Iowa Department of Public Health
Division of Health Promotion and Chronic Disease Prevention
Mental Health Professional Shortage Area Program FY13
Request for Proposal #58813012

Cumulative Written Questions and Response Document

Round 1 Written Questions and Responses for the time period of:
November 1, 2012 through November 13, 2012
Posted November 16, 2012

There were not any written questions submitted during this timeframe under this request for proposal.

Round 2 Written Questions and Responses for the time period of: November 14, 2012 through November 29, 2012
Posted December 5, 2012

Q1. Regarding **2.04 Use of Funds:** if an applicant agency plans to use the funds to support recruitment costs and a sign-on bonus for the new psychiatrist, but a psychiatrist is not ultimately hired by June 30, 2012, must the applicant agency return funding used for the failed recruitment?

A 1. No. However, the Department may opt to include a performance disincentive tied to recruitment. Refer to Appendix I Sample Contract, Article VII – Performance Measure.

Q2. Regarding **3.01 Technical Requirements, section B**. Is an "electronic signature" simply a scanned signature?

A 2. According to the definition outlined in Iowa Code 554D.103 and U.S. Code (http://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/PLAW-106publ229/pdf/PLAW-106publ229.pdf) an electronic signature means "an electronic sound, symbol, or process, attached to or logically associated with a contract or other record and executed or adopted by a person with the intent to sign the record." An applicant may insert an electronically scanned signature, a digital signature, or a typed name, symbol, etc. in compliance with this definition for the electronic signature.

Q3. Is it permissible to utilize funds to secure employment of a telehealth provider, located in or out of state, who satisfies all Request for Proposal requirements?

A 3. Proposals to secure psychiatric care for residents of the Mental Health Professional Shortage Area via telemedicine will be considered. Psychiatrists employed by the applicant agency shall be licensed and board eligible to practice in the State of Iowa. It is the responsibility of the applicant agency to ensure proper and current professional licensing of the psychiatrist.

Q4. Why are agencies, who recruit qualified Conrad 30 Waiver candidates for employment, not eligible to apply for funds to help cover recruitment, legal counsel, relocation, and retention costs? Typically these agency costs are equal to, or greater than, the recruitment costs of non-Conrad 30 candidates, and as such may prohibit eligible agencies from recruiting otherwise eligible candidates from this important pool. (It is noted that Conrad 30 employees can and do sometimes leave their sponsoring agency before the end of their commitment period.)

A 4. Conrad 30 J1 Visa Waiver candidates are not specifically addressed in the RFP. Refer to A 1 regarding recruitment costs.