

**Healthcare Workforce Development Division**

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**Educational Stipend Program- Marriage and Family Therapists
Workforce Education and Training (WET) Programs
Request for Application (RFA) #15-6422**

**Questions and Answers from Mandatory Bidders' Conference
January 22, 2016**

Question 1: On page 3, Section B states that a proposer must ensure stipend recipients receive clinical supervision in the Public Mental Health System (PMHS). Does this refer to the period of time of their practicum or employment?

Answer: There are two different components under this RFA where stipend recipients must engage with the PMHS. The first is some form of field training, whether it is referenced as a practicum, field training or internship in the PMHS. There is not a specific amount of time for this component. The second requirement is that a stipend recipient must also work in the PMHS.

Question 2: On page 5, Section D, item g., the RFA mentions students in the chart, is the RFA referring to stipend students or students in general?

Answer: This chart is referring to all students, not just former stipend recipients. This enables WET to better understand the educational institution's history of placing students regardless of receiving a stipend or not.

Question 3: Referring to the interview in the evaluation process, when do you anticipate the interview to happen?

Answer: An interview may not be required, however, it depends on how many applications are submitted and how closely those applications measure up against each other. Should WET request an interview to further evaluate the applications, this would occur between the Final Date for Application Submission on March 7, 2016 and before the Notice of Intent to Award on March 22, 2016. The interview will take place via phone/teleconference.

Question 4: In the past, trying to serve some of the counties listed in the proposal, some counties have no field placement in PMHS at all for students, but they do hire once they have graduated. In order to serve those counties, can the state waive the PHMS field placement requirement for those counties?

Answer: The PMHS requirement will remain consistent for all counties regardless if they are identified as a county with historical lack of representation in past educational stipend programs. All field placements and employment obligations must be completed in a PMHS site. However, for those counties with a historical lack of representation in past educational stipend programs, if they do not have field placement or employment opportunities available, then that may be a justification for not placing individuals in that county. However, WET would need written justification of why those counties cannot be served.

Question 5: How much funding is available and how many awards do you expect to make?

Answer: There is \$6.7 million available for the Educational Stipend Program- Marriage and Family Therapists. The total stipend cost shall be no less than 72.5 percent of the total agreement amount. If the total grant amount is \$6.7 million, the stipend cost cannot be less than \$4,857,500. Each educational stipend shall not exceed \$18,500 per student. It is estimated that this funding will result in approximately 262 stipend awards.

Question 6: Is OSHPD planning on making multiple awards?

Answer: At this point, it cannot be determined how many awards will result from this RFA. The number of awards depends on the number of proposals received and the quality of those proposals. It is possible that multiple awards will occur or that one single organization may be awarded.

Question 7: If there is an organization with a consortium, could they apply for that many stipends?

Answer: Yes, the RFA is open to all institutions that meet the Minimum Qualifications as specified on page 4 including consortiums. One organization or consortium may apply for the full funding, however OSHPD does not dictate what an applicant shall propose so long as the proposal meets the Cost Detail Format and Requirements specified on page 5-6 of the RFA.