

Additional Questions Submitted Regarding the Local Solutions Grant RFP

October 25, 2018



Question	Answer
1. We would like to apply for funds to recruit, train, support, and retain education specialists at each of our 14 schools. Each of our schools has an individual CDS code. Would this mean that our 14 schools are considered a consortium for the purposes of this grant?	A school district can apply as the single LEA on behalf of whichever schools in that district would be included in the grant.
2. Matching Funds: We have lead Ed specialists who support our new Ed specialists. Would we be able to consider a portion of the lead Ed specialist's salary as "matching funds?"	Yes, if the lead ED specialists' salaries are being paid for by LEA funds other than the proposed Local Solutions grant funds. The portion of the lead ED specialists' salary that applies to activities directly related to supporting the new ED specialists can be counted as matching funds.
3. Signing bonuses, Hiring of a mentor special education teacher to assist, Special education trainings, are these all eligible activities? Do all these teachers qualify for \$20,000 each in funding? Do we count only newly credentialed teachers?	Yes, these are eligible activities. Each teacher participating in the Local Solutions grant program activities identified in your grant proposal is eligible to count towards the \$20,000 per-teacher allowable grant funding request.
4. Can you clarify if an LEA, under a charter school management organization, is eligible to write for this grant proposal?	A charter school is an eligible applicant. A charter school management organization is not an eligible applicant.
5. If a Local Solutions grant "participant" is a current employee of an LEA, is the current salary considered matching funds?	Applicants may consider using salaries paid by LEA funds other than the proposed Local Solutions grant funding as matching funds. The portion of salary that applies to time spent participating in activities directly related to the grant program may be counted as matching funds.
6. Can the match include teacher salary?	Yes, if the salary is paid for with LEA funds other than the proposed Local Solutions grant funds. The portion of salary that applies to time spent participating in activities directly related to the grant program may be counted as matching funds.
7. Can we count as match salaries for teachers who are recipients of the program's services?	Yes, if the salary is paid for with LEA funds other than the proposed Local Solutions grant funds. The portion of salary that applies to time spent participating in activities directly related to the grant program may be counted as matching funds.
8. Can the \$20,000, per teacher participating, in the Local Solutions Grant Program, be utilized as signing bonuses for multiple teachers? For example four teachers, with each receiving \$5000?	This is a local decision.
9. Is the budget narrative meant to be incorporated into Appendix F1 and Appendix F2 "Budget Form and Narrative for Grant Funds/Local Funds"?	The budget narrative must be included within the grant application. The most logical place to include the budget narrative would be within the budget section of the grant application.

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10. Is the budget narrative meant to be incorporated into the narrative response within the 15 page suggested maximum?	The budget narrative and the budget forms are not included in the suggested 15 page maximum.
11. I want to understand more about the collection process if our candidates do not carry out the agreements made.	The information on collection processes is included in the authorizing legislation. The Commission does not have further information about the collection process; this is a locally-managed process.
12. If a participant earns a credential, is the district obligated to offer that person a teaching position?	The intent of this legislation is to address the local shortage of special education, STEM, and bilingual teachers. The expectation is that a teacher candidate would be selected by the grantee and supported by the grant funds with the intent of hiring that individual once credentialed to meet LEA needs for teachers.
13. If a teacher completes their Special Education credential and takes a position in the district, if they do not meet criteria to continue teaching, may the district terminate their employment without penalty?	The legislation under Section 44416 (2) (C) addresses this question.
14. A COE has been asked as to whether it could be a "partner" for a local IHE also applying. Can the COE provide the IHE with a letter of support without being part of the consortium (i.e. leveraging resources such as meeting space and communication with districts) and still submit its own application?	IHEs are not eligible applicants for a Local Solutions grant application.
15. A County Office of Education provides special education services to its districts, but does not have its own budget. Instead, districts receiving services from the COE are billed for "excess costs." The grant RFA states: "The grant funds must be matched by the grantee LEA or consortium on a dollar-for-dollar basis." Can the COE bill districts for the cash match if they are benefiting from the grant?	If the COE is including local school districts in the grant application, the districts must also indicate their willingness to participate in the consortium application. The matching funds obligation applies to the consortium. The applicant must indicate the source of the matching funds for the consortium application.
16. It looks like the grant can fund newly credentialed teachers signing bonuses as a recruitment incentive. If a COE were to offer this incentive to new teachers, can teachers who have already been hired by the COE be offered the same amount as "retention bonuses?"	This is a local decision.
17. In reviewing the RFP Selection Criteria and points available, we didn't see anything about extra points for applying as a consortium. Is preference given to applicants who apply as a	There is no preference for applying as a consortium. Grants will be selected according to their rating against the selection criteria published in the RFP.

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consortium? Is there equal distribution of funds across the region or are the strongest grants selected?	

