

EIS-HHS-AOA-REG2

Moderator: DONNA BETHGE

November 17, 2022

12:00 pm CT

Coordinator: Welcome and thank you for standing by. All lines have been placed in listen-only mode until the question answer session of today's call. Today's call is also being recorded. If anyone disagrees you may disconnect at this time. It is now my pleasure to turn the call over to your host, Donna. Thank you and you may begin.

Donna Bethge: Thank you Sandy. Hello everyone. My name is Donna Bethge and on behalf of the Administration on Aging, Administration for Community Living, I'd like to thank you for joining this informational call today. We'll be discussing the Notice of Funding Opportunity Number HHS-2023-ACL-AOA-CSSG-0003 which is titled 2023 Empowering Communities to Deliver and Sustain Evidence-based Chronic Disease Self-Management Education programs, sometimes known as CDSME.

Please note that for fiscal year 2023, ACL anticipates that this will be the only Notice of Funding Opportunity for the CDSME grant program. I'd also like to

note that I am the main contact for this Notice of Funding Opportunity and my contact email is listed on Page 12 of the funding opportunity.

During this informational call, we'll be reviewing the Administration for Community Living's vision related to this funding opportunity, the award information, including who is eligible to apply, items of note in the funding opportunity, and finally, we'll wrap up with a question-and answer-session. I am also joined today by my colleague from ACL's Office of Grants Management, Sean Lewis, who will be available for the question and answer portion of this call.

So, throughout the review of this funding opportunity, I'll be referencing the PDF with the instructions for applying which is posted on grants.gov. If you want to find this PDF, you can do the following: locate the funding opportunity on grants.gov, go to the Package tab, click on the Preview link which is at the lower right, click on the downloading instruction which is in the middle of the page on the right. This page also contains all of the mandatory forms for applying.

A frequently asked questions document was also posted on grants.gov, and to find this PDF, you can go to the Related Documents tab. You'll find and click on the Frequently Asked Questions file name to download and save that document. It would be really helpful to download these documents so you can follow along during this presentation.

Let's start with the overall vision. The Empowering Communities to Deliver and Sustain Evidence-based Chronic Disease Self-Management Education Programs funding opportunity reflects ACL's commitment to Evidence-based Chronic Disease Self-Management Education programs and our vision to help communities build capacity to deliver and sustain these programs for older

adults and adults with disabilities, particularly those with the greatest social determinants of health needs in areas where programs do not currently exist, as well as underserved geographic areas and/or populations as defined by the Executive Order on Advancing Racial Equity and Support for Underserved Communities through the federal government.

The Executive Order is intended to guide the Health and Human Services pursuit of a comprehensive approach to advancing equity for all, including people of color and others who have been historically underserved, marginalized, and adversely affected by persistent poverty and inequality. We know that disparities exist in the burden of chronic conditions which are only further exasperated by the social determinants of health.

Chronic conditions represent the leading causes of disability, death, and healthcare costs. At least 90% of the nation's \$4.1 trillion in annual healthcare expenditures are for people with chronic conditions. Empowering older adults to engage in Evidence-Based Chronic Disease Self-Management Education and support programs is one way that they can learn the skills and the tools to better manage their conditions and lead healthier and better-quality lives.

So, let's move on to an overview of the key award information. As I previously mentioned, ACL anticipates that this will be the only CDSME funding opportunity for fiscal year 2023 and that it will be highly competitive. Approximately \$5.9 million is available for an estimated ten cooperative agreements.

To give you an idea of how competitive our CDSME grant opportunities typically are, in the 2022 ACL CDSME program competition, ACL received a total of 31 applications and awarded nine grants. So approximately 29% of applications were funded.

Grants will be awarded in an amount ranging from \$500,000 to \$600,000 for a four-year fully funded grant period subject to the availability of federal funds. Fully funded means that grant funds for the four-year project and budget periods are available at the time of award. Note that this is a change from previous fiscal years, where funds were awarded for a three-year project period.

The inclusion of a fourth-year of funding will allow for substantial time and effort to plan and build the foundation necessary to implement and sustain programs in areas with little to no programming, as well as conduct outreach to underserved communities and populations.

Eligible applicants are listed on Pages 8 to 9 of this Notice of Funding Opportunity. Those eligible include domestic public or private non-profit entities including state governments, county governments, city or township governments, special district governments, independent school districts, public and state controlled institutions of higher education, Native American tribal governments, public housing authorities, Indian housing authorities, Native American tribal organizations, nonprofits having a 501(c)(3) status, private institutions of higher education, faith-based organizations and community-based organizations. Individuals, for-profit companies and foreign entities are not eligible to apply.

Organizations that were direct recipients of ACL Prevention and Public Health Fund CDSME grant awards in FY2018, FY2019, FY2020 FY2021 and FY2022 are not eligible to apply for the fiscal year 2023 Notice of Funding Opportunity. Please also note that this Notice of Funding Opportunity does not require cost-sharing or matching.

Funds will be awarded under the terms of a cooperative agreement, meaning that ACL will have substantial involvement and collaboration with the recipient organization. You can see Pages 7 through 8 for a list of the grantee and ACL responsibilities to be executed.

All applicants must specify a project director in their application. The project director, who is also sometimes referred to as the principal investigator, is the primary point of contact on matters involving the application. This should be the individual that would actually oversee the work of the proposed project and does not have to be a senior leader or executive at the organization.

The project director should be actively involved in the writing of the proposal and be able to answer any ACL questions about their application. Please ensure that you list the name and contact information for that project director on Page 1 of the SF-424 that you will submit with your application.

Here are some key dates. The letter of intent is due by Tuesday, December 6. This is highly recommended as it is helpful for our internal planning purposes. The letter doesn't need to be formal, just an email indicating the Notice of Funding Opportunity title and number and your intention to apply is sufficient.

The deadline for submission of applications is 11:59 pm Eastern Time on January 11, 2023. However, we strongly encourage you to submit your application to grants.gov at least seven days prior to the application closing date in case any technical issues arise. The anticipated Notice of Grant Awards and the project start date is May 1, 2023.

Let's talk a little bit about application screening. In order for an application to be reviewed it must meet all of the following screening requirements. One,

applications must be submitted electronically via grants.gov by 11:59 pm Eastern Time January 11, 2023. This information is listed in Section 4.4 under submission dates and times.

Number two, the project narrative section of the application must be double spaced on 8-1/2 by 11 plain paper with 1 inch margin on all sides and a standard font size of no less than 11 points, preferably Times Roman or Aerial. If you single space something in the narrative, your application may be screened out.

Number three, the project narrative must not exceed 20 pages. But, note that the project work plan, the letters of support and commitment, project map, organizational chart, the budget narrative justifications and resumes of key project personnel are not counted as part of the project narrative for the purposes of the 20-page limit.

Specific instructions for formatting the project narrative begin on Page 12 of the Funding Opportunity so please read these instructions carefully. To make it as easy as possible for reviewers scoring your application, applicants are required to use the five headings that are listed starting on Page 12 to organize the narrative, and provide a table of contents for any appendices to the application.

Number four of the application screening criteria is applications must include a proposed budget narrative and justification for years, one, two, three, and four, along with a combined budget narrative and justification for the proposed four-year, 48-month, budget period.

The proposed combined budget narrative and justification must not exceed the award ceiling of \$600,000.

Number five, applications must include a project work plan for years one, two, three, and four. Project work plans must be consistent with the proposed budget narrative/justification. Please carefully review these requirements for the work plan and the budget narrative justification. There are sample templates provided to guide you, and we recommend that you adhere to these directions provided.

Okay, number six of the screening criteria is that applicants must not have been the direct recipient of an ACL PPHF CDSME grant award in the years of FY2018, FY2019, FY2020, FY2021 and FY2022.

Now I'd like to highlight several items to note in the Notice of Funding Opportunity. This CDSME funding opportunity has two goals which are listed on Page 4. Goal one is to develop capacity to increase the number of older adults and adults with disabilities, particularly those in underserved areas and populations who participate in Evidence-Based Chronic Disease Self-Management Education and self-management support programs to empower them to better manage their chronic conditions.

All applicants must propose goals and major outcomes that align with this goal and describe a comprehensive strategy for building capacity for and implementing and disseminating the proposed CDSME and self-management support programs.

Of special note, all applicants must propose to offer two or more CDSME programs and at least one CDSME support program on the pre-approved list of programs, which is located in appendix B and Appendix C of the funding opportunity and propose to implement one or more of those identified programs in a remote format for example, by video conference or phone.

The National CDSME Resource Center, which is housed at the National Council on Aging, which is known as NCOA, maintains a website that tracks remote program guidance by program. This is linked in the funding opportunity on multiple pages, for example Pages 5 and 14.

I'd also like to point out that the NCOA website includes programs on the pre-approved list in Appendix B and Appendix C as well as other programs that are not on the list. I want to emphasize again to please only propose programs that are on the pre-approved list in Appendix B and Appendix C.

All applicants should contact their program developer/administrators for any programs they are interested in delivering remotely to confirm that one, the programs are allowed for remote delivery and two, that training is readily available for applicants who need it.

If you do not have existing capacity to deliver a program that you are proposing to deliver you should also contact the program administrators to ensure that training is available within the first three months of award.

If you do have adequate capacity, please provide a letter from your organization's leadership describing your capacity and attach this letter as an appendix to your application. Please don't submit letters from master trainers or program leaders.

The participant and completer target for your proposed program must be realistic and achievable. As noted in the Funding Opportunity Announcement on Page 7, awardees will be held accountable for achieving approximately 25% of their CDSME program completers target or participant target for self-management support programs by the end of year one, 50% of their target by

the end of year two, 75%, by the end of year three and 100% of their target by the end of year four.

The national CDSME Resource Center at NCOA has developed a tool to assist applicants with developing realistic and achievable targets. This tool is included as Appendix E in the funding opportunity.

All applicants must also describe the special target populations to be served by the proposed program in efforts to advance equity and CDSME program scaling and participation. Please take the time to review the Executive Order on Advancing Racial Equity and Support for Underserved Communities through the federal government.

Goal number two is to identify and implement one or more robust strategies that will promote the sustainability of evidence-based self-management education and self-management support programs. The goal of sustainability is to integrate and embed evidence-based programs into a community's network of coordinated health and social services so that they are readily available and easily accessible over time.

All applicants must propose goals and major outcomes that align with this goal and describe robust sustainability strategies to support programs during and beyond the grant period. This funding opportunity also requires letters of support and commitment. Letters should be included from one, key partners, particularly those named in the project narrative as having a significant role in the proposed project. Your letters must describe the specific role for each partner.

Two, the State Unit on Aging or State Units on Aging if proposing a multi-state effort. Three, all Area Agencies on Aging within the targeted geographic

area. And four, the program developers and administrators for the programs proposed, if training is needed. All applicants are expected to be able to begin delivering their proposed CDSME and self-management support programs within three to six months after receiving their Notice of Award. It is important for you to contact the program developer while you're developing your application to ensure training for your proposed programs will be available if you need it.

If the State Unit on Aging or an Area Agency on Aging declines to provide a letter, you should include evidence that you made the request and that they've declined in your application. This can be in the form of an email. Please be aware that it might take some time to gather your letters so begin this process very early.

The State Unit on Aging and Area Agency on Aging letters are not required for applicants that are tribal entities. In lieu of these letters, tribal applicants should include a tribal resolution that states the reasons they're applying for the grant and commitment to executing the grant activities should it be awarded.

For more details about the required sections of the project narrative see Pages 12 through 20 of the funding opportunity.

The application review information, which begins on Page 23 of the Funding Opportunity, details the criteria by which your application will be scored. You'll notice that these criteria mirror the details requested in the project narrative. I encourage you to closely review the criteria and ensure that you are addressing them clearly and comprehensively in your narrative and application materials.

Before I wrap up this overview and begin the Q&A portion of this call, I'd like to emphasize the importance of the appendices of this funding opportunity. Please thoroughly review the appendices as they provide information and resources that will aid in the development of your proposal. So now I'd like to open it up for questions and answers if we could Sandy.

Coordinator: Thank you. If you'd like to ask a question over the phone, please press Star 1. Please ensure your phone is unmuted and record your name to ask a question. Again, that is Star 1 to ask a question. If you wish to withdraw press Star 2. One moment while we wait for any questions to come in.

Coordinator: Our first question comes from Brittany Allen. You may go ahead.

Brittany Allen: Hi, thank you. Are Area Agencies on Aging eligible to apply?

Donna Bethge: Hi Brittany, great question. Yes, they are.

Brittany Allen: And if they are the lead agency, if you will, then how does that work with the letters of commitment? Would we just need it, one, from the State Unit on Aging and then the ones from the program developer and the program administrator for the particular program?

Donna Bethge: If you are the Area Agency on Aging that's applying, what we would like you to do is -we suggest, that an Area Agency on Aging applicant include a letter of support from your director, your CEO, or your leadership indicating the commitment to the project should it be funded. That way the reviewer can identify that the AAA letter requirements have been met.

Brittany Allen: Thank you so much.

Donna Bethge: No problem.

Coordinator: The next question is from (Erie Zeitz). You may go ahead.

(Erie Zeitz): Hello. Thank you. Good afternoon. So this was actually a two part question about the parameters for eligibility. Namely, if some of the patients that we would be, you know, using the programs for, have some degree of cognitive impairment, would that qualify as a disability within the parameters of this grant?

Donna Bethge: Well, in terms - are you talking just in - as definition of disability or for underserved populations? I guess I'm not understanding exactly...

(Erie Zeitz): Oh, as definition of disability. They are also part of an underserved population, but yes it would be in terms of disability.

Donna Bethge: Okay. We have a definition of disability, so what I'm going to recommend - real quick, I'm looking it up right now. So give me a second, because I don't want to misquote...

(Erie Zeitz): Sure.

Donna Bethge: We do have a Frequently Asked Questions document.

(Erie Zeitz): Okay.

Donna Bethge: And that is applied and that one is answered in here, but give me just one second.

(Erie Zeitz): Okay.

Donna Bethge: And so for the purposes of this funding opportunity, and it's consistent with the definition of disability in the Older Americans Act, we define an adult with disability as one who has a developmental physical and/or mental impairment that results in...

(Erie Zeitz): Okay.

Donna Bethge: ...substantial functional limitation in one or more major life activities, including self-care, communication, learning, mobility capacity for independent living, self-direction economic, self-sufficiency, cognitive functioning, and emotional adjustments. Does that answer your question?

(Erie Zeitz): Okay. It absolutely does. Thank you.

(Erie Zeitz): The second part of this question is, would educating caregivers to train seniors as part of a self-management at home regimen be covered by the grant. In other words the training for the caregivers to help the seniors adjust to their at home care?

Donna Bethge: Great question. The way I'm going to approach this is, our programs are all evidence-based and that is directed towards certain guidelines of eligibility that maintain that evidence-base.

So with the programs that you're proposing, I would reach out to the program developer and administrator. Caregivers can attend the program, but you would need to talk about further instructions with the caregivers from that program, administrator and developer, to ensure that the programs are implemented within the fidelity guidelines that they maintain.

(Erie Zeitz): Okay, that's very useful. Thank you so much. I really appreciate you taking the time.

Donna Bethge: No problem. And just a point of clarification, in Appendix B, you have the list of CDSME programs. In Appendix C we have the self-management support programs, and each of those are linked to the program page where you can reach out to those program administrators.

(Erie Zeitz): Oh, great. Thank you so much.

Coordinator: The next question comes from (Sue Mitchell). You may go ahead.

(Sue Mitchell): Hi, good afternoon. I wanted to know - we are currently offering the Self-Management Resource Center, chronic disease, cancer, thriving and striving, diabetes, self-management, and chronic pain. And I want know if I could apply for this grant to build - start to build back up what we lost during the two years of the pandemic or if we're - we already had those programs existing. Does that eliminate us from the grant?

Donna Bethge: No, that does not make you ineligible. You definitely can have programs in place. It's great to have that capacity already. In your case, as long as your organization has not been awarded a grant in fiscal year 2018, '19, '20, '21 or '22, then you are eligible to apply for this. So organizations that are currently implementing these programs certainly are eligible to apply for funding.

(Sue Mitchell): Great, thank you.

Coordinator: The next question comes from (Jennifer Brockman). You may go ahead.

(Jennifer Brockman): Thank you. I had some format questions and a more substantial question.

My more substantial question is about the remote programs, the programs that are conducted virtually. Are we limited to proposing to conduct one of our programs virtually or can we propose more than one?

Donna Bethge: You may propose more than one. Yes, that is simply our minimum criteria that we would like each organization to implement at least one. But yes, you can definitely propose to implement more than one in a remote modality.

(Jennifer Brockman): Great, thank you. And the formatting question - is any information that, you know, like page numbers, organization, name – allowed to be in the margins, or is that not a good idea in the margins of the narrative, the project narrative?

Donna Bethge: Like as a header for each page? Is that what you're thinking?

(Jennifer Brockman): Yes. I mean, typically we have the name of the proposal and our logo and on the bottom. You know, we might have the FOA number and the date and the page number – that kind of thing.

Donna Bethge: Right. That would be allowable. It would just need to be very clear that it's not substantive material to the narrative, if that makes sense. Including page numbers is of course always helpful, but you have a header or footer along that line, is just fine.

You are also allowed to have references as a footnote but it just cannot be substantive information that goes beyond that 1-inch margin on any side.

(Jennifer Brockman):: Okay and a final formatting question. It may be silly, but we have learned to be careful with grant applications and how they're processed. In the items

that are allowed to be in the appendices, may they be single spaced or should someone's CV be double-spaced or a letter of commitment be double-spaced?

Donna Bethge: They are not required to be double-spaced. Anything in separate appendices does not adhere to that double-spacing requirement. The double-spacing requirement applies only to the narrative part because we want everyone to have equal space to provide substantive information. So no, if a letter of support or key personnel is single space that's fine as long as they're labeled as appendices. That will not go against the requirement.

(Jennifer Brockman): Okay, great. Thank you so much.

Coordinator: Our question comes from (Carla Freeze). You may go ahead.

(Carla Freeze): Hi. Thank you so much. I have two questions, one programmatic, and the other more under budgeting. More programmatic, understanding that we have to select from the evidence-base list in the appendices. Can we do this - can this be done one-on-one in home with the family and the person at risk that we're serving?

Donna Bethge: That's a great question (Carla). Of course, it's going to be up to the program developer and administrator for their guidelines.

(Carla Freeze): Okay.

Donna Bethge: We do not have a lot of programs that are allowable to be offered just one-on-one in an independent home situation. But we always refer you to the program developer. They are the ones that maintain their fidelity to maintain their evidence base of the program.

(Carla Freeze): Thank you very much. And then just the budget - and a lot of the questions we had were in the FAQ so that was a great document so thank you.

Donna Bethge: Oh, good.

(Carla Freeze): And two - it's always nice. And more budgetary understanding that we are planning for sustainability, but really just the startups on a new program or expansion of a program that there are no budgetary requirements or on a salary or community participant or operational expenses. We do our budget how we deem fit for the time being that there's no percentage-wise that the budget has to be separated at all right?

Donna Bethge: In this, I'm going to pass this one over to Sean Lewis. He's our fiscal advisor on these.

(Carla Freeze): Okay.

Donna Bethge: So Sean, would you mind stepping in?

Sean Lewis? Yes. All right, could you repeat that one more time for me?

(Carla Freeze): So if we do have - if we have budgetary needs for a new person and any operational cost in addition to any supplies or - I'll stop. If there's any operational cost needed or personnel needed to, to start the program, there's no guidelines on how we use that? So if like 20% of our requested budget is for the personnel, that's okay? There's no guidelines on how we set up our budget?

Sean Lewis: Correct. Basically it's as long as your costs are allowable that's the only thing we look at is. But as far as how you divvy it up percentage-wise, no, we don't have any guidelines in place.

(Carla Freeze): Okay. And with that one more question. I apologize. Can in-home supplies and/or medication be covered with the funds?

Sean Lewis: Yes, ma'am.

(Carla Freeze): Perfect. Thank you. Thank you everyone, appreciate it.

Sean Lewis: You're welcome.

Coordinator: Currently there are no additional questions. As a reminder. If you'd like to ask a question, please press Star 1, unmute your phone and record your name. Once again, that is Star 1, unmute your phone and record your name to ask a question. One moment, please.

Your next question comes from (Sharon Riley). You may go ahead.

(Sharon Riley): Hi. My understanding is that we have to have a work plan, a complete work plan for all four years. From my experience working - I have worked with Great Lakes Inter-tribal Council, and working in tribal communities, you know, we, as we start implementing programs, we start learning new things and we have to actually shift our work plans as we gather new information and better understanding of our individual tribal members' needs.

So what opportunities would there be in making modifications to a work plan? You know, the proposed work plan that goes into the application may need to

be modified as we start putting the workplan into, you know, as we start implementing it over the years.

Donna Bethge: That's a great question (Sharon). And yes, you are correct. We require that you submit a proposed work plan for each year, one, two, three and four. These grants are awarded as a cooperative agreement which means that ACL will be fully involved along with NCOA as a resource center. And we realize that four years is a long time for a project.

So throughout the period of the grant you will have technical assistance calls, not only with the Resource Center but interval calls also with your project officer here at ACL. We will be following along your progress and there'll be plenty of opportunity to discuss what might be the best timing or the best adjustment to your work plan. So yes, there will be opportunities to adjust your work plan throughout the four years.

(Sharon Riley): The other thing too, and I'm assuming that means we can also then adjust the budget, you know, appropriately, according to that as well. For this project, since it is evidence based, is there a requirement to have an evaluator?

Donna Bethge: No, we do not require an external evaluator.

(Sharon Riley): Okay. Thank you very much.

Coordinator: The next question comes from (Erie Zeitz). You may go ahead.

(Erie Zeitz): Thank you. Hello, it's me again. This is just a follow-up to the question I asked before. Donna, I believe you answered it. You said that I should reach out to program developers and administrators, and that I could find that

contact information in appendix, I think you said, was it Appendix B of the announcement?

Donna Bethge: Correct. Appendix B lists all of your CDSME programs. We have links to their website and then Appendix C has the self-management support programs listed with all the links to their website.

(Erie Zeitz): Great. Thank you so much. I appreciate it.

Donna Bethge: No problem.

Coordinator: The next question comes from (Uretta). You may go ahead.

(Uretta Huber): Hi. This is (Uretta Huber) and I have a question. I joined a couple minutes late. So the total amount for the grant is \$600,000 or is that per year?

Donna Bethge: That is total. So this is total for the four-year project plan. Your proposal will have to be between \$500,000 and \$600,000.

(Uretta Huber): Okay.

Donna Bethge: And that is total for the full four years.

(Uretta Huber): Okay thank you so much.

Donna Bethge: No problem.

Coordinator: The next question comes from (Sierra Shorty). You may go ahead.

(Tara Shorty): Hi, can you hear me?

Donna Bethge: Yes, we can.

(Tara Shorty): Hi. My name is (Tara Shorty). I'm from the New Mexico Department of Health. I have a question because I'm a bit confused by this criteria. It says that previous ACL grantees from fiscal year '18 to '22 aren't able - are ineligible to apply. We were a grantee in 2016 to '18 and had a one year grant extension that went into 2019. Are we able to apply for this grant?

Donna Bethge: So, yes, it's only according to the award year. So if your your last award year was FY 2016, then you would be eligible. Yes.

(Tara Shorty): Okay. Thank you so much.

Coordinator: At this time. There are no additional questions, but however, as a reminder, if you'd like to ask a question, please press star 1, unmute your phone and record your name. Once again, that is Star 1, unmute your phone and record your name to ask a question.

Okay. Our next - I'm sorry. Our next question comes from (Stephanie). You may go ahead.

(Stephanie Poloka): Hi. This is (Stephanie Poloka). I am trying to find the appendices to outline the evidence-based programs that would qualify, but I guess I'm having a hard time finding them.

Donna Bethge: Okay. Let me see what page those start on. Appendix A starts on Page 48 of the funding opportunity, which is the glossary of terms.

Appendix B starts on Page 51 of the funding opportunity, and Appendix C, which are your support programs, starts on Page 53 of the funding opportunity.

(Stephanie Poloka): Okay. And we're looking at the I - I feel like maybe I'm not looking at the right document, the...

Donna Bethge: You've gone into grants.gov and followed for this funding opportunity?

(Stephanie Poloka): Yes, I looked its says FOA content. Maybe I need a separate call because I feel like I'm a little bit lost. I was following along with you as you were presenting it, but I don't seem to see the appendices. And...

Donna Bethge: (Stephanie), if you send me an email I can send you the direct link.

(Stephanie Poloka): Okay. Thank you.

Coordinator: Okay. Our next question comes from (Francesca Fisher). Please check your mute button. We're not hearing you Miss.

(Francesca Fisher): Can you hear me now?

Coordinator: Yes, we can. Thank you.

(Francesca Fisher): Okay. Are libraries eligible applicants for this grant?

Donna Bethge: I had a little bit hard time hearing that. Did you say library?

(Francesca Fisher): Yes. Are libraries eligible for this particular grant opportunity?

Donna Bethge: Do they hold a 501(c)(3)? Is it like a public library?

(Francesca Fisher): Yes.

Donna Bethge: Sean, I'm going to confirm with you, but I believe that's allowable then, correct?

Sean Lewis: Yes, ma'am.

(Francesca Fisher): Thank you.

Coordinator: At this time there are no additional questions. However, if you'd like to ask a question, please press Star 1, unmute your phone and record your name to ask your question. One moment while we'll wait to see if any additional questions come in.

Our next question comes from (Keith Kowinski). You may go ahead.

(Keith Kozinski): Hey, it's (Keith Kozinski) from Oklahoma, Donna. So with the eligibility – on eligibility question, so I understand you're not eligible if you've been awarded during those grant years, you specified. But it's my understanding that you could potentially be a subcontractor for a different grantee now, is that correct? And I have a second part too, that if that's true.

Donna Bethge: Okay. Yes, so wording - the language in the Notice of Funding Opportunity states that direct recipients as the ACL PPH funding in those years are not eligible. It does not restrict partners or sub-recipients.

(Keith Kozinski): And then my second part to this question - I think I know the answer - I'm sorry, I'm not trying to be annoying – is, can we - could you assist the grantee with administrative oversight if they don't have experience dealing with it?

Donna Bethge: That's a good question. The eligibility is going to be based on their application. So once the award is made to that organization, if they require administrative assistance, I don't see any restriction in that.

(Keith Kozinski): Okay. Thank you, Donna. I appreciate it.

Coordinator: This time there are no further questions. Anyone else wishes to ask a question, please, press Star 1, unmute your phone and record your name. One moment, please. We have another question for (Carla Freeze). You may go ahead.

(Carla Freeze): Yes, me again. Thank you, final questions for me. I know - are we required to have partners because I'm, I want to make sure that if we have - obviously we work or we do work with many, hospitals organizations. And if it's just a referral partnership that we work with, would that be construed like a heavy-duty partnership? I just want to make sure what the requirement is.

Donna Bethge: Well, what we strongly recommend for your application is that you do have partnerships, because we're looking for sustainability. We want this embedded into the community. So at a minimum, what I would recommend is at least have an agreement with these other organizations. We understand referral processes are vital to every program, but what we recommend seeing is at least some kind of an agreement with those organizations that show that they're going to support your program.

(Carla Freeze): Perfect. Thank you so much for that.

Coordinator: Our next question comes from (Sharon Riley) You may go ahead.

(Sharon Riley): It sounded like from one of the other previous folks that asked a question, that sub-award agreements are allowable, but do sub-awardees, also, are they able to their indirect charge as well?

Donna Bethge: I'm going to preliminary answer this but Sean, I am going to turn it back over to you. You mean direct bill to the grant as a sub-recipient?

(Sharon Riley): As a recipient of the grant award, we would have our indirect rate that we would put into the budget. But then if we distribute money to a sub-awardee, which we do often because we serve all of our member tribes and we send money off as a sub-award agreement, can the tribes also bill their indirect rate to the grant - to the project?

Donna Bethge: Okay Sean, would you mind stepping in and answering that one?

Sean Lewis: No problem. The fiduciary responsibility that ACL has on its award is to direct grantee, not to subrecipient. Therefore, any billing that the subrecipient does will be billed to you and not to the awarding agency because there's no fiduciary relationship or responsibility between us and your sub-awardee.

(Carla Freeze): Okay.

Sean Lewis: So the answer is no.

(Carla Freeze): But the answer is no?

Sean Lewis: Yes, ma'am

(Carla Freeze): Okay. Unless we assume that all of our sub-award agreements are considered direct expenses, even though part of theirs includes - anytime you receive a fund, whether it's as a sub-awardee or as a direct recipient, there's some level of grant administration that falls - sometimes falls into direct cost you know, if the grant administration's done by personnel - or falling into - under general administrative cost.

Sean Lewis: Right.

(Carla Freeze): So but thanks for the clarification.

Sean Lewis): Oh, you're welcome. Yes because that's between you and your subrecipients. So any policies, regulations, procedures that apply to you would apply to them the same way, but any reporting or, or charging would go directly to you and they wouldn't charge directly to us. The grant awards through the awarding agency.

(Carla Freeze): Absolutely. But they could include in their, you know, their reimbursement request to us, their administrative or indirect costs?

Sean Lewis: Oh yes ma'am, definitely.

(Carla Freeze): Okay. That's what I just wanted to confirm. Thank you.

Sean Lewis: Okay. You're welcome.

Coordinator: At this time. There are no further questions.

Donna Bethge: Okay Sandy why don't we go ahead and wrap it up. I'd like to say thank you to all for joining us today and especially Sean and Sandy also for assisting in this call.

Please be reminded to review the Frequently Asked Questions document that I did refer to earlier in the call. And a recording of this call will be available approximately one hour after this call concludes at the number listed in the funding opportunity on Page 3.

Thank you so much for your involvement today. And we look forward to seeing your application. Have a great day, everyone.

Coordinator: That concludes today's conference. Thank you all for joining. You may now disconnect.

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