

## 2014 RFGA's Questions and Answers

1. **In regards to the abstinence based curriculum, is the grant only available to organizations that only implement abstinence based programs or can organizations that implement non –abstinence programs apply as well? I understand that the grant is for funding to be used for abstinence-based curriculums but I just wanted to be clear that our agency would not be disqualified if we are implementing other sexual health programs.**

Response:

Applicants applying under FY2015-RFGA-CY-501 or FY2015-RFGA-CY-502 must be a non-profit 501(c)(3) agency who is committed to and experienced in providing abstinence-until-marriage program services using the program/curricula for which funding is being applied

Applicants applying under RFGA# FY2015-CY-503 must be either a state, community or faith-based organization that is committed to and experienced in providing abstinence education services using the program/curricula for which funding is being applied.

Under these RFGAs the term “abstinence education” means an educational or motivational program which:

- a. Has as its exclusive purpose teaching the social, psychological, and health gains to be realized by abstaining from sexual activity;
- b. Teaches abstinence from sexual activity outside of marriage as the expected standard for all school-age children;
- c. Teaches that abstinence from sexual activity is the only certain way to avoid out-of-wedlock pregnancy, STDs, and other associated health problems;
- d. Teaches that a mutually faithful monogamous relationship in the context of marriage is the expected standard of human sexual activity;
- e. Teaches that sexual activity outside of the context of marriage is likely to have harmful psychological and physical effects;
- f. Teaches that bearing children out-of-wedlock is likely to have harmful consequences for the child, the child's parents, and society;
- g. Teaches young people how to reject sexual advances and how alcohol and drug use increases vulnerability to sexual advances, and;
- h. Teaches the importance of attaining self-sufficiency before engaging in sexual activity.

Any selected provider may determine the relative emphasis to place on each of the A-H elements. No awarded program can in any way contradict the A-H elements.

A provider organization meeting the above mentioned eligibility requirements would not be disqualified based on their implementation of other sexual health programs.

2. **Does the agency who is applying for the grant need to already be trained in abstinence based training before applying for grant or can the organization apply for the grant with intentions of receiving training for abstinence based curriculum?**

Response:

Applicants applying under FY2015-RFGA-CY-501 or FY2015-RFGA-CY-502 must be a non-profit 501(c)(3) agency who is committed to and experienced in providing abstinence-until-marriage program services using the program/curricula for which funding is being applied

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3. **Question regarding the Request for Application (RFA) for the State Proviso 34.50 for Abstinence Education and for the SC Title V, Section 510 service projects: “Can the 15% required for evaluation be used for internal quality control over process evaluation, evaluation instruments and equipment, preparing required reports, and providing quality data for Third Party analysis of program effectiveness, or must all of those funds, amounting to a total of \$172,046 annually, go only to a Third Party Evaluator?” (\$82,046 under the SC Proviso 34.50 Abstinence Education funding stream and \$90,000 under the SC Title V, Section 510 Abstinence Education funding stream) These necessary internal functions, related to fidelity-to-plan and quality site documentation/reporting, are typically included in the portion of the budget that is covered by the percentage required for evaluation (15% in this case).**

Response:

RFGA Number: [FY2015-RFGA-CY-503](#) and RFGA Number: [FY2015-RFGA-CY-501](#) Section II.B.g. Budget Discussion, 1<sup>st</sup> paragraph states, “The budget must clearly explain how the funds will be used and must allocate a minimum of 15% of the total dollars for a third party evaluator.”

4. **How and where does an applicant obtain the two certificates requested in the application? Is the SC Campaign authorized to give a certificate stating the information in the curricula is medically accurate and state that the actual contents of the curricula are abstinence only?**

Response:

[FY2015-RFGA-CY-501](#) and [FY2015-RFGA-CY-502](#) requires that the applicants (a) provide certification from a government or private agency that the program/curricula defined within the RFGA application packet is medically accurate. Certification must be dated prior to submission of the application packet, and (b) provide certification from the *National Abstinence Education Association* (NAEA) that the program/curricula defined within the RFGA application packet is consistent and in compliance with the federal A-H Title V, Section, 510 definition of abstinence education. Certification must be dated prior to submission of the application packet.

[FY2015-RFGA-CY-503](#) requires that the applicants (a) provide certification from a *nationally known organization* stating that the program/curricula defined within the application packet is medically accurate. Certification must be dated prior to submission of the application packet, and (b) provide a letter of certification from a *nationally known organization* stating that an independent review has been conducted of the defined program/curricula and the information contained does not contradict Title V, Section 510 (b)(2) (A-H elements). Certification must be dated prior to submission of application packet.

We do not have a listing of entities; however, the Medical Institute for Sexual Health and the Abstinence Education Clearinghouse has provided the necessary certifications in the past. The SC Campaign, as a private agency could provide certification under [FY2015-RFGA-CY-501](#) and [FY2015-RFGA-CY-502](#) that the program/curricula defined within the RFGA application packet is medically accurate.

5. **The link to the various curricula is dead. Will you provide a list of suggested abstinence only programs?**

Response:

DHEC was not aware that the provided link had been disabled please use the new link below:  
[http://www.hhs.gov/ash/oah/oah-initiatives/teen\\_pregnancy/db/tpp-searchable.html](http://www.hhs.gov/ash/oah/oah-initiatives/teen_pregnancy/db/tpp-searchable.html)

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### 6. How many awards will be made and what do you anticipate as the average amount of each award?

Response:

Please refer to each RFGA, Section IV, Award Criteria, which states, "Awards may be made to one or more Applicants based on the strength of the application". Awards will be made by an external review panel.

### 7. Denmark Olar Elementary school is a perfect candidate for this program and has only promoted abstinence education. However, the district office will serve as the fiscal agent and other programs in the district have promoted contraceptive use. Does this disqualify the applicant?

Response:

Applicants applying under FY2015-RFGA-CY-501 or FY2015-RFGA-CY-502 must be a non-profit 501(c)(3) agency who is committed to and experienced in providing abstinence-until-marriage program services using the program/curricula for which funding is being applied

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- c. Teaches that abstinence from sexual activity is the only certain way to avoid out-of-wedlock pregnancy, STDs, and other associated health problems;
- d. Teaches that a mutually faithful monogamous relationship in the context of marriage is the expected standard of human sexual activity;
- e. Teaches that sexual activity outside of the context of marriage is likely to have harmful psychological and physical effects;
- f. Teaches that bearing children out-of-wedlock is likely to have harmful consequences for the child, the child's parents, and society;
- g. Teaches young people how to reject sexual advances and how alcohol and drug use increases vulnerability to sexual advances, and;
- h. Teaches the importance of attaining self-sufficiency before engaging in sexual activity.

Any selected provider may determine the relative emphasis to place on each of the A-H elements. No awarded program can in any way contradict the A-H elements.

The district office serving as the fiscal agency and the district implementing the program which promotes contraceptive use would not disqualify an applicant. An application from Denmark Olar Elementary School would be accepted and reviewed if the organization meets the above mentioned eligibility requirements.