



Workforce Education and Training Five-Year Plan
Masters of Social Work – RFP #13-4156
RFP Questions and Answers
Mandatory Bidders Conference: January 14, 2014

Question 1: *Please confirm that the total amount is \$6.8 million to be spent over three years. (2014 – 2017) or a maximum amount of \$3.1 million in each of the first two years, and \$566,667 in Year 3.*

Answer: The total amount is \$6,800,000.00 to be spent over three years. Of that, \$5,100,000.00 shall be spent on educational stipends over Fiscal Years (FY) 2014-15 and 2015-16. No more than \$1,700,000.00 shall be spent on the administrative rate as defined in Section 4c of this RFP in FY 2014-15, 2015-16, and 2016-17. (Please refer to sections 7a and 4c of the RFP.)

Question 2: *How will pro-rated part-time stipends count as stipends in the cost ratio calculation? E.g. Total # of full-time stipends = 137. If 20% of stipends (27 stipends) are awarded to part-time students for one year, would the total now be 164 (137-27 + 54) to calculate the cost ratio?*

Answer: There is no pro-ration because we expect that it will cost as much to administer a full-time stipend as a part-time stipend.

Question 3: *Can program funding in Years 1 and 2 be rolled over to the following year?*

Answer: Yes. However, the Proposer must abide by Exhibit B, Section 5 which states that “The major budget categories shall be the cost of stipends per year and the yearly administration rate. The cost of each major budget category may vary up to 10 percent within each Fiscal Year (FY) without OSHPD approval so long as the total amount budgeted for the FY is not exceeded and so long as the line-items in the budget are not co-mingled.”

Question 4: *The list of Counties of Need includes more counties than those designated on the MH Professional Shortages Areas map – what are the criteria?*

Answer: The criteria used to determine that Counties of Need is those counties in which two or fewer stipend recipients were placed in field placement and employment payback in FY 2012-13.

RFP-specific questions by page:

Question 5: (P. 3) B: States that the stipend program is for students who are studying to be clinicians. Are macro practice (management / policy/planning) MSW students excluded from participation?

Answer: That is correct, macro practice (management / policy/planning) MSW students are excluded from participation. The purpose of this RFP is to “prepare professionals to deliver public mental health services that promote wellness, recovery, and resilience.”

Question 6: (P. 6) G: Information is requested regarding placements and clinical hours required of interns. Should we provide information for the total program or from 2008 (most recent contract)?

Answer: To maintain the integrity of the competitive solicitation process, OSHPD cannot advise the Proposer on what specific information to provide in its proposal. The Proposer may provide documentation that it feels support its proposal.

Question 7: P. 18) Attachment 4 - Proposer References: Would OSHPD provide an example of an acceptable reference for “similar types of services performed for other entities?”

Answer: To maintain the integrity of the competitive solicitation process, OSHPD cannot advise the Proposer on what specific information to provide in its proposal. The Proposer may provide documentation that it feels support its proposal.

Question 8: (P.31) Sample Contract Section 5Q: “The Contractor(s) will ensure that both first and second-year full-time and part-time students are able to apply to participate in the stipend program. Students who are enrolled on a part-time basis will have their stipend prorated accordingly. Student applications will include a statement of career objectives. Applicants who are currently employed in the public mental health system must provide a statement of support from the agency director describing plans to employ the applicant in an appropriate community public mental health position. These plans must include receiving supervision that will allow qualification as a clinician who is a Master of Social Work (MSW) in the Public Mental Health System.”

a. **First and second year:** Our early contracts limited eligibility to second-year full-time students, effectively eliminating part-time students who might be in their third or fourth year of school. The phrase “second-year” was removed in the 2011 amendment, and was replaced with “final year.” This sentence could be revised as follows: “The Contractor(s) will **ensure that both first and second-year full-time students and part-time students in their third or final year are able...**”

Answer: It is the intent of this RFP that final year students would be eligible for the stipends.

Question 8 (cont.)

b. **County Employees:** *The highlighted language in the sample contract is similar to language in previous contracts that presented major barriers to stipend eligibility for employees, especially those in small counties. That language was removed in the 2011 amendment. The proposed language requires that counties promise positions for employees who receive a stipend through the statewide program. How does OSHPD envision contractors implementing this requirement, other than by declining to provide stipends to county employees whose employers can't promise employment upon graduation due to civil service restrictions, budget predictions, etc.? Unlike loan assumption applicants who are already in professional positions, many of the stipend graduates would be seeking to move up into professional positions. How would counties/contractors commit to promoting employees before they meet the job qualifications?*

Answer: The language referenced in this question is intended to provide guidance to the institutions. A “statement of support” is not intended to mean a promise of employment upon graduation by the counties. There no requirement or obligation being placed on the public mental health system agency to promise or guarantee employment, but rather only describe plans to employ the applicant in an appropriate public mental health position.

Question 9: *(P. 51) the definitions of Public Mental Health System and Public Mental Health Workforce seem to be merged.*

Answer: Page 51 contains a typographical error. Public Mental Health System Workforce is defined in Title 9, CCR, 3200.254 and Public Mental Health System is defined in Title 9, CCR, Section 3200.253. This RFP does not supersede regulations.