



Department of Health and Social Services
Finance and Management Services
Grants and Contracts Support Team
350 Main Street, Room 6
Juneau, Alaska 99801

RFP #2015-0600-2869**Development of Alaska State Plan for Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program
Employment and Training Program (SNAP E&T) and Temporary Assistance for Needy
Families Maintenance Effort (TANF MOE)****Amendment # Two**

Amendment Issue Date: May 19, 2015

Please alter the following language to match the amendment.

IMPORTANT NOTE TO OFFERORS: Only the following items referenced in this amendment are to be changed. All other sections of the RFP remain the same. This amendment serves to answer questions submitted by interested parties. A copy of the amendment is available on the State's Online Public Notice website.

- **Vendor Questions have been answered as follows:**

- 1) In regards to the minimum qualifications, can the agency experience in increasing partnerships in E&T program be acceptable, if the experience is not directly involving SNAP?

ANSWER: No. We require that the agency have direct experience with the SNAP E&T program.

This is due to the very high liability for programmatic errors. Failure to accurately comply with the complex federal regulations around the population served by SNAP E&T could result in a large federal financial penalty. Even a few errors due to program design flaw or referral process could result in the State of Alaska - Health and Social Services losing eligibility for SNAP accuracy bonus funding in FY16 (last year this funding was \$907,000).

- 2) What are the target areas in which the TANF MOE and SNAP E& T components need to be set up?

ANSWER: TANF MOE is a statewide issue. The vendor would be expected to explore MOE sources across the state, including both internal State of Alaska partners (including Department of Health and Social Services as well as other Departments) as well as non-state agency resources as appropriate.

The target area for SNAP E&T Components is all un-exempt areas of the state. Alaska will be applying for a waiver based on census areas where there is a labor surplus or unemployment over 20% of the national average, and would like ABAWDs in the remaining areas of the state to have access to the SNAP E&T program. SNAP E&T components must be available in those communities with the largest un-exempt ABAWD populations. The largest populations are in Anchorage, Wasilla and Fairbanks. Midsize populations are in Kenai and Juneau, with smaller groups in Ketchikan, Kodiak and Sitka. The state prefers SNAP E&T to be provided locally when possible; DPA will seriously consider distance delivery SNAP E&T components as appropriate to serve those who are not able to access services due to lack of local resources and partners in smaller communities.

- 3) What are examples of the MOE requirements that the SOA have been struggling to satisfy?

ANSWER: The State of Alaska is challenged to identify and report MOE expenditures adequate to meet the federal MOE requirements.

- 4) How was MOE expenditures materializing in previous years?

ANSWER: In past years the state has relied heavily on Division of Public Assistance expenditures as the primary source of MOE for TANF, with a focus on expenditures tied to purposes 1 and 2 of TANF, as well as Native Family Assistance Programs and child care. Some MOE has been identified outside the division but within the Department of Health and Social Services, specifically the Office of Children's Services relative placement program.

- 5) In reference to page 33, TANF MOE Deliverables: Clarify the timelines for the FFY2015 schedule.

ANSWER: As per #2 under TANF MOE deliverables, the timeline is to be negotiated with DHSS staff. The vendor may propose a schedule to complete reporting, or may discuss availability to meet with DHSS to begin negotiations. Note that the ACF-196 and ACF-196R are quarterly reports, and the ACF-202 and ACF-204 are annual reports due in December.

- 6) Can additional questions be submitted based on the response?

ANSWER: The division will adhere to the State of Alaska contract standards and rules around acceptance of and response to questions; if the question period is over then DPA will abide by those timeframes and the answer is no.

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