North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services
Division of Public Health
Section/Branch: Women, Infant and Community Wellness/Infant and Community Health Branch

RFA Questions and Answers

RFA # A412, RFA Title: Improving Community Outcomes for Maternal and Child Health
Addendum Number: 1

If applicable, Bidder's Conference(s) Date(s): 11/1/2023
Questions Received Until (date): 11/9/2023
Summary of Questions and Answers Release Date: 11/16/2023

DPH Internal Use Only		
Contracts Team Leader Approval:	DocuSigned by: Jalaine Moore 908F846F362B42F	11/15/23 | 7:50 PM EST
	Signature	Date
Questions regarding T&C? Yes / No If Yes, Contracts Manager Approval:		
	Signature	Date

Questions and Answers *(list all questions and answers in numerical order)*

1. Can supporting documents, information on previous implementation practices in the area, and health equity initiatives still be attached to the appendix of the grant application?

   Answer: Yes, however, it is recommended that applicant agencies provide details about implementation practices and health equity initiatives previously carried out in the RFA narrative.

2. Are we able to record today's webinar?

   Answer: No.

3. For the Doula support program, do we pay mileage for the Doulas? If so, can we pay mileage to the birth hospital, should it reside outside our region since many rural areas do not have birthing hospitals?

   Answer: Yes, however, please be certain to refer and adhere to your health department's transportation reimbursement policy.

4. For doula services, what is the scope of services? Is it just medical and what is laid out in the RFA, or is it broadened to full-service like helping with chores or grocery shopping?

   Answer: At a minimum, doula scope of services should include those outlined in the Request for Applications. Applicant agencies can expand services but must clearly outline the role of the doula(s) and scope of services and link the work of

doulas to the specific Evidence based Strategy (EBS) selected. In addition, any costs associated with additional services must be included in the proposed program budget and align with your local health department's policies.

5. For doula services, can the doula services satisfaction survey be edited to collect demographic information? And edited to utilize more inclusive language?

   Answer: Yes

6. In doula services reporting should identifiers be removed before reporting? There is a participant identification line if this is meant to be for the person's name? How long does NCDHHS need us to retain this information, or can it be entered digitally and deidentified as soon as possible?

   Answer: The ICO4MCH site should give each participant that completes the survey an identifying number that connects to their name. When reporting on doula services, the ICO4MCH site will report on all participants who receive doula services. No names should be shared in reporting to DPH. Doula data should be retained for at least five years.

7. Are applications prioritized or awarded more points when multiple counties apply to work together?

   Answer: No.

8. Are all doula services other than the telephone follow up in person or can they be telehealth? What about when pregnancy complications lead to a referral to a birthing specialist outside our area?

   Answer: All doula services should be implemented in person except for telephone follow-up. Telehealth services can be done as appropriate.

9. Are existing registered nurses employed by our local health departments (Family planning or maternity clinic) allowed to become registered doulas or is that a health department specific question?

   Answer: The applicant agency should work with your team to decide who will be trained as a doula. The rationale used to make this decision and staff to be trained should be clearly outlined in the program plan section of the RFA narrative.

10. In the RFA there was a discussion about training doulas. Is that the DONA training or does NCDHHS have a specific training you all would like us to use?

    Answer: DONA is an acceptable training; however, others can be used.

11. Will you all be sharing the presentation today?

Answers: No.