

RFP #24-018 New York State Special Education Dispute Resolution Center

Questions and Answers Summary

Program Questions

- 1. Can the coordinating organization's name appear anywhere on the website created for the NYSED Dispute Resolution Center?**

Under certain circumstances the organization name may appear on the website. However, as stated in the RFP the domain name for the website will be determined in collaboration with the New York State Education Department (NYSED). NYSED will have final approval of the website design and its contents.

- 2. We believe that skilled special education mediators need a background in other critical areas in order to be effective stewards of the process. Are there limitations on the types of trainings that can be offered for special education mediators under this newly structured program?**

As stated in the RFP, training content for new special education mediators must include information on the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, New York State laws, regulations and policy related to special education and students with disabilities, and the application of the specialty content in special education mediation. In addition, the Special Education Dispute Resolution Center will be responsible for developing and analyzing a needs assessment to determine mediators needs in specific areas and plan for professional development. NYSED will have final approval of materials and curricula.

Fiscal Questions

- 1. Given the scope of the RFP, would NYSED be willing to consider providing the selected contractor with an advance on the contract amount in order to properly support expenses and cashflow needs? FYI - this is a common practice on other larger state contracts.**

No. There are no advanced payments on this contract.

- 2. Given the scope of the RFP, would NYSED be willing to consider monthly vouchers and reimbursements rather than on a quarterly basis?**

No. Reimbursement will be quarterly as stated in the RFP.

- 3. Based on the trend data and the amount being set aside for case reimbursements, it appears that the growth expectations are low. Should growth exceed expectations, would NYSED increase the \$1,000,000 amount set aside for mediation reimbursement costs, rather than requiring the contractor to lower amounts on other budgeted line items to stay within the approved budgeted amount?**

There is no cap on the other budgeted line items or the total budget amount. However, all proposed costs will be reviewed for reasonableness and bidders are encouraged to submit budgets that are cost effective. Should growth of the special education mediation program exceed expectations, and if there is a need to increase the amount set aside for mediation reimbursement costs, the contract amendment process would be initiated.