

# Positive Alternatives Grant Program

## 2021 REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL

### Questions - #3

1. Under the *Organizational Capacity* section where it asks for the community organizations and services that support PG women- our list is big if I list every food shelf, etc... our list is endless this would easily take up the 4 pages alone. What do you recommend?

ANSWER: In the current RFP under the Organizational Capacity section in reference to the question on community organizations it states, *“Describe how your organization works with other community organizations and/or services to support pregnant women. If so, which ones and in what way (page 14).”*

Past applicants have responded to this question by highlighting the local community organization they partner with who may help to provide some of the necessary services that they do not provide and as suggested in the Positive Alternatives Statute (MN Statute 145.4235) requirements. Your application should not list all organizations that provide services to pregnant woman. Rather you may consider describing the local, strong and continuing community partnerships your organization has developed to provide optimal services for your clients.

2. We want to add our Fatherhood program expenses to the grant. Can I add a new activity titled, “Services for Fathers of the Baby?” or would this fall under something else?

ANSWER: The short-term and intermediate outcomes are suggested outcomes for the types of activities that will be funded. If your organization’s proposed activity does not fit into one of the categories, develop and enter your own category and short and intermediate outcomes. Do not add a long-term outcome.

Either you could use your suggested language for your activity or you could use, *Fatherhood Program*. Whatever you are comfortable proposing and best fits your program should be used as your activity description.

3. I am wondering if there is anywhere on the website where I could see an example of narratives provided by past grantees. I am trying to get an idea of the layout and expectations.

ANSWER: We do not have any examples of narratives posted on our webpages that have been submitted by past grantees. The applications we have received over the past have varied greatly. There is no one template for a well written application. Also, language and policy requirements have changed with each round of funding requests that could possibly cause confusion for new applicants if posted.

Applicants should review the entire narrative section including both the Organizational Capacity and Statement of Needs sections. In both sections questions are suggested for applicants to cover in their grant proposal. Make sure to address these questions, as applicable. Also, when preparing and writing your proposal all applicants are also encouraged to use the *Criteria for Scoring Applications* in Appendix A, beginning on page 45. *Criteria for Scoring Applications* provides details on how your organization's proposal will be scored by community reviewers. These scores will be used to inform funding decisions made by MDH.

Your organization's grant proposal should describe the activities and programs designed to improve birth outcomes (or your goal described in the RFP). When completing the budget forms, remember to describe/connect how the funds in the budget will be used to accomplish the activities in the proposal.

As a current grantee should our organization increase our funding ask to the next higher tier?

ANSWER: New or current grantees should base their funding request on the cost of doing business or executing their proposed Positive Alternatives grant programming. The proposed services and activities your organization is seeking funding for should be supported by the individual unmet needs of your community.

How do you figure an FTE rate for each staff included in the grant program on the budget?

ANSWER: **Full time equivalent (FTE)** is the percentage of time a person will work on the grant project weekly as compared to a full-time 40 hour work week (one year for 1 FTE = 2080 hours). If an employee works 20 hours per week you could calculate the FTE by  $20/40$  equaling 0.50 or 50% FTE.

I am a little unsure of what the final grant application awarded number will represent on the Application Face Sheet. Will that number apply to the first year only, maybe multiplied by 5 to get the total grant amount figure for the 5 year grant cycle? Might there be an adjustment process for each year thereafter?

ANSWER: The *Total Requested Amount* on your Application Face Sheet, Form A, should represent your total ask for year 1 of the grant cycle. This number should match the total amount listed on your year 1 Excel Budget Summary Form. Grantees will be asked to submit their subsequent year 2 – year 5 budgets for approval prior to the beginning of each new budget year.

Grantees can expect the funding award they receive for their year 1 budget will be the same in subsequent years of the grant cycle.

4. I am working on a RFP for the PA Grant, and have a question. The following requirement states that the PA program must have been in place for at least one year "as of July 1, 2011." Does that mean that it needs to have been in place for one year prior to July 1, 2011? Or does it mean that it needs to have been in place one year since July 1, 2011? Our program has been in place from 2018 to 2020, and so I am wondering if it meets this eligibility requirement?

ANSWER: Your organization's history can be described in your application's organizational capacity and will be further demonstrated with the submission of your 501(3) (c). Your organization needs to have had an alternatives to abortion program in existence for at least one year as of July 1, 2011 or incorporated an alternative to abortion program that has been in existence for at least one year as of July 1, 2011. The eligibility requirement of having an alternative to abortion program in place by July 1, 2010 is correct. This is a legislative mandate for the Positive Alternatives grant funds set forth in Minnesota State Statute 145.4235 Positive Alternatives.

Your organization must meet the eligibility requirements in Minnesota State Statute, Positive Alternatives 145.4235. See Appendix C: Positive Alternatives Statute – page 48 of the 2021 PA RFP for further information.

5. Under what conditions can programs for men be funded under the Positive Alternatives grant?

ANSWER: Funded programs must limit their services to pregnant women and women parenting infants up to 12 months old. This may also include fathers of the babies, born or unborn, whose mothers are eligible for services. However, activities cannot be designed for fathers in general but should be initiated to support ***pregnant women and women parenting an infant up to one year of age.***

Applicants are required to demonstrate eligibility for funding by demonstrating how their proposed programs/activities will support and encourage women in carrying their pregnancy to term and maximizing their potentials thereafter. Programs and program activities that meet this description will be considered for funding.

6. As a faith-based organization, can grant funds be used to pay the salary of a member of our staff?

ANSWER: Yes, provided that the staff person is delivering the grant-funded service and is not engaged in religious worship, instruction or proselytization. If the staff is working part time on grant support activities and part time on other religious- based activities, the staff must also document their time commitment to the grant-funded program by keeping careful time records of their activities. This will be necessary to document grant funds are spent only on grant supported program activities.

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*To obtain this information in a different format, call: 651-201-3760.*