

June 10, 2019

AFC Technical Assistance Meeting Notes from June 4th and June 6th TA meetings

Staff reviewed the AIDS Funding Collaborative (AFC) model, AFC grantmaking, and the AFC's strategic plan, followed by an overview of the RFA and forms for the LOI and Proposal Cover Sheet. Similarities to former responsive RFAs were highlighted, including the option to apply for general operating funds for organizations whose primary mission is specific to HIV/AIDS with a demonstrated commitment to the AFC's funding priorities.

Q&A

Can an organization apply to the RFA for a group of priority population individuals to attend a conference?

The AFC typically supports participation by Cuyahoga County residents who are People Living with HIV, HIV professionals, advocates, and stakeholders via our discretionary grant process. Please see more information about discretionary grants here: <https://www.aidsfundingcollaborative.org/grantmaking/>

In some cases, this kind of proposal is larger in scope than allowable by a discretionary grant (i.e. over \$5000) and would be appropriate for responsive or targeted grants. In that case, submitting an LOI to this RFA is appropriate.

How are "well-qualified people living with HIV/AIDS" defined? Are qualifications inclusive of lived experience, or only credentials such as degrees?

Yes, "well-qualified" is meant to be inclusive of the lived experience of people living with HIV/AIDS and not simply the more traditional definition of professional degrees. Organizations are encouraged to engage PLWHA in the conceptualization, delivery and/or evaluation of proposed programs.

Can organizations collaborate with neighborhood-based nonprofits who engage with populations affected by HIV/AIDS but whose primary mission is not specific to HIV/AIDS?

Yes, in fact, special consideration will be given to joint proposals where nonprofit organizations work together to reach individuals living in the most affected neighborhoods. The joint application should designate a lead organization or fiscal sponsor, outline the collaborative use of common resources to achieve efficiency, and formalize the partnership with a statement that lists all partner organizations and indicates that each organization's leadership supports the contents of the joint proposal.

How do I find assistance with writing an LOI?

Organizations are advised to find information about grant seeking support from well-regarded local resources such as the Foundation Center or nonprofit grant seeking professionals, consultants, or organizations, such as GrantsPlus. More information is available at: www.foundationcenter.org