HHS Responses to Questions

E [≗] Attachment to Addendum 6-PCS 134-G



Solicitation Title: Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program Education (SNAP-Ed)

Solicitation Number: HHS0015831

#	Reference	Question	Response
1.	 A. RFA Number: HHS0015831 B. Section or Paragraph number from this Solicitation: 3.2 C. Page Number of this Solicitation; 15 D. Exhibit or other Attachment and Section or Paragraph number from the Exhibit or other Attachment; n/a E. Page Number of the Exhibit; n/a F. Language, Topic, Section Heading being questioned; APPLICATION SCREENING REQUIREMENTS 	Is a nonprofit public state university / institute of higher education considered an eligible applicant?	Refer to RFA Section 1.1, Executive Summary, and Section III. Applicant Eligibility Requirements.
2.	No Reference	Does the solicitation notification only apply for new applicants and not current implementing agencies?	Refer to RFA Section 1.1, Executive Summary, and Section III. Applicant Eligibility Requirements.
3.	No Reference	We received notification of the RFA and solicitation process for the FY27 SNAP-Ed grant. Is this something we need to complete?	Refer to RFA Section 1.1 Executive Summary, and Section III. Applicant Eligibility Requirements.



#	Reference	Question	Response
4.	No Reference	Does [VENDOR NAME] need to apply for FFY27 SNAP- Ed funding through this application process?	Refer to RFA Section 1.1 Executive Summary, and Section III. Applicant Eligibility Requirements.
5.	 A.RFA HHS0015831 B. 2.6 Program Requirements C. Page 12 D. Exhibit L. Insurance Requirements E. Pages: 3,4,5 F. C. Specific Insurance Required 	Can the cost of the additional insurance that is required by the RFA be included in the submission budget?	Refer to RFA Section VI. Application Exhibits and Forms for Submission, and Section 6.3 Expenditure Proposal.
6.	No Reference	Can you tell me which grant this is?	Refer to RFA Section 1.1 Executive Summary.
7.	No Reference	I'm assuming programs like [VENDOR NAME] and [VENDOR NAME] won't be applying for FFY27 SNAP- Ed funding through this application process, since we're also part of [VENDOR NAME]. Is this correct?	Refer to RFA Section 1.1, Executive Summary, and Section III. Applicant Eligibility Requirements.
8.	No Reference	I just received this email and wanted to inquire about what this is for.	Refer to RFA HHS0015831.



#	Reference	Question	Response
9.	No Reference	I have received a few of these emails regarding SNAP-Ed and there was not much information about them or why we were receiving them, so I just wanted to touch base with you to make sure they were intended for us at [VENDOR NAME]. I haven't had time to look at them fully yet, however it looks like they may have been sent notifying us that there are funds available to apply? Just want to make sure that is the case since we are not currently do not receive SNAP-Ed funds.	Refer to RFA Section 1.1 Executive Summary, and Section III. Applicant Eligibility Requirements.
10.	No Reference	I head up SNAP-Ed evaluation at [VENDOR NAME], and do not provide any educational activities, so this solicitation is not of direct interest to me. However, last year, one agency that does provide school-based nutrition and physical activity education services mentioned to me that they would like to compete for SNAP-Ed funding. I have not forwarded this notice to them so far, as it wasn't clear to me if this email is intended for a closed group. If it's an open solicitation, may I have your permission to forward this information to them, please?	This is an open Solicitation. Refer to RFA Section I. Executive Summary, Definitions and Statutory Authority, Section 1.1 Executive Summary, and Section III. Applicant Eligibility Requirements.
11.	No Reference	Do existing implementing agencies need to submit applications through the solicitation?	Refer to RFA Section I. Executive Summary, Definitions and Statutory Authority, Section 1.1, Executive Summary, and Section III. Applicant Eligibility Requirements.



÷	#	Reference	Question	Response
1	12.	No Reference	I am reaching out regarding this notification. [VENDOR NAME] is a current implementing agency on the SNAP-Ed grant. We wanted clarification on the application process for current grantees. Is this notification for new applicants or should current grantees submit application using process below. Additionally, we would like to confirm the deadline date. The website resource page shows June 2 nd as the deadline for this application and June 13 th is shown on the notification email.	Refer to RFA Section 1.1 Executive Summary, Section III. Applicant Eligibility Requirements, and Section 7.1, Schedule of Events.



#	Reference	Question	Response
13.	 A. RFA Number: HHS0015831 B. Section or Paragraph number from this Solicitation: 4.1 C. Page Number of this Solicitation; 16 D. Exhibit or other Attachment and Section or Paragraph number from the Exhibit or other Attachment; n/a E. Page Number of the Exhibit; n/a F. Language, Topic, Section Heading being questioned; The initial term of the Grant Agreement is October 1, 2026, through September 30, 2029. HHSC may, at its sole discretion, extend the term for one (1) two-year renewal, not to exceed a five-year Grant Term. 	Should the proposed project and accompanying Expenditure template spreadsheet be for 3 years or 5 years? The guidance on page 16 of the RFA states the initial term is a 3-year period while the table on page 5-6 states the length of the project period is 5 years. Should the budget reflect totals for the 3 years of the project or all 5?	Refer to Addendum 5.



#	Reference	Question	Response
14.	 A. RFA Number: HHS0015831 B. Section or Paragraph number from this Solicitation: 3.2 C. Page Number of this Solicitation; 15 D. Exhibit or other Attachment and Section or Paragraph number from the Exhibit or other Attachment; n/a E. Page Number of the Exhibit; n/a F. Language, Topic, Section Heading being questioned; B-D: Provide documentation from the U.S. Internal Revenue Service to support 	Should the documentation requested in items B-D be provided as part of the application or should this be provided separately? If separately, to where should this information be submitted and by when? What suffices as documentation for C & D?	Refer to RFA Section VI. Application Exhibits and Forms for Submission, and Section 6.5, Administrative Applicant Information.



#	Reference	Question	Response
15.	 A. RFA Number a. HHS0015831 B. Section or Paragraph number from this Solicitation. a. 1.1 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY C. Page Number of this Solicitation. a. P. 5 D. Exhibit or other Attachment and Section or Paragraph number from the Exhibit or other Attachment. a. N/A E. Page Number of the Exhibit. a. N/A F. Language, Topic, Section Heading being questioned. a. Available funding & award amount 	Is available funding of \$124,6148 for U.S. or Texas? Is Max Award Amount \$24,923,717 per state, per county, or per implementing agency?	Refer to RFA Section 1.1, Executive Summary, Section V. Grant Funding and Reimbursement Information, and Addendum 4.



#	Reference	Question	Response
16.	 A. RFA Number a. HHS0015831 B. Section or Paragraph number from this Solicitation. a. 9.4 EVALUATION CRITERIA C. Page Number of this Solicitation. a. P. 32 D. Exhibit or other Attachment and Section or Paragraph number from the Exhibit or other Attachment. a. N/A E. Page Number of the Exhibit. a. N/A F. Language, Topic, Section Heading being questioned. a. Scoring Criteria 	Does research design impact scoring criteria, e.g. does a randomized trial score higher than a Pre-Post design?	Refer to Exhibit O, Evaluation Tool, Subcriteria 2.5, RFA Section IX, Application Screening and Evaluation, and 9.4, Evaluation Criteria.



#	Reference	Question	Response
17.	 A. RFA Number a. HHS0015831 B. Section or Paragraph number from this Solicitation. a. N/A C. Page Number of this Solicitation. a. N/A D. Exhibit or other Attachment and Section or Paragraph number from the Exhibit or other Attachment. a. Exhibit F, HHS Uniform Terms and Conditions Grant v 3.5 E. Page Number of the Exhibit. a. 13 F. Language, Topic, Section Heading being questioned. 6.2 GRANTEE'S PRE-EXISTING WORKS Section B 	Our group will be using a copyrighted, evidence-based, and [VENDOR NAME] -approved coordinated school health program for its intervention. Is it correct that Grantee must grant to System Agency an irrevocable, perpetual, non- exclusive, royalty-free, transferable, worldwide right and license, with the right to sublicense, to use, reproduce, modify, copy, create derivative works of, publish, publicly perform and display, sell, offer to sell, make and have made, the Incorporated Pre-existing Works, in any medium, with or without the associated Work Product?	Refer to Exhibit F, Uniform Terms and Conditions- Grant Version3.5, Section 6.2, Grantee's Pre-Existing Works, B.
18.	Document: RFA • Section II. Scope of Grant Project o Sub-section 2.9 – Financial Status Reports (FSRs) o Page 13 o First paragraph	What are Financial Status Reports? What information is included in them? Is a template provided?	Refer to RFA Section II. Scope of Grant Project, Exhibit C, Required Reports, SNAP-ED R-24, , Addendum 4 and Addendum 5



#	Reference	Question	Response
19.	Document: RFA • Section IV. Grant Term and Project Periods o Sub-section 4.1 – Project Period o Page 16 o First paragraph	What criteria is used to determine extension of the contract for one (1) two-year renewal?	Refer to RFA Section II. Scope of Grant Project, and Section 2.8 Performance Measures and Monitoring.
20.	Document: RFA • Section V. Grant Funding and Reimbursement Information o Sub-section 5.3 – Grant Funding Prohibitions o Page 17 o Bullet point F: "Facilities (rental or modifications)"	Is office space rental used for program staff to conduct program activities a prohibited expense?	Refer to RFA Section V. Grant Funding and Reimbursement Information, and Exhibit P, FY2025 Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program Education (SNAP-Ed) Plan Guidance, Section 3.5.4.e.i. and Addendum 4.
21.	Document: RFA •Section X. Award of Grant Agreement Process o Sub- section 10.1 – Final Selection o Page 35 o Bullet point C: "Geographical area for proposed services"	What geographic areas are prioritized in determining the final selection of grant awardees?	Refer to RFA Section II. Scope of Grant Project, and Section 2.4, Eligible Service Areas.



#	Reference	Question	Response
22.	Document: Exhibit B, Grant Requirements • Section IV. PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS o Sub- section I. SNAP-Ed Nutrition Education Reinforcement Item (NERI) Submissions and Report § First paragraph § Page 15 § Topic: "upload all NERI requests to the designated SharePoint folder for review and approval"	What detail or information must be included in the request to purchase NERI?	Refer to Addendum 5.
23.	Document: Exhibit B, Grant Requirements • Section IV. PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS o Sub- section I. SNAP-Ed Nutrition Education Reinforcement Item (NERI) Submissions and Report § First paragraph § Page 15 § Topic: "Requests for NERI items do not guarantee a review and approval within a Grantee's specified timeframe."	How long will review of requests take?	Refer to Addendum 5.



#	Reference	Question	Response
24.	Document: Exhibit B, Grant Requirements • Section V. OTHER REQUIREMENTS o Sub- section D. Civil Rights Training Requirement o First paragraph o Page 18 o Topic: "Each individual staff member must upload their certificates of completion for Civil Rights Training"	May one central staff member upload all staff members' Civil Rights Training certifications to the designated SharePoint folder (rather than each individual staff member uploading their own certification)?	Refer to Addendum 5.
25.	Document: Exhibit C, Required Reports • SNAP-Ed R-04 – SNAP-Ed Calendar of Events o Page 4 o In reference to: Exhibit B, Grant Requirements § Section IV. PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS § Sub-section K. SNAP-Ed Calendar of Events Submissions § First paragraph § Page 16 § Topic: "upload an annual Calendar of Events to the designated SharePoint folder"	Exhibit C, Required Reports does not indicate submission via SharePoint for the SNAP-Ed Calendar of Events. Please clarify how the SNAP-Ed Calendar of Events must be submitted.	Refer to Addendum 5.



#	Reference	Question	Response
26.	No Reference	[VENDOR NAME] is interested in applying for the SNAP- Ed grant, but we were unable to participate in the Applicant Conference Call. Is there a recording of the meeting that we can watch?	Refer to Addendum 2.
27.	Section 3.2, Page 15	Section 3.2 highlights documentation that should be included with the application including documentation showing the organization's legal entity type, evidence that the org is in good standing and evidence that the applicant has a physical location in Texas. Where should these documents be included within the provided application checklist?	Refer to RFA Section VI. Application Exhibits and Forms for Submission, and Section 6.5, Administrative Applicant Information.
28.	Section 6.3, Page 19	What time period should the submitted Exhibit E reflect costs for? All five years of the project period, the first two- year project period, or just one year?	Refer to Addendum 5.
29.	Exhibit B, Section III, Page 3	A note that the "grantee must maintain a physical SNAP location accessible to the public Monday through Friday during the hours of 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m."? What is HHSC's definition of a SNAP location?	Refer to Addendum 5.
30.	No Reference	One of our Community Partners, [VENDOR] received an email below. She was uncertain whether it was spam or something they may have signed up for? Would you be able to clarify where they may have potentially signed up for this?	RFA communication was sent to previous and current SNAP-Ed grantees as well as other potential HHS grantees.



#	Reference	Question	Response
31.	No Reference	Should a small non-profit organization apply for this grant, knowing that we do not have the financial capacity to serve as a lead on a reimbursable grant? We are wondering if larger entities like [VENDOR], [VENDOR], or others are applying, and if that would be an opportunity to serve as a subcontractor or sub-recipient of this grant? Could we please converse by phone to help guide us in pursuing this grant?	Refer to RFA Section 1.1, Executive Summary, Section III. Applicant Eligibility Requirements, and Addendum 5.
32.	Exhibit E, Expenditure Proposal	Will we be required to complete the template based on proposed expenses for each year individually, or for the full five-year term?	Refer to Addendum 5.
33.	 A. RFA Number: RFA HHS0015831 B. Sections 7.1 Selection of Events and 10.1 Final Selection C. Page Number of this Solicitation: Pages 22 and 35 	If the Anticipated Notice of Award is not until May 2026 and plan of work and budget for the next fiscal year are usually due to HHSC in March for approval and uploading into N-PEARS, would the timeline for uninterrupted programming and funding of current SNAP-Ed implementing agencies be affected?	Refer to Addendum 5.



#	Reference	Question	Response
34.	 RFA No. HHS0015831 HHS0015831 - Request for Applications Section 3.2 Applicant Screening Instructions Paragraph number 2 B- D. Page 15 Language, Topic, Section Heading being questioned: Application Screening Requirements 	Can HHSC provide a list of examples of acceptable documentation to support our legal entity type with the IRS and that the organization is in good standing with the Texas Secretary of State? Can HHSC provide a list of examples of acceptable documentation as evidence of a current physical location and provide services within the State of Texas?	Refer to RFA Section III. Applicant Eligibility Requirements, and Addendum 4.



#	Reference	Question	Response
35.	 RFA No. HHS0015831 HHS0015831 - Request for Applications Section 6.2 Annual Work Plan Paragraph 1 Page 19 Language, Topic, Section Heading being questioned: <i>All</i> <i>Applicants are required</i> <i>to use this form and</i> <i>provide detailed</i> <i>responses to the</i> <i>questions outlined</i>, <i>including Project</i> <i>Description, State</i> <i>Priority Goals, and</i> <i>Intervention Approaches.</i> 	Do grantees need to provide Key Performance Measures that will be achieved by project?	Refer to RFA Section II. Scope of Grant Project, Section 2.8, Performance Measures and Monitoring, Exhibit D, Key Performance Requirements, Exhibit C, Required Reports, and Form C-1, SNAP-Ed Annual Project Work Plan.



36.	 RFA No. HHS0015831 HHS0015831 - Request for Applications Section XI. General Terms and Conditions, 11.2 Texas Historically Underutilized Business (HUBS) Paragraph 1 Page 37 Language, Topic, Section Heading being questioned: 11.2 Texas Historically Underutilized Business (HUBS): In procuring goods and services using funding awarded under this RFA, Grantee must use HUBs or other designated businesses as required by law or the terms of the State or federal grant under which this RFA has been issued. See, e.g., 2 CFR 	Can HHSC provide clarification if grantees are required to procure goods and services using funding awarded under this RFA or encouraged but not required?	Refer to RFA Section XI. General Terms and Conditions, 11.2 Texas Historically Underutilized Business (HUBs), and Exhibit F, HHS Uniform Terms and Conditions - Grant Version 3.5.
	which this RFA has been		



#	Reference	Question	Response
	<i>Applicant to use HUBs to provide goods and services.</i>		
37.	 RFA No. HHS0015831 Exhibit B, Grant Requirements Section III. Infrastructure Paragraph A. Physical Location and Hours of Operation Page 3 Language, Topic, Section Heading being questioned: Grantee must maintain a physical SNAP location accessible to the public Monday through Friday during the hours of 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. in the local time zone. 	What are the requirements of a grantee maintaining a physical SNAP location accessible to the public Monday through Friday? Does it require programming provided at this site?	Refer to Addendum 5.



#	Reference	Question	Response
38.	 RFA No. HHS0015831 Exhibit B, Grant Requirements Section IV. Program Requirements, D. Project Priorities Page 13 Language, Topic, Section Heading being questioned: Section D. Project Priorities 8. Other: If the Grantee selects "Other," the Grantee must provide a clear explanation of the priority, including relevant data or evidence that supports the need. 	Can HHSC clarify more in-depth the expectations of grantees that select "Other" project priority?	Other Project Priorities must be proposed by the Applicant - Refer to Addendum 5.



#	Reference	Question	Response
39.	 RFA No. HHS0015831 Exhibit B, Grant Requirements Section IV. Program Requirements, E. Evidence-Based Approach Paragraph 3 Page 13 Language, Topic, Section Heading being questioned: <i>To maintain</i> <i>Texas SNAP-Ed's rigor</i>, <i>only research-based and</i> <i>practice-tested are</i> <i>permitted</i>. 	Can practice-tested or research-based include emerging research to support project interventions?	Refer to Addendum 5. and Exhibit P, FY2025 Exhibit P, FY2025 Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program Education (SNAP-Ed) Plan Guidance, Section 4.3.3



#	Reference	Question	Response
40.	 RFA No. HHS0015831 Exhibit E-1, Expenditure Proposal Instructions Section D, Long Distance and Local Travel Paragraph 1 Page 7 Language, Topic, Section Heading being questioned: <i>Enter the</i> <i>Trip Purpose/Benefits to</i> <i>the SNAP Education</i> <i>Program.</i> 	There are cells that are required to provide information but are locked from editing. Example includes entering the trip name under Travel_Local and Travel Long_Distance. How do applicants request an updated Exhibit E, Expenditure Proposal template?	Refer to Addendum 5.



#	Reference	Question	Response
41.	 RFA No. HHS0015831 Exhibit E-1, Expenditure Proposal Instructions Section M. Contractual Page 11 Paragraph 2 Subcontract/Professional Services Language, Topic, Section Heading being questioned: Subcontract/Professional Services: Select from the Drop-Down menu whether the contract is a professional service contract or a subcontractor agreement. 	Can HHSC provide clarification on the difference between a professional service vs. subcontractor agreement, and are there different compliance guidelines that apply to consider?	Refer to Addendum 5.



#	Reference	Question	Response
42.	. RFA no. HHS0015831 B. Section or Paragraph number from this Solicitation: Section III. Applicant Eligibility Requirements C. Page Number of this Solicitation; pg. 14 D. Exhibit or other Attachment and Section or Paragraph number from the Exhibit or other Attachment; N/A E. Page Number of the Exhibit; N/A F. Language, Topic, Section Heading being questioned. Topic: eligibility	If an entity or organization currently receives SNAP-Ed funding for a program, such as through an implementing agency, does that impact overall eligibility for this funding opportunity?	Refer to RFA Section 1.1, Executive Summary, Section III. Applicant Eligibility Requirements, Section V. Grant Funding and Reimbursement Information, and Addendum 4.



#	Reference	Question	Response
43.	 RFA No. HHS0015831 Exhibit B, Grant Requirements - Section IV Paragraph 2-3 Page 8 - (B. 1.a) Behaviorally focused strategies: Conducting direct education sessions on healthy eating and physical activity habits. 	Does this mean the interventions MUST include both direct education on healthy eating AND physical activity habits? Must the outcomes demonstrated include both?	Refer to Addendum 5.
44.	 RFA No. HHS0015831 Exhibit E. Expenditure Proposal Indirect Cost tab N/A Identify the most recent	Do we have to submit a copy of the cost rate certificate even when we are selecting the De Minimus rate?	Refer to RFA Section VI. Application Exhibits and Forms for Submission, and Section 6.4 Indirect Costs.



#	Reference	Question	Response
45.	Exhibit B, Section IV.C.1 Strategies, Direct Education Page 9 Language, Topic, Section Heading being questioned: "Must include at least three (3) sessions spanning three (3) weeks"	Please clarify the extent of total programming that must be 3 sessions spanning 3 weeks. Previous guidance required a minimum of four sessions for the program activity to qualify as a series but did not specify the interval between session recurrences.	Refer to Addendum 5.
46.	Exhibit B, Section IV.H: HHSC Evaluation, Page 15 Language, Topic, Section Heading being questioned: "Grantee must collaborate with the HHSC-funded Evaluation Team throughout each fiscal year to develop and execute evaluation plans targeting SNAP-Ed evaluation framework priority outcomes for both children and adults"	Can HHSC clarify that part of the "Evaluation Team" scope will be to provide analysis for surveys used to assess SNAP-Ed priority outcomes?	Refer to Addendum 5.



#	Reference	Question	Response
47.	Exhibit E, Expenditure Proposal Page N/A Language, Topic, Section Heading being questioned: Personnel_Salary_Benefits Tab; Column AL "SNAP Education Salary & Benefits Total"	Column AL is currently calculating 100% of the fringe and benefits for each employee, despite the FTE in Column W. Should this column calculate the % of salary & benefits charged to this SNAP-Ed grant? It seems to be over budgeting all personnel.	Refer to Addendum 5.
48.	Exhibit E, Expenditure Proposal Language, Topic, Section Heading being questioned: Overall – Cost Categories/Tabs	Current SNAP-Ed Cost Categories are: Salaries Fringe Non-Capital Equipment/Supplies Travel Professional Contracts & Services Subcontractor Travel Building Space Cost of Public Owned Space Maintenance and Repair Institutional Membership Equipment and Other Capital Expenses The Cost Categories in this Expenditure Proposal are different. Are the new categories/Tabs correct, and where should Educational Materials be located?	Refer to Addendum 5.
49.	Exhibit E, Expenditure Proposal Language, Topic, Section Heading being questioned: Contracts_subgrants_ agreements Tab; Cost Categories	Same as the question above, specific to the Contracts_Subgrants_agreements Tab. Are these the correct Cost Categories, and where should Education Materials/NERI be included?	Refer to Addendum 5.



#	Reference	Question	Response
50.	Exhibit E, Expenditure Proposal Language, Topic, Section Heading being questioned: Travel_Long_Distance Tab; Cost Categories	The table totals correctly, but the Budget Summary calculates Registration Fees as the total cost, so the overall amount is inflated. This doesn't appear to be an issue on Travel_Local, but it wasn't checked comprehensively.	Refer to Addendum 5.
51.	Section XIII. Submission Checklist, page 41	As a non-profit entity, are we required to submit Exhibit H- 1, Exhibit H-2, or both? We do not plan to use any subcontractors.	Refer to RFA Section II. Scope of Grant Project, and Section 2.11 Data Use Agreement.
52.	Section XIII. Submission Checklist, page 41	Would it be possible to obtain copies of Exhibit H-1, Exhibit I, Exhibit J, and Exhibit K that are saved as regular PDF documents rather than PDF portfolio documents? The opening of PDF portfolio documents requires Adobe Flash, which is not compatible with the operating systems on computers utilized by [VENDOR] staff.	Exhibits cannot be provided separately outside of the posting documents.
53.	Form C-1, SNAP-Ed Annual Project Work Plan # 18 - Coordination with Multi-Sector Partnerships, page 9	Are all grantees required to coordinate with multi-sector partnerships? Is this required for all projects?	Refer to Form C-1, SNAP-Ed Annual Project Work Plan, SNAP-Ed Annual Project Work Plan Instructions.



#	Reference	Question	Response
54.	Exhibit B, Grant Requirements, III. Infrastructure, A. Physical Location and Hours of Operation, page 3	Our physical office is located in [COUNTY]. If we are proposing to provide services in El Paso County through the proposed project, will we need to secure a physical location in El Paso to meet this requirement? Outreach and direct education services will be provided throughout the community at different venues.	Refer to Addendum 5.