

# Cooperative Agreements for State-Sponsored Youth Suicide Prevention and Early Intervention

## Frequently Asked Questions

(Most of the following questions were asked during the application processes in FY-2007 and FY-2008. Answers have been updated and are appropriate for the FY-2009 RFA).

**1. Question: Will you hold technical assistance conference calls for applicants?**

**Answer:** Yes. SAMHSA will host two conference calls for eligible applicants. One call will be conducted specifically for Tribes/Tribal Organizations. All calls are open to anyone. Call-in information and schedule are as follows:

Tuesday, March 24, 2009	4:00-5:30 p.m. EST
*Thursday, March 26, 2009	4:00-5:30 p.m. EST

\*focusing on Tribes and Tribal Organizations and other parties working with or interested in working with Tribes

To ensure adequate bridge lines are available for all interested applicants please email [Jennifer.Torre@samhsa.hhs.gov](mailto:Jennifer.Torre@samhsa.hhs.gov) and label the subject line: **STATE-TRIBAL RFA TA REGISTRATION** and provide the name(s), position, organization, and indicate the date of the call they wish to attend. Once your email is received, a confirmation email will be sent along with the dial-in information.

**2. Question: Can grantees who have previously received a State/Tribal Youth Suicide Prevention grant apply under this announcement?**

**Answer:** Yes. States or Tribes/Tribal Organizations that were previously funded are eligible to apply for funding. No State or Tribe/Tribal Organization shall receive more than one grant award at a given time.

**3. Question: The grant requires that 85 percent of grant funds be used for direct services. What is meant by direct services?**

**Answer:** "Direct services" refers to youth suicide early intervention and prevention services. Such services include, but are not limited to, training, assessment, post-suicide intervention services, information and awareness campaigns, and other suicide prevention activities. (Note that the program requirement in Section I-2.2 of this RFA stating that, "[a]t least 85 percent of grant funds must be used for direct services" does not refer to direct clinical services.)

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- 4. Question:** Can evaluation costs count as part of the 85% direct services requirement for the grants?

**Answer:** Data collection costs for community-based evaluation activities funded by the State grants are considered part of direct services. Funds retained by the state for evaluation are part of the 15% allowable expenditures for administrative costs.

- 5. Question:** The RFA requires that 5% of grant funds for direct services be directed to institutions of higher education to coordinate or implement youth suicide early intervention and prevention strategies. Can such funds be used to have a college or university conduct an evaluation?

**Answer:** Yes.

- 6. Question:** Can both a State and a Tribe—whose boundaries are fully or partially within the borders of that State—receive a grant?

**Answer:** Yes.

- 7. Question:** Can a Tribe submit both an independent application and be included in a State's application?

**Answer:** Yes, as long as the Tribe proposes to conduct different activities in each application. This would prevent an overlap if both applications were funded.

- 8. Question:** The RFA states that services cannot be provided to incarcerated persons. Our juvenile justice population is a high-risk population that we want to serve. Can these grant funds be used for youth in the juvenile justice system?

**Answer:** The Garrett Lee Smith Memorial Act specifically identifies the juvenile justice system for inclusion in Garrett Lee Smith-funded activities. A wide range of activities can be funded under these grants for the juvenile justice population. These include training of juvenile justice staff, cross-system collaboration with juvenile justice and other child and family systems, provision of services to justice-involved youth in community programs, diversionary or pre-admission screening programs, post-release services, intervention following a suicide or suicide attempt, and services to families of incarcerated youth identified as at high risk for suicide or suicide attempts.

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- 9. Question:** Can a State include in its application a proposal to issue its own requests for proposals (RFPs) to fund community or college and university suicide prevention programs?

**Answer:** A State is allowed to use its customary processes for allocating grant dollars, including issuing RFPs. In their State/Tribal Youth Suicide Prevention Grants application, States choosing to use this mechanism should explain how they will manage the process to ensure that they meet the goals and requirements specified in SAMHSA's RFA.

- 10. Question:** Can grant funds be used to provide direct clinical services?

**Answer:** The purpose of the grants is to support State-sponsored suicide prevention activities rather than to increase the general availability of mental health services. Use of grant funds for direct clinical services must be clearly linked to the State's overall suicide prevention strategy.

- 11. Question:** Could you provide more details on what the cross-site evaluation entails?

**Answer:** The cross-site evaluation has been designed to address core questions about the products and services being developed; the trainings being conducted; the knowledge, awareness, and utilization of suicide prevention activities; the youth being identified as at-risk for suicide and referred for service; and the referral networks established to provide those services. The cross-site evaluation contractor will be responsible for collecting and obtaining data—primarily through a Web-enabled interface, however, funded sites will be required to support and facilitate this process (e.g., complete reports, serve as respondents, identify appropriate respondents, abstract/collect/enter/submit data, distribute materials, etc.). To support implementation of the cross-site evaluation, grantees will receive training and technical assistance from the Contractor.

For the purpose of your application, it is sufficient to state your commitment to cooperate with the Suicide Prevention Evaluation Contractor.

- 12. Question:** How many grantee meetings will be scheduled during the course of the funding period?

**Answer:** Three. Applicants should budget to attend one grantee meeting in each grant year. Three to five representatives (including the Project Director, grant evaluator, and, if possible, at least one member of the program's public-private coalition) should plan to attend each meeting.

**13. Question:** We intend to submit our application electronically. Do we need to send in the required signature pages in addition to our mailed backup copy? Or can our backup copy just include original signature pages?

**Answer:** Technically, you can send the original signature pages only, with the Grants.gov tracking number. This needs to be received by SAMHSA within 5 business days after your electronic submission. However, if you also decide to submit a complete back-up paper copy of your application (which SAMHSA strongly suggests; see page 18 of the RFA for detailed instructions), and if the back-up copy includes original signature pages as required, then you do not need to submit additional separate copies of the signature pages.