Department of Developmental Services
Service Access & Equity Grant Program

Bidder's Conference Transcript
September 16, 2021

Mayra Ochoa

0:00:07 Okay, thank you, Leinani for that reminder, yes, like, I was saying, today we are excited we have presentations with interpretation available in Spanish, Mandarin and American Sign Language.

We are still troubleshooting our interpretation in Vietnamese. Mark Gutierrez will be providing interpretation in Spanish, Marc if you can say hello, or "Hola" to our participants, please.

Sp. Interpreter - Marc Gutierrez

00:00:46 (welcome message in Spanish)

Mayra Ochoa

00:01:06 Gracias Marc, Thank you Marc , we also have Wannin Su she will be providing Mandarin interpretation

Wannin Su

00:01:22 (welcome message in Mandarin)

Mayra Ochoa

00:01:38 Thank you and Cindy Bender she is here today and she will be providing American Sign Language interpretation, she has been spotlighted for everyone, today, in the main channel Cindy you want to say hello. Thank you, Cindy Bender she is here today and she will be providing American Sign Language interpretation, she has been spotlighted for everyone today in the main channel, Cindy you want to say hello.

00:01:54 Thank you.

Leinani Walter

00:01:59 Mayra, I'll take this, so our Vietnamese interpreter was not able to get audio today, unfortunately.

00:02:08 So for those who require Vietnamese interpretation, please reach out put your name in the chat if you are able to, and we will contact you to work with you and have interpretation for this Bidder's conference, thank you.

Mayra Ochoa

00:02:25 Thank you, Leinani and thank you to our interpreters.

00:02:29 I'm going to just give it one quick minute to ensure that everyone has the opportunity to join their preferred language channel and with that Sara, if we can go to the next slide.

00:02:45 And just a couple of Zoom tips.

00:02:50 Please again know that Cindy our American sign language interpreter has been spotlight it for everyone, you should be able to see her at all times on the top right corner of your screen, we have also enable the closed captioning for this meeting.

00:03:05 As mentioned earlier, this meeting is being recorded and we will make sure to post our meeting materials after the webinar.

00:03:14 Thank you.

Leinani Walter

00:03:18 So Mayra you want to make sure you're enabling the translations globes at this moment, so people can impact go to the globe.

Mayra Ochoa

00:03:29 And we are good to go.

Leinani Walter

00:03:39 Great I think we're ready.

Linda Gutierrez

00:03:41 Alrighty before we start today, we have some zoom tips and just a reminder that this is a webinar style, so all the phones and audio is mute and there will be opportunities for our guests, to speak during the Q and A session.

00:03:59 If you have the opportunity to turn on your camera, please do so, but if you have some spotty wi-fi there's options to turn it off, but you can hear what's going on during the meeting.

00:04:11 For our attendees there, like I said, there will be an opportunity for questions comments in the Q and A section which will have at the end of our presentation and.

00:04:23 If you'd like to ask your question verbally, we have the opportunity to do that, and hopefully, time permitting, so we will

00:04:31 look for that at the end and also, if you have to leave the meeting, there is a "leave" button on the ribbon and you have the opportunity to leave the button and if there's a question that.

00:04:43 We cannot answer or at you know you don't feel comfortable asking in English, we do have our interpreters that can, we can feel the questions, too, and it will be relayed to us and we will make sure to do our best to answer those.

00:05:00 Next slide please.

Leinani Walter

00:05:04 So our agenda today, first just welcome everyone for attending today is our Bidders conference for our grant review this year and the bit of an overview today, the first step is we're going to talk about our priorities and focus areas.

00:05:21 We will talk about key timeline dates that we don't want to miss, and of course the application process that is really three pieces the profile, the activities template and the budget template.

00:05:34 We will have as Linda mentioned, a Q and A session at the end you can put your questions in the Q and A.

00:05:40 You can also ask a question and we will have the opportunity to unmute. We will ask you to keep your questions to one to two minutes, so that we allow as many people as possible to ask questions about the grant program. Next slide please.

Mayra Ochoa

00:06:01 Thank you, Sara. A little bit about our program, the grant program was established in 2016 by ABX21 the welfare institution code of 4519.5.

00:06:16 The program has awarded over $11 million annually, since it was established and it awards money to regional centers and CBOs Community based organizations, so they can implement strategies to reduce disparities and focus on increasing equity in the regional Center system.

00:06:36 In the past five years, the grant program has served as one of DDS' building blocks and it serves as an incubator for creative ideas on how to best support diverse communities, and in a similar way, our project types serve us have a seeds for statewide policy initiatives. Since 2016 we have awarded over 300 grants and we currently have over 100 active grants, but I manage with the support of my team, our team. Our team provides monthly trainings and presentations to support our grantees and, of course, as expected, there is reporting to DDS required by grantees.

00:07:24 We ask our grantees to report on the progress of their projects in a quarterly basis and we also have a final reporting that is due at the end of their project.

00:07:34 In the next slide we will do a quick review of the ground priorities.

00:07:42 Thank you, Sara.

00:07:44 The focus of this year is to reinforce effective strategies that will lead to a more culturally and linguistically responsive service system, and this is, with the aim to help improve service access and also empower all of the individuals and the families, we serve. The department has identified key grant priorities so with input from individuals and families testimony, DDS Task Force group work meetings, stakeholder engagement meetings and community based organization meetings, among other advocacy groups.

Some of the seven priorities are to create Community partnerships for learning and advocacy to develop leadership from diverse communities.

00:08:36 To improve access to early start services in for diverse underserved and marginalized communities to cultivate meaningful tribal engagement to increase access to deaf services and resources to increase,

00:08:55 to diversify the IDD workforce and to improve access to culturally and linguistically responsive behavioral health services and crisis intervention.

00:09:07 We really want to see projects focus on self-advocates, we want to encourage you to please remember this, as you start drafting your proposals.

00:09:20 Next slide please.

Linda Gutierrez

00:09:21 Everyone just to reiterate iterate some very important dates during this grant process. September 8 was when we released the 21-22 Guidelines in the guidelines it's very specific of what we're looking for very important dates which I'll go over as well, as you know, some of the expectations throughout the grant process.

Today we are holding our Bidders Conference, we will you know, like Leinani said, we're giving you a very high level overview of the guidelines, please note that September 3 by five o'clock is when submissions are due.

Leinani Walter

00:10:06 November 3.

Linda Gutierrez

00:10:07 Oh I'm sorry November 3. I'm sorry November third, submissions are due by five o'clock and we really encourage interested folks in applying that you get into Grant Vantage early. Really get acclimated with the platform and really look at what is expected like documents to upload that you know areas and sections to fill out and really understand and look at the questions we understand that you know a lot of people like to wait until the end, but it's much easier when you can go in and fill out different parts at different times and you know things always seem to happen at the last minute at you know right before five o'clock so. The system knows, but the system that has been great to us we've done this last year, and it really went by smoothly, but all we can, you know our one of our main tips that we can give interested applicants, is to really apply and start early after the deadline of November 3 by five o'clock.

00:11:20 From the rest of November, all the way into January or before January we, our group will make sure that we have...there's a process of all the applications and hopefully the selection process will be completed by then, and then by January 31 of 2022.

00:11:42 There will be a note notification of grant awards to all the applicants and that will be posted on our DDS website by February 1. We hope that that the projects will begin no later than March 1st ,the actual start dates will be dependent on the grant agreement, which is the final sort of agreement before everything your actual project starts.

00:12:11 Again, when you do submit by November 3 by five o'clock you will receive a confirmation email saying that it was submitted accurately and please make sure that you have that confirmation email and if there's any issues with that we will provide some customer support emails of who to contact when that time comes, so those are important dates for you to remember. Those are also outlined in our grant guidelines.

00:12:53 Just some reminders I think I went through it already, but I think it's very important for those who you know we get a lot of questions.

00:13:01 But I think our guidelines are really straight into the point. There's a lot of different, like I said, sections, that will tell you, who were looking at to apply different project types, you know you're you have a proposal idea, you want to see if it fits within our project focus areas, please make sure you read the guidelines, also I would mark those important dates of when things are due.

00:13:28 Not only due to us, but you know when things will be coming out from the Department.

00:13:34 it's also important that, if you are looking at collaborating with your local regional centers, or regional centers collaborating with CBOs, I think it's very important to have that initial conversation during the planning phase and those should be you know happening now, I think that's very important.

00:13:53 Also, you know, this is our second year doing our grant applications on grant vantage so again get acclimated with the online platform, create a file.

00:14:05 Make sure that you look at each question and you answer it accurately, there are questions that might have two, three or four parts to it, make sure you answer those and you know it's okay to like go in.

00:14:18 pull those questions out and then work with your partners on them and see who's doing what role but make sure you answer them, you know as best as possible and.

00:14:28 Again, when you work on your application you get into the grant vantage system.

00:14:33 There is sort of a pancake feature that shows you like a green check box meaning you completed that section you're good to go to the next section, so you can go in the system and jump around to different sections and categories.

00:14:48 And then, when again like I said when you officially submitted your application on November 3 by five o'clock, you will get an email confirmation saying it was successfully submitted so.

00:15:01 Please make sure you keep that confirmation email, as you know, just in case if there's any glitches or if there's any you know questions and make sure that you check your spam inbox for that.

Leinani Walter

00:15:12think they did before, before you move, thank you, Linda just a reminder reviewing regional Center POS data.

00:15:19 That's really an important component of this process, because you want to make sure that your project.

00:15:25 aligns with the needs of that individual catchment area that's also a wonderful opportunity for you to meet with your local regional Center and discuss your creative idea in your project, so you can do both things you can review information and the needs of the Community, as well as.

00:15:46 work with and coordinate with your regional Center on your idea.

00:15:51 Next slide.

00:15:54 And project types, the new aspect of the guidelines, this year, one of the few new areas, is that the project types are, for there are only four project types.

00:16:06 We really feel like a number of project types people would feel really pressed to.

00:16:13 Have a number of different project types to get the work done instead we focused on four areas first education and training.

00:16:22 One of our highest requested areas of project a really critical part of our system is to make sure individuals that are seeking regional Center services or are looking to navigate our system better.

00:16:38 Have the kind of tools and training, so this is one of our highest utilized project types.

00:16:45 Community connector, also known as Promotora, Integradora, some of our navigator projects, this is that direct service and support to the individual or to the family.

00:16:59 And then, of course, with Community connector pretty soon Dr. Lovell will talk about standardized measures that are utilized with that project type and then engagement and outreach.

00:17:12 Something that we often rely upon is to engage communities to also raise awareness, but also to provide the kinds of connections that people need to understand a complex system.

00:17:29 And then of course workforce capacity and development expanding the diversity of our workforce, both with self advocates, as well as.

00:17:41 workforce partners that can connect with culturally diverse communities as well, so for project types.

00:17:50 Next slide please.

Vicky Lovell, DDS Research, Audit and Evaluations

00:17:53 Good afternoon I'm Dr. Vicky Lovell, I'm the Department's branch chief for the research, audit and evaluation section.

00:18:00 The research section of the Department, supports the grant program through working with projects to identify

00:18:07 the objectives of their grants the activities of their grants and then how they will measure and report on the progress of their programs.

00:18:16 Just as each project will have one project type, it will also have just one single objective, this is the main change, you will accomplish in your project for your target population.

00:18:29 For example, your goal might be to train parents in the use of technology for their child's virtual therapy sessions.

00:18:36 or your objective might be to increase early start enrollment among the Hmong Community in your catchment area that so that will be entered into grant vantage.

00:18:47 Each objective then, the objective will be carried out through activities that you will also list and grant vantage, and these are the key actions you will take to meet the objective.

00:18:58 It won't be every single individual step that you have to undertake to reach the objective is the key actions.

00:19:07 For example, if, you in order to meet your objective you plan to host monthly family support groups or might be a lot of steps involved in getting there, such as identifying who, in your community would be invited to the groups.

00:19:23 How they would be invited writing a flyer and distributing it finding a space for your support group, those are individual steps that you don't need to report to us, but the overall activity of having the family support groups would be an activity.

00:19:40 I really encourage everyone to carefully review attachment B of the guidelines for detailed information about the definition of an objective and activity and also the measures for your activities, you can go to the next slide please.

00:19:56 Thank you. So each activity will have a measure that can be used to let the Department know and let you know, also as a project manager how you're doing and meeting that act and taking care of that activity.

Wannin Su

00:20:10 (Mandarin Translation, no transcription available)

Vicky Lovell, DDS Research, Audit and Evaluations

00:20:16 We will we will collect information about progress on the measures in order to see how each project is progressing.

00:20:25 And also allows a department to summarize accomplishments for all of the projects in the grant program, especially by an individual project type so that is a way of us giving a high level.

Wannin Su

00:20:37 (Mandarin translation, no transcription available)

Vicky Lovell, DDS Research, Audit and Evaluations

00:20:40 That gives us a high level view, both in the department and for our stakeholders in the impact of the overall grant Program.

00:20:49 The measures for each activity can be either quantitative or qualitative or it could be both. Now, quantitative data involves a number.

00:21:00 will be reported in grant vantage typically as the number of, for instance, the number of participants who are going to your family support groups, a percentage say.

00:21:09 10% of your participants have achieved a have taken a certain accomplish a certain activity or a percentage increase.

00:21:20 The qualitative data will typically been entered as a milestone or a narrative and grant vantage and it's that tends to reflect individuals or groups experiences.

00:21:31 successful strategies that your project has undertaken barriers that have been identified information such as that that can't really be reflected in a in an just in a number.

00:21:42 The measures will be reported to the Department, as was previously mentioned quarterly.

00:21:48 And then, at the end of your project, there will be a final report giving us all the total the.

00:21:55 Progress that you've made over the course of the of your project.

00:22:00 We could look at the next slide please.

00:22:04 Community connector programs, also known as Promotora projects or navigator projects, will be asked to complete a standardized set of measure so every one of any project of that project type.

00:22:17 will report on the same measures those projects can have additional measures if they would like to.

00:22:23 This allows the department to summarize the impact and progress on this kind of project altogether, which is very important for us, given the visibility and the impact of these projects and.

00:22:37What a significant portion of the service access and equity grants that these projects have had, and continue to represent.

00:22:46 These measures also will give us insight into which types of projects and activities for Community connector projects, improve project success.

00:22:55 So those are all detailed and attachment B, again, it includes information about the participants in your Community connector Program.

00:23:04 How your Community connectors were selected and how they were trained, what the impacts were of each of the activities changed us in services that participants at.

00:23:14 Access before and then after going through your Community connector project and and more qualitative information about changes that your families and consumers and self advocates experienced as a result of the Community connector project.

00:23:31 In addition, all education and training projects and all workforce capacity and development projects will be asked to provide pre post assessments to measure their impact so pre post assessment means that you.

00:23:45 conduct a survey or some other data collection method to.

00:23:48 To understand your some characteristic or our knowledge base of your participants before your project starts and a quantitative way, and then you ask the same questions of the participants after your project to see what the change has been so you can see whether.

00:24:05 Participants understand a certain aspect of the regional Center better after going through your project or more of them are.

00:24:13 Accessing a certain kind of service and those pre/post that kind of pre/post assessment is especially important for us and seeing the real world impact of your project on year on the participants.

00:24:26 The Department will work closely with all of you, in order to identify the measures to use on your for each of your activities and to be sure you understand the reporting requirements and to troubleshoot any kind of issues that you may run into in your reporting.

Mayra Ochoa

00:24:47 A little bit about the grand budget.

00:24:49 The grant budget is an extremely important component of your proposal application all applicants must review attachments C.

00:24:58 It was created for you, and it has detailed instructions on how to create and build your budget, we also encourage you to look at the budget details and restrictions document to ensure that your budgets comply with the allowable and non allowable expenditures.

00:25:17 Please note that the program will not fund activities already funded by other resources and ensure that your proposed projects your proposed budgets are directly tied to your proposed grant activities and the costs are reasonable.

00:25:37 Also, please note that now applicants will only be completing one budget per grant application, regardless of the duration of the project.

00:25:46 As for the budget narrative, each budget line item requires a justification in the bottom section of your project, you will see, you will see the budget and then underneath, you will see a narrative section.

00:26:03 Please be clear and concise with your budget information, your narrative should explain how the cost and purpose of your grant application, and how does it directly tied to your project activities.

00:26:16 Something new this year, the department will be considering the grantees capacity to administer state funds, and that will be for CBOs consider for a grant award over $200,000. Next slide please.

Leinani Walter

00:26:35 So final steps.

00:26:37 As Vicky and Mayra just discussed the key components of your application, create a profile.

00:26:46 And that profile begins the process of including your objective report and your budget report. So there's three parts to it, the application that's what it's officially called but that's your profile and the details about your grant.

00:27:00 Your objectives and your budget. So all three of those pieces are part of your application.

00:27:06 At the same time that you download your application, you also want to send it to your Regional Center this is required in our guidelines it's also an essential part of the law, which is that.

00:27:18 proposals are shared with regional centers. You'll refer to attachment F and again when you're in the grant vantage system, most of this will make sense.

00:27:28 And you'll be able to see the direct contacts that you will share your email application with your regional Center after you submit your application you'll receive.

00:27:40 Linda noted earlier.

00:27:43 As Linda noted earlier, you will receive an email confirmation from grant vantage and this is really an important part.

Leinani Walter

00:27:54 confirmation.

00:27:56 That you received confirmation from grand vantage. It's important that you know your package of your application is all three of these pieces that you share.

00:28:06 Your application with the regional Center and you make sure that the final step has been completed, and you receive confirmation when you submit.

00:28:14 And as much as we're talking about today, I think it's important to note that this process is really streamlined now. That the grant vantage system and this is opportunity for you to submit your applications in a much more efficient way, as well as it gives you the opportunity, as Linda said to do things well in advance and we strongly suggest you do anything can happen with the Internet, it happens all the time.

00:28:44 And we want to make sure you have enough time to submit your proposal that we would love to see and, as I think my rest said earlier, we want to emphasize some.

00:28:59 Areas that we want to emphasize some of the new areas in our guidelines, but we especially want to highlight.

00:29:08 The need to have project proposals for self advocates so those are some of the highlights, we have in the steps you need to take.

00:29:17 To apply, and I'm going to switch to the question and answer session and that is on the next slide and during this session we will look at the Q and A and see if there are any questions.

00:29:32 That individuals have posted and we'll start there first um, I think, are there any questions Linda that you might want to raise up.

Linda Gutierrez

00:29:43 Some look to answer in the chat.

00:29:48 I think a lot of it is maybe folks haven't really thoroughly gone through the guidelines but I'm happy to answer and provide links and the resources to our different attachments but there's one question where I think a few folks had were.

00:30:03 For each grant program or each maybe grant proposal can an organization have more than one objective.

Leinani Walter

00:30:14 And you know the answer, of course, we want one objective.

Linda Gutierrez

00:30:18 correct and I, and I think I put that in the answer would.

00:30:22 Look at the answer and say you know the organization CBO, you can the other question was can you submit more than one proposal, and the answer is yes, as long as the objectives are different, and the idea that you're proposing is different so.

Leinani Walter

00:30:42 The next question is, my agency has multiple regions with different programs and needs in each region.

00:30:49 served by two different regional centers, are we able to submit multiple grants for each region or is it limited to one grand per agency? Actually, I think I'll answer that question directly in a different way.

00:31:01 You can have one proposal that serves more than one regional center that's the answer, so you certainly can, but you have to ensure.

00:31:09 that the project and the focus of the project for each of those regions is consistent with.

00:31:16 The needs of that catchment area, as well as your collaboration with that individual regional Center so one proposal can actually cover multiple catchment area is you just need to make sure that you check in with that regional center as well.

00:31:34 And I think the next question: do we get approval from the regional center is it more of keeping them in the loop? It's a little bit of both I think regional centers will have an opportunity to share their view some proposals also come,

00:31:54 submitted with a letter of support from your local regional Center and that's always a terrific idea.

00:32:00 To get some,

00:32:01 get it in writing from the regional Center.

00:32:06 And I always think that its approval, ultimately, the department does approve the grants, but we do get information, of course, from regional centers in the letter of support or otherwise so.

Wannin Su

00:32:21 (Mandarin language, no transcription available)

Wannin Su

00:32:22 (Mandaring language, no transcription available)

Leinani Walter

00:32:25 And let's see the next question.

Linda Gutierrez

00:32:31 The other one was asking if we will have another bidders conference I replied and said no, this is it, however.

00:32:38 folks please stay tuned we will post our PowerPoint slides and our FAQs will be shared on our DDS website shortly.

Leinani Walter

00:32:47 And a recording of this bitters conference will be available as well.

Linda Gutierrez

00:32:51 Thank you.

Leinani Walter

00:32:53 Let's see, is each proposal a separate application honestly we look forward to proposals that you're partnering with local individuals.

00:33:05 But yes, they are separate In that sense I would I would encourage you to try your best to consolidate in a proposal if you're trying to reach a few regions or maybe you

have one more than one target population, I think all of those options are there, and you can do that in one proposal.

00:33:25 Let's see.

00:33:27 Will, the Community connect your project measures be the same as the current standardized measures, a little, they will be updated oh vicki already answered Thank you Vicky and the answer to that question is Vicky.

Vicky Lovell, DDS Research, Audit and Evaluations

00:33:39 The answer that question is at the measures are listed in the attachment be so there were not finding any changes to what's been what's been published for that measures this year after the program this year great.

Leinani Walter

00:33:51 Thank you Vicky and maximum that we don't have minimum or maximum amount we do ask, though, is fire noted earlier if your budget gets beyond kind of that 200,000 range.

00:34:04 We are going to want to look to see that you have capacity and that might mean that you have a fiscal intermediary it might mean that.

00:34:13 We look to see if you've managed us a similar type of grant in the past in a similar amount so there's some consideration will give to the higher grant budgets.

00:34:22 For the lower grant budgets we really want to make sure that there is some measure of impact as well, so we want to be as flexible as possible.

00:34:34 and to ensure that people can submit budgets that are diverse, they do not have to be the same exact amount, but we do want you to make sure your budget aligns with budget restrictions and considerations, so please do look at those in the guidelines.

00:34:53 at what time should we share the proposal, frankly, I think that you, you should be talking with your regional Center right after this call.

00:35:02 I think you should be talking with them about your ideas and making connections with the regional Center to ensure that it is

00:35:11 consistent with the needs of their community and you might ask questions about their POS data or other things. I would encourage you to look at their website and to make yourself familiar.

00:35:23 With those needs of that community so again there's no better time than the present, but I would not wait until after you've submitted your proposal, I think that you

should do that at minimum, simultaneously, but I encourage you to do it prior to your submission.

00:35:41 Someone said, if your vendors with multiple regional centers can we choose which one to work with I think that's up to you that's.

00:35:51 Certainly not a requirement on our side, because you can choose to work with a regional Center that you've developed a collaborative relationship, with so that's up to you.

00:36:02 And the recording will be available when,

00:36:05 We can get these things in order as quickly as possible, hopefully.

00:36:11 The grant cycle, the grant cycle can be actually it could be slightly less than 12 months but typically it's 12 months to 24 months and the grant cycle is annually so.

00:36:24 Your grant project can go from 12 to 24 months or even less sometimes there's a hybrid or it's 18 months, but the grant cycle is annually.

00:36:36 Clarification of one objective and I don't know if Vicky, you want to offer a clarification.

Vicky Lovell, DDS Research, Audit and Evaluations

00:36:43 sure.

00:36:44 yeah, question is whether there can be one objective focusing on two or more specific populations and the answer would be yes, it can be one objective one overall project but you're dealing with ,you want to be, we want to work with two different specific populations two or more.

00:37:00 yeah.

Leinani Walter

00:37:01 I think I've already answered the question about if you have a higher budget than 200,000 Essentially, we want to ensure that you have capacity to manage that amount of funding and ensure that you have.

00:37:13 The fiscal support in place if you were to receive a grant that size and can you apply for the Navigator funding and this funding good question um.

00:37:25 I do believe that the Community navigator program will be implemented across with the family resource centers across the state, however.

00:37:34 This funding is also still available, that, if you are from the same entity, you will want to ensure that you're not "double dipping" and that's a slang phrase for really wanting to ensure that one funding is used for one.

00:37:50 service and you document that pretty clearly and that there might be funding utilized for another, so we just want to make sure the funding sources are separate and I think that there are probably, this is the first.

00:38:05 year that we will have a Community navigator program which was really one of those seeds that Mayra spoke about that is now a statewide initiative, but again there's opportunity in this grant.

00:38:18 To have a navigator program on another initiative we just have to make sure that your funding is very distinctly separate in your proposal.

00:38:28 What are examples of activities are already funded by other sources, we have a number of.

00:38:35 CBOs that have funding from different sources, they might provide a service and are getting funded by a regional Center for one particular

00:38:46 service in, say, for example, and supported living and they might also have a navigator that assists families in different ways, so there's lots of different ways that you may have braided funding from different sources that may not be grant funding it may be other types of funding.

00:39:08 And then, how many awards might you make, last year we had 54 awards, Mayra? approximately 54 was somewhere near 95 to 100 applications.

00:39:23 I really don't know what the number might be I can't say that for sure, I would say, in the last several years we're anywhere between that 50 to 60 range, but that can be different every year.

00:39:38And can you submit questions after today? absolutely submit the questions through the SAE email, and we will switch to that slide if Sara could do that, then we will have that.

00:39:50 up for folks to see, so we have our DDS service access and equity webpage I would encourage you to go to the webpage we have a number, we have our.

00:40:02 All of the projects that have been awarded in past years are there, we have all of the resources from last year's grant here, as well as the resources for this year available.

00:40:13 Our guidelines, of course, are there, this year, and then we also have emails for technical assistance, that is to the grant vantage staff.

00:40:23 Technical Assistance questions might mean that there's something not functional in grant vantage that you.

00:40:29 seem to be having troubles with say uploading something things like that, if they're substantive questions which would be about the actual grant guidelines.

00:40:39 or your question, perhaps you might have about the guidelines that would be directed to our team.

00:40:44 And that would be to the SAEgrantprogram@dds.ca.gov So those are really good resource pages, as you are going through, I would strongly encourage you to go back to our webpage because all of the attachments.

00:40:58 are also clearly listed there there's also a terrific video that gives you a video of how to apply as well that grant vantage developed to support our application process, and I think let's see some of the other questions.

00:41:18 Will there be dedicated grant vantage system technical support? They have a technical support team they're well aware.

00:41:26 That our grant season is active and our application process is active right now, so they are assisting and they have done so.

00:41:33 Very quickly, in the past, and in fact in our last grant season, they were answering questions at all hours and doing a terrific job and being responsive to those needs, so I anticipate there'll be plenty enough staff to be responsive.

00:41:51 And let's see.

00:41:55 What is the other question can the proposal included be in communities that we are not vendor with.

00:42:06 I'm not sure what that what that means, but if I can take a stab at it, if you are attempting to work with communities that you may not be currently paid to work with, I certainly.

00:42:19 That wouldn't be in a directive, I do think you should have an established relationship or connection with that Community that you're serving.

00:42:30 So if that makes sense, we want to ensure that you do have some relationships of trust or some

00:42:37 foundational work that you have done with that community, even though you may not be presently being paid for some service being provided, so the answer is yes, you can work with those communities, but we will look to see your work that you've done within that community.

00:43:00 If the grant is funded, it will begin and then I think there's some questions about grant funding I don't really see the.

00:43:09 If the grant is funding they have a current grant if the grant is being funded, will it begin February and will have to operating at once.

00:43:17 That would be individualized so we have had that where we've had one new grant year beginning that might cross over and, in which case we would work out those details individually, if you are awarded.

00:43:29 When will grant awards be announced in is there a deadline for completing ending projects? the projects depend on when the grant begins and what your proposal is so some grant projects, maybe one year.

00:43:39 Some maybe 18 months so maybe two years, so the end date depends on what was negotiated with you, and what was defined with our research team on when your activities and your work can be completed and that's part of your grant agreement, yes.

Vicky Lovell, DDS Research, Audit and Evaluations

00:43:57 Sorry Leinani, on the on the part of the question, when will work to be announced.

Vicky Lovell, DDS Research, Audit and Evaluations

00:44:02 On your timeline did you say that will happen in January.

Leinani Walter

00:44:05 yeah, our goal, you know we are a State, and there are a lot of things that impact when final decisions are made, but we are hopeful that the grant year launched a month in advance, and I am hopeful that we'll be able to announce awards in January that's always our hope.

00:44:28 And I think it's just going through this list will I respond to additional questions are a team, of course, please send your questions to the SAE email.

00:44:41 What is the percentage of grant proposals that this program actually funds? If you're talking about the number of we received approximately 100 and we funded approximately 50 I think it's about 50% I'm not that great at calculation Dr Lovell, but I think that's about right.

Vicky Lovell, DDS Research, Audit and Evaluations

00:45:00 right and it will we don't have a percentage target in mind, it depends on the projects and what their scope is and the funding requests and then how they all you know combined together into the package that we want to award so.

00:45:15 I think it's probably somewhere between 35 and 50% each year, but we don't I don't know if we get a calculator that exactly before.

Leinani Walter

00:45:23 I think that's about right and then.

00:45:28 The ceiling maximum I'm answered that there isn't a maximum that you can apply for our direct services for care for IDD patients funded by this program.

00:45:38 um it depends on what you mean by a direct service our Community navigator a Promotora our assistance.

00:45:46 We are not necessarily referring to individuals in our system as patients but.

00:45:54 There are some grant proposals that would provide say, for example, navigation services, which is directly working with a family or an individual or self advocate, and so it might need more information to really answer that question.

00:46:11 And then.

Vicky Lovell, DDS Research, Audit and Evaluations

00:46:11 I could just add a little there, but it would need to meet the overall if it were eligible it wouldn't need to meet the overall principle of the self service access and equity program that is designed to reduce an existing disparity.

Leilani Walter

00:46:28 yeah Thank you Vicky, and I think there's a question, for example, the Cambodian Community I was trying to go back to the questions.

00:46:38 If you can work with a Community you're not presently paid to work with as a vendor and the answer is yes, you certainly can we just want to ensure that there is some.

00:46:48 relationship we've had, for example, proposals where applicants list six or seven different target populations and they don't have an established relationship with some of those target populations.

00:47:01 We would want to know more, as to how you would intend.

00:47:06 To work with that particular population if you haven't had an established relationship so, for example, Christina with the Cambodian Community if you have been working with the Cambodian community and other ways and those ways might.

00:47:20 come to fruition in a creative grant idea, then certainly we would encourage that.

00:47:28 And I think Beatrice is asking about re-applicants it's only asking for current project outcomes and project transition, we are not asked to report on project activities, please comment.

00:47:40 The comment is that the re-application process was trimmed down and that actually is the answer.

00:47:48 We realized that with the grant vantage system that we're able to access information on all current grantees very quickly.

00:47:56 And we can check on your current status and project and activities during that process, so if there are additional questions there certainly through the SAE grant program you can email but yes, it was and the goal was to try to make sure that we are.

00:48:15 Also lessening some of the information that we need, because we have it now with the grant bandit system.

00:48:24 Is the funding for the county you serve or the catchment area of the Regional Center.

00:48:30 it's not based necessarily on county that depends on what your project idea is.

00:48:37 The catchment area very well could be one city in one regional Center catchment and maybe another city and another regional Center catchment we're not based on county or city it's really dependent on what you're looking for.

00:48:56 I don't see another way to answer that question so.

00:49:00 Can applicants suggest reviewers from Regional Centers or other CBOs.

00:49:09 Just reviewers you mean I'm trying to understand that as a draft application and have the regional Center look at your application or their CBOs.

00:49:22 You certainly there's no restriction on that, so I, as I said earlier, I would encourage you.

00:49:27 To talk about your proposal with your local regional Center and if you have a Community based organization that's a partner you've collaborated with, I would also encourage you to consider collaborating with other CBOs so that's that is.

00:49:43 Certainly, something that would be supported.

00:49:48 and

00:49:54 Will this program fund direct services such as oral health for IDD patients, or is this for navigation or education only and not direct patient care.

00:50:02 This this grant program is not, for I would encourage you to read our grant guidelines.

00:50:08 The intent of the this particular grant program is to improve service access and equity for consumers of the Regional Center and accessing Regional Center services and generic resources.

00:50:21 And it is focused on before project types, I spoke about earlier but, again, it sounds like the latter part of your question is more likely my answer.

00:50:31 I could certainly see education on helping families if you are a navigator access health care and access to oral care certainly oral of dental care certainly can be one of those so.

00:50:44 I'm hesitant to say you would not have maybe a component of accessing healthcare like that, but in terms of.

00:50:52 Your direct services, I think I would probably not go quite that far, I think it would be more in context of a navigator program or some sort.

00:51:05 And I think wind I don't know if iIve missed any of the questions, but I.

Linda Gutierrez

00:51:12 I think we have one hand raised, would you like to take.

Leinani Walter

00:51:18 sure.

Linda Gutierrez

00:51:19 Okay Nancy I am going unmute you and I don't know if your question was asked, but if you have a different question, we're happy to answer.

Nancy Spiegel

00:51:34 Hi are you talking to me?

Linda Gutierrez

00:51:36 This yes, I'm sorry Nancy Spiegel.

Nancy Spiegel

00:51:39 Hi, yeah I just was commenting on, you mentioned the you talked about the letter of support from the regional centers and I do hope you know that you let applicants know that it's not required to get a letter of support in the regional centers hasn't been in the past and it can be quite.

00:51:58 A lot of workload for regional centers to have to provide those for lots of efficacy.

Leinani Walter

00:52:04 Yes, thank you Nancy it's certainly not required in our guidelines, so I would say that.

00:52:11 We have a number of applicants that do get regional Center letters of support, but it's Certainly not.

00:52:16 required Thank you.

00:52:18 Are there any other questions Linda or hands up anybody.

Vicky Lovell, DDS Research, Audit and Evaluations

00:52:22 Leinani, did you see the new question in the Q and A? Is this exclusively for populations affected by disparity.

Leinani Walter

00:52:33 I would answer that question in a couple of ways, the focus the word disparity, I think we have looked at in a number of different areas I think it's probably broader.

00:52:45 than the word disparity might denote I think service access and equity, we very well.

00:52:52 could focus on building leadership capacity in the self advocate community, and in particular service area and that might not necessarily be identified as a POS disparity, but it is an area of need, so I.

00:53:08 I think that's a somewhat of a difficult question to answer our focuses on marginalized communities underserved communities, even those that may not be accessing services.

00:53:20 And I think you know awareness, for example in our parent education, training, sometimes raising the awareness improves that access.

00:53:32 And sometimes raising the awareness does not necessarily improve access to POS, but again.

00:53:39 I think that you probably have those covered in disparity and you have those that are not necessarily aware of our services so it's probably a little bit more broad than just disparity is that about right Vicky what you say.

Vicky Lovell, DDS Research, Audit and Evaluations

00:53:53 Right, I think that we often in our system talk about and measure disparities in terms of the amount of funding for purchase of service that different groups might have.

00:54:03 And so, as Leinani said, I think sometimes our activities that help to reduce disparities and help all consumers have equal access to services that wouldn't be reflected immediately in.

00:54:16 The change in or equalization of participant service funding, but the overall focus of the grant is yes it's called the service access and equity program and the idea is.

00:54:28 To make to reduce barriers that some communities might face for variety of reasons, and so that they can achieve the same level of service access and use as other communities.

Leinani Walter

00:54:44 And one of the focus areas that I noticed, we really want to highlight is building that leadership capacity.

00:54:54 This is an area of importance for the Department, that we have communities that have not always been part of.

00:55:02 That leadership or narrative or providing input either to the department or to regional centers and systems.

00:55:09 that's a focus area and that isn't directly about services it's about that broader voice in our system and that's part of.

00:55:19 A focus in these grant guidelines which are quite unique in that way, so I think that gives you an example of one of our focus areas that might not directly impact POS, but our hope is that it would impact more diverse voices in our system to help us shape policy and future programs.

00:55:43 Any other questions or hands up Linda? We've got more time.

Linda Gutierrez

00:55:50 I don't see any hands up, and I think we were able to answer a lot of the questions I think, maybe folks have a had time really to read through our guidelines or guidelines again.

00:56:06 has a lot of different information also included in people's response our website that has all of the attachments that breaks down like the research part of it, who to contact at the regional Center their links.

00:56:25 What else Oh, a video a very, very handy tutorial video on how to get on grant vantage in the different sections in grant vantage very important and as well there's a transcript to and.

00:56:41 yeah there's just a lot of information, I would recommend everyone to really go on our website and do that.

00:56:48 As well as if you want to look at our past awards as well and current awards, I think you can sort of get a feel of what kind of projects we awarded in the past to and where we are moving ahead for 21-22.

Leinani Walter

00:57:02 And then Linda I see one more question in the Q and A it says, do you recommend we focus on one race or ethnic demographic.

00:57:10 And I would have to say that that depends on a number of factors, one your experience working with each of the particular race or ethnic groups that you're proposing to serve.

00:57:23 that's one; two, whether or not your team and the staff that you have capacity to give the attention that each of those particular groups require.

00:57:35 And we would rather you focus on one group and do the best you can with that group or maybe two groups rather than stretch yourself so thin that you are unable to accomplish the

00:57:50 goals that you have, for your project, and I just think that's really important to do we noticed a number of projects in the last year.

00:58:00 proposed to serve so many different groups that it was unrealistic in our mind, it was unrealistic that you could achieve that in a 12 month or a 24 month period.

00:58:14 So I would just say an answer to that question, it depends on your capacity, it depends on the relationships that you have built within those communities and I always would rather you achieve.

00:58:27 and be focused on your efforts, then have a number of efforts that go unfinished or not accomplish what you intended to in the grant.

00:58:38 And I hope that that's helpful for you to shape the proposal that you want and hope for your community.

00:58:47 The other you know focus area, that I think is really important is making sure that when you are choosing one of the,

00:58:58 you know, the focus areas, that you also focus on that area, sometimes people try to do three or four different focus areas and again sometimes you have capacity to do it, depending on your staff and experience and all of that.

00:59:15 And sometimes we feel that project struggle, because they try to do too much, and they have a number of focus areas that minimize some of their accomplishments it's, Mayra is that fair to say.

Mayra Ochoa

00:59:31 That is very fair.

Leinani Walter

00:59:34 And we know many people will apply for this grant with good intentions, wanting to do so many amazing things and we hope that you are able to accomplish all of those.

00:59:47 goals that you set for yourself and that your organization hopes to achieve, but we also want you to take a step back.

00:59:55 And look at your project and see what is reasonable to accomplish in the time period with the amount of funding, with the amount of staff and capacity, you have in your organization.

01:00:07 And again, I think there are a number of talented organizations and leaders out there, that will apply, and hopefully be able to accomplish everything they've had, but we also know that the more focused, you are.

01:00:22 The more likely, it will be that you'll be able to achieve all the things you put forward in your grant in your application.

01:00:31 And I think Linda I have answered at least most of the questions live, I think.

01:00:38 If there are no other questions anything else that we might.

01:00:45 Answer no other hands up Linda ?.

Linda Gutierrez

01:00:48 I think this was the last question I don't know if you sorry I was like really scanning the chat box or the Q and A box last question was.

01:00:56 Does DDS prefer 12 months projects over 20 month period? I'm pretty sure, but I'm going let you answer that and I think you answered it away, but maybe just reiterating.

Leinani Walter

01:01:07 what's that question again Linda? Pardon me.

Linda Gutierrez

01:01:10 Is there a preference by DDS for a 12 month for 12 month projects over 24 month projects?

Leinani Walter

01:01:17 I think that goes back to again we look at your capacity and what you're able to accomplish if you can accomplish things in in one year.

01:01:26 Instead of we may look that you have a capacity that you may not need a 24 month project, and we have adjusted those someone proposal 24 and we think you could accomplish.

01:01:38 Those goals in 12 months, so I would have to say, the answer is, it depends, it depends on the things I just spoke about, but it also depends on just looking at the type of project and the number of some port staff and

01:01:54 you know, connections, you might need to make in the Community so again, it all depends on the details in the proposal itself.

01:02:01 A preference is, of course, if we can always get something done in a shorter period of time we'd like that to happen, but we also know that that's not always realistic, so we are open minded about that.

01:02:16 And certainly I guess the last comment there if you are a brand new project, so you have not had grant funding in the past.

01:02:24 We recognize that some of those initial steps in a new grant might take a little longer.

01:02:29 And there are some opportunities for extension, even if your grant is set for 12 months, there are some flexibilities that we may be able to extend your grant that's not our first.

01:02:41 step that we'd like to go to but we certainly do have that as an option, and you can do a change request in the system, and you can also extend your grant cut timelines that would change your grant agreement, I mean there's things that we would have to do, but those are options.

01:03:02 So, again I think if there are no other questions from anyone participating today we encourage you to apply, we encourage you to apply early.

01:03:15 To spend some time in the grant vantage system to learn and see what information, you need the other piece, I want to really emphasize is this year, we have put.

01:03:27 limitations on the number of pages or details, you can put, and believe me, that will save you time, it will also save reviewer time and it will also focus your efforts.

01:03:40 As much as we want to save everyone's time we also want to ensure that your grant is very focused on what you're looking to do and accomplish, so part of the reason why.

01:03:53 Our questions are narrowly tailored and we want very concise answers is because we really feel like that's the best way to begin the process of.

01:04:03 Not only supporting and approving your grant but also developing activities and measures that are consistent with what your goals are or your single objective again I'm trying to make the process easy but also make sure it's reasonable and it's also successful.

01:04:25 So I think.

01:04:28 Mayra Linda or Vicky any last comments.

Unknown Speaker

01:04:33 Okay.

Leinani Walter

01:04:34 Thank you so much.

Mayra Ochoa

01:04:36 Just one real quick, again I know it has been said before, but I really do want to encourage you to read through the guidelines and review the attachments they were created for you to help you.

01:04:48 In your application process, please review your attachments before you start working on your application.

Leinani Walter

01:04:55 Yes, and thank you so much to our interpreters Cindy and Mark and Wannin, we really appreciate your work today and your effort in helping us communicate to as broad number of individuals as possible in our system, so thank you, thank you.