

GROWTH OPPORTUNITIES

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS



<p>1. How will we know if our organization should apply as a direct or intermediary applicant?</p>	<p>Intermediaries must identify sub-grantees to deliver services in three or more noncontiguous metropolitan areas or rural regions, which must be spread across at least two states (unless operating in California or Texas). The sub-grantees may be independent organizations or your organization’s affiliate/local offices.</p> <p>Additionally, intermediaries must provide sub-grantees with administrative and fiscal support or management to ensure compliance with all DOL requirements.</p> <p>If your organization intends to provide services directly to clients in one or two geographic regions, you should apply as a direct applicant.</p>
<p>2. As a direct grantee can we fill the role of a mandatory and/or recommended partner?</p>	<p>Yes. A direct applicant may fill the role of a mandatory partner (with the exception of the employer partner) and/or a recommended partner. Direct grantees are expected to provide services to GO participants. If the direct grantee cannot provide all necessary services, they are expected to partner with other organizations to meet the grant requirements and the needs of participants. Note that the applicant still needs written commitment from all mandatory partners, even if the applicant intends to fill the role of a mandatory partner.</p>
<p>3. What is the difference between a sub-grantee and a mandatory partner?</p>	<p>Sub-grantees are only required for intermediaries. Sub-grantees may fulfill a mandatory partner requirement.</p> <p>All applicants must provide signed documentation from the mandatory partners: Violence Prevention or Intervention partner, Justice System partner, and Employer partners.</p>
<p>4. What if we there are no mandatory partner organizations in our area or we have limited access?</p>	<p>The justice system partner(s) must exist in the targeted jurisdiction(s). Because of the nature of the work, the violence prevention partner should provide in-person services. Employer partner(s) could be remote if their available jobs are also remote. Otherwise, because the jobs to which GO participants will apply will be in the geographic area they live in post-release, we anticipate that employer partner(s) will have a presence in targeted communities and therefore be able to provide in-person services.</p>

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<p>5. Are sub-grantees required to have MOUs with the mandatory partners, or are MOUs only required between the prime grant recipient and mandatory partners?</p>	<p>Memoranda of Understanding (MOUs) are required between the grant recipient and mandatory partners.</p> <p>For intermediary applicants, the required MOUs or Letters of Commitment (LOCs) for Mandatory Partnerships may be between sub-grantees and partners. MOUs or LOCs between intermediary applicants and mandatory partners must name a sub-grantee as party to the agreement, and explain the subgrantee’s responsibilities, if any.</p> <p>Intermediary applicants must also provide written commitments for their subgrantees.</p>
<p>6. We are applying as an intermediary with more than three metropolitan areas or rural regions. Are we only required to have distinct justice system partners for three of those metropolitan areas or rural regions? In other words, can we have three justice system partners, some of which have a presence across multiple metropolitan areas or rural regions?</p>	<p>Intermediaries are required to target a minimum of 3 noncontiguous metropolitan areas or rural regions for their GO program. Each area or region is required to have a distinct justice system. For purposes of GO, a single justice system may not serve as a partner for more than one targeted area or region.</p>
<p>7. Can we still utilize recommended partners if we don't have written commitments?</p>	<p>As stated on page 6 the FOA, applicants are encouraged to provide written commitments from recommended partners. Written commitments are not, however, a requirement to apply.</p>
<p>8. I am confused about the references to multiple rounds of grants. Can you clarify what you meant?</p>	<p>REO intends to award 2 rounds of GO grants using the Funding Opportunity Announcement (FOA) published on March 7, 2022 (FOA-ETA-22-03). We expect to make 12 awards in Round 1 and 17 in Round 2. Both rounds will have a 42-month period of performance. We anticipate the Round 1 period of performance will start on June 1, 2022, and Round 2 on January 2, 2023.</p> <p>Recipients of Round 1 GO grants may not apply for a Round 2 grant. However, Round 1 applicants that do not receive funding in Round 1 will automatically be considered for Round 2 funding unless the applicant withdraws their original (Round 1) application. Those who do not withdraw their original application may choose, but are not required, to update their application for the Round 2 grant competition.</p>

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9. What is the duration of each competitive round?	<p>The deadline to submit Round 1 applications is April 21, 2022. We anticipate the deadline for Round 2 applications will be in mid- to late-November.</p> <p>Both Round 1 and Round 2 will have a 42-month period of performance. Currently, the anticipated start date of Round 1 is June 1, 2022, and of Round 2 is January 2, 2023.</p>
10. If we can't get written commitments in Round 1, will we be able to apply in Round 2?	<p>Yes, if a prospective applicant is unable to secure all required written commitments in time for the Round 1 submission deadline (April 21, 2022), the prospective applicant is encouraged to secure such written commitments in time for the Round 2 competition (currently projected for fall 2022). In both rounds, applications without all of the required MOUs or letters of commitment will be deemed nonresponsive and removed from consideration.</p>
11. If my organization has not applied for a REO grant before, are we allowed to apply for the second round of GO?	<p>Yes, you may apply for either Round 1 or Round 2.</p> <p>In addition, ETA intends for approximately 50 percent of Round 2 funds to be awarded to applicants that have not received a previous Reentry Employment Opportunities grant.</p>
12. How long do we have to prepare for the grant and get all the necessary documents?	<p>The closing date for receipt of applications under this Announcement is 04/21/2022. If awarded, applicants are encouraged to begin services promptly. A specific start date for services to program participants may be determined in conjunction with your Federal Project Officer.</p>
13. Can we still qualify if our violence prevention partner is not experienced or has been newly established?	<p>The mandatory Violence Prevention or Intervention partner is required to have significant experience delivering culturally competent outreach to individuals with a high risk of committing violence (and/or becoming a victim of violence) to interrupt the cycle of violence. Although an inexperienced or newly established organization does not meet this requirement, this component is not considered a disqualifying factor. Rather, an application with an inexperienced or newly established organization may receive a lower score for that section of the application review process and be required to modify their workplan to meet the requirement as a condition of award, if selected.</p>
14. When can we expect to receive the funds?	<p>We anticipate making Round 1 awards for a June 1, 2022, start date. We anticipate awarding Round 2 funds in time for a January 2, 2023, start date.</p>

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<p>15. How much of the grant funds can we spend on supportive services such as transportation and housing?</p>	<p>Page 37 of the FOA states the following:</p> <p><i>Applicants may spend up to 7 percent of the total budget on incentives and needs-related payments. Awardees must have a written policy on incentives and needs-related payments, including eligibility guidelines and ensure the policy is applied consistently.</i></p> <p>The FOA is otherwise silent regarding the cost of supportive services. Therefore, while needs-related payments (a type of supportive service) are capped at 7 percent of the total budget, all other types of supportive services have no such cap on costs.</p>
<p>16. If the hourly wage rate in our service area is less than \$10, can we use grant funds to subsidize the remainder for our participants?</p>	<p>Yes, as stated on page 21 of the GO FOA, applicants may allocate grant funds for wage subsidies. As stated on page 37, up to 30 percent of the total budget may be spent on participant wages, wage subsidies, and/or stipends.</p>
<p>17. What assistance will be available to help GO grantees understand grant requirements?</p>	<p>Upon award Federal Project Officers can provide guidance on grant requirements. A technical assistance provider is also available to support grantees on programmatic issues and on certain grant requirements.</p>
<p>18. What do we do if the availability of our key personnel change and they are no longer able to fulfill the time commitment originally proposed for the GO project?</p>	<p>Grantees are expected to fulfill the commitments specified in their proposal. If a grantee cannot do that, they should request a modification to replace the individual with another who does have the capacity to fulfill the proposed commitment and continue carrying out associated grant activities.</p>
<p>19. Can you provide a greater explanation to better differentiate between REO-specific indicators of the arrest goal (less than 5%) and the recidivism goal (less than 10%)?</p>	<p>For purposes of GO reporting:</p> <p>The arrest indicator is specific to violent crimes committed after program entry.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ This indicator does not capture whether or not the individual is convicted. <p>Recidivism is defined as the percentage of participants <u>convicted</u> of a new crime committed within 12 months of release from a correctional facility or placement on probation.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ This indicator requires a conviction and is not limited to violent crimes.
<p>20. What happens if we don't meet a performance goal?</p>	<p>If a grantee does not meet their goals during the period of performance they could be put on a corrective action plan. If the grantee did not meet their goals at the end of the period of performance it could affect future funding opportunities.</p>

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21. What should we do if a participant enrolls, having indicated a plan to stay in the area after release from incarceration, but upon release they move out of the service area?	The individual would no longer be eligible to participate in the program if they move out of the service area.
22. How can we verify that someone has had substance misuse before the age of 12? Does it need to be recorded by a physician?	Self-attestation may be used as verification for substance abuse before the age of 12. See page 8 of the GO FOA.
23. If a potential participant left high school before completion and decided to go back before enrolling in our program, are they still eligible for our program?	<p>Yes, under this FOA “leaving high school before completion” includes any instance of leaving high school prior to completion, even if they subsequently return to high school.</p> <p>Additionally, an individual might be eligible by meeting another of the risk factors associated with delinquent or criminal activity identified on page 8 of the GO FOA.</p>
24. Is the 12-months of participant follow-up after program exit required to occur during the grant’s period of performance?	The 12 months of participant follow up after program exit must occur during the grant’s period of performance. This means that all participants must exit the program no later than 12 months before the end of the period of performance.
25. The FOA refers to the delivery of conflict resolution training and mentoring as being the responsibility of the Violence Prevention Partner. However, if an applicant is qualified to provide these activities, must they still be assigned to the Violence Prevention Partner?	Applicants may fulfill the roles of mandatory partners, with the exception of an employer partner. Note that the applicant still needs written commitments from all mandatory partners, even if the applicant intends to fill the role of a mandatory partner. If the applicant is fulfilling the role of the Violence Prevention partner, then a supplementary Violence Prevention partner is recommended but not required.
26. How do we derive the weighted average poverty rate?	Page 15 of the grant announcement describes how to determine the poverty rate to be submitted for the application. For applicants proposing to serve a single target area, the total number of persons in poverty in all of the combined Census Tracts divided by the combined population of all of the proposed Census Tracts is the required poverty rate of the proposed target area. The FOA does not state this, but

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	mathematically this is the weighted average of the poverty rate of the proposed target area. For applicants proposing to serve more than one target area, the total number in poverty of the combined target areas divided by the total population of the combined target areas is the required poverty rate for the applicant. Again, the FOA does not state this, but mathematically this is the weighted average of the poverty rate of the proposed target areas. Section VIII provides directions for using census data to identify high-poverty areas and poverty rates.
27. Would a partnership with a county's probation department satisfy the requirement for the Justice Partner?	Yes, a partnership with a county probation office would satisfy that requirement.

ACRONYMS

DOL – U.S. Department of Labor

FOA – Funding Opportunity Announcement

FPO – Federal Project Officer

GO – Growth Opportunities

LOC – Letter of Commitment

MOU – Memorandum of Understanding

OGM – Office of Grants Management

REO – Reentry Employment Opportunities