

REGIONAL HEALTH INFORMATION EXCHANGE
PLANNING AND IMPLEMENTATION PROJECTS

Questions & Answers

1. Page 3 of the RFP defines eligibility criteria in terms of the word "applicant". Does "applicant" mean "Medical Trading Area (MTA)"? If not, please define the term "applicant".

A: Applicant does mean MTA in the context of the information on page 3.

2. Section III.B.1.iv. states "...the implementation plan must be submitted with your proposal."

As a planning grant recipient, our understanding is that the final implementation plan for the region is due on September 30, 2008 coinciding with the end of the planning grant period. The referenced statement from Section III.B.1.iv. implies that the planning process end deliverable would be due July 7, 2008 with the grant proposal, nearly 3 months before the planning period is over. Can you clarify this?

A: Successful implementation grantees in this round of funding will submit a plan for implementation that is consistent with the criteria described in the RFP by July 7, 2008. There is no change to the deliverable date of the grants that were previously contracted under a different RFP process.

3. If a planning region applies for an implementation grant on July 7, 2008, is this region allowed to continue planning work (and plan refinement) through the planning period end date of September 30, 2008 since a mid-planning period implementation plan is due with the proposal?

A: Successful implementation grantees in this round of funding will submit a plan for implementation that is consistent with the criteria described in the RFP by July 7, 2008. There is no change to the deliverable date of the grants that were previously contracted under a different RFP process.

An applicant that currently has a planning grant that submits a proposal for an implementation grant by the due date of July 7, 2008 is strongly encouraged to use the remaining time of their planning grant to continue planning through the end date of September 30, 2008 so as to be in the best possible position to carry out implementation.

4. We would like some more detail relative to the following 3 sections:

Section III.B.1.v. states "Implementation grant applications must provide evidence of funding sustainability by detailing the business plan for funding sustainability that extends beyond the grant period into the operational phase. Letters of support from stakeholders must include a commitment to funding the HIE in the operational phase."

then

Section IV.E. Letters from Key Stakeholders states "...signed letters of support from stakeholders must be included in the proposal response. Letters should detail how each stakeholder will support the regional HIE and indicate level of support in sustaining the HIE after the grant period has ended."

then

Section IV.F. Budget Detail and Summary for the period 10/1/08 - 9/30/09 states "...matching funds and in-kind contributions are not required but encouraged."

A: The first two sections that are cited (Section III.B.1.v. and Section IV.E) refer to operational phase funding, which is not included as part of the implementation grant. The third cited section (Section IV.F.) refers to matching funding for the implementation grant. The phases of a Health Information Exchange project generally can be split into three phases – planning, implementation and operations. The state is offering a grant program for the planning and implementation phases. The community must find an acceptable funding mechanism for sustainability of the operational phase. Only those entities that can show evidence of sustainability past the implementation grant into the on-going operations phase will be awarded an implementation grant.

6. The first referenced section (III.B.1.v.) makes the statement that letters of support must include funding commitments, but later the RFP states that funding commitments are not required. Can you clarify this?

A: The two sections of the RFP cited are referring two different types of funding. The letters of support must include funding commitments for the operations phase of the Health Information Exchange. Commitments for matching funds for the implementation grant are encouraged but not required.

7. Can you clearly define "commitment to funding" as written in the RFP?

A: Commitment to funding is a signed statement by key stakeholders pledging their commitment to develop a business plan that finances the on-going operation of the Health Information Exchange. Specificity is encouraged.

8. Additionally, our stakeholders are aware that one of the current implementation regions has spent a significant period of its implementation grant pursuing stakeholder funding commitments. Is this requirement a change in that option the planning regions had currently been anticipating?

A: A successful implementation grantee in this round of funding will adhere to the implementation grant eligibility criteria. There is no change to the deliverable date of the grants that were previously contracted under a different RFP process.

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