

General Proposal Questions

Q: Can an agency submit more than one bid for multiple service proposals?

A: Yes.

Q: Can an agency submit for A-FSI alone and not bid for the other RMHI initiatives?

A: Yes.

Q: Can an agency submit for RMHI and not include the A-FSI program?

A: Yes.

Q: Can an agency submit more than one bid for different regions of the State?

A: Yes.

Q: The RFP breaks funding down by population not by program. How does the bidder determine the specific population for each proposed program?

A: The Bidder should identify their community's (target population) needs in Question 3.1. They should describe their proposed program in Question 3.2, including their target population. For example, the Bidder can propose organizing a support group for Syrian refugees; the target population are Syrian refugees.

Q: Is the amount for ReMHI to cover programs listed as a, b, and c in the proposal?

A: ReMHI (includes RMHI and AHP funding) must contribute to at least one of the three target areas: Increase Mental Health Literacy, Coordinate Mental Healthcare, and Organize Wellness Groups (page 11, Supported Activities). There are a variety of programs that can be justified as supporting one or more of the above listed target areas. A few examples are listed in the RFP. Bidders are not required to propose the suggested examples.

Q: Is the funding for AHP only for the A-FSI program?

A: No. AHP funding can be used for any mental health program which serves the ORR-eligible Afghan population. Eligible Afghans are listed in the next answer.

Q: So, the AHP cannot be used for other Afghans?

A: Those eligible for AHP funding are Afghan citizens or nationals (or a person with no nationality who last habitually resided in Afghanistan), who were either:

1. Paroled into the U.S. between July 31, 2021, and September 30, 2022; or
2. Paroled into the U.S. after September 30, 2022, and

- a. is the spouse or child (as such term is defined under section 101(b) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1101(b)) of an individual described in subparagraph (A); or
- b. is the parent or legal guardian of an individual described in subparagraph (A) who is determined to be an unaccompanied child under 6 U.S.C. 279(g)(2).

Q: Under Part 2, Past Projects, the prompt reads: "*Describe the bidding organization's experience from the past three years in providing services for the community it represents.*" Do you want to see all our projects for our community, or specifically projects for the target population?

A: If you have a lot of projects that fall under this timeframe, please list the relevant programs which served your proposed target population and/or programs that are mental health related. Please add a note stating that you listed only relevant projects and that a full list can be provided, if requested by the reviewers.

Q: As an actual cost contract are their separate cost reimbursement options for mileage and required training?

A: Yes, there is a line item in the budget for mileage reimbursement and a separate line item for miscellaneous.

Q: Under Part 3, Program Design, do we submit a single work plan for just Year 1, two work plans for Year 1 and 2, or a single work plan for Year 1 and 2? This helps me complete the timeframe component.

A: Submit a single workplan for years 1 and 2 in one table. We are looking for workplans that show thought and purpose was put into the program design. If funded, we expect proposed workplans to change as programs progress.

Q: Are we required to exclude community members who are not ORR-eligible from support groups conducted under this funding? Or can we have a group that serves ORR-eligible people + others (specifically individuals who have been here longer than 5 years)?

A: We expect you to propose programs to serve ORR-eligible populations, and to target the program for these populations. If there are specific concerns or opportunities for extended reach for group programming, and that is of interest to the awarded grantee, our office can discuss those scenarios. Specified eligibility factors are tied to the available federal funding and those requirements must be documented and complied with for receipt of funding.

- Q: How would you want us to report on broader community education events that are attended by a more diverse group?
- A: If you propose to use this funding for large community events, the program must serve eligible populations. Please report only on the eligible populations who attended the event.

Q: What is the documentation retention period required under this grant?

A: Retain all documents for seven years, then destroy.

Q: Is the State wanting to see a few comprehensive agreements or a higher number of narrowly focused projects result from this funding?

A: In terms of reporting, invoicing/budgeting, monitoring, and contracts it would be simpler to propose a small number of comprehensive programs.

Q: Are program administration costs allowable expenses?

A: Yes, this is an allowable expense.

Q: Can a single activity be listed multiple times to meet different objectives?

A: Yes.

Q: Are you expecting a significant change in available funding from year 1 to year 2?

A: No.

Q: Is there a way to work directly with resettlement agencies to connect identifying/eligibility information through other means, where people being served by multiple agencies do not have to get asked the same questions repeatedly?

A: All ORR-eligible clients served through resettlement agencies are entered into our Data Management System (DMS). If a client is in DMS their eligibility has already been verified. Funded partners will be given access to DMS where they can search for, find the client, and add the service they are provided.

Q: Do we need to submit a letter of intent to apply?

A: No, we do not require a letter of intent to apply.

Q: In addition to the A-FSI Excel Budget file, which indicates the FTE to budget, is there a budget file for the ReMHI that specifies the FTE for that component of RFP?

A: No, there is no example budget for ReMHI nor AHP funding. The Afghan Family Strengthening Initiative is an already developed and functioning program with an estimated budget. You can propose to use AHP funding to run an A-FSI program in your community. Alternatively, you can use ReMHI or AHP (Afghans only) funding to create your own program; in which case you will need to provide a unique budget for that program.

Q: Are Ukrainians who arrived through the U4U (Uniting for Ukraine) program eligible for this funding?

A: Yes. The following Ukrainian and other non-Ukrainian individuals displaced from Ukraine are eligible for this funding:

1. Citizens or nationals of Ukraine who the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) has paroled into the United States between February 24, 2022, and September 30, 2023, due to urgent humanitarian reasons or for significant public benefit, known as Ukrainian Humanitarian Parolees (UHPs).
2. Non-Ukrainian individuals who last habitually resided in Ukraine, who DHS has paroled into the United States between February 24, 2022, and September 30, 2023, due to urgent humanitarian reasons or for significant public benefit.
3. A spouse or child of an individual described in number 1 or 2 of this section who is paroled into the United States after September 30, 2023.
4. A parent, legal guardian, or primary caregiver of an unaccompanied refugee minor or an unaccompanied child described in number 1 or 2 in this section who is paroled into the United States after September 30, 2023.

The period of eligibility for Ukrainian Humanitarian Parolees and other non-Ukrainian individuals displaced from Ukraine for ORR benefits and services is May 21, 2022, or the individual's date of humanitarian parole, whichever is later. If an individual from either of these populations was paroled and entered the United States between February 24, 2022, and May 21, 2022, their date of eligibility is May 21, 2022. If they entered the United States after May 21, 2022, their date of eligibility is their date of humanitarian parole.

Afghan Family Strengthening Initiative (A-FSI) Questions

Q: Is there training provided regarding the Afghan Family Strengthening Initiative if this is a program an org. is interested in?

A: Yes. Funded programs will receive training, support, and TA from the program developers, Boston College School of Social Work, and the University of Illinois Chicago (UIC) Department of Psychiatry.

Q: Would the Afghan interventionists need to have any kind of mental health certification or university education?

A: Not that we are aware of (it was never mentioned in our meetings with the program developers), however we will reach out to them and confirm.

Q: Is the Afghan Family Strengthening Initiative preferred over other interventions for AHP funding?

A: No, proposals will be scored based on the evaluation criteria outlined in the RFP (Section 1.6).

Q: And the Afghan interventionists are paid staff, not volunteers, correct?

A: Correct, they are paid staff. Funding for this program includes salary for the interventionists, clinical supervisor, and leadership from your organization.

Q: The proposal (Program Budget) states: *“Dari and Pashto-speaking male and/or female interventionists who will receive training in the FSI model, participate in in-person and virtual learning collaborative activities, deliver the intervention to participating families and receive weekly supervision. Estimated time is based on serving 20 families annually (one Afghan Interventionist can serve 20 families/year. Though it is not required, it is recommended that each partner organization hire two interventionists to cover language access in Dari and Pashto speaking and include one male and one female to best support dynamics and norms related to gender). Estimated at 24 hours/week per interventionist (0.6 FTE).”* Is this requesting 2 staff (male and female) each at .6 FTE? Or 2 staff (male and female) each at .3 FTE?

A: Our interpretation is that this program would require 2 staff (one male/one female) at 0.3 FTE each. However, this is something that can be discussed with the program creators and your proposal will not be defaulted if you propose 2 staff at 0.6 FTE each.

Q: The A-FSI program is an established program with specific training. It requires clinical supervision. This is not a program that can easily be made sustainable on its own merits. Are there efforts at the State or Federal level to make this eligible for Medicaid reimbursement for sustainability?

A: There are currently no specific efforts to have an interventionist’s visit reimbursable through Medicaid. However, the Office of Global Michigan is discussing and researching peer support and home visiting models in Michigan and other states.