

In *evaluating* the quality of the plan for sustainability, the Department considers the following factors to be of particular importance:

(a) The extent to which the proposed project is designed to build capacity and yield results that will extend beyond the period of this grant;

(b) The likelihood that use of the Pro-Bank framework will serve as a basis for continuous improvement of the state's youth service infrastructure;

(c) The likelihood of the applicant successfully securing state ownership and participation in these projects when these grant funds cease; and

(d) The extent to which partnerships with outside entities (including public and private disability and faith-based and community organizations) and funding from additional Federal, State, and/or local resources will be effectively leveraged and utilized in continuing activities after the expiration of the grant.

Letter from the Governor. A letter from the Governor or functionally equivalent entity reflecting support of the applicant's proposal will be viewed favorably. If a letter from the Governor is not feasible, the application may include a letter from the head of an appropriate State agency.

Other Letters of Commitment. Applicants may also include letters of support from other relevant State agencies if they provide specific commitments regarding the application to this solicitation. Such letters can increase an applicant's score by showing that the commitments in the text of the proposal are grounded with actual commitments. Form letters will be considered non-responsive.

4. Management and Outcomes (25 points)

The purpose of the Management and Outcomes criterion is to determine whether the applicant has developed an adequate management plan to effectively carry out the objectives and scope of the proposed project on time and within budget, to describe the predicted outcomes resulting from activities funded under this SGA, and to identify how the results of the evaluation(s) conducted using the Pro-Bank framework and data already being collected from multiple service sectors (e.g., workforce development, education, etc.) will be used to determine success.

Applicants should provide a detailed management plan that identifies the critical activities, time frames and responsibilities for effectively implementing the project, including the evaluation process for assuring

successful implementation of grant objectives. A description should be provided of the plan to use data already being collected across services sectors to identify the demographic characteristics of youth with disabilities served in the applicant's state as a result of grant activities, as well as to identify the types of activities being conducted, and to determine program outcomes (e.g., post-secondary education, employment, independent living, etc.). This data is then to be compared with comparable data on students with and without disabilities not participating in the grant project(s).

In addition, applicants should outline the strategy for documenting and reporting the activities undertaken during the life of the grant for ODEP's future use in working with other grantees and constituencies.

In *evaluating* the management and outcome criteria, the Department considers the following factors to be of particular importance:

(1) The extent to which the goals, objectives, and outcomes to be achieved are clearly specified and measurable;

(2) The extent to which the design of the proposed project features innovative methods for developing new sites and/or strengthening existing sites;

(3) The extent to which the proposal incorporates the cross-agency, multi-year state plan in part VII, Government Requirements/Statement of Work, section 2, Comprehensive Service Strategy;

(4) The extent to which the proposed budget and narrative justification are adequate to support the proposed project;

(5) The extent to which performance feedback and continuous improvement are integral to the design of the proposed project;

(6) The extent to which the methods of evaluation are thorough, feasible, and appropriate to the goals, objectives, context, and outcomes of the proposed project;

(7) The extent to which the methods of evaluation provide for examining the effectiveness of project implementation strategies;

(8) The extent to which the methods of evaluation include the use of objective performance measures that are clearly related to the intended outcomes of the project and will produce quantitative and qualitative data;

(9) The extent to which the evaluation will provide information to other programs about effective strategies suitable for replication or testing in other settings;

(10) The extent to which the methods of evaluation measure, in both

quantitative and qualitative terms, program results and satisfaction of people with disabilities;

(11) The extent to which the management plan for project implementation is likely to achieve the objectives on time and within budget;

(12) The adequacy of mechanisms for ensuring high-quality products and services from the proposed project; and

(13) The extent to which the time commitments of the state director and other key project personnel are appropriate and adequate to meet the objectives of the proposed project.

Part VIII. Monitoring and Reporting

Monitoring: Department shall be responsible for ensuring the effective implementation of each competitive grant project in accordance with the provisions of this announcement and the terms of the grant award document. Applicants should assume that Department staff, or their designees, will conduct on-site project reviews periodically. Reviews will focus on timely project implementation, performance in meeting the grant's programmatic goals and objectives, expenditure of grant funds on allowable activities, integration and coordination with other resources and service providers in the local area, and project management and administration in achieving project objectives. Innovative State Alignment Grants for Improving Transition Outcomes may be subject to other additional reviews at the discretion of the Department.

Reporting: Grantees will be required to submit quarterly financial and narrative performance reports under the Innovative State Alignment Grants for Improving Transition Outcomes program as prescribed by OMB Circular A-102 and A-110, as codified by 29 CFR parts 97.

(1) A Quarterly Report will be required within thirty (30) days of the end of each quarter beginning ninety days from the award of the grant and is estimated to take five hours to prepare on average. The form for the Quarterly Report will be provided by ODEP. ODEP will work with the grantee to help refine the requirements of the report, which will, among other things, include measures of ongoing analysis for continuous improvement and customer satisfaction.

(2) Financial reporting will be required quarterly using the on-line electronic reporting system for the Standard Form 269—Financial Status Report (FSR).

(3) A Final Project Report, including an assessment of project performance and outcomes achieved will be required