

RESPONSES TO QUESTIONS FOR
RFP # 1131 NYS LEARNING AND ENRICHMENT
AFTER-SCHOOL PROGRAM SUPPORTS (LEAPS)

SECTION 8 of 8: Amendment, MWBE, and All Other Questions

PERTAINING TO AMENDED LANGUAGE	
Q1	<p><i>The RFP has been updated to reflect that all school districts can be funded for up to two awards.</i></p> <p>a) May we submit three sites per project proposal and be awarded a total of 6 sites per school district?</p> <p>b) Or is the maximum number of site locations to be funded in each school district still three?</p>
A1	<p>Per amended RFP Section 2.3 Purpose and Funding Availability, the restriction on the number of awards a school district can receive has been removed.</p> <p>a) Yes, this is possible if the applicant submits two proposals.</p> <p>b) No. Per RFP Section 2.3, applicants may:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. propose to serve up to three sites within each individual proposal within the same school district. Note that separate applications must be submitted for each school district the applicant proposes to serve. 2. submit up to four proposals for a maximum of four awards. <p>Eligible school districts do not have a maximum number of sites or NFPs they may partner with.</p>
Q2	<p>If an organization holds a SACC license at a site that serves children both below and above age 12, will the award amounts be based on the total SACC license (regardless of age) or is the award size based on the projected number of children to be served through this RFP that are 12 years old and under?</p>
A2	<p>Please refer to the amended RFP. Programs for LEAPS must propose to serve children who are Pre-K through age 12 at time of enrollment. Youth aged 13 and up will not be served by the LEAPS RFP. The initial funding amount will be determined based on the registered, or proposed to be registered, SACC capacity.</p>
Q3	<p>Can we submit proposals for programs serving students 13 and older only at the time of enrollment?</p>
A3	<p>Please refer to the amended RFP. Programs for LEAPS must propose to serve children who are Pre-K through age 12 at time of enrollment. Youth aged 13 and up will not be served by the LEAPS RFP.</p>
Q4	<p>Can we submit a proposal for a mix of students both 13 and older, and under 13 at the time of enrollment?</p>
A4	<p>See A3.</p>
Q5	<p><i>In two locations, you amended the application to read "...to serve youth from Pre-K through age 12 at time of enrollment...", I assume to ensure all programs would be SACC licensable. However, youth in eighth grade would be 13 at time of enrollment-- based on your change, we cannot include students in Grade 8 (or high school either).</i></p> <p>Can you clarify what ages AND grade levels we are allowed to serve?</p>

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A5	See A3 regarding eligible ages to be served. Grade level is not a determining factor for eligibility to be served under this grant opportunity.
Q6	<i>I need clarity on the recent amendment: youth pre-K to age 12 at time of enrollment.</i> Does time of enrollment mean the age of youth when the grant period starts?
A6	'Time of enrollment' refers to the date the child enrolls to attend the NYS LEAPS program. A child who is 12 at time of enrollment is eligible to attend for the entirety of that school year.
Q7	<i>In the majority of the Title 1 school buildings that we work alongside, age is not indicative of grade level or visa versa. Up to 'age 12 at enrollment' will create hardships on programs where younger grades have older children who have been held back a year or two.</i> Can you provide clarification in this area? Is it possible to clarify what grade levels this grant is intended for (since age and grade level do not go hand-in-hand in a lot of these districts)?
A7	See A3, A5, and A6.
Q8	<i>If the intention is to ensure all program sites have a SACC license, SACC requires that if a program has one child under the age of 13, then a SACC license is required. For middle school based programs, children typically turn age 13 at some point during the 7th grade. Our SACC licenses have always allowed us to serve the entire MS population of 6th, 7th, and 8th graders.</i> Is the intention of the amendment to ensure the programs have a SACC license? Or is the intention to exclude all children that have turned 13 prior to registering for the program?
A8	See A3 and A6.
Q9	If High School based programs are eliminated from this initiative, will there be another initiative released soon that targets high school specifically?
A9	OCFS recommends that interested parties monitor the OCFS funding website for future opportunities that may be applicable to older youth.
Q10	<i>I was reviewing the RFP updates as of 2/29 and it looks like anyone over the age of 12 is now eliminated.</i> Is that correct?
A10	See A3 and A6.
Q11	<i>I just looked at the amended RFP and it looks like there is a dramatic change in the purpose of funding. It eliminates all programs that serve ages 13 & up, meaning all High School programs.</i> Was that the intention of the amendment? Or was the intention that High School programs are exempt from the SACC registration requirement?
A11	See A3.

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MINORITY- AND WOMEN-OWNED BUSINESS ENTERPRISE (MWBE) PARTICIPATION	
Q12	Is the MWBE goal for this competition really 0%?
A12	Yes. However, while MWBE participation is not required for this procurement, it is recommended.
Q13	<i>The overall goal of MWBE participation is 0%. Do we still have to demonstrate good faith efforts to provide meaningful MWBE participation?</i>
A13	No.
Q14	Please confirm there is no MWBE requirement for this proposal.
A14	Correct.
Q15	Can you please explain more about the recommended MWBE participation in this grant?
A15	See A12. The MWBE goal is based on NYS law and does not apply to federally funded programs. If there are any opportunities for MWBE participation in applicable areas of the budget where there is discretionary spending, utilizing MWBE vendors is recommended.
Q16	a) Are there points given to proposals that use MWBE's? b) If so, please explain?
A16	a) No. b) Not applicable.
Q17	<i>Page 82, number 7.10.2 states the established goal is 0% for this grant. However 7.10.1 on page 82 states there is an agency goal of 30% MWBE participation. Please clarify.</i>
A17	While OCFS has an overall agency goal of 30% MWBE participation, the MWBE participation goal for this specific funding opportunity is 0%, meaning it is not required.
Q18	Please clarify the meaning of page 82 number 7.10.3.
A18	It is unclear what is being requested. Due to this procurement having a 0% MWBE utilization goal, not all language in Section 7.10.3 is applicable to this procurement.
Q19	<i>On page 78 it states: For the purposes of this solicitation, OCFS hereby establishes an overall goal of 0% for MWBE participation. Later in that same section it states: The portion of a contract with an MWBE serving as a broker that shall be deemed to represent the commercially useful function performed by the MWBE shall be 25% of the total value of the contract. Is the applicant required to seek an MWBE provider for this proposal?</i>
A19	No.
Q20	a) Is there an MWBE contractor requirement? b) If so, what % or amount of the budget is required to be represented by MWBE contractors?

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A20	a) No. See A12. b) Not applicable.
OTHER QUESTIONS	
Q21	When is the anticipated contract end date for the NYS Learning and Enrichment After-school Program Supports (LEAPS) RFP?
A21	The anticipated contract end date is 8/31/2029. Please refer to Section 1.2 Calendar of Events in the amended RFP. Additional information may be found in RFP Section 2.4 Term of Contract.
Q22	When will the documents be finalized once the contract is awarded?
A22	That will depend on how quickly the awarded applicant completes the contract development process.
Q23	a. What is the rationale for giving deference to school-based sites? b. How will OCFS handle situations where the proposed site is not school-based, but is of higher quality or better situated to serve the children and the community?
A23	a. A key principle of NYS LEAPS is that the program aligns program goals and services with community and school needs to ensure effective lines of communication, share data and resources, and have a shared commitment to equity. Co-location increases the strength of these relationships. b. Applications will be evaluated as outlined in RFP Sections 5.4 & 6.2. Non-school sites will be considered with appropriate justification.
Q24	Does OCFS plan to release a procurement for the technical assistance contractor, and what is the timeline for that?
A24	Yes, OCFS is planning to procure services to be provided by a technical assistance contractor. The timeline for that project is not yet determined. Interested parties are encouraged to sign up for notifications on the NYS Contract Reporter at https://www.nyscr.ny.gov/ and monitor the OCFS funding opportunities page at https://ocfs.ny.gov/main/contracts/funding/ for the release of funding opportunities in the future.
Q25	What major roles do you anticipate the technical assistance contractor will play?
A25	As referenced in the NYS LEAPS RFP, OCFS will partner with a selected technical assistance contractor to work with programs to continue to pursue higher enrollment and attendance thresholds, collect data, and work with programs on the development of indicators to measure youth outcomes.
Q26	<i>Page 32 of the RFP reads, "OCFS reserves the right to add additional bonus points to the final score/rating for proposals that are responsive to Section 2.2 OCFS Statewide Considerations."</i> How many bonus points could be awarded for each of the considerations described in Section 2.2?
A26	RFP Section 6.3 "Bonus Points" states, "Not applicable", so no bonus points will be applied to any proposal. OCFS will score proposals based on the criteria outlined in RFP Section 5.4 Proposal Content and in accordance with the process outlined in Section 6.0.

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Q27	Assuming the SACC license capacity permits, can middle school students from a nearby middle school site enroll in a LEAPS program at an elementary school site?
A27	Youth in an eligible school district who are age 12 and under at time of enrollment and are not located at a proposed LEAPS site may enroll and attend programming at one of the proposed project sites within that same school district.
Q28	Can we enroll ACS children in the program?
A28	This question is not clear, however it is being interpreted to refer to children in receipt of child care assistance through ACS. See A3 and A27. Organizations operating a program have the option of charging nominal fees for after-school services provided. If the program is considering charging a fee for care, the program's policy regarding fees as well as the fee schedule must be submitted to OCFS and must include a sliding scale for families. The program must describe the procedures it will use so that the fees do not impose a significant barrier to youth enrolling in the program. Youth are not to be excluded based on their ability or inability to pay. All fees received from youth attending the afterschool program must be used to support the program activities.
Q29	Is there someone I can speak to regarding this funding?
A29	Please refer to RFP Section 1.1 Procurement Contact. OCFS will make a good-faith effort to provide reasonable assistance with questions of an administrative or technical nature and reserves the right to not answer questions received after the 2/28/24 deadline for submission of written questions.
Q30	Please help understand if I do not qualify for this program.
A30	Your eligibility is contingent upon multiple factors. Please refer to RFP Section 3.1 Minimum Qualifications and RFP Questions and Answers Section 1 of 8: Eligibility to see what types of organizations are eligible to apply, what documents applicants must obtain, and what qualifications they must possess.