

Pathways to Independence Northern Region Request for Proposals (RFP) Questions and Answers Document #1

Questions have been edited for clarity and to remove any identifying information.

Q1: Can our agency be in two proposals? We are submitting one project proposal and have been asked by another agency to partner on a different proposal. The projects are quite different and would be using different staff.

A1: The Northern Region RFP does not prevent an agency from submitting one proposal and partnering on another. The agency must show that it has the organizational capacity to fulfill its roles as outlined in both proposals if they were both funded. Proposals should clearly define the roles and responsibilities of any people or organizations that are listed as partners.

Q2: Can our agency submit two different proposals?

A2: The Northern Region RFP does not prevent an agency from submitting two different proposals. The agency must show that it has the organizational capacity to fulfill its duties as outlined in both proposals if they were both funded.

Q3: Would training and technical assistance be considered "direct service" or would they be considered allowable under this grant?

A3: Pathways does not generally consider training and technical assistance to be "direct service." However, in order to be funded, training and technical assistance activities must be shown to be capacity-building.

Example of capacity-building training: Agency A develops and implements a training program to show care managers how to incorporate employment outcomes into person-centered plans. This training increases Agency A's capacity to support the employment aspirations of all of its clients.

Example of direct service: Agency B provides individualized, pre-vocational training to two clients who want to be forklift operators. This training meets the specific needs of two clients, but does not increase Agency B's capacity to support the employment aspirations of all of its clients.

Q4: Is the application summary form considered to be part of the total ten pages, or is it separate?

A4: The application summary form is not included in the ten page limit.

Q5: If we were to offer one overall training and follow-up to all our service population providers, would that be an acceptable project idea, assuming it meets all other objective criteria?

A5: Pathways to Independence cannot comment on specific project ideas. As outlined in A3, training must be shown to be capacity-building to be funded.

Q6: As I was reading this email today, I see that Douglas County is not one of the designated counties. Is there a reason?

A6: The Northern Region RFP is directed to the eight counties that are part of the Pathways to Independence Regional Initiative's Northern Region. Douglas County is part of the Pathways Northwestern Region. The boundaries of the Pathways to Independence Regional Initiative's seven regions are based on Wisconsin's economic regions.

Q7: Why does the funding have to all be expended by December 31, 2007?

A7: The Northern Region RFP funding is provided by Wisconsin's Medicaid Infrastructure Grant (MIG). MIG funding is approved annually on a 12-month calendar year basis. All MIG funding for 2007 must be spent by December 31, 2007.

Q8: Please explain Qualification A on Page 2: "Applications will be accepted from the Northern Region of the State including the following counties: Ashland, Bayfield, Forest, Iron, Oneida, Price, Sawyer and Vilas. Agencies must provide a substantial (50%) portion of services in the Northern Region counties."

A8: Pathways to Independence will consider proposals from applicants based in other counties if the applicant provides a substantial portion of services (50% or more) in the Northern Region counties, both in standard operations and in the proposed activities.