



## Division of Mental Health and Addiction

### REQUEST FOR FUNDING (RFF-2022-008) ANNOUNCEMENT

For

*Transportation for Justice-Involved Populations*

#### RFF QUESTIONS & ANSWERS

**Question:**

May an organization that is a small business for profit apply for this grant?

**Answer:**

The applicant must be registered as an active Non-Profit with the Secretary of State or a faith-based entity in order to be eligible.

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**Question:**

May an organization that already has a vehicle use the grant funding to purchase gas?

**Answer:**

Yes, the RFF states that funds can be used for overall care of a vehicle which includes gas.

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**Question:**

May an organization come together with another organization (i.e. two counties) in a joint initiative for the grant doubling their funding to \$400,000?

**Answer:**

Yes, two organizations can come together for a joint initiative to apply for this grant.

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**Question:**

Does the grant require that we currently have a vehicle? Or can we place the cost of a vehicle in the proposal and utilize part of the grant for the purchase?

**Answer:**

No, this grant does not cover the purchase of a vehicle. Funds can be used for the lease, maintenance, insurance and overall care of a vehicle(s) and Non-Medical share ride programs. Organizations can provide assisted pickup/drop-off options for customers and provide assistance to those needing medical or stretcher transportation and wheelchair accessible vehicles. This funding will also cover the cost of the staff time for transport.

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**Question:**

**Is a newer organization that is currently working on their programming and implementation apply even if they are not currently serving clients?**

**Answer:**

If the applicant meets the mandatory requirements, we encourage you to apply.

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**Question:**

**To clarify: is the amount to be requested a max of \$200,000? Can you ask for less than this amount?**

**Answer:**

You can claim up to \$200,000; meaning, it is allowable to claim below the \$200,000 threshold.

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**Question:**

**May an entity use this grant funding to cover the cost of rides using the Uber Health system?**

**Answer:**

No, this grant is to be used specifically for lease, maintenance, insurance and overall care of a vehicle(s) and Non-Medical share ride programs. Organizations can provide assisted pickup/drop-off options for customers and provide assistance to those needing medical or stretcher transportation and wheelchair accessible vehicles. This funding will also cover the cost of the staff time for transport.

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**Question:**

**Does the entity need to have the transportation leased prior to applying for the grant or would an estimate of the cost be sufficient?**

**Answer:**

We would need for you to have secured a lease or show that you are secured/approved for a lease in your proposal. This is the only way to ensure your agency will be able to fulfill the contract expectations as it relates to leasing a vehicle. If your agency is unable to secure a lease we recommend seeking a community partner from your area who would be able to fulfill this part of the contract expectation.

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**Question:**

**Are funds allowable for contracts with rental car companies?**

**Answer:**

Yes because it mimics a lease and is not a purchase.

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**Question:**

**Does this project require a full-time employee?**

**Answer:**

No, it does not require a full-time employee but will pay for a driver's time.

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**Question:**

**Does the State have a referral mechanism in place or will it fall to the applicants to develop connections?**

**Answer:**

No, there is no referral process in place.

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**Question:**

**Concerning "Creative ideas for the program", if there are casework services for the clients as a result may the grant participants be offered stipends through the grant funds or compensation for serving as facilitators for groups designed to help prevent recidivism?**

**Answer:**

No, the individuals being transported under the grant may not be provided stipends or compensation for their services.

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**Question:**

**Can the leadership group/owner of the entity have a justice-involved population lived experience?**

**Answer:**

Yes

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**Question:**

**If the anticipated driver has a felony conviction, does this disqualify him/her from driving?**

**Answer:**

No, a felony conviction does not automatically disqualify a person. There are several factors that would be considered before approving an individual with a felony conviction: time since conviction, current legal status (probation, parole, etc.), type of felony conviction, circumstances of the felony, and the individuals that will be receiving rides. For example, a felony conviction against a child would prohibit a person from being able to drive youth or adolescents. We will be writing into the contract that all drivers must be approved by DMHA staff.



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**Question:**

**How will funds be dispersed?**

**Answer:**

The funds will be dispersed by the normal claim process with the state.

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**Question:**

**Can this include individuals in the justice system outside of the examples given, such as those in shelters receiving counseling and families within the Department of Child Services system?**

**Answer:**

Yes

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**Question:**

**How likely is funding beyond one year?**

**Answer:**

There is no guarantee that funding will continue beyond 2/28/2023.

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**Question:**

**Can you provide details on the reporting requirements?**

**Answer:**

The scope of work has not been fully defined at this time but we will require monthly reporting asking for the number of rides given and destination of rides.

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**Question:**

**Is a quote for auto insurance sufficient if we do not currently operate a transportation program at the agency?**

**Answer:**

A quote is sufficient up until you receive an award. If you receive an award, in order to move further with the contract you must have secured the proper insurance.

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***Question:***

**Do clients involved in law enforcement assisted diversion programs qualify as justice involved individuals?**

***Answer:***

Yes, clients involved in law enforcement assisted diversion programs would qualify for funding under this grant.

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