

Family and Community Engagement Program

A New York State My Brother's Keeper Initiative

RFP Q&A

1. Will you accept application for program that target girls and boys of color? The language of the RFP specifically just mentions boys so I just want to check.

Yes, male and female students are equally eligible to participate in all program activities. The broader My Brother's Keeper program is for improving outcomes for disadvantaged youth, particularly boys and young men of color.

2. I am very confused about eligible applicants. From the RFP materials it seems only school districts may apply but your Press Release states the following:

*"The purpose of the Family and Community Engagement Program is to increase the academic achievement and college and career readiness of boys and young men of color and to develop and sustain effective relationships with families toward the goal of success for all students. **SED will award \$6 million in grants for school districts, community-based organizations, and other groups to improve family engagement efforts in local communities."***

Please advise as to how an agency like the Troy Housing Authority may participate.

New York State public school districts which meet the specific criteria outlined in the RFP may submit applications. The Troy Housing Authority may participate as a partner organization.

3. Is this RFP open to charter schools?

No, Only New York State public school districts which meet the specific criteria outlined in the RFP may submit applications.

4. Under the section on page limits and standards (page 6 of the RFP), there's an indication that applicants must use a minimum of 10-point font and a maximum of 15 double-spaced pages. Are there required page margins?

No, there are no required page margins. The application must be readable.

5. Can the proposed programming include female students, provided male minority students remain the focus?

Yes, male and female students are equally eligible to participate in all program activities.

6. Can the proposed programming include non-minority male students, provided male minority students remain the focus?

Yes, the major focus of the initiative is on building respectful and trusting relationships between home, community, and school.

7. On page 8 of the RFP, the first goal refers to “addressing student learning needs and abilities at each grade level.” Does this mean that the proposed programming must be for ALL grade levels in a district?

Specifically, Goal 1 is to “Develop the knowledge and skills of school and district personnel, as well as families and community members, to increase required trust and relationships necessary to address student learning needs and abilities at each grade level.” So, YES, the need to develop knowledge and skills of school district personnel and families and community members applies for students in all grade levels.

8. Page 10 of the RFP mentions providing advocacy services. Can you provide some examples of activities that qualify as advocacy services?

Advocacy services are those services which “assist and support families navigating the educational system as they help support student learning.”

9. Under Goal 4 (page 10 of the RFP), there is mention of identifying and recruiting partners (plural). Is it a requirement of this grant to have more than one partner?

While the numbers of partnerships are not prescribed, it is expected that a successful Family and Community Engagement Program will have more than one partner.

10. Would a BOCES be an eligible partner?

Yes

11. On page 13 of the RFP, there is a bulleted list of project expectations. Must applicants meet ALL of these expectations? If so, within the four-year grant period? Or some other grant period?

Projects will be deemed as meeting project expectations if they address these areas over the life of the project.

12. How is SED calculating the need-based scores for each district?

Please see the computation of scores at: <http://www.nysed.gov/common/nysed/files/nysed-mbk-family-and-community-rfp-need-based-scores.pdf>

13. Can districts hire translators as part of the program budget?

Yes, if the expense clearly fits into the Goals outlined for the Family and Community engagement Program.

14. Can a district opt to operate FCEP activities in just one school or just one grade level (rather than district-wide)? If so, would the district use that school’s or that grade level’s free and reduced and ELL numbers to determine eligibility or use the entire district’s data to determine eligibility?

The FCEP is designed to improve the community engagement in the district. The eligibility is the school district, not the individual school.

15. If applicants aren't required to have district-wide programs, can they submit more than one application?

The FCEP is designed to improve the community engagement in the district. The eligibility is the school district, not the individual school. One application will be accepted per eligible district.

16. On page 8 of the RFP, there's a reference to Position Paper #22. Can you provide a link to that paper or to the nine Regent's directives mentioned there?

Please see <http://eric.ed.gov/?id=ED110263>

17. On page 18 of the RFP, the last sentence in the narrative format section says that single-spacing may be used on Attachment 1 provided the typeface or font is at least 15-point type size. This conflicts with the formatting requirements on page 6, which indicate a minimum 10-point font size. Should it, indeed, be 10-point?

The minimum font size should be 10-point.

18. Since we're in the Albany area, it's more economical for us to hand-deliver our application materials versus sending it. Can we hand-deliver the materials? If so, can you provide the name and phone number of a contact person to give to the guard at the entry door?

Materials can be hand delivered as long as they meet the application deadline. When arriving at the security station, ask for the Office of Postsecondary Access, Support and Success, room 970 EBA.

19. My question is whether an application would be considered for a district with 13+% LEP population which has had a 90% four-year graduation rate for two consecutive years.

Each category of eligibility requires a graduation rate of less than 90%. See Institutional eligibility found on pg. 11.

20. On page 1, the RFP says that type must be a minimum of 10 points. On page 18, it says a minimum of 11 points. Please clarify.

The minimum font size should be 10-point.

21. The MWBE target is 30%. A partnership with a CBO of up to 30% is allowed. Are the direct personal service salaries of the CBO excluded from the calculation of the MWBE in the same way as the direct personal service salaries of the LEA?

No, salaries and fringe benefits associated with employees of partner agencies cannot be excluded from the calculation of M/WBE.

22. Is this grant (the Family and Community Engagement Program (FCEP)-A New York State My Brother's Keeper Initiative) only for school district or can non-profit groups apply?

Only New York State public school districts which meet the specific criteria outlined in the RFP may submit applications.

23. I would like clarification on the section of the application that discusses the **Method of Determining Award Amounts**. According to the application, the deadline for the proposal of fund appropriation will be on July 21, 2016. Is this separate from the full proposal deadline, or is this an early indicator of the possible funding amounts based on documentation?

The Department calculated the need based score and those scores were posted no later than July 21, 2016. This was done and can be found at: <http://www.nysed.gov/common/nysed/files/nysed-mbk-family-and-community-rfp-need-based-scores.pdf> The need based scores constitute one portion of the entire proposal score. The final score used for rank ordering the applications will be calculated by adding the Department calculated need based score to the average of the two reviewers' scores for the total of the narrative application and the budget/budget narrative.

24. On page 1 of the RFP, it states that eligible applicants are "New York State public school districts which meet the following criteria" and then it goes on to list the criteria. Does this mean that nonprofits and community-based organizations (CBO) are not eligible to be the lead applicant on a proposal? Or are non-profit/CBO's eligible to be the lead applicant on a proposal and what is the criteria to determine their eligibility? And lastly, either way, a non-profit/CBO can partner on a proposal and subcontract with the lead applicant, correct?

Only New York State public school districts which meet the specific criteria outlined in the RFP may submit applications. A CBO may partner on a proposal and subcontract with the lead applicant.

25. Is this grant only available for public schools? Can non-for profits apply as well?

Only New York State public school districts which meet the specific criteria outlined in the RFP may submit applications. A CBO may be a partner organization.

26. Can non-profits apply for these grants? If not, What are your recommendations? Will there be opportunities in the future for community based organizations to apply?

Only New York State public school districts which meet the specific criteria outlined in the RFP may submit applications. A CBO may be a partner organization. There are no RFPs planned under the My Brother's Keeper initiative for which CBOs may apply as the lead applicant.

27. We are a charter school located in the Bronx and we were wondering if we qualify to apply for this grant: we opened in 2012, which means we only had 2 graduating 8th grade classes so far.

Only New York State public school districts which meet the specific criteria outlined in the RFP may submit applications. A charter school is not an eligible public school district.

28. For clarity, this only applies to schools and school districts...and not CBOs and FBOs, correct?

Only New York State public school districts which meet the specific criteria outlined in the RFP may submit applications. A CBO may be a partner organization.

29. Is there flexibility in the applicant eligibility criteria which would allow boys and young men of color in our school district the opportunity to benefit from New York State's commitment to our students?

New York State public school districts which meet the specific criteria outlined in the RFP may submit applications. If a school district fails to meet the specific criteria outlined in the RFP, they are not eligible to apply.

30. We are a K-8 Charter school in our 6th year of operation and have had our first cohort of 8th grade graduates this June. (Which means we do not have a graduation rate for 2014-15 based on the 2011 cohort.) By that criteria, would our school/LEA be eligible to apply?

Only New York State public school districts which meet the specific criteria outlined in the RFP may submit applications. A charter school is not an eligible public school district.

31. Are New York State public libraries eligible to apply for the My Brother's Keeper grant?

Only New York State public school districts which meet the specific criteria outlined in the RFP may submit applications. A library may serve as a partner organization.

32. Can you clarify the space/font requirements? Page 6 of the RFP indicates the font must be a minimum of 10 point for both the narrative and Attachment 1. Page 18 states the font for the narrative must be a minimum of 11 point and the font for Attachment 1 must be a minimum of 15 point.

The minimum font size should be 10-point.

33. We are very interested in applying for this grant as a school, but is it possible for schools to apply independently or only school districts?

No, a school building may not apply independent of the district. The district is the eligible applicant, if the district meets the specific criteria outlined in the RFP.

34. I am writing on behalf of an education focused nonprofit organization based in New York City. We are interested in applying to the FCEP opportunity and have two questions regarding the eligibility statement: "*The partnership organization(s) must be between the applicant school district, who serves as the program lead, and local and community based organizations able to provide insight and connection between the activities undertaken by the district and the communities.*" As a local education agency (LEA), would we qualify to apply as the public school district **program lead**? OR **Would we qualify as a CBO partner** if we are able to provide the direct services?

Only New York State public school districts (LEA) which meet the specific criteria outlined in the RFP may submit applications. Your organization may serve as a partner organization.

35. Can funding be used to do college tours or conduct college fairs?

Providing that the programming provided directly addresses the Goals specific to this RFP, the exact programming is not directed. The applicant would be scored on the appropriateness of the planned activities in addressing the specific Goals.

36. Can funding be used to support our Saturday Support program, which is designed to give students extra academic support? Additionally, if the RFP can be used to support the Saturday program' academic components - can funding be used to add a social skills component?

Providing that the programming provided directly addresses the Goals specific to this RFP (and is used to supplement and not supplant funding), the exact programming is not directed. The applicant would be scored on the appropriateness of the planned activities in addressing the specific Goals.

37. Lastly, can funding be used to create parent workshop/information sessions - I.e. how to complete financial aid applications, searching for scholarships, the value of community service and internships?

Providing that the programming provided directly addresses the Goals specific to this RFP, the exact programming is not directed. The applicant would be scored on the appropriateness of the planned activities in addressing the specific Goals.

38. We are a charter school and as such, are our own school district. Would we be eligible?

Only New York State public school districts which meet the specific criteria outlined in the RFP may submit applications. A charter school is not an eligible public school district.

39. What racial/ethnic categories would you define as "color"? While we do not have a large African American population, we have a large latino population, as well as a quickly growing Asian population, many of whom are Indian, Bengali, Tibetan, etc.

For the purposes of this RFP 'color' includes, students in NYS public schools who are identified in their school records with race/ethnicity described as Black or African-American, Hispanic/Latino, Asian, Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander, or American Indian, or Alaska Native; or two or more races. School districts are required to ensure that the official school record accurately identifies the student in the category that the student has identified and not a category identified by a school or district official.

40. I'm writing to confirm the eligibility of charter schools to apply for grants under the above-mentioned RFP. It is my understanding that for purposes of grant-seeking, charter schools are considered to be the equivalent of an independent district or LEA.

Only New York State public school districts which meet the specific criteria outlined in the RFP may submit applications. A charter school is not an eligible public school district.

41. Must an applicant propose a district-wide program, or can it focus on just one or two schools?

The Family and Community Engagement Program seek to improve the community engagement in the district, not simply one school building or one grade. The proposal should address the entire district.

42. Are other non-profit community organizations able to apply?

Only New York State public school districts which meet the specific criteria outlined in the RFP may submit applications. A CBO may be a partner organization.

43. Can a district partner with other school districts on the grant?

The application must be distinct to the district meeting the eligibility. There is no prohibition against eligible school districts partnering in specific programming or planned activities. The applicant district is responsible for and accountable for the achievement of program Goals for the applicant district only.

44. If a district partners with other districts on the grant, could each of the districts apply for \$150,000 and use their funds to provide joint activities, that involve students/community, etc. from all the districts?

The application must be distinct to the district meeting the eligibility. There is no prohibition against eligible school districts partnering in specific programming or planned activities. The applicant district is responsible for and accountable for the achievement of program Goals for the applicant district only.

45. Can one district apply for funding for activities that would be open to students/family/community in neighboring districts as well? In that case, would that (lead) district be responsible for showing outcomes for the other districts' populations, as well?

The application must be distinct to the district meeting the eligibility. The applicant district is responsible for and accountable for the achievement of program Goals for the applicant district only.

46. Page 16 of the RFP mentions that funds cannot be used for a FCEP Director's Supervisor; does that mean we can include salary for the FCEP Director?

Yes.

47. What is the definition of "Principal Investigator," as mentioned on page 16 of the RFP?

The term is one that is occasionally used in applications for sponsored funding. A principal investigator (PI) is the holder of an independent grant and the lead researcher for the grant project, such as a clinical trial.

48. Can we include salary or a stipend for a staff person who would coordinate the activities?

Yes.

49. On the application cover page, when asked for number and percentage of students with the races/ethnicities listed, are you referring to all students – boys and girls – or just boys?

Total Number of Students in the district

50. Looking at the criteria, we meet everything in all three pathways, except we have not had a graduating class yet as we are still growing (we will have our first graduating class next year). That being said, would we still be eligible for the grant?

Only New York State public school districts which meet the specific criteria outlined in the RFP may submit applications. Individual school buildings are not eligible applicants. A charter school is not an eligible public school district. Therefore, the district should have had a graduating class.

51. The document lists as acceptable both a 10-point font and an 11-point font for the narrative. Which font is required?

The minimum font size should be 10-point.

52. For the charts in Attachment II are applicants to name activities, time frame and performance measures for the life of the grant, or for Year 1 only?

The charts in Attachment II cover the entire life of the project.

53. Would a partnership collaborative be considered with a BOCES as the lead and multiple districts as partners?

Only New York State public school districts which meet the specific criteria outlined in the RFP may submit applications. A BOCES could serve as a partner organization.

54. Can a BOCES apply as the LEA on behalf of several districts that qualify under the guidelines of the grant?

Only New York State public school districts which meet the specific criteria outlined in the RFP may submit applications. The BOCES is not an eligible school district.

55. May a school district submit more than one my Brother's Keeper FCEP grant proposal? We have a number of CBO partners who would like to partner with the district at various schools within the district. Are we able to submit more than one proposal?

The eligible school district may submit one proposal under this RFP.

56. My question is if a public, non-profit hospital can apply for this grant?

Only New York State public school districts which meet the specific criteria outlined in the RFP may submit applications. A hospital could serve as a partner organization.

57. On page 6 of the RFP, it says that Attachment I should be included in the 15-page limit and single spacing is allowable. Should this be Attachment II, since Attachment I is just the Cover Page?

Yes.

58. Can you please clarify the language on bullet 4 of Section XI on page 13 of the RFP? What do you mean by "increase retention rates"? Does this refer to holding students back or retaining them from one year to the next? How is your definition of retention related to drop-out and persistence?

Increase retention rate refers specifically to improving maintenance of students in school and reduction in the possibility of drop out or academic failure.

59. Can expenses identified as unallowable in the FS10 budget still count towards the 15% match, e.g. indirect cost, supervisory costs etc.?

Yes, the district may use its district or other funds, providing that matching contributions must be used for activities related exclusively to the FCEP project. This includes items for which the use of state grant funds is not allowed.

60. Can portions of an existing staff member's salary be included in the program budget if that person will be given additional responsibilities directly related to this program?

All matching contributions must be used for activities related exclusively to the FCEP project, and institutional accounts must be structured to reflect this contribution by the appropriate line item.

61. If indirect costs are not permitted as an expense to be claimed on the FS-10 why do they appear as an allowable deduction on the M/WBE Goal Calculation worksheet?

The M/WBE goal sheet is a generic form not specific to this RFP and thus may include other information. The restrictions on the use of state grants funds for this RFP apply to all calculations for this RFP.

62. Can our FCEP focus on 1 school or zipcode, or must it be district-wide?

The Family and Community Engagement Program seek to improve the community engagement in the district, not simply one school building or one grade. The proposal should address the entire district.

63. According to the RFP, there will be interim reports and a final report. Does this mean that 2 reports will be due each year, 1 interim and 1 annual report, or is the interim report considered the annual report leading to a final report due at the end of the project period?

Yes, there will be two reports each year.

64. Does NYSED plan to hold a grantee meeting, where awardees may send their internal evaluator, their consultant evaluator, or both, to learn more about what NYSED would like to receive from the outlined process and outcome evaluations?

The implementation of the evaluation portion will be determined by program staff after the awards have been made.

65. Does the proposed program plan of implementation have to be district-wide or can it be site specific within our district?

The Family and Community Engagement Program seek to improve the community engagement in the district, not simply one school building or one grade. The proposal should address the entire district.

66. Are we allowed to write more than one grant application per district?

No, each eligible applicant district may submit one application.

67. We have noticed the eligibility requirements do not specifically refer to District 75 schools. They refer to the 32 Community Superintendents of NYCDOE and the 732 school districts of New York State. My principal has requested confirmation that District 75 are indeed eligible.

District 75 is made up of 57 special schools designed to teach and help students with disabilities. District 75 is eligible to apply providing that it meets the specific eligibility criteria established in the RFP. Individual school buildings are not eligible applicants.

68. Page 17 of the RFP refers to the need for an original signature of the District Superintendent “on the Statement of Assurances (Attachment II)”. Is this an error? Should this refer to Attachment III?

The Superintendent needs to provide a signature on both Attachment I and Attachment III.

69. On page 19 of the RFP item XIV E states: “Use the forms provided in Attachment I: Program Objectives, Strategies, Activities, Services and Performance Measures/Data Sources”. Is this an error? Should this refer to Attachment II?

This is Attachment II.

70. On pages 18-9 of the RFP under item XIV C4c we are instructed to provide an organizational chart for the program. Item XIV F2 of the RFP asks for an organizational chart “which indicates the management structure of the program within the district”. Is this a different chart from the one requested in XIV C4c and, if yes, how is this chart different?

The organizational chart should display not only the management of the structure of the program within the district, but also the operational structure of the program, displaying the relationships with partner organizations. For ease of preparation, this can be displayed as two separate charts, or one.

71. On pages 18-9 of the RFP under item XIV C4b we are instructed to describe the staff positions that have coordinating responsibilities for major components of the program. In item XIV F3 we are asked to “describe all professional staff positions...that will be assigned directly to the project. Define role and scope of designated positions.” Please clarify the difference between these two descriptions of staff positions as you wish them to be presented, especially in consideration of page limitations.

Section XIV C4b asks for staff positions that have coordinating responsibilities. Section XIV F3 asks for those positions assigned directly to the project. These positions may overlap, but there may be individuals with coordinating responsibilities that may not be directly assigned to the project (i.e. district staff).

72. On pages 6 and 19 of the RFP it states that Partnership Agreement(s) must be attached. Is this part of the 15 page limit or does the reference on page 18 “excluding ... memoranda of agreement...” in regard to the page limitations refer to those Partnership Agreements (as exemplified in Attachment VII)?

Partnership agreements are not part of the page limit.

73. On page 18 of the RFP, item L states that original signatures are required on M/WBE Documents (Attachment VIII). Does this refer only to the signature of the official representative of the applicant (i.e. Superintendent of school district) or does it also include the need for an original signature of the M/WBE vendor(s) on M/WBE 102?

The signature required on page 39 is that of the superintendent of the public school district.

74. Please clarify what is considered part of the 15 pages limit. Page 18 says that resumes, memoranda of agreement, course descriptions, and the FS-10 may be excluded but states that all other information requested must be contained within the narrative portion of the proposal. It is also clear that Attachments II (Goals) and the Budget Narrative are part of that limit. Does the 15 page limit also include:
- a. Attachment I – Cover? (Page 6 indicates it is included; the checklist indicates it is not).
 - b. Attachment III – Statement of Assurances?
 - c. Attachment IV – Budget Form?
 - d. Attachment V – Checklist?
 - e. Attachment VII – Partnership Agreement (there is a reference to exclusion of Memoranda of Agreement, but it is not clear if that refers to Partnership Agreements)

The page limit applies to the program narrative (including Attachment II) and the budget narrative (see page 35).

75. Is double-spacing required on the Goals tables (Attachment II)?

No.

76. On page 6 of the RFP it says: "Single-spacing may be used on Attachment I provided the typeface or font is at least 10 point size." On Page 18 of the RFP it says: "Single-spacing may be used on Attachment I provided that the typeface or font is at least 15 point size." Which is correct? And does this correctly refer to Attachment I or should that read Attachment II?

Yes, this is Attachment II.

77. On page of the RFP it says: "You must limit the project narrative to no more than **15 double-spaced pages in a minimum 10 point font...**". On page 18 of the RFP it says: "[The proposal narrative] **may not be more than 15 double-spaced pages in a minimum 11 point font...**". What size font is the smallest that can be used in the narrative portion of the proposal?

The minimum font is 10 point.

78. Throughout the RFP the applicant is referred to as the district; yet on Attachment VII (Sample Partner Service Agreement) one is asked to fill in the School (versus district) that is entering into partnership. Similarly in some of the narrative questions one is asked to respond in regard to a school. On page 18 one is instructed to put the "name of the school" in the top right corner of each page. Does this indicate that the district should choose one school around which to center its proposal? Or should one create different partnership agreements and narrative descriptions

for each school involved in the project, as is appropriate to the project plans? Should the district name then appear at the top of each page?

The application is made by the eligible public school district. As the Superintendent oversees the entire district, including all component schools, the partnership agreements may be between the district and partners.

79. Initial program offerings are usually designed with expansion in mind, growth trends however, that do not level off, may require additional support. Can a primary partner request an additional review by the granting committee (within the same fiscal year) if the numbers show a sustained "pull" for program services beyond those described in the original grant?

The operation of the project, once awarded, is under the authority of the Superintendent, as long as the Goals and operational parameters of the RFP are met. It is possible for the Superintendent to request a budget amendment for a change in the allocation of funds. Budget amendments must only be for the benefit of the project Goals and must be approved by the SED-FCEP program office.

80. Constant use of equipment pertinent to a program can sometimes mean an item may break or be in need of repair. Does the funding allow for contractual technical support of equipment or on the spot repair?

Allowable costs (as outlined on pgs. 14-15), make it possible to purchase durable goods, however FCEP is not an equipment maintenance program, nor can it supplant activities and functions that are and should be a regular part of the district.

81. Is there an established list of organizations that have been funded by NYSED, who can be considered within our program offerings, as an enhancement, to meet national and NY State MBK milestones?

No, the key to the FCEP is that Superintendents and public school districts are able to seek out and develop partnerships with local community organizations and local community resources for the building of a stronger school-community partnership.

82. Some program offerings may benefit from the influence and participation of girls as well as boys. Can the funding be used in providing services where sometimes girls of color may be included as well as boys within the auspices of MBK?

Yes, male and female students are equally eligible to participate in all program activities.

83. The grant period is listed as 2016-2020, with initial funding for 2016-17 and further funding based on availability of funds. Should proposals outline plans, budgets, and timelines for the full 4-year period or only for 2016-17?

The proposal should address the entire four year period; however the FS-10 budget form and accompanying budget narrative should address the expenditures for year 1.

84. The list of potential partners on page 19 (#4) of the RFP is different than the list of potential partners listed on page 6 of the RFP (under "Partnership Agreements"); do any of the entities listed in either area meet the requirement for a partner? Or is one list incorrect/correct?

Both pg. 6 and pg. 19 provide examples of the types of partnerships that may benefit the implementation of a Family and Community Engagement Program. Neither is intended to be exhaustive nor prescriptive.

85. If you partner with another district, can the funding only be used to benefit the applying district's students/community/staff? In other words, if my district applies for funding and I want to partner with another district, can I only use my funding to benefit my district's students?

The application must be distinct to the district meeting the eligibility. There is no prohibition against eligible school districts partnering in specific programming or planned activities; however the applicant is the eligible and responsible party for all activities. The applicant district is responsible for and accountable for the achievement of program Goals for the applicant district only.

86. If a district applies for a grant, and has multiple other districts as partners, do all of the districts in the group need to meet the grant goals/objectives? Or, just the lead district?

The application must be distinct to the district meeting the eligibility. There is no prohibition against eligible school districts partnering in specific programming or planned activities; however the applicant is the eligible and responsible party for all activities. The applicant district is responsible for and accountable for the achievement of program Goals for the applicant district only.

87. Can the required 15% match include items that cannot be funded by the grant monies? For example, can we provide the program Director's Supervisor's salary as part of our 15% match? (Or other items deemed as ineligible uses for the grant funds?)

Yes, the district may use its district or other funds, providing that matching contributions must be used for activities related exclusively to the FCEP project. This includes items for which the use of state grant funds is not allowed.

88. May a district include multiple schools in its application?

The district applies on behalf of the entire district, not individual schools.

89. Are Districts expected to meet each of the four Goals on pages 8-11 (and 19 & 20) of the RFP?

The district application will be expected to address each of the four Goals.

90. Can Districts elect to serve boys and young men of color in certain transition grades?

The Family and Community Engagement Program seek to improve the community engagement in the district, not simply one school building or one grade. The proposal should address the entire district.

91. Are Districts expected to have a specific number of partnership agreements?

No, partnerships must be relevant to the coordination and implementation of the FCEP within the district.

92. Are districts expected to fund an independent evaluator out of the FCEP Grant?

No.

93. Will there be a NYS evaluation of all funded FCEP grants?

SED will indicate the method and data elements required for the interim and final reports each program year.

94. In addition to the FCEP, there will be other MBK Grant Program RFPs, *My Brother's Keeper Milestone Challenge and Schools Models that Improve Outcomes for Boys and Young Men of Color.* Will Districts be limited to applying for only one program?

No, these are two different programs with different program requirements and outcomes. An eligible district for one may or may not be eligible for the other. Each application is separate and distinct.

95. Is paying for a building permit or space rental fees for an event a permissible expense?

No, see page 16.

96. Our school has 100% Free and Reduce Price Lunch (FRPL) and surpasses the eligibility rate for ELLs. However, because we are District 75 ((3) elementary schools, (1) middle school and a high school to be newly formed), our criteria regarding the four year graduation rate is different from general education and requires your clarification. More specifically, our middle school is a three-year, grades 6 through 8 school with both standard and alternate assessment for our 100% population of students of color, with special needs. Are we therefore still eligible at a three year rate and under the criteria for students who graduate to a least restrictive environment (main stream general education), which for us would be the equivalent of a "graduation"?

District 75 is made up of 57 special schools designed to teach and help students with disabilities. District 75 is eligible to apply providing that it meets the specific eligibility criteria established in the RFP. Individual school buildings are not eligible applicants. Graduation rates are defined as - 2014-15 graduation rates based upon the 2011 total cohort – 4 Year Outcome - August 2015 data

97. How many CBOs are we allowed to partner with?

There is no prescribed limit or makeup of community partners. The applicant is encouraged to reach out to community partners who are able to successfully assist in the implementation of the program and the accomplishment of the Goals.

98. Does Reso-A funding provided by city council members and existing programs that received funding from city agencies or state officials considered as government funding?

A Resolution "A" (Reso "A") projects are school specific capital improvement or enhancement projects. The RESO A funding is Capital funding which is managed externally (Office of Capital Budget Office and the School Construction Authority) to the school's budget and also has special purchasing requirements. Due to the Capital eligibility restrictions on purchases, each school allocation is required to have a completed proposal including the equipment quotes, documented scope of work for implementation, and cover letter denoting all equipment and vendor contracts used for purchase. This would not be an appropriate matching source for the Family and Community Engagement Program, as the funds are allocated capital funds for individual projects.

99. Can you advise if this grant is for School Districts only or for community organizations as well ?

Only New York State public school districts which meet the specific criteria outlined in the RFP may submit applications. A CBO may be a partner organization.

100. I wanted to inquire if the grant made available by NYSED was available for school districts only or civil rights organizations.

Only New York State public school districts which meet the specific criteria outlined in the RFP may submit applications. A community organization may be a partner organization.

101. The RFP reads as though only school are eligible to apply. Would you clarify, please.

Only New York State public school districts which meet the specific criteria outlined in the RFP may submit applications.

102. This grant is needed and perfect for us however, according to the criteria, we are not eligible because we have not had a graduation class yet?

Only New York State public school districts which meet the specific criteria outlined in the RFP may submit applications. Individual school buildings are not eligible applicants. A charter school is not an eligible public school district. Therefore, the district should have had a graduating class.

103. May an application include more than one school, or is it the intent of the RFP to target a single school?

The Family and Community Engagement Program seek to improve the community engagement in the district, not simply one school building or one grade. The proposal should address the entire district.