of less than $10,000 (2 C.F.R. § 200.1).

Justification

Specify general categories of supplies and their costs. Show computations and provide other information that supports the amount requested.

Contractual

Description

Includes costs of all contracts or subawards for services and goods except for those that belong under other categories such as equipment, supplies, construction, etc.

Include third-party evaluation contracts, if applicable, and contracts or subawards with subrecipient organizations (with budget detail), including delegate agencies and specific project(s) and/or businesses to be financed by the applicant.

This line item is not for individual consultants.

Justification

Demonstrate that all procurement transactions will be conducted in a manner to provide, to the maximum extent practical, open, and free competition. Recipients and subrecipients are required to use 2 C.F.R. § 200.320 procedures and must justify any anticipated procurement action that is expected to be awarded without competition and exceeds the simplified acquisition threshold fixed by FAR 2.101 and currently set at $250,000. In some cases, OASH may require recipients make pre-award review and procurement documents, such as

requests for proposals or invitations for bids, independent cost estimates, etc., available. Any proposal for awarding fixed amount subawards is subject to 2 C.F.R. § 200.333 and will require detailed justification to support the fixed award amount.

Transferring a substantive part of the project effort to another entity (including non-employee individuals) through contract or other mechanism requires a detailed budget and budget narrative for each subrecipient, by title or name, along with the same supporting information referred to in these instructions. If you plan to select the subrecipients post-award and a detailed budget is not available at the time of application, you must provide information on the nature of the work to be transferred, the estimated costs, and the process for selecting the subrecipient.

Other

Description

Includes such costs as, where applicable and appropriate,

- consultants;
- insurance;
- professional services (including audit charges);
- space and equipment rent;
- printing and publication;
- training, such as tuition and stipends;
- participant support costs including incentives,
- staff development costs; and
- any other costs not addressed elsewhere in the budget.

Do not include costs covered by your negotiated indirect cost rate.

Justification

Provide computations, a narrative description, and a justification for each cost under this category.

Indirect Costs

Description

Calculate your indirect costs based on a percentage of your modified total direct costs (MTDC)(2 C.F.R. § 200.1).

There are two methods. You must clearly identify the rate you used in your submitted budget.

Negotiated Indirect Cost Rate

If you have an approved negotiated indirect cost rate from the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) or another cognizant federal agency, you should apply

that negotiated rate. You should enclose a copy of the current approved rate agreement in your Budget package file.

If you request a rate that is less than allowed, your authorized representative must submit a signed acknowledgement that you are accepting a lower rate than allowed. This should be an explicit statement that you are accepting a lower rate than is allowed and specify what the lower rate is.

De minimis Rate (2 C.F.R. § 200.414(f))

If you do not have a current Federal negotiated indirect cost rate (including provisional rate) you "may elect to charge a de minimis rate of up to 15 percent of modified total direct costs (MTDC)." (2 C.F.R. § 200.414(f).) You may "determine the appropriate rate up to this limit. . . When applying the de minimis rate, costs must be consistently charged as either direct or indirect costs and may not be double charged or inconsistently charged as both." (2 C.F.R. § 200.414(f).) If you elect to use the de minimis rate, you must use the de minimis rate for all Federal awards until you choose to receive a negotiated rate.

Indirect costs for training are limited to a fixed rate of eight percent of MTDC exclusive of tuition and related fees, direct expenditures for equipment, and subawards in excess of $50,000 (45 C.F.R. § 75.414 (c)(1)(i)).

Modified Total Direct Cost (MTDC) means all direct salaries and wages, applicable fringe benefits, materials and supplies, services, travel, and up to the first $50,000 of each subaward (regardless of the period of performance of the subawards under the award). MTDC excludes equipment, capital expenditures, charges for patient care, rental costs, tuition remission, scholarships and fellowships, participant support costs, and the portion of each subaward in excess of $50,000. Other items may only be excluded when necessary to avoid a serious inequity in the distribution of indirect costs, and with the approval of the cognizant agency for indirect costs (2 C.F.R. § 200.1).

Justification

Provide the calculation for your indirect costs total, i.e., show each line item included in the base, the total of these lines, and the application of the indirect rate. If you have multiple approved rates, indicate which rate as described in your approved agreement is being applied and why that rate is being used. For example, if you have both on-campus and off-campus rates, identify which is being used and why.

Program Income

Description

Program income means gross income earned by your organization that is directly generated by an awarded project except as provided in 2 C.F.R. § 200.307. Program income includes but is not limited to income from fees for services performed or the use or rental of real or personal property acquired under the award.

Interest earned on advances of Federal funds is not program income. Except as otherwise provided in Federal statutes, regulations, or the terms and conditions of the Federal award,

program income does not include rebates, credits, discounts, and interest earned on any of them. See also 2 C.F.R. § 200.307 and 35 U.S.C. § 200-212 (applies to inventions made under Federal awards).

Justification

Describe and estimate the sources and amounts of program income that this project may generate. All program income generated as a result of awarded funds must be used within the scope of the approved project-related activities.

Any program income earned must be used under the addition or additive method unless otherwise specified in Section C.2. These funds should not be added to your budget, unless you are using the funds as cost sharing or matching, if applicable. This amount should be reflected in box 7 of the SF-424A.

Non-Federal Resources (Cost Share or Match)

Description

Amounts of non-federal resources that will be used to support the project as identified in box 18 of the SF-424. For all federal awards, any shared costs or matching funds and all contributions, including cash and third-party in-kind contributions, must be accepted as part of the recipient's cost sharing or matching when such contributions meet all of the criteria listed in 2 C.F.R. § 200.306.

For awards that require matching by statute, you will be held accountable for projected commitments of non-federal resources in your application budgets and budget justifications by budget period even if the justification exceeds the amount required.

For awards resulting from an application where you voluntarily propose cost sharing, we will include this voluntary cost sharing in the approved project budget, and you will be held accountable for it as shown in the Notice of Award (NOA).

Failure to meet a cost sharing or matching obligation that is part of the approved project budget on the NOA may result in the disallowance of federal funds.

If you are funded, you must report cost sharing or matching funds on your quarterly Federal Financial Reports.

Justification

You must provide detailed budget information in your budget narrative (not your appendices) for every funding source identified in box 18. "Estimated Funding ($)" on the SF-424.

You must fully identify and document the specific costs or contributions you propose as part of your required or voluntary cost sharing requirement. You must provide documentation in your application on the sources of funding or contribution(s).

For in-kind contributions, you must include how the stated valuation was determined. Matching or cost sharing must be documented by budget period.

Unrecovered indirect costs may be included as part of your cost sharing or matching only with prior approval of the grants management officer. Your budget narrative must clearly state that it is your intent to include unrecovered indirect costs as part of your cost sharing or matching. You should include in your budget narrative a copy of your negotiated cost rate to support the justification. Unrecovered indirect cost means the difference between the amount charged to the Federal award and the amount which could have been charged to the Federal award under your approved negotiated indirect cost rate. (See 2 C.F.R. § 200.306(c)).

If your application does not include the required supporting documentation for required or voluntary cost-sharing or matching, it will be disqualified from competitive review (Section F.1.b.).

5. Considerations in Recipient Plans for Oversight of Federal Funds

(See also Section D.2.c.3)

To the maximum extent possible, a recipient organization should segregate responsibilities for receipt and custody of cash and other assets; maintaining accounting records on the assets; and authorizing transactions. In the case of payroll activities, the organization, where possible, should segregate the timekeeping, payroll preparation, payroll approval, and payment functions.

Questions for consideration in developing your plan may include:

- Do the written internal controls provide for the segregation of responsibilities to provide an adequate system of checks and balances?
- Are specific officials designated to approve payrolls and other major transactions
- Does the time and accounting system track effort by cost objective?
- Are time distribution records maintained for all employees when his/her effort cannot be specifically identified to a particular program cost objective?
- Do the procedures for cash receipts and disbursements include:
- Receipts are promptly logged in, restrictively endorsed, and deposited in an insured bank account?
- Bank statements are promptly reconciled to the accounting records, and are reconciled by someone other than the individuals handling cash, disbursements and maintaining accounting records?
- All disbursements (except petty cash or EFT disbursements) are made by pre-numbered checks?
- Supporting documents (e.g., purchase orders, Invoices, etc.) accompany checks submitted for signature and are marked "paid" or otherwise prominently noted after payments are made?

6. Financial Assistance General Certifications and Representations

When you register your organization in SAM.gov, you must complete the certifications and representations applicable to grants (i.e., federal assistance). We have provided for your reference the list of items that you are certifying when you complete this during your registration.

When your organization completes its registration (new or renewal) in SAM.gov, your organization attests that your organization:

1. Has the legal authority to apply for federal assistance and the institutional, managerial and financial capability to ensure proper planning, management, and completion of any financial assistance project covered by this Certifications and Representations document (See 2 C.F.R. § 200.113 Mandatory disclosures, 2 C.F.R. § 200.214 Suspension and debarment, OMB Guidance A- 129, "Policies for Federal Credit Programs and Non-Tax Receivables");
2. Will give the awarding agency, the Comptroller General of the United States and, if appropriate, the State, through any authorized representative, access to and the right to examine all records, books, papers, or documents related to the award; and will establish a proper accounting system in accordance with generally accepted accounting standards or agency directives (See 2 C.F.R. § 200.302 Financial Management 2 C.F.R. § 200.303 Internal controls;
3. Will disclose in writing any potential conflict of interest to the federal awarding agency or pass through entity in accordance with applicable federal awarding agency policy (See 2 C.F.R. § 300.112 Conflict of interest;
4. Will comply with all limitations imposed by annual appropriation acts;
5. Will comply with the U.S. Constitution, all federal laws, and relevant Executive guidance in promoting the freedom of speech and religious liberty in the administration of federally-funded programs (See 2 C.F.R. § 200.300 Statutory and national policy requirements [2 C.F.R. § 300.112] and 2 C.F.R. § 200.303 Internal controls [2 C.F.R. § 300);
6. Will comply with all applicable requirements of all other federal laws, executive orders, regulations, and public policies governing financial assistance awards and any federal financial assistance project covered by this certification document, including but not limited to:
    1. Trafficking Victims Protection Act (TVPA) of 2000, as amended, 22 U.S.C. § 7104(g);
    2. Drug Free Workplace, 41 U.S.C. § 8103;
    3. Protection from Reprisal of Disclosure of Certain Information, 41 U.S.C. § 4712;
    4. National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, as amended, 42 U.S.C. § 4321 et seq;
    5. Universal Identifier and System for Award Management, 2 C.F.R. part 25;
    6. Reporting Subaward and Executive Compensation Information, 2 C.F.R. part 170;
    7. OMB Guidelines to Agencies on Governmentwide Debarment and Suspension (Non-procurement), 2 C.F.R. part 180;
    8. Civil Actions for False Claims Act, 31 U.S.C. § 3730;
    9. False Claims Act, 31 U.S.C. §3729, 18 U.S.C. §§ 287 and 1001;
    10. Program Fraud and Civil Remedies Act, 31 U.S.C. § 3801 et seq;

11. Lobbying Disclosure Act of 1995, 2 U.S.C. § 1601 et seq;
12. Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, 42 U.S.C. § 2000d et seq;
13. Title VIII of the Civil Rights Act of 1968, 42 U.S.C. § 3601 et seq;
14. Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, as amended; 20 U.S.C. § 1681 et seq
15. Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended; 29 U.S.C. § 794; and
16. Age Discrimination Act of 1975, as amended, 42 U. S.C. § 6101 et seq.

7. Protections for Healthcare Entities under Weldon and Other Conscience Protection Statutes

Under this program, HHS will not require grantees, individuals and institutions, who are covered by the Weldon Amendment to counsel or refer for abortions, notwithstanding the program's current regulations, see 42 C.F.R. 59.5(a)(5); See 86 FR 56144, 56153 (10/7/2021) ("[O]bjecting individuals and grantees will not be required to counsel or refer for abortions in the Title X program in accordance with applicable federal law. OPA has long worked with grantees and providers to ensure appropriate compliance with conscience laws".). The Weldon Amendment provides that Federal or State agencies or programs cannot subject institutional or individual health care entity to discrimination on the basis that the health care entity does not provide, pay for, provide coverage of, or refer for abortions. See Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2026, H.R. 7148, Div. B., Tit. V, Section 507(d). Under Weldon, a health care entity includes an individual physician or other health care professional, a hospital, a provider sponsored organization, a health maintenance organization, a health insurance plan, or any other kind of health care facility, organization, or plan. For more information about whether an entity is covered by the Weldon Amendment, applicants/grantees may consult resources provided by the Office for Civil Rights, https://www.hhs.gov/conscience/your-protections-against-discrimination-based-on-conscienceand-religion/index.html. And if an entity believes it has been subject to discrimination under Weldon, it may file a complaint with OCR here: https://ocrportal.hhs.gov/ocr/smartscreen/main.jsf

Appendix A - Criteria for Eligible TPP Effective Programs

The criteria below define the level of evaluation quality and evidence required for a program to be considered rigorously evaluated and eligible for replication under this NOFO.

Summary

Types of research designs and data used in the analysis

Studies must examine the effects of a program using quantitative data, statistical analysis, and hypothesis testing. Both randomized controlled trials and quasi-experimental impact study designs can be considered.

Timeliness of the study findings

To be eligible, programs must have at least one impact study with evidence of effectiveness from a follow-up data collection conducted within the last 15 years, calculated from the date the new findings are released.

Types of outcomes

Studies must measure program impacts on at least one measure of sexual risk behavior or its health consequences. Measures meeting this definition fall into the following domains: (1) sexual activity, including initiation of sexual activity, frequency of sexual activity, and voluntary delay or abstinence; (2) number of sexual partners; (3) STIs or HIV;[1] (4) pregnancies; (5) parental/caregiver engagement; (6) parental/caregiver-child emotional closeness; (7) sexting; (8) substance use; and (9) pornography use.

In addition to these outcomes, studies may include the following intermediate outcome domains, which support informed decision-making and long-term health:
(10) body literacy and reproductive health knowledge, including understanding of reproductive anatomy and physiology, hormonal function, fertility, and the ability to interpret biological indicators of health (e.g., menstrual cycle phases, ovulation, and male reproductive development); and (11) reproductive goals and future-oriented decision-making, including adolescents' ability to articulate goals related to relationships, childbearing, and family formation and to understand how current behaviors may affect those goals.

Measures within domains (10) and (11) are considered intermediate outcomes and are not sufficient on their own to demonstrate program effectiveness. To be eligible, studies must include at least one outcome from domains (1) through (9).

Most studies use self-reported measures, but biological measures of STIs and administrative data (for example, birth records) are also considered. Measures with limitations in terms of their quality or interpretation (for example, composite indices that aggregate multiple heterogeneous measures into a single score) are excluded. Ineligible measures also include outcomes that combine multiple behaviors together (e.g., sex while under the influence, or sex without

[1] STI testing is an eligible outcome as long as the test is not provided as part of the intervention.

consent). See "Types of Eligible Outcomes" for more details on the outcome measures that are eligible, including examples of measures in each outcome domain.

Study Quality

To meet the definition used in this NOFO for an effective program, the rigorous evaluation study supporting the effectiveness of the program must meet the criteria for either a "high" or "moderate" study quality rating as summarized in Table 1 below and described in more detail following Table 1.

Table 1. Summary of study quality ratings

Criteria category	Features of studies with the high study rating	Features of studies with the moderate study rating
Study design	Random or functionally random assignment	Random assignment design with high attrition or reassignment; Quasi-experimental design with a comparison group
Attrition	Random assignment studies that do not exceed What Works Clearinghouse standards for overall and differential attrition (cautious assumption)	Random assignment studies that exceed What Works Clearinghouse attrition standards. Attrition is not assessed in quasi-experimental designs
Baseline equivalence	Not assessed; samples are assumed to be equivalent by virtue of random assignment and low levels of sample attrition	The equivalence of the research groups is demonstrated at baseline, and systematically adjusted for in impact analyses
Reassignment	Analysis is based on original assignment to research groups	Not assessed, given the baseline equivalence requirement described below
Confounding factors	At least two subjects or groups in each research group and no systematic differences in data collection methods	At least two subjects or groups in each research group and no systematic differences in data collection methods

Note: Studies that do not achieve the high or moderate rating are given a rating of low.

Study design

The highest study quality rating is reserved for randomized controlled trials and similar studies that randomly assigned subjects to their research groups. Studies using random assignment provide the strongest evidence that differences in the outcomes between the treatment and control groups can be attributed to the program. (Designs based on functionally random assignment, such as alternating based on last name, date of birth, or certain digits of an identification number, are also eligible for this highest rating.)

Quasi-experimental designs with an external comparison group are eligible for at best a moderate rating. In such studies, subjects are sorted into the research groups through a process other than

random assignment; therefore, even if the treatment and comparison groups are well matched based on observed characteristics, they may still differ on unmeasured characteristics. We therefore cannot rule out the possibility that the findings are attributable to unmeasured group differences. The moderate study rating is also applied to random assignment designs that do not meet other criteria for the highest rating (that is, attrition or reassignment), as explained in more detail below.

Quasi-experimental designs without an external comparison group (for example, pre-post designs) are given a low study rating. These designs are not considered for either the high or moderate rating because they offer no credible means to assess what the sample's outcomes would have been absent the intervention — a necessary condition for obtaining an unbiased impact estimate. Quasi-experimental and random assignment studies that do not meet the other criteria for a high or moderate rating are also assigned the lowest rating.

Attrition

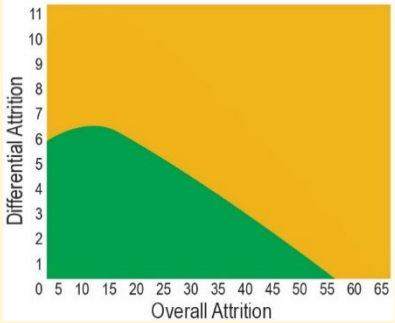
In random assignment studies, a loss of study participants can bias the study's impact estimates by creating differences in the characteristics of the treatment and control groups. Bias can arise from overall attrition (the percentage of study participants lost among the total study sample) or differential attrition (the difference in attrition rates between the treatment and control groups).

The cutoff for an acceptable level of sample attrition is tied not only to the extent of overall attrition or differential attrition but rather to a combination of the two. For example, for studies with a relatively low overall attrition rate of 10 percent. For studies with a higher overall attrition rate of 30 percent, the standard requires a lower rate of differential attrition, at approximately 4 percent. Only random assignment studies meeting the standard for acceptable combinations of overall and differential attrition using the cautious assumptions are considered for the highest study rating. Random assignment studies that do not meet these standards are considered for the moderate study rating.

For cluster randomized trials, in which individuals are assigned to treatment and control conditions in groups (for example, schools or classrooms, random assignment studies with low attrition at both levels (cluster and individual) are eligible for the high rating. Random assignment studies with high attrition at either level must demonstrate baseline equivalence of the analytic sample to be eligible for the moderate study rating.

In addition, cluster randomized trials that include sample members in the impact analysis who were not included in the sample at the time of random assignment (in other words, they joined the sample after random assignment) may also be required to demonstrate baseline equivalence of the analytic sample to be eligible for the moderate study rating. This requirement is enforced in contexts where the unit of assignment could potentially be exploited by joiners (for example, when classrooms within a school are the unit of assignment and a student may join a particular classroom in order to get the intervention).

Figure 1. Standard for assessing sample attrition in study quality ratings (WWC cautious attrition assumption)



Source: WWC. Procedures and Standards Handbook, Version 4.1. Washington, DC: U.S. Department of Education, 2020.

Any sample exclusions made after random assignment may factor into the attrition calculation. Depending on the specifics of the research design, these sample exclusions may arise from participant nonconsent, nonresponse, nonparticipation, or any number of other factors. The key determination is whether the exclusion in question presents any risk of bias to the study's impact estimates. Any sample exclusion that occurs after random assignment and presents a risk of bias will be factored into the attrition calculation.

The attrition standards are not applied to quasi-experimental studies. This criterion is explained in greater detail below.

Baseline equivalence

In quasi-experimental comparison group studies and random assignment studies with concerns about sample composition change (for example, studies with high attrition, reassignment, or individuals included in the analysis who may have selected/joined a cluster based on an attractive intervention), the use of well-matched treatment and comparison groups can minimize the risk of bias in the impact estimates. Therefore, in order to receive the moderate study rating, quasi-experimental comparison group studies and random assignment studies with concerns about sample composition change are required to demonstrate that the intervention and comparison groups were similar at baseline on three key demographic characteristics: age or grade level, biological sex, and race/ethnicity. For studies with sample members at least 14 years old at baseline (or eighth grade or higher), the study authors must also establish baseline equivalence on at least one behavioral outcome measure (for example, rates of sexual initiation). This criterion is not applied to studies with younger sample members because rates of sexual risk behaviors are typically low for this age group.

The following approach is used to determine if samples satisfy the baseline equivalence requirement: If the reported difference of a specified baseline characteristic is greater than 0.25 standard deviations in absolute value, based on the variation of that characteristic in the pooled sample of treatment and control group members, the treatment and control groups are considered to be nonequivalent.

Depending on the size of the baseline difference, a statistical adjustment in the analysis may be required. There are slightly different rules for statistical adjustment requirements for demographic characteristics and baseline measures of the outcomes:

- For demographic characteristics, when differences in the specified baseline characteristics are greater than 0.05 and lower or equal to 0.25 standard deviations, the analysis must include a statistical adjustment to meet the baseline equivalence requirement.[2] Differences of less than or equal to 0.05 standard deviation require no statistical adjustment.
- For baseline measures of the outcome, any difference lower than or equal to 0.25 standard deviations must be statistically adjusted for.[3]

Only those outcomes for which baseline equivalence is established are considered for possible evidence of program effectiveness. For example, if a study examined program impacts on three relevant outcome measures—sexual initiation, parental/caregiver engagement, and pregnancy—but established baseline equivalence for only one of the three measures (parental/caregiver engagement), the study meets the criteria for a moderate study rating, but only the impact findings for that one outcome measure (parental/caregiver engagement) are considered for possible evidence of program effectiveness.

These baseline equivalence criteria are assessed on the study's final analysis sample. In some cases, studies assess equivalence for all youth who completed a baseline survey, but then present impact estimates for only a smaller subset of youth who completed a follow-up survey. These studies do not meet the baseline equivalence criteria, because equivalence was not established for the smaller subset of youth on which the program impacts were based. Similarly, studies are not considered for the moderate rating if they present baseline equivalence statistics separately for subgroups defined by age, biological sex, or race/ethnicity, without also establishing equivalence for the full analytic sample on which they estimated program impacts. Some studies, for example, present baseline equivalence statistics separately for males and females or for subgroups of older and younger youth, but not for the overall combined sample. Finally, studies must demonstrate baseline equivalence of their analytic samples for various outcomes using unimputed baseline data. When there are multiple analytic samples, studies should ideally present baseline equivalence for each analytic sample. Baseline equivalence may be assessed using information for a sample of individuals that differs slightly from the sample of individuals used to produce a finding, (for example, due to item-level nonresponse on a survey) provided the difference in samples falls below the threshold for high attrition.

Some impact evaluations (notably, quasi-experimental studies and random assignment studies with high levels of attrition) use various statistical techniques to equate treatment and comparison groups at baseline. These techniques include (among others) (1) estimating propensity scores and limiting the analytic sample to the subset of observations that match well on the scores or (2) calculating (entropy or inverse-propensity) weights and using those weights to produce more credible impact analyses. These equating approaches are likely to improve

[2] When demographic characteristics are presented for multiple categories (for example, multiple races), the assessment of baseline equivalence will be based on the modal category.

[3] Including baseline measures on the left side of the regression equation (a difference-in-differences approach) will be an allowable means of statistically adjusting for baseline differences for continuous and count outcomes, but not for dichotomous outcomes (unless the authors justify the pre-post correlation for these outcomes); the pre-post correlation for dichotomous outcomes rarely exceeds the $r=.60$ threshold typically required for a difference-in-differences adjustment to effectively adjust for baseline differences, which is why this approach is allowable only for continuous or count outcomes.

baseline equivalence, and thus reduce confounding, relative to comparing the original (unweighted or unmatched) treatment and control groups.

Studies using these types of equating approaches are potentially eligible to receive a moderate rating if they satisfy the following requirements:

- The equating approach must include only exogenous variables in the calculation of the score or weight used to equate groups. Exogenous covariates are variables the treatment status will not potentially affect. If it's determined that a model included potentially endogenous variables (such as level of engagement with the program), then all results based on the model will receive a low rating.
- The success of the equating approach must be assessed by comparing the effect size differences between the matched or weighted analytic sample for all required baseline variables. Per the baseline equivalence standards discussed before, if the effect size differences are greater than 0.05 and lower than or equal to 0.25 standard deviations, the analysis must include an appropriate statistical adjustment. Differences less than or equal to 0.05 standard deviations do not require a statistical adjustment (except for a baseline measure of the outcome, which does require adjustment). Differences greater than 0.25 standard deviations do not meet the baseline equivalence requirement.
- Adjusting for the propensity (or other equating) score by itself (for example, by including it as a covariate in the impact model) is not sufficient when statistical adjustments for baseline measures of the outcomes or demographic characteristics are required. When a required covariate in a matched sample design requires statistical adjustment, the impact model should directly adjust the required covariate.
- If a study uses weighting approaches to equate groups, the study must document that the sum of the weights in the analytic sample is less than or equal to the number of observations in the analytic sample. This step is necessary to guard against artificially enhancing the precision of the standard errors and impact estimates that often result from outlier weights.

Reassignment

In random assignment studies, deviation from the original random assignment (for example, moving youth from the treatment to the control group) can bias the study's impact estimates. Therefore, in order for a random assignment study to meet the criteria for the highest rating, the analysis has to have been performed on the sample as originally assigned. In order to receive a high rating, subjects cannot be reassigned, based on actual treatment they received, for reasons such as contamination, noncompliance, or level of exposure. Random assignment studies that somehow alter the original random assignment must establish baseline equivalence of their final analysis sample in order to be considered for a moderate study rating.

For similar reasons, random assignment studies cannot statistically control for measures of program dosage, participation, or any other factors that effectively alter the composition of the treatment and control groups as originally assigned. Any impact estimates resulting from such analyses are excluded from our subsequent data extraction and assessment of program effectiveness (described below).

Confounding

In certain cases, a component of the research design or methods lines up exactly with the intervention being tested, undermining the credibility of attributing an observed effect to the intervention. For example, if a study assigns only one subject or group (such as a facilitator, classroom, or school) to the treatment or control condition, there is no way to distinguish the effects of the program from the particular effects of that one assigned subject or group. This can happen, for example, in a randomized controlled trial in which a single facilitator was assigned to deliver the program to the treatment group (and that person is not also the facilitator of a program delivered to the control group). This can also happen in quasi-experimental comparison group studies that estimate program impacts by comparing a single school or school district that implemented a pregnancy prevention program with a neighboring school or school district that did not have the program. In these cases, there is no way to distinguish the effects of the program from other characteristics of the particular facilitator, school or district that implemented the program. A confounding factor can also arise from systematic differences in data collection methods for the treatment and comparison groups—for example, if program staff collect data from all subjects in the treatment group but an independent group of staff collect data from the control group. In this case, the mode of data collection cannot be separated from the effects of the intervention. Because the presence of such confounding factors severely weakens the credibility of a study's findings, a low rating is assigned to random assignment or quasi-experimental comparison group studies with either (1) only one subject or group in the treatment and control condition or (2) systematic differences in data collection procedures between the treatment and control groups.

Analysis considerations

Some studies contain multiple follow-up periods and conduct impact analyses that incorporate more than one follow-up assessment in a single analytic model (for example, in a repeated measures, difference-in-differences, or growth curve analysis). In such situations, the potential internal validity threats will separately be assessed and associated with the evidence contributing to each follow-up assessment. That is, separate attrition assessments at each point in time included in the impact analytic approach (as needed) will be conducted and assessment of the baseline equivalence of the analytic samples contributing to each point-in-time impact estimate (as needed). Although some studies will report differences in trends as an estimate of program effectiveness, the point-in-time differences in outcomes as the focal effect size statistics of interest will be prioritized and therefore the internal validity threats at each point in time will be assessed even in studies that do not report impacts separately for each time point. If the authors do not provide this information, an author query may be conducted for effect size information at each point-in-time.

Study authors must handle missing data appropriately, regardless of design. The most common and straightforward method researchers use when data are missing is to simply remove observations with missing data from the samples they analyze and conduct a complete-case analysis. But other methods for handling missing data are sometimes used, including imputation (replacing observations with guesses as to the most reasonable value) or maximum likelihood (creating a statistical model to account for the missing data), and these alternate approaches may provide more credible estimates of program effectiveness than complete-case analyses. The WWC Standards Handbook Version 4.1 lists five acceptable approaches to handle missing data,

along with standards for how RCTs and QEDs with missing outcome or baseline data should be handled (WWC 2020).

Evidence of Effectiveness

Eligible effective programs must have at least one impact study showing evidence of a favorable, statistically significant impact on at least one outcome measure within one of the eligible outcome domains, for either the full analytic sample or a subgroup defined by (1) biological sex or (2) sexual experience at baseline. Programs that include body literacy education or reproductive goals counseling may also demonstrate impacts on intermediate outcomes (e.g., body literacy knowledge or future-oriented decision-making), but such measures must be assessed in conjunction with at least one behavioral or health outcome domain. The eligible outcome domains are (1) sexual activity; (2) number of sexual partners; (3) STIs or HIV;[4] (4) pregnancies; (5) parental/caregiver engagement; (6) parent/ caregiver-child emotional closeness; (7) sexting; (8) substance use; and (9) pornography exposure and use. In addition, the study cannot show evidence of any adverse, statistically significant impacts on any outcomes in these domains.

Statistical significance is assessed with a two-tailed hypothesis test and a specified alpha level of $p < .05$. For studies in which the unit of assignment is a group (or cluster) of individuals (for example, schools or classrooms), study authors must appropriately adjust statistical significance tests for the correlation in measurement among individuals within the same group (intra-cluster correlation). If the tests are not appropriately adjusted, the review team may follow up with study authors to request adjusted estimates. If adjusted estimates are unavailable, the evidence in question will be excluded from the review.

Although commonly featured in the literature, evidence from subgroups defined by sexual activity at follow-up receives a low rating and, therefore, is not considered when assessing program effectiveness. As with other endogenous subgroups that are defined by behavior emerging after the start of the program, the composition of those who are sexually active at follow-up may be affected by program participation. As a result, even with an experimental design, the treatment and comparison groups within such subgroups may lack equivalence, leading to biased estimates of a program's impact for these groups (see Colman 2012).[5]

Types of Eligible Outcomes

Eligible outcome measures fall into the following domains: (1) sexual activity; (2) number of sexual partners; (3) STIs or HIV;[6] (4) pregnancies; (5) parental/caregiver monitoring knowledge; (6) parent/ caregiver-child emotional closeness; (7) sexting; (8) substance use; and (9) pornography exposure and use. The outcome measures examined in studies are generally self-reported measures but can also be biological measures of STIs and measures from administrative data (for example, birth records). Measures with limitations in terms of their quality or interpretation (for example, composite indices that aggregate multiple heterogeneous measures

[4] STI testing is an eligible outcome as long as the test is not provided as part of the intervention.

[5] Colman S. (2012). Estimating program impacts for a subgroup defined by post-intervention behavior: Why is it a problem? What is the solution? U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Office of Population Affairs. https://opa.hhs.gov/sites/default/files/2020-07/estimating_programs_brief.pdf

[6] STI testing is an eligible outcome as long as the test is not provided as part of the intervention.

into a single score) are excluded. Ineligible measures also include outcomes that combine multiple behaviors together (e.g., sex while under the influence, or sex without consent).

Information in this section is organized by outcome domain. For each domain, a brief description of the measures categorized into each domain is provided including examples of specific measures, which are based on outcome measures that are eligible to date. The lists of examples are not exhaustive; there may be other outcome measures that meet the definition of the domain and, therefore, are eligible for review.

In addition, studies may include measures of body literacy, reproductive health knowledge, or future-oriented decision-making related to reproductive goals. These measures are considered intermediate outcomes and are not sufficient on their own to establish program effectiveness but may strengthen the evidence base when paired with behavioral or health outcomes.

1. Sexual activity

Measures in this domain include measures of any sexual activity, frequency of sexual activity, sexual initiation, delay of sexual initiation, and abstinence. Statistically significant program impacts that reflect more sexual activity are characterized as unfavorable due to a corresponding increase in risk of pregnancy or STIs. For example, a higher rate of sexual initiation is considered as an unfavorable outcome and a higher rate of delay in sexual initiation is considered as a favorable outcome.

Examples of eligible outcome measures categorized into the sexual activity domain

- Engaging in any sexual activity
- Ever having sex
- Being sexually active
- Having intercourse
- Frequency of sexual activity
- Sexual initiation
- Delay of sexual initiation
- Abstinence

2. Number of sexual partners

This domain includes measures of the number or count of sexual partners. Statistically significant program impacts that reflect a larger number of sexual partners are characterized as unfavorable due to a corresponding increase in risk of pregnancy or STIs. That is, a smaller number of sexual partners is considered to be a favorable outcome and a larger number of sexual partners is considered to be an unfavorable outcome.

Examples of eligible outcome measures categorized into the number of sexual outcomes domain

- Number or count of sexual partners
- Had multiple sexual partners
- Number of lifetime sexual partners

3. STIs or HIV

This domain includes measures of being tested for an STI or HIV and measures of being diagnosed with an STI or HIV. Measures of STI or HIV testing are considered to be eligible outcomes as long as the testing is not conducted as part of the intervention. Statistically significant program impacts that reflect more testing for STIs or HIV are characterized as favorable, and those that reflect a higher incidence of STIs or HIV diagnoses as unfavorable. For example, ever being tested for an STI is considered to be a favorable outcome, while being diagnosed with an STI or HIV is considered to be an unfavorable outcome.

Examples of eligible outcome measures categorized into the STIs or HIV domain

- Ever tested for any STI
- Ever had an STI
- Tested for STIs
- Tested for HIV
- Diagnosed with any STI
- Diagnosed with HIV
- Diagnosed with trichomoniasis
- Diagnosed with gonorrhea
- Diagnosed with chlamydia

4. Pregnancy

Measures of pregnancy, getting someone pregnant, and giving birth are categorized into this domain. Statistically significant program impacts that reflect a higher incidence of adolescent pregnancy or birth are characterized as unfavorable. For example, a higher rate of ever being pregnant or getting someone pregnant is considered as an unfavorable outcome and a lower rate of repeat pregnancy is considered as a favorable outcome.

Examples of eligible outcome measures categorized into the pregnancy domain

- Ever been pregnant
- Ever had a baby
- Having a recent pregnancy
- Having an unintended pregnancy
- Ever been pregnant or gotten someone pregnant
- Ever been pregnant or gotten someone pregnant, even if no child was born
- Having a repeat pregnancy
- Having a repeat pregnancy ending in a live birth

5. Parental/caregiver monitoring knowledge

Measures of parental or caregiver engagement capture adolescents' reports of their parents' or caregivers' involvement in their lives, including knowledge of their whereabouts and activities, communication, monitoring behaviors, and the establishment and enforcement of behavioral

expectations (e.g., rules or boundaries). These measures may reflect both caregiver actions (such as supervision, rule-setting, and communication) and adolescent disclosure of activities and experiences. We characterize as favorable statistically significant program impacts that reflect higher levels of parental or caregiver engagement.

Examples of eligible outcome measures categorized as parental/caregiver engagement

- Parental or caregiver monitoring of adolescent whereabouts and activities
- Parental knowledge of adolescent whereabouts and activities
- Family rules or expectations (e.g., dating rules, curfews)
- Parent or caregiver approval or disapproval of behaviors
- Measures of caregiver demandingness or behavioral expectations

6. Parent/caregiver-child emotional closeness

Measures of parent/caregiver-child emotional closeness capture adolescents' reports of feelings of closeness, support, affection, and trust between themselves and parents or caregivers. We characterize as favorable statistically significant program impacts that reflect higher levels of parent/caregiver-child emotional closeness.

Examples of eligible outcome measures categorized as parent/caregiver-child emotional closeness

- Maternal responsiveness
- Closeness to caregiver
- Maternal warmth
- Relationship (quality) with father
- Relationship (quality) with mother
- Attachment to birth parents
- Parental warmth

7. Sexting

Measures of sexting capture whether adolescents have sent or received text messages that include hypothetical sex talk, actual sex talk, or sexually explicit content or images. We characterize as unfavorable statistically significant program impacts that reflect higher rates of sexting.

Examples of eligible outcome measures categorized as sexting

- Sexting (sending or receiving)
- Actual sex talk
- Hypothetical sex talk
- Ever sent sext
- Sent a sext

8. Substance use

Measures of substance use capture whether adolescents have initiated or regularly used alcohol, cigarettes, marijuana, or other drugs. We characterize as unfavorable statistically significant program impacts that reflect higher rates of substance use.

Examples of eligible outcome measures categorized as substance use

- Alcohol use frequency
- Marijuana use frequency
- High or drunkenness frequency
- Any substance use in the past 30 days
- Lifetime and recent substance use
- Polysubstance use (use of several substances)

9. Pornography exposure and use

Measures of pornography exposure and use capture adolescents' self-reported engagement with or exposure to sexually explicit media, including frequency, recency, or patterns of use. These measures may also include exposure to sexually explicit content through digital platforms, including internet-based media. We characterize as unfavorable statistically significant program impacts that reflect higher levels of pornography exposure or use, given associations with sexual risk behaviors, altered expectations about relationships, and potential impacts on healthy development and decision-making.

Examples of eligible outcome measures categorized as pornography exposure and use

- Ever viewed pornography
- Frequency of pornography use (e.g., past 30 days, past 6 months)
- Age of first exposure to sexually explicit content
- Intentional versus unintentional exposure to pornography
- Time spent viewing sexually explicit material
- Exposure to online sexually explicit media