

**Iowa Department of Public Health
Division of Health Promotion and Chronic Disease Prevention
Expansion of School-Based Dental Sealant Program
Request For Proposal # 58814013**

Interim Written Question and Response Document

**Round 1: Written Questions and Responses for questions submitted through 10/23/13
Posted 10/29/13**

Q1. If we are designated a priority area, must we still target schools in other counties in our service area with free and reduced lunch rates above 40%?

A 1. Applicants are encouraged, but not required, to serve all schools in their service area with 40% or greater free and reduced lunch rates. Recipients of this RFP are required to serve at least 100 children within the Initial Project Period (December 1, 2013 – September 30, 2014) (RFP Section 2.0, pg. 14).

Q2. Can this money be used to help an existing school based dental sealant program that is not currently grant funded?

A 2. Yes, according to Section 1.03 Eligible Applicants, if you are a Title V child health program contractor without a current IDPH school-based sealant contract you would be eligible for these grant funds. Grant funds are limited to be used in schools with 40% free/reduced lunch rate or greater. Other funds may be used for schools with lower free/reduced lunch rates. (RFP Section 2.04, pg. 17 and Section 3.02, pg. 24).

Q3. Can we get a new subcontracted dental hygienist on a public health supervision agreement for this grant understanding that they must have 3 years of clinical experience?

A 3. Yes, new subcontracted staff may be added and may be necessary to provide services as outlined in this grant. Grant funds may be used for sealant personnel costs. A dental hygienist working within the sealant program must have a public health supervision agreement outlining allowable services in a school setting. (RFP pg. 15-16, Section 2.03) Rules for Public Health Supervision agreements can be found [here](#).

Q4. Page 5. Section 1.05 Applicants may apply for \$25,000 for contiguous county service area: The amount is \$25,000 per agency regardless of the number of counties to be served in the proposal. If we would choose to apply for 2-3 counties, the amount is the same?

A 4. Yes. The maximum funding available for a Title V child health service area is \$25,000 (RFP Section 1.05, pg.5).

- Q5. Page 14, Section 2.01: the Background paragraph indicates that “the priority counties for this RFP have been identified based on lack of existing school-based sealant programs, lack of optimal community water fluoridation, the number of schools at or above 40% free or reduced price lunch rate, and a higher prevalence of Medicaid-enrolled and low income children.”**

Question: We have concerns about overall sealant rates for all children in our CH counties. In our five northern county service area, we understand that there are few or no dentists applying sealants for children, regardless of payer, who could be candidates for this preventive service. That would mean the percentage of all children with sealants, not just Medical insured children, could be very low. We do not know why local dentists do not apply sealants and we are not in a position to address this issue with local dentists. Could the OH Bureau help with addressing this dental practice issue?

A 5. The Bureau of Oral and Health Delivery Systems does not have authority to require dental offices to provide preventive dental procedures. However, school-based dental sealant programs may fill a gap in counties where dentists do not routinely apply dental sealants to children’s’ teeth.

- Q6. Page 15, under 2.01, last bullet under program requirements: This bullet indicates that “the applicant shall develop a sustainability plan that includes collaboration with community partners and development of program best practices that will allow long-term sustainability if grant funding is decreased or not available in the future.” Looking for local sustainability is a problem in these counties both from a funding concern as these are poor, rural counties with less options for local donor support and a concern of securing volunteer dentists since many may be resistant to sealants. We have been able to initiate and sustain a viable sealant program in our main county in our service area, but the rural climate is less likely to be able to sustain these efforts. We just wanted to make sure you were aware of these issues as this main reason a sealant program has not been started in these counties in the past.**

A 6. Sustainability may be more difficult in rural areas. However, as part of this program, applicants should spend time reviewing and identifying resources and developing the infrastructure for additional and/or alternative funding. Sustainability plans may include collaborative support from partners such as school administrators, parent groups, or other organizations. Sustainability plans may also include funding resources such as Medicaid.

- Q7. If we are not able to apply for this RFP now for 2014, would we be able to apply for FY2015 (2014-2015 school-year)? Or are there other sealant funds that we could apply for in our counties.**

A 7. No. The project period for this contract will be through September 30, 2015; only contractors awarded by this RFP and RFP# 58814001 will be eligible to submit a continuation application for FFY2015. IDPH does not anticipate having additional funding available for another school-based dental sealant program RFP next year.

Q8. Are Title V Child Health grantees that serve counties that are not identified as a priority county eligible to apply or be considered for funding?

A 8. Yes. Eligible applicants for this grant are Title V child health contractors without a current IPDH school-based sealant contract. (RFP Section 1.03, pg. 4)

Q9. Is there a current list of grantees that were awarded under RFP 58814001, which was released in June, available? Our organization would like to determine if school-based dental sealant services are currently being offered in our county.

A 9. Yes. On August 27, 2013, the Iowa Department of Public Health, Division of Health Promotion and Chronic Disease Prevention announced its intent to award School-based Dental Sealant Program funding to the following applicants:

Black Hawk County Health Department
Lee County Health Department
Marion County Public Health Department
Mid-Iowa Community Action, Inc.
Mid-Sioux Opportunity, Inc.
Trinity Muscatine Public Health
Warren County Health Services

Q10. On forms E and F, the link to the free and reduced lunch rate does not work. It says the site cannot be found no matter how I do it. I am using the information I got from my program director that she got at a meeting recently. Could you check that link and send us a new link that works?

A 10. The Iowa Department of Education changed their website after this RFP was posted, and the web page link included in the RFP is no longer functioning. Unfortunately, the Department of Education did not provide rerouting to the new site. The invalid Web page link has been addressed in Amendment #1. The new weblink is: <https://www.educateiowa.gov/document-type/building-level-1>.

Q11. How would you like us to get our enrollment information for forms E and F? Should I call each school or is there a link?

A 11. Refer to Amendment #1 which instructs you to use a new web page link to get free/reduced lunch rate information. This is the information that must be used when completing forms E and F.

Q12. On forms E and F, should we put all schools that qualify with the 40% and above free and reduced lunch rate, even if we may not actually end up going to that school? If we put them on these forms are we obligated to get to these school or can we just get to the ones we can, and list them all just in case?

A 12. The intent of Forms E and F is for the applicant to identify which schools they

will target – or include in the program – during the contract period. The forms are not to be used to list all the schools in the service area with 40% and greater free and reduced lunch rate. Directions for Attachments E and F (RFP Section 3.02, pg. 24-25, Section 3.02) state “Use this form to indicate the targeted schools and enrollment numbers for the sealant program”.

Q13. For forms E and F, should we put all schools that qualify with the 40% and above free and reduced lunch rate, even if we already go to that school with our current sealant program through our agency? The instructions on page 24 and 25 make it seem like the answer is yes but that was not how I understood it, so I just wanted to clarify.

A 13. Include all schools that will be included in the agency’s school-based sealant program on Forms E and F, whether funded through this grant or by using other funds. (RFP Section 3.02, pg. 24-25)

Q14. Could the \$10,000 of additional funding earmarked for dental equipment be used to rent dental equipment or subcontract dental equipment that is portable e.g. part of a mobile unit?

A 14. No, the additional \$10,000 of funding cannot be used to rent or subcontract equipment. The RFP states that “applicants are eligible to apply for up to an additional \$10,000 for dental equipment purchases.” (RFP Section 2.04, page 16).