

## Transcript of the Responsible Fatherhood FIRE Webinar

Welcome, everyone. Before today's webinar starts, we'd like to share some general notes about the webinar. First, please note that all participants are automatically muted. Only the presenters will be on audio and video. If you have any technical issues accessing this webinar, are unable to see or hear the slides, please describe the issue in as much detail as possible in the Q&A box on the bottom right of the screen, and then click on "Send." The meeting organizer will contact you directly to help resolve your issue. Please direct all other questions to the points of contact listed in section seven of the applicable funding opportunity announcement. Please note that there are different points of contact for each FOA. For the FOA described in today's webinar, the points of contact are Tanya Howell from the Office of Family Assistance and Bridget Shea Westfall from the Office of Grants Management.

If you would like to access live closed captioning during today's webinar, please click on the closed captioning link on the bottom right-hand corner of your screen. The closed-captioning feature is below the Q&A feature and is labeled "Multimedia viewer." The webinar will be recorded and posted soon after each webinar. The link to the webinar materials can be accessed from the same resource site where you first registered for today's webinar, and that is at [hmrfgantresources.info](http://hmrfgantresources.info).

All right, thank you, Grace. Good afternoon everyone, and welcome to the first in a series of webinars that are designed to provide you with an overview of the Healthy Marriage and Responsible Fatherhood Funding Opportunity Announcement or FOA. I am Robin McDonald. I am the division director within the Administration for Children and Families Office of Family Assistance or OFA. And OFA is, of course, the program office that oversees the Healthy Marriage and Responsible Fatherhood programs, they are in my division. And I also oversee the Health Profession Opportunity Grants or HPOG grants that you may be familiar with.

And today, we are coming to you live from our various homes, which represent, as you know, a lot of different things these days. It's our workplace, it's our school, it's backyard ball fields and bistros, as well as our place of rest and refuge and to spend time with our families. So, today's webinar will cover the Fatherhood FIRE FOA. We know that you all have been anxiously awaiting this opportunity, and we have been eager to share it with you.

What you may not know is that Fatherhood FIRE, and the program that it represents, is more than just a title. It is a message that is at the very heart of our Responsible Fatherhood work in ACF and in OFA. So, starting with that heart on fire, that image that you see there on your screen, this flame contained within the heart conveys the positive aspects of fire, of love, passion, warmth, vision, intensity, and the FIRE acronym expresses the qualities that we see in fathers; that they are family focused, they are interconnected, resilient, and essential, and we know that they are essential for their children and families certainly, but they're also essential to their communities and to society. And so, every time you speak the name, Fatherhood FIRE, remember that that you join us in sending the message to fathers and communities across the country; that they are important, they're valued, and essential to us all. So, let's get started. Next slide.

All right, there we are. You know who I am. But I want to introduce to you Seth Chamberlain. He's who serves as the Branch Chief for the Healthy Marriage and Responsible Fatherhood program. So those of you who are former grantees are certainly familiar with Seth, particularly his puns and dad jokes. And those of you who don't know him will get an opportunity to hear from him during this and other FOA webinars. And Seth and I am joined by Tanya Howell, one of our seasoned leaders on the HMRF team. Tanya is one of the Federal Program Specialists who provides support and technical assistance, oversight and monitoring to grantee organizations, and Tanya also has the distinction of being drafter and the OFA point of contact for the Fatherhood FIRE FOA. So, I know that you're all anxious to begin, so let's get started. Next slide.

Okay, so here's the agenda for today's Fatherhood FIRE webinar. Our goal is to go through the materials in about 90 minutes, maybe less. We will not have a Q&A during this webinar. But at the end, we will again provide you with that contact information for Tanya and for Bridget from the Office of Grant Management. Just a note, that the Office Grant Management is a partner with us in these programs, and that they provide guidance and oversight on the fiscal and administrative aspects of the FOA and the

## Transcript of the Responsible Fatherhood FIRE Webinar

funded project post-awards. So, Tanya and Bridget will be able to respond to questions you have about the FOA, and they serve as the official responders for FOA-related matters. And I'm going to say that again. It's important for you all to get this. Tanya and Bridget serve as the official responders on behalf of ACF and OFA for all FOA-related matters.

So, today, we're going to touch on what we believe to be key high points of the things that are important for you to note from key sections of the FOA. But I want to emphasize, first, the notice that appears in the FOA's Executive Summary, right under where it says, "Executive Summary," and it is that you are strongly encouraged to read the entire FOA carefully. I'm going to say that again. You're strongly encourage to read the entire FOA carefully, and you probably might want to do that more than once. So, do not assume that because we didn't mention something in this webinar, that it is unimportant. Everything in the FOA is important, and you should be sure to read through it. Next slide.

So, the webinar is not intended -- we're not going to go line by line through the FOA -- but it's a high-level overview of some chief components, and we will cover what we believe may be nuanced or complex FOA language and hopefully provide some clarification. All material covered, of course, is contained in the FOA. So, of course, we won't give you any recommendations on what to write or what would be considered fundable. As stated previously, applicants are strongly encouraged to read the full FOA. Look at what is being asked, what is required to be submitted, including a review of the criteria, and then decide for yourselves whether what you propose meets FOA goals and submission requirements.

And I want to borrow an example from a former colleague of mine, so you may have a perfectly fabulous recipe for jet fuel. But if the FOA is asking you to for oatmeal raisin cookies, you may want to revisit your proposal; okay? The next thing I want to mention is that the Office of Planning, Research, and Evaluation here in ACF is going to cover the materials that are related to performance measures, continuous quality improvement or CQI, and local and federal evaluation. That's going to be in a separate webinar for all applicants, and in this webinar, we will only touch on the cost allocations for the local evaluation, and then leave those substantive issues to the OPRE webinar.

We will also briefly highlight a few key points under the heading in the criteria section. And so, finally, we have here the link to where the information from this webinar will be archived, as we said, for your future use. Next slide.

So, a little bit about the history of Responsible Fatherhood Programs: Healthy Marriage and Responsible Fatherhood, of course, was first authorized in 2005, with the first cohort of grants being funded in 2006. Funding for cohorts two and three were reauthorized in 2010, and they are continuing through what we call continuing resolution to the current appropriations. So, the total amount for both programs is \$150 million, but \$75 million of that is designated for all Responsible Fatherhood activities. That's grants and other related Responsible Fatherhood activities. So, this competition is the fourth cohort of funding Responsible Fatherhood and, of course, Healthy Marriage activities. Next slide.

So, here is a list of the three broad Responsible Fatherhood categories that appear in the authorizing legislation or the statute; promote or sustain marriage, that's one; responsible parenting, and economic stability. Now, the statute specifies activities under each category, and you can find that list in a couple of different places in the FOA. The first is in section one, background, history of promoting Responsible Fatherhood program, and the other is also in section one, it's under the program activities, and that section provides more detailed information about each of those categories and any associated activities.

What you need to know is that all three broad categories must be implemented in the funded projects. So, applicants must be sure to address each of those categories in their applications. However, you are not required to implement all the activities listed under each category but must select one or more of those activities from under each category. So, again, I know that may be confusing. The broad categories are promote and sustain marriage, responsible parenting, and economic stability. There are several activities listed under each of those three categories, and while your applications must describe how your project design will implement all three categories, your project design does not need to -- you may only select one or more activities under each of those categories. Next slide.

## Transcript of the Responsible Fatherhood FIRE Webinar

Now, a little bit about the research base for Responsible Fatherhood. As we say in the FOA, the research and evaluation have been the underpinning for ACF Responsible Fatherhood programs long before the funding for the program was ever appropriated. And it is this strong research base that has helped us determine just how essential, involved, and engaged fathers are in the lives of their children.

And so, in the FOA we highlight key findings for that research so that involved fathers provide practicing support for the children, of course, and also serve as a model for the development in healthy ways. This would include physically, emotionally, and socially. And even though numbers are high for children who don't have the opportunity to live at home with their biological father, we know that even non-residential fathers can contribute significantly to the child's healthy development. And when compared with children, with uninvolved fathers, we see the results that children who have involved loving fathers are more likely to do better in school, have healthy self-esteem and be empathetic towards others, that is, exhibit pro-social behavior. Next slide.

It was in view of these challenges and opportunities and, of course, because of the congressional appropriation that we at ACF and OFA continue to fund Responsible Fatherhood efforts that are designed to strengthen that positive father/child engagement and prove social and economic outcomes for fathers, but also for their families, and improve healthy relationships. Now, these include couple relationships and co-parenting relationships, and, of course, to promote or sustain healthy marriage. Next slide.

All right, we believe that having invested significantly in these efforts for decades, as I said, long before the money was appropriated, this has helped make Responsible Fatherhood programs the lead star, that guiding force to achieve greater outcomes for families, communities, and societies. And we want to continue only that trajectory; okay? So, to do so, we wanted to make a couple of things very clear for applicants, and so we emphasized this in the FOA; the importance that funded programs get buy-in and commitment from their organization's leadership and other stakeholders, that includes partners that you're considering; that you make sure that you make them aware that it's important that they commit to achieving all programmatic goals and objectives of this FOA. And what that means is that if you're awarded, the funds received will only be used for established Responsible Fatherhood purposes that are outlined in this FOA and approved in your award.

So, to be clear, as we state in FOA, this isn't an opportunity for add-on or gap funding to your other non-Responsible Fatherhood related projects, other priorities or other goals or other objectives or those of your partners; that these resources are specifically designed to provide that support for Responsible Fatherhood purposes that are outlined in this FOA.

So, with that Fatherhood foundation laid, I'm going to ask Seth Chamberlain to begin leading us through the key programmatic points in the FOA, along with Tanya Howell, and we're going to tag team a bit throughout the webinar. But, first, here is Seth.

Thanks so much, Robin, and hello everyone. As Robin said, I am the Healthy Marriage and Responsible Fatherhood Branch Chief. We look forward to receiving your applications, which will assure commitment to promoting Responsible Fatherhood. You know, fathers are critical to the fabric and function of our nation for so many reasons, one of the smaller being the ready supply of dad jokes. Forgive me for the following. I've said it before. But do you when a joke becomes a dad joke? When the punchline becomes apparent. Thank you. So, for all of the men who have become parents, this program is for them.

In all seriousness, the rest of this presentation will bring you section by section through the FOA. FOAs, or Funding Opportunity Announcements, can be overwhelming. We're hopeful that this section-by-section discussion will help you as you consider your application. So, of course, let me begin with section one. Section one is called the program description. The program is the authorized federal funding under this FOA. In other words, the program overall or the Fatherhood FIRE program. Each of you will be proposing projects under this Fatherhood FIRE program.

## Transcript of the Responsible Fatherhood FIRE Webinar

So, section one describes the Fatherhood FIRE program, including the program overall, project activities, grantee responsibilities, and areas of interest to the administration for children and families and the office of family assistance. So, Robin just covered -- so this is the funding opportunity announcement; right -- Robin just covered section one background, which is pages three to four of the FOA. So, if you turn to Page 4 of the FOA, you will see program, purpose, and scope. The FOA provides a short overview of the purpose of Fatherhood FIRE. Listen to this closely. Projects funded under this FOA will identify strategies to recruit and provide services for adult fathers ages 18 and older who have children ages 24 and younger, and as Robin noted earlier, funds must be used to support and provide Responsible Fatherhood activities in all three authorized categories.

Program purpose and scope then has a subsection on page 5 called "Organizational Capacity." ACF is particularly interested in projects that unambiguously demonstrate commensurate capacity based on funding level to effectively carry out projects of various scopes to address the needs of targeted participants and communities. The three levels are listed on this slide. Later on, in Section 4.2, organizational capacity, it lists specific organizational capacity submission requirements, and we'll talk about those later. Program purpose and scope then has a subsection called "Use of funds." But you can consider this section ways in which funds can't be used. Fatherhood FIRE funds cannot be used to pay for mental health or substance abuse services, abstinence education or sexual risk avoidance education programs, or fee for service programs. These services must be free to participants. Later on in the FOA, we make it clear that Fatherhood FIRE funds cannot pay for housing assistance or child support payments, among other things.

So, next, on pages 5 to 6 of the funding opportunity announcement, the FOA discusses programmatic objectives and outcomes related to implementation of program models funded under this FOA. This slide lists the short-and long-term outcomes targeted. ACF has posted a link to more specific proposed standardized performance measures, and the link to that is at the bottom of page 5. When you look at these outcomes, you can easily see that they address the three statutory categories; promoting or sustaining healthy marriage and relationships, responsible parenting, economic stability. You can also see that these programs can, as appropriate, target justice-involved fathers in order to reduce recidivism.

Related to this, proposed projects must have logic models. It is one of the items required in the first file that must be submitted. Tanya will talk about a little bit later. Now, program purpose and scope, this part of Section 1, doesn't discuss logic models. In fact, it's not discussed until page 56. But because logic models are so critical, we wanted to take a moment to discuss them here. What is a logic model? A logic model is a diagram that presents the conceptual framework for your proposed project and explains the links among program elements. It is an overarching structure for the activities and services you propose to offer, aligned with your project's targeted objectives and outcomes.

Additionally, logic models must align with the identified objectives and goals of the grant program. You remember those from the last slide; right? So, let me say that again. A logic model must explain links among program elements, align with a project's targeted objectives and outcomes, and align with the objectives and goals of the grant program. Now, while there are many versions of logic models, for the purposes of this announcement, the logic model must include connections between inputs, activities, outputs, short- and long-term outcomes. Let me talk about this a little bit more in-depth. So, inputs are additional resources, organizational profiles, collaborative partners, key staff and budgets, target populations--You should mention those too, Those would be the individuals that are intended to be served Activities, mechanisms and processes should be discussed, such as evidence-based practices, best practice, your approach, your key intervention and evaluation components; outputs, what are the immediate and direct results of projects activities; the outcomes, what are the expected short- and long-term results of the project that are being designed to be achieved; and what are the overall goals of the project.

Now, when your application is reviewed and scored, application reviewers will look at your logic model, and they'll look at whether the logic model links program elements, links proposed activities to intended project-specific short- and long-term outcomes, and how the proposed logic model aligns with the stated

## Transcript of the Responsible Fatherhood FIRE Webinar

ACF short-and-long-term programmatic outcomes. For this specific evaluation criteria, you should look at pages 74 and 75 of the funding opportunity announcement.

Last note, applicants are also expected to demonstrate how they will monitor their project's implementation with their logic models. Okay, so continuing on in Section 1 of the funding opportunity announcement, we're done now with the background. We're done now with program purpose and scope. We left off at page 6, and so now we are at program activities under Fatherhood FIRE. And look at that, it's the three statutory categories that Robin mentioned earlier; promote or sustain healthy marriage, responsible parenting, economic stability. Coincidence? I think not. All Fatherhood FIRE grantees must incorporate activities from those three statutory categories. Now, not all activities are required. Let's face it, that would be a ton of activities. But all grantees must incorporate at least one activity under each category. Robin said that twice. I'm saying it again. That means that's important.

So, one note on economic stability. So, the general economic stability category is required, but there are a ton of activities under this category. I'm not going to list them all. There are a ton. Now, some applicants will want to provide what we're calling job-driven employment services. That's more specific than economic stability. Think about that for a second. Economic stability might be the big umbrella, and job-driven employment, one approach to economic stability. So, job-driven employment is optional. If you choose to propose job-driven employment services, note that your strategy must be guided by four principles that are mentioned on Page 8, and there are other notes to consider.

One last note on economic stability and job-driven employment, economic stability or job-driven employment activities cannot be provided as standalone services. These services must be provided in conjunction with other promoting Responsible Fatherhood activities, including curriculum-based responsible parenting education workshops, curriculum-based marriage and relationship education workshops, follow-up, case management, or support services throughout the duration of the program. The FOA makes this clear on page 9. It's right there on page 9.

All right, so let's continue and let's talk about the next big section or next big component of Section 1, and this is the curricula section. This is on pages 9 and 10. So, curricula must be implemented, and it must meet a minimum level of hours. The funding opportunity announcement states: projects must deliver 24 hours or more of curriculum over time in a primary workshop, in parentheses. A workshop is a set of structured classes. Primary workshops are workshops in which all participants are expected to attend and ultimately complete. Curricula being proposed for use in any of the three broad authorized promoting Responsible Fatherhood categories must be clearly identified, along with its intended purpose. Curricula proposed for use in workshops must be evidence-based or evidence-informed, must be fields-based, and must be designed to improve outcomes outlined in the programmatic objectives in the outcomes that were listed. Note, that curricula must meet critical components listed in the section and that's on this slide, including that they are father focused, and they must be of sufficient intensity for the guidelines listed on this slide. Projects that do not meet these standards for intensity of primary workshops must provide strong justification for less intensive programming.

Last note on curriculum, following curriculum developers' guidelines for service provision is critical. For example, if you are implementing a group-based curriculum, you can't implement it in a one-on-one setting without rationale and without written approval from the developer. Okay, so now that we're done with that, let's talk about -- so we've talked about program purpose and scope. We've talked about program activities. We've talked about curriculum. Now let's talk about what the program expectations are for Fatherhood FIRE. So, this begins on page 10, and this is actually a good bulleted list here that should be noted and read thoroughly, as well as on page 11 there is, you know, one, two, three four paragraphs which are pretty important. These are part of our general expectations under this funding opportunity announcement.

I want to spend some time, though, talking about program participation targets, which is on page 11. This may be an intricate passage, so I really want to take a moment to describe what is required. But in order to describe what is required, we first need to start with some definitions. First, in that last slide, recall we discussed the term primary workshop. To remind us all, a workshop is a set of structured classes focused

## Transcript of the Responsible Fatherhood FIRE Webinar

on a topic related to the FOA. A primary workshop is a curriculum-based workshop that all participants are expected to attend and, ultimately, complete.

A project's primary workshop, or, collectively, workshops if there are multiple workshops, will address all FOA requirements and outcomes. Second, recall what a sufficiently intensive workshop or set of workshops is. There are four parameters that were listed on the previous slide. But the primary one is that sufficiently intensive workshops are those in which a primary workshop or the set of primary workshops together are at least 24 hours long. Projects that do not meet these standards for intensity must provide strong justification for less intensive programming.

Third, note how the FOA defines program completion. This is actually noted a little bit above program participation targets in the paragraph right above it. Program completion is defined as completion of at least 90 percent of primary workshops. So, on pages 11 and 12 of the funding opportunity announcements there are upper and lower limits for clients that may be proposed to be served with 90 percent of primary program workshops. These limits are set by funding level requested. For example, for applicants that are proposing smaller-scope services, that is those requesting funding from half a million dollars to \$749,999 per year, they should propose to serve no fewer than 100 individuals or 50 couples, co-parents or parenting pairs per year who receive 90 percent of primary program workshops. This is the lower limit. Let me say that again. That is the lower limit. If you propose to serve 99 individuals or 49 couples per year at 90 percent of primary programming workshop hours, that is too few.

These applicants proposing small-scope services may propose to serve up to 750 individuals or 375 couples, co-parents, or parenting pairs per year with 90 percent of primary program workshops. Applicants may propose to serve more, but such applicants must ensure that the project design represents a demonstrated organizational capacity to provide client services in numbers that exceed the specified maximum.

Let me provide another example, this time for applicants proposing the upper end of large-scope services; that is, those requesting funding from \$1.25 million to \$1.5 million per year. They should propose to serve no fewer than 166 individuals or 83 couples, coparents, or parenting pairs per year who receive 90 percent of primary workshops. This is the lower limit. Let me say that again. This is the lower limit. If you propose to serve 165 individuals or 82 couples or co-parents or parenting pairs per year with 90 percent of primary program workshops, that is too few. These applicants proposing large-scope services may propose to serve up to 1,250 individuals or 625 couples, co-parents, parenting pairs per year, with 90 percent of primary program workshops. Applicants may propose to serve more than that, but such applicants must ensure that the project design represents a demonstrated organizational capacity to provide client services in numbers that exceed the specified maximum.

So, for quick reference on the primary program workshop hours requirement, and program participation target requirements, you should look at Appendix Section C, which has an approached summary table, which lists the amount of funding requested, program participation targets, primary program hours, if there's an evaluation requirement, and age. Last note on program participation targets, the reason we are doing this is because ACF wants to maximize efficiencies and cost effectiveness of grant funds, period.

So, now, continuing with program expectations, pages 12 to 14 discussing grantees will be expected to address client needs, including through the use of case management. Let me pause here just for a second for emphasis. The funding opportunity announcement states ACF is particularly interested in funding projects that include robust case management strategies. Program expectations also addresses partnerships. This is on pages 14 to 15. Strong partnerships are critical to maximizing the effectiveness of a program model through leveraging resources, building community support, and increasing access to eligible target populations. Partners may serve as the following: They may be sources for recruitment for program participants. They may be implementers of programming itself. They may be referral agencies for services that are needed but not available through this project; that is, agencies to which Fatherhood FIRE-funded staff may refer participants for additional services.

## Transcript of the Responsible Fatherhood FIRE Webinar

So, note that, while partnerships are critical, Fatherhood FIRE funds may not be used for housing assistance or to pay child support. All right continuing on, subawards. Section 1 then has the passage on subawards. This is on pages 15 to 16. Recipients under this grant program may opt to transfer a portion of substantive programmatic work to other organizations through subawards. Grantees may also opt to contract out some services. In all cases, the prime recipient; that is, the grantee, is responsible for oversight of all programmatic, financial, and administrative matters, including reporting related to the grant. This responsibility includes oversight of these matters as they relate to the subrecipients. Additionally, the prime recipient; that is the grantee, must maintain a substantive role in the project. ACF defines a substantive role as conducting activities or providing services funded under the award that are necessary and integral to the completion of the project. So, grantees can't serve as pass-throughs. Additionally, grantees must ensure that subrecipients meet the eligibility requirements identified later in the funding opportunity announcement.

So, the last thing that I'll address right now is participant eligibility. This section of the FOA, which is on pages 16 to 17, is not about whether you as an organization are eligible to apply; rather, it's about who you serve; that is the fathers that you'll serve. So, eligible fathers must be 18 years of age or older. Take note, 18 years of age or older. Eligible fathers may be married or unmarried biological fathers, expectant father, adoptive fathers, or stepfathers for a dependent child or young adult child up to 24 years of age. Projects may also enroll persons who live with children and who are acknowledged as father figures, such as grandfathers or foster fathers. Eligible fathers include those in the general population, as well as fathers who are currently incarcerated and intend to return or have returned to their families and communities following incarceration.

So, ACF defines general population of fathers or community fathers as fathers across every demographic and socioeconomic spectrum, not exclusively fathers who are non-custodial, low income, or who have had contact with the criminal justice system, so that fathers from all walks of life may be served. ACF continues to have interest in projects that target fathers, such as low-income fathers, noncustodial and custodial single fathers, fathers receiving TANF, fathers participating in Head Start or Healthy Start programs, and active duty military or veteran fathers. But, again, under this FOA, ACF defines general population and community fathers as fathers across every demographic and socioeconomic spectrum. So, with that being said, I'll turn it back to Robin to talk about requirements for organizations that receive grants.

Great. Thank you, and this is a good transition point for some of the information I'm going to provide to you next. So, we are going to talk about post-award requirements of section one, and these are the specific aspects that we want to emphasize that are required by all successful applicants who become grantees. But they also must be addressed in your application. And directly related to what Seth was just talking about, about the participants that are eligible for the program, I just want to note that all requirements will be enforced, but we are only highlighting here some key points.

And so, related to the eligibility requirements, I really want to talk about the nondiscrimination in program eligibility. Many applicants, and grantees also, misunderstand or misinterpret this requirement. It does, indeed, set forth the prohibition that many of you are familiar with against discrimination on the bases of a participant's race, gender, age, disability, or religion when determining eligibility benefits or services provided for applicable rules. I'm going to say that again. This is about discrimination on the bases of a participant's race, gender, age, disability, or religion when determining eligibility, benefits, or services provided, or applicable rules.

So, now what this means is that, because eligible participants under this FOA must be fathers or expectant fathers, then mothers or expectant mothers are also eligible to participate in the funded programs. So, this eligibility requirement is related to parenting status. Not gender, which would be prohibited; right? In other words, just as males who are not fathers or expectant fathers are not eligible to participate in these programs, neither are females who are not mothers or expectant mothers. So, again, it's not eligibility based on gender but is eligibility based on parenting status.

## Transcript of the Responsible Fatherhood FIRE Webinar

Also, applicants and grantees sometimes misunderstand or misinterpret the non-discrimination requirements as meaning that the focus of the project must be tailored to both fathers and mothers. That's not the case. We want to emphasize, however, that the nondiscrimination requirements do not change the fact that all projects funded must be father focused.

One example of how this issue may arise is in selecting curricula. So, under the responsible parenting category, for example, in doing so, applicants and grantees must identify Fatherhood curriculum, and so this means that it's neither a gender neutral or general parenting curricula, nor is it a motherhood curricula, even if mothers are participating in the program. It needs to be father-focused curricula. So, as stated in the FOA, this means that these nondiscrimination requirements do not change the Responsible Fatherhood scope of the funded projects or the father-focused grantee outreach efforts.

So, additionally, grantees may conduct outreach efforts that target fathers. Although interested mothers cannot be excluded from participating, the programs do not have to specifically target mothers in their recruitment efforts. And I'm going to say that again. Although grantees may conduct outreach activities that target fathers, even though interested mothers cannot be excluded from participating, the programs do not have to specifically target mothers in their recruitment effort. Again, the projects that we are funding must be father focused. Next slide.

So, we're going to talk a little bit about the domestic violence. So, we state clearly in the FOA, and we want to emphasize here, that addressing domestic violence, intimate partner violence and dating violence are important components of Responsible Fatherhood program, and given the unfortunate circumstances of high rates of DV, IPV, and dating violence in the U.S. -- and we include some of those statistics in the FOA -- it is likely that fatherhood programs will serve one or more individuals who are experiencing or who have experienced domestic violence and/or those who may have committed or perpetrated violence against an intimate or dating partner.

So, the important nuance that I want to emphasize here is, one, what the statute requires for applicants, meaning what must be addressed in your application; and, two, what we programmatically believe applicants should consider in addressing these issues. So, under the statute this is what it says; applicants must describe how the programs or activities proposed in the application will address, as appropriate, issues of domestic violence and consult with domestic violence experts or relevant community domestic violence coalitions in developing the program activities, so the statute requires those two things.

The detailed language that you actually see in section one post-award requirements domestic violence in the FOA, it provides what we believe applicants may want to consider as they develop their programs and activities. So, the approaches included have been vetted with ACF internal DV experts, as well as external experts, but applicants should consult with experts within their communities to identify appropriate strategies to address these issues and develop their programs and include that in your application.

A note on child maltreatment, and, of course, certainly, it's important that in programs which involve child interaction and engagement, we encourage organizations, at a minimum, to stay abreast of and train in their state's reporting requirements for child abuse and neglect. But as you see here, and in the FOA, child maltreatment is not a statutory requirement, but it is a programmatic requirement, and, as such, it must be addressed in your applications and in your programs. Next slide.

All right, for staffing levels, so we've established three designated key project staff positions, and one of those positions that you see is optional. These are positions that we've determined will help ensure thorough oversight, successful operation and compliance with the project. So, those key positions are project director, project manager, that's the optional position, a data manager, and financial officer. Now, you'll note that if you do decide to include a project manager, that position will also be deemed a key position.

## Transcript of the Responsible Fatherhood FIRE Webinar

So, what this means is that we expect that applicants make FTE, or full-time equivalent, levels of effort for these positions that will ensure a hundred-percent oversight of all the program operations. So, what does that mean? So, these positions are key to the overall project oversight monitoring, fiscal, and day-to-day management of the program, and as such, applicants must make FTE allocations that will allow these persons to be sufficiently engaged to ensure that they are knowledgeable of the program operations, including, as appropriate, the project design and implementation strategy, the program structure, fiscal requirements and compliance, et cetera, those kinds of things.

So, we're not telling you what specific FTE allocations to make. For example, this is not stating that each of these key positions must be allocated for 100 percent FTE in your budget. That's not what we're saying. Just that a hundred percent of the program needs to be covered; right? And so, however, you should consider the reasonableness of those FTE allocations to accomplish the duties and responsibilities that are assigned to that position. So, let me give you an example.

So, you may want to consider whether a project director who is only engaged at, say, 10 percent FTE may be considered a reasonable level of commitment for associated duties and responsibilities when assessed under the project management and staffing criteria of subsection 5.1. It's something to think about.

So, finally, please note that the Authorizing Organizational Representative, the AOR, cannot be the project director, or vice versa. They can't be the same people, one or the other position may have to be held by different people. Next slide.

So, involuntary participation is another one of those requirements that's frequently misinterpreted or misunderstood. First, voluntary participation is required under the statute. So, applicants will need to describe how they will ensure that participation is voluntary and how they will inform participants of the same. So, that is what the statute requires, voluntary participation. So, I thought that I'd give you a couple of examples of what involuntary participation might look like. This is where the confusion comes; right? So, it's in these instances of court-mandated participation. So, that is when the court says, you have to go to this Fatherhood project or else type thing; right? So, for example, they would do so as a condition to avoid adjudication. Perhaps maybe it's a probation and parole requirement or a child visitation order or a child support order is requiring that. So, these would be considered involuntary participation, court mandated, you have to go to this one, involuntary. When the participant doesn't have an option not to participate in your program, that is involuntary participation, and as we said, the participation in this program must be voluntary.

But, if the services you provide are on a list of organizations from which a participant may select, then their participation is deemed voluntary, even if it's court ordered. So, what that might look like is the judge says, you have to take a Fatherhood class. We want you involved in a Fatherhood program. Here is a list of organizations in your area that provide them. You pick whichever one you want to attend or participate. When it's the participant's option to participate in your program, then that is voluntary, even if it's related to a court mandated participation requirement.

So, the next two bullets on this page, entrance conference and planning period, are pretty straightforward, so I won't need to elaborate beyond. Just make sure that you read and understand what's being required under each of those. And for the last bullet, that information is going to be provided in a separate webinar. So, here, and in the FOA, there is the link to where you can find the scheduled dates and times for those other webinars. Next slide.

So, we covered the high points of section one, and now we want to move to section two, federal award information. Here it's a reminder that this is a five-year, 60-month, project period, depending upon availability of funds through congressional appropriation, and as you know, these funds are being competed this year. But for years two to five, funds will be awarded through a non-competitive continuation process. And if you happen to be successful in this competition and wind up being a grantee, then you'll learn all you need to know about non-competitive continuation at that time. We don't have to discuss that now.

## Transcript of the Responsible Fatherhood FIRE Webinar

So, generally, there are three criteria for continued funding. It's the availability of funds, achieving program goals and objectives, and the third is that it is determined by the federal agency to be in the best interest of the government to do so. So, when you're doing your budget, please pay attention to the point that your funding will not exceed the amount awarded in the first year. That's this competitive year. So, whatever amount you establish in the budget for year one is the amount that you will receive each year, assuming you meet the three-fold criteria that I just talked about a minute ago.

So, if your funding request is a large scope, at a million dollars per year, it will remain at that level for all five years if awarded. I also want to touch on disqualification factors, and it is very important to note that you must, of course, pay attention to all disqualification factors and not just those mentioned here. But these are extremely important. So, the first is award ceiling disqualification, that's still under Section 2. So, for this FOA, if you submit a request for funds that is above the annual budget period award limit or the ceiling, which is for Fatherhood FIRE is \$1.5 million per year, your application will be disqualified from the competitive review and from funding under this announcement. In other words, it will be screened out and not available for review, nor available for funding.

Similarly, for the award floor disqualification, under this FOA, if you submit a request for funds that falls below the \$500,000-per-year award floor, your application will be deemed nonresponsive and will not be considered for competitive review of funds or funding under this announcement. So, I'm going to say that again. Whether you're above the ceiling or below the floor, in either case, your application will be deemed non-responsive and you will not be considered for the grant review. It will not be included in the grant review, and you will not be able to receive funding under this announcement. Now, there is an additional disqualification factor that I want to bring to your attention, but we're going to talk about that when we get to Section 3.3. So, next slide.

Local evaluation costs, so certain cost allocation requirements will apply, depending upon the amount of funds that you are requesting. So, if you're proposing a large-scope project; that is, requesting \$1 million to \$1.5 million a year, you are required to propose to conduct a rigorous impact evaluation, and you'll submit that evaluation proposal with your application for post-award review and approval. So, additionally, you're required to allocate 15 to 20 percent of your total budget per year for evaluation, and that is for, again, large-scope projects, \$1 million to \$1.5 million.

So, if you propose a moderate-scope project, requesting \$750,000 to \$999,999, then local evaluation is optional, and you have two options. So, first, if you choose to conduct an impact evaluation, if you choose to conduct an impact evaluation under moderate scope, then you must allocate the 15 to 20 percent per year. That's just like the large scope. Or if you choose to conduct a descriptive evaluation, then you must allocate five to ten percent per year for evaluation under the moderate scope. And, finally, if you propose a smaller scope project, that is, requesting funding between \$500,000 and \$749,000 per year, then you can only propose a descriptive evaluation if you choose to propose one at all, you can only propose a descriptive evaluation and must allocate 5 to 10 percent per year. So, just a reminder that for those that are required or that choose to conduct a local evaluation, you must submit that proposed evaluation with your application for post-award review and approval. Next slide.

Okay, on to Section 3.1 eligible applicants. Now, this is distinctive from what we heard from Seth in Section one. That was about participants' eligibility in your program. This is about you, those of you who are on the phone who are interested in or intend to apply. So, if you're interested in applying, which I assume you are, because otherwise, you probably wouldn't be on this webinar, we encourage you to pay particular attention to this section on the FOA. There are some nuances that they're elaborations.

And so, there are two categories of eligible applicants under this FOA. The first is public or governance entities, so those are states, they're territories, Native American Tribes and Tribal Organizations. You're considered under a public entity, or you are eligible to apply if you are a public or non-profit community entity, public or non-profit community entity. Sometimes that includes faith-based organizations and public or private non-profit institutions of higher education, or commonly referred to as colleges and universities. So, I want to say that again, public or non-profit community entities include FBOs and public or private

## Transcript of the Responsible Fatherhood FIRE Webinar

nonprofits, private nonprofit colleges and universities. I want to emphasize here that for-profit entities, including any for-profit colleges or universities -- they're out there -- for-profit entities are not eligible to apply at all or to receive funding under this FOA. So, if you are a for-profit entity, this FOA is not for you.

So, we've included some eligibility definitions in this FOA that would be helpful, and we think it would be helpful to go over these here. So, for public institutions of higher education, for example, these are state colleges and universities, including community colleges. They're tribal or territorial colleges and universities or some land grant colleges and universities, and by land grant, I mean some historically black colleges and universities or HBCUs are considered public institutions of higher education.

We've also defined for you what we mean by public or private non-profit community entities, and, again, these include the private non-profit colleges and universities. So, what are examples of those, examples of private and non-profit institutions of higher education? These could be private religious-based colleges and universities. For example, maybe Brigham Young University or Baylor or Catholic University of America here in Washington D.C. And a private non-profit institution of higher education can be one of the big ones; right, even the very large private nonprofit colleges and universities like Georgetown or Duke or Harvard. They are private nonprofit colleges and universities. They are eligible to apply under the community entity category.

And, additionally, there are some HBCUs that are also private nonprofit colleges and universities. Before, you know, I said that there are some that were under the public category, but there are also some that are private nonprofit colleges and universities, like Wilberforce University or Fisk University. So, finally, be sure to review and make sure you understand the requirements regarding accreditation for institutions of higher education. Next slide.

And just when you think you've seen the last of eligibility requirements, wait, there's more. There's additional documentation. I'd encourage you to pay attention to that. In the interest of time, I want to be sure to get to allow Tanya Howell to go through the Section 4.2 and get to the criteria. But, so next slide.

The only thing that I want to point out here is that with Section 3.2 there is no cost-sharing or matching requirement. Sometimes applicants say we're going to include matching funds, and they want to do it anyway. We just want you to know that if you do, it becomes a part of your project scope and we're going to hold you to that commitment, so consider it wisely.

And then the last thing from me at this time is that other disqualification factor, and you'll find it under Section 3.3. As we mentioned in the FOA, Fatherhood FIRE is for adults, so applications must be designed for adult fathers age 18 or older. If an applicant submits projects designed to include minors, that's age 17 or younger, they will be deemed nonresponsive and not considered for competitive review or for funding under this announcement. So, if you are interested in providing parenting education or skills for fathers who are minors, then you may want to look at the ready for life FOA. But that's it for me now. I'm going to hand things over to Tanya, who will walk you through submission requirements and other FOA components.

Great. Thank you, Robin. Okay, as Robin said, I'm Tanya Howell. I am one of seven FPSs, or FPS in the Office of Family Assistance. So, now let's move to Section 4.2. Section 4.2 starts with content and forms of application, and so that starts on page 31. This section outlines the required forms, assurances, and certifications. Also, it gives you specific guidelines on proposal submission covering the two-file requirement and page limitations. So, let's talk about two-file requirement quickly. The two-file requirement should include one file titled "Project description," and the second file will be titled "Appendices."

Page limitation, the total number of pages combined with project description, file one, project description, and the second file, appendices, combined total at a hundred pages. Additional pages will be removed from review, so it is very critical that you -- if there's information that you may want to provide for the reviewers, to make sure that it does not exceed 100 pages. If those pages are removed, we could miss critical information and you will end up receiving a lower score. Note that all standard forms listed in the

## Transcript of the Responsible Fatherhood FIRE Webinar

table, forms and assurances, certifications, will not count against the required page limit, so, please make sure you follow the file name, titling, and page-limit guidelines. Next slide.

So, remember, please, reviewers will be assessing your proposal against published criteria, and the criteria section is in Section 5.1 on page 73 or closest to page 73. I think our pages may be a little different, but 73 should be the page in the Fatherhood FIRE FOA. Following, make sure that you are consistent with the file naming and titling to make it easy for the reviewers to find and assess and score your application. Again, make sure to include all standard forms listed in the table, and the table can be found on page 37 through 39, and those forms are forms such as the lobbying activities, the SF-424, and you'll see that, again, on page 37 to 39, all of the forms. Next slide.

In addition to what Robin covered, this is additional information on additional eligibility documentation. I think the key things to remember in this section is to make sure that you provide written statements or documentation as outlined on page 41 to 42. Please make sure that you include written statements or documentations as outlined in those pages 41 to 42. Next slide.

Okay, so let's move to Section 4.2, project description. So, now this section provides the majority of information that your application will be evaluated and ranked. Make sure you address all activities and application requirements. As you begin preparing your proposals, carefully consider items referenced in Section 1 and the evaluation criteria in Section 5.1. Note that all headings under the project description is a separate component and must be addressed, so, please, read this section carefully.

So, we put up some words, terminology, that we just kind of want to emphasize, and that is, when you see language that says "must," must means must. If the language says "must include" or "describe," "discuss," that means, again, that that information is required. Language that says "must include but is not limited to," again, that information is required, however, the applicant can add other, you can add other information. Language that mentions "must describe, include one or more," we are asking, again, it's required, but only one item may be required, and so you may see this language around the program activities, where, under each of the three broad categories, there are elements or activities under each of those categories, and so we are asking that programs include one or more of those activities in your program model, and so, again, at least including one of those activities would be acceptable.

Where X is included, proposed, again, that's optional or, rather, I'm sorry, that's optional language, and that is up to the applicant's discretion. That's up to you if you decide to propose anything in that section, or anything related to that language. Then, if there's language that may also propose, again, that's optional, and it's the applicant's discretion. Next slide.

The approach: Okay, so the approach is on page 43, or should be close to page 43. Make sure that you include plan of action, and that will describe your scope and detail of your proposed project. Make sure that it accounts for all functions or activities identified in the application. Now, unless specified, remember that all components under approach are required, again, unless specified. The approach for each year must be designed for each year of the five-year project period. Also, you must identify and propose strategies designed to address potential obstacles and challenges. Next slide.

Again, in the approach section listed are all of the subheadings that are part of this section. Make sure you address them since that they are all aligned with the evaluation criteria, and use these headings so that the reviewers are clear that they have been addressed. And as you see, they are all listed here. I won't go through each one of them, but please make sure that you address each of these subheadings. Next slide.

Oh, I'm sorry. Okay, so I need to turn this over to Robin. She's going to discuss with you the statutory requirements.

Okay, I am back. A glitch there. So, because we covered that generally, this was just a repeat slide, I think what we can go ahead and do is have Tanya continue with the next slide, which is to address the curricula section under Section 4.2..

## Transcript of the Responsible Fatherhood FIRE Webinar

So, please refer to Section 1 in the curricula to make sure you include those additional components that were covered earlier by Seth. Some of the highlights of this section is just to make sure you include a description of your evidence-based or evidence-informed curriculum, identify skill-based curriculum you plan to use, and that's any curriculum, any skill-based curriculum you plan to use, even outside of your primary curriculum. Include your justification for selecting that curriculum, how it aligns with the target population, and the overall program model.

If you make any adaptations to your curriculum, please address that. Address the proposed adaptations, the rationale for the adaptations, and provide a written approval from the curriculum developer, or you can state in writing that written approval will be sought post-award.

So, now I'll turn the next slide over to Seth. He's going to talk about program participation targets.

Fantastic. Thanks so much, Tanya. All right, so we have gotten to slide 38, and we are rounding the corner. We know this is a lot of information. We know this is a very long funding opportunity announcement, but we mean every word of it, and every word of it does matter. We talked about program participation targets before, but I want to talk about what is required in your application, so what specifically is required in your application. So, applicants will need to clearly identify their program participation targets. And as I discussed earlier, you should make yourselves familiar with a few terms; what is a workshop, a structured set of classes focused on specific topic related to the FOA; a primary workshop is a curriculum-based workshop that all participants are expected to attend and ultimately complete; a sufficiently intensive workshop will meet those four criteria we talked about before, the most notable being that the primary workshop or set of workshops are 24 hours long, at least, and less intensive projects must provide strong justification, and program completion is defined as completion of at least 90 percent of programming.

So, let's talk about what will be required in your application. So, applicants are required to identify target numbers of participants for each full project year, as well as for the second half of year one, because year one, the first six months is a planning period, the second six months is implementation. So, applicants are required to identify the target number of clients that will enroll, that will complete at least one primary workshop, that will complete at least 50 percent of primary workshops, that will complete at least 90 percent of primary workshops, and that will complete 100 percent of primary workshops. And applicants must submit a table with these targets as part of their application. Let me say that again. Applicants must submit a table with these targets as part of their applications. Appendix Section (b) has a table shell that can be used or considered when you develop your table.

So, this 90 percent-level is key. You are required to identify how many clients you will serve who will receive at least 90 percent of primary programming. So, I gave two examples earlier of how many clients would need to be proposed to be served at 90 percent. But let's extend this. Now that we know that applicants are required to identify target numbers of clients that will enroll, complete at least one primary workshop, complete at least 50 percent of primary workshops, complete at least 90 percent of primary workshops, and will complete 100 percent of primary workshops.

So, let's imagine that we're applying for smaller scope services, and in year two, we think we can serve 200 fathers with 90 percent of primary workshops. So, if I take my table shell, I need to think how many fathers should we enroll in order to hit that number of 200 fathers to receive 90 percent of primary workshops. So, you'll need to consider your population, your service approach, your experience with your community to identify the right target. So, perhaps for year two, you'll calculate that you'll need to enroll 400 fathers, and that 300 of those fathers that you enrolled will attend at least one primary workshop, 250 fathers will complete at least 50 percent of primary workshops, and 200 will complete at least 90 percent of primary workshops. You can then estimate that 180 will complete 100 percent of primary workshops.

Let's take another example. Imagine that we're applying for large-scope services, and in year three, we think we can serve 400 fathers with 90 percent of primary workshops. So, we now need to think, how many fathers should we enroll in order to hit that number of 400 fathers receiving 90 percent of primary

## Transcript of the Responsible Fatherhood FIRE Webinar

workshops. You'll need to consider your population, your service approach, your experience with your community to identify the right targets. Perhaps you'll calculate that for year three, you'll need to enroll 600 fathers, then 500 of those fathers will attend at least one primary workshop, 450 will complete at least 50 percent of primary workshops, and 400 will complete at least 90 percent of primary workshops. You could then estimate that 375 will complete 100 percent of primary workshops.

So, two final notes about the table that you will submit. This table will be key in reviewing your application. In the evaluation criteria there is a criterion which states, the applicant presents a clear summation of primary workshop participation hours and a complete table or tables outlining program participation targets, and the applicant's table or tables includes and clearly identifies the proposed number of clients who will complete at least 90 percent of primary workshops that aligns with the program participation target. And the second, the last note, funded organizations must serve the numbers of clients proposed in their applications. So, you will be held to the numbers that are in these tables. All right, with that being said, I'm going to hand it back to Tanya.

All right, thank you, Seth. Okay, so let's talk about large-scope services. Those applicants that are requesting \$1 million to \$1.5 million, you have three options. You can propose to serve large numbers of clients. If that is you, then you must provide a justification, including cost per client summary and explain how you can feasibly recruit the expected number of clients.

Option two, you can propose to provide high-intensity services, where an applicant will describe all of the services, all of those intensity services that you will provide, and how they will be provided by the fiscal agencies or by the partner organization or both. And so, I'm sorry, let me read that again. Option two is if an applicant proposes to provide high-intensity services, where the applicant will describe all of the services and how they will be provided by the fiscal agency or the partner organization or both.

The third option is that applicants can propose to serve and provide both large numbers and high-intensive services. If you select to do option three, make sure that you provide significant justification that includes the need for the large scope of services in that community and the capacity to provide those intensive services. Next slide.

Partnerships: So, here is just a little more additional information from what Seth covered earlier around partnerships. Partnerships including MOUs require applicants must describe the partnerships they will have with federal, state, or local, tribal and/or community-based collaborations. Each partner must specify whether it is a source of recruitment or program participants, and an implementer of programming itself, and/or will be used as a referral agency for services needed but not available through the program. Applicants must include a fine performance-based MOU between the applicant and each partner agency, and for programs that include services to incarcerated and reentering adults, applicants must document partnerships with state, county, and local criminal justice agencies.

I will turn it over to Seth so that he can talk more about organizational capacity.

Organizational capacity, you know, I'm wondering if folks feel like, oh, my goodness, I don't have the capacity to attend this webinar anymore. But I promise, we're not going to go that much further past the half hour. We are rounding the corner. And everything we are discussing is super important, so please bear with us. So, applicants are required to submit evidence of demonstrated capacity to implement large or moderate or smaller scope services per their requested funding. So, to discuss this, I suggest looking at two places in your FOAs. First, Appendix D on pages 95 to 96 has a summary table outlining the standards for organizational capacity. Then, pages 49 to 53 have the exact details on these standards. Organizational capacity for large-scope services is the most detailed, so I'll spend a good deal of time describing this.

Applicants requesting funding from a million to \$1.5 million must submit three pieces of evidence. First, applicants must describe their operational budgets, at least \$900,000 per year for the two most recent years. Second, applicants must describe their past service provision, so there are A, B, and C components that applicants must address under this second piece of evidence. A, applicants must

## Transcript of the Responsible Fatherhood FIRE Webinar

describe relevant experience and expertise implementing Marriage or Fatherhood programming; that is, the activities in the authorizing legislation, for at least four of the last five years; B, applicants must describe how the target number of programming hours previously or currently provided meets or exceeds the standard outlined in the curricula section, that is 24 hours or more primary program workshops. In cases where existing programming does not meet the specified standard level, applicants must describe that they have the capacity to meet this standard. C, applicants must describe the numbers of clients served.

Now, the standard for past organizational capacity is different than what will be required to be served under this funding opportunity announcement. Applicants at this large-scope level must demonstrate that they have enrolled and served at least 100 individuals or 50 couples who completed at least 50 percent of primary workshops for each of the two most recent years. Again, this standard for organizational capacity, what an organization has done in the past, is different from what organizations will be expected to do under this FOA if they are awarded funding.

So, I talked about, first, they have to describe their operational budgets; second, they have to describe their past service provision; and, third, these applicants must also describe their evaluation capacity. So, this is different for applicants requesting funding at the lower end of the range versus those at the upper end. For those requesting \$1 million to \$1,249,999, applicants must either describe past success of evaluation -- this evaluation does not necessarily need to have been an impact evaluation -- or they must describe how the proposed approach to evaluation will lead to a strong impact evaluation. For those requesting \$1.25 million to \$1.5 million, applicants must describe their involvement with a successfully planned and implemented impact evaluation.

Organizational capacity for moderate-scope services is also detailed. Applicants requesting funding from \$750,000 to \$999,999 must submit two to three pieces of evidence. First, applicants must describe their operational budgets, at least \$500,000 per year for the two most recent years. Second, applicants must describe their past service provision. There are three components that applicants must address, again, in A, B, and C, but they're not exactly the same as what was in large-scope services. So, A, applicants must describe relevant experience or expertise implementing Marriage or Fatherhood programming that is or is similar in content and implementation to the activities in the authorizing legislation for at least two of the last three years. That's different than what's required for large scope -- for organizational capacity evidence for large scope.

So, under past service provision, letter B, applicants must describe how the target number of programming hours previously or currently provided meets or exceeds the standard outlined in the curriculum section. In this case 24 hours or more primary program workshops. In cases where existing programming does not meet the specified standard level, applicants must describe they have the capacity to meet the standard. C, applicants must describe the number of clients served.

Again, the standard for past organizational capacity is different than what will be required to be served under this funding opportunity announcement. Applicants must demonstrate that they have enrolled and served at least 50 individuals or 25 couples who have completed at least 50 percent of primary workshops for each of the two most recent years. Again, the standard for organizational capacity, what an organization has done in the past, is different from what organizations will be expected to do under this funding opportunity announcement if they are awarded funding.

With regard to evaluation capacity, so, again, for moderate-scope services, applicants must submit two to three pieces of evidence. The first is operational budget. The second is past service provision. The third is evaluation capacity. But the FOA only states that applicants proposing impact evaluations must either describe past success with evaluation. This evaluation does not necessarily need to have been an impact evaluation, or must describe how the proposed approach to evaluation will lead to a strong impact evaluation.

So, applicants requesting funding from half a million dollars to \$749,999 must submit evidence of demonstrated capacity to implement smaller-scope services. They must submit two pieces of evidence.

## Transcript of the Responsible Fatherhood FIRE Webinar

First, applicants must describe their operational budgets, at least \$100,000 per year for the two most recent years; and, second, applicants must describe either their past service provision was family-focused marriage or fatherhood programming, or for those applicants without related past service provision experience, a description of their current capacity. So, to be clear, for applicants with experience with family-focused Marriage or Fatherhood programming, those applicants must, A, describe their relevant experience, and, B, describe how they have the capacity to provide services at the standard outlined in the FOA, in this case 24 hours, or more primary program workshops. But for those without this experience, applicants must provide a clear and feasible description of how the applicant organization has the current capacity to provide services at the standard level specified that is 24 hours or more.

Last thing on this slide is just a note that's been mentioned before. There will be separate webinars that will cover the program performance evaluation plan and the funded activities evaluation plan sections of 4.2. So, check out HMRF grant resources for info and times and dates. And with that, I will hand it back to Tanya.

Okay, thank you, Seth. So, we're in the home stretch here, so we'll start with project budget and budget justification, and so there's only one budget requirement. And as you see, those five requirements are listed on the slide. Please make sure that your budget reflects these five points. One of the things I'll just mention is that, please, that you must be clear. Please avoid using miscellaneous, and make sure that you outline your budget for each year of the five-year project period. Also, you must make sure that you submit the budget and budget justification in file one, the file one that is named "Project Description." Next slide.

Okay, so now we're in funding restrictions. One of the things I want to talk about or highlight here is costs that cannot be applied to the grant. And those two specific things are cost incurred preparing for this grant application, those costs cannot be applied to this grant, as well as local evaluation costs for programs less than one million. Linkages to services that are not fundable under this FOA, please refer to page 71. These are in addition to what was outlined under use of funds, things like legal assistance, attorneys to represent participants, or criminal record expungement, paying for health care, mental health treatment, child support payments, rent, or housing subsidies, and substance abuse treatment. We encourage you to partner with organizations that have access to these services.

Make sure you review the section on construction, alteration, and renovation, and finally, non-supplanting. Please make sure you submit an assurance or certification that you the applicant will not supplant other federal, state, or local funding; for example, using OFA funds to pay for a participant's past due electricity bill. That is an unallowable cost because there is federal funding provided to assist families that are in need of assistance through the LIHEAP program. Next slide.

Okay. So, now we're in Section 5.1, the criteria, and listed, you will see the overarching criteria that will be listed in that section. That should be page 73. One of the things I just want to highlight here is that, again, the reviewers will evaluate and score an application based on the documentations presented in the application. They will not and they cannot refer to or access external links or other documents during the review, they will only be able to use published criteria. They will not be able to look at materials that are not a part of this FOA. No websites or hyperlinks. They will not have access to that, so I just want to reiterate that information to you. Next slide.

Okay. The criteria, so the first criteria would be project approach. Project approach, all sub-criteria will apply to all applicants, and those are listed here, as you see. Let me direct your attention to the last two bullets, service to incarcerated fathers and to job-driven employment services. Both will apply to applicants who choose. They are optional. This is for applicants who choose to provide these services. If you take a moment and look with me on page 75, it may be 75-76 or 76-77, up under the criteria of project approach, there are two bold paragraphs, one that starts with "Applicants that propose to provide services to incarcerated fathers." And at the end of that paragraph, it says that the maximum points under project approach, if optional, if proposed, will remain at 30 points. That is an error. That should say "Remain at 35 points."

## Transcript of the Responsible Fatherhood FIRE Webinar

The same is true for the next highlighted or bold paragraph, which talks about job-driven employment services. That last sentence states, again, that the option proposed will remain at 30 points. Again, that is an error and should say 35 points. These two also are options, again, and you will not lose points if you do not choose these options. The points will remain at 35 points.

Next, organizational capacity: Note, description and verification of organization's past service provision of partner organization, that will apply, so you must make sure that you cover that, and the section on project management and staffing will apply to all. Next slide.

Please note the next criteria, performance measurement and CQI, again all of those apply to all applicants. The local evaluation criteria only applies to applicants who are awarded \$1 million to \$1.5 million, and those, again, who choose to conduct a local evaluation based on funding requests.

Next, criteria budget and budget justification: The first sub-criteria applies to all applicants, but the second criteria only applies to applicants conducting local evaluation. Finally, bonus points, these points are not subject to peer review, so the peer reviewers will not allocate the points in this section. This only applies to previous Responsible Fatherhood grantees, those that are currently funded under ReFORM or New Pathways to Fatherhood and Families, and eligibility will be assessed in the post-review by OFA.

So, lastly, we just want to identify on our next slide that there are additional resources. Also, if you have additional questions, I know we did not cover other information, but if you have additional questions, please don't hesitate to contact me or Bridget Shea Westfall. Also, just make sure that you stay abreast of the webinar schedule and updates, and the links are provided. I'll turn it over to Seth if you'd like to close out, or Robin, please do.

Sure thing. So, Robin, I don't know if you want to close out, but we appreciate everyone's attendance and perseverance. We only went ten minutes over and it is a thick, thick funding opportunity announcement. But we are encouraged. We think that the applications we will receive will be high quality, and, together, we look forward to working with funded applicants to support fathers in order to build stronger families. Thanks everyone. I'll turn it back over to Mathematica to close us out.