

DECEMBER 1 GRANT SEEKER Q&A
Updated December 16, 2021

Questions:

1. Workforce development is a priority for our agency and sometimes difficult in Nassau county. Could we use unrestricted funds for this purpose?
 - Workforce is a clearly a key restorative opportunity for grant seeking, from using dollars to increase compensation, offer benefits, re-hire, and not have to furlough.
 - We have been very specific that the grants are for core mission funding. If awarded a grant, how that funding appears on your financial statement is a conversation between you and your accounting firm and/or your Board.
2. Can we combine uses: i.e.: purchase a pick-up truck for our food programs and continue supporting a current program?
 - Yes, the budget template is set up to allow for more than one funding use. While we are not saying “no” to program funding, we encourage you to consider seeking grant funding for pandemic specific challenges (which does not exclude programs) that may not be met by other funding programs.
3. What are the requirements to show usage of grant funds by women/girls? Is that a condition (*only* women/girls)?
 - As a prior grantee supporting women/girls in NEFL, you are eligible to apply for this core mission funding initiative. We do ask in the Abstract to identify ***how this funding will help you support women/girls going forward***; funding is not limited to supporting ***only*** women and girls.
4. Can you give some examples of “capacity recovery of operational needs”?
 - We understand a number of non-profits shifted resources and dollars from one part of their operation to another because of the pandemic. This funding would support re-awakening the part of the operation that lost resources. We also understand some maintenance was deferred during this time, and non-profit capacity may have shrunk as a result. Some of the grantees reported a three- and four-fold increase in requests for support. Not all operational needs may have been met with this increase. If you define your core mission, and your funding needs, you will be able to identify capacity recovery for us.
5. What is the timing of the award? We have a matching grant opportunity and I want to see if the dates align.
 - Grant finalists will be announced and ratified at the Member Forum on May 18. Grant awards will be made on July 1, 2022, and run to June 30, 2023.
6. The matching grant is for prevention which we define as the means of keeping mothers and their children housed. This could be paying rent, utilities, late fees, car repairs, or other expenses creating a risk of homelessness for mothers. Would this be an acceptable expense?
 - Per your explanation, this would fall under the third part of our definition: Delivery of initiatives to support client recovery from the pandemic.
7. What are the reporting expectations? Do they differ from the other grants?

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- There is one report, a final report, due by June 30, 2023. The final report will leverage the abstract submitted as part of your application and you will be asked to update it with the actual outcome.
 - During the course of the grant, WGA Evaluation Team will leverage our Listen & Learn portion of this initiative to learn as we go how the grant is working and what we can do to be better grant makers. The Evaluation Team will not require a report, nor will they be assessing your progress; however, we ask your patience in teaching how things are going.
 - We may request a report (such as a Board report) that you already produce to better understand how to leverage existing reports relevant to your operation.
8. I want to verify that offering health insurance to existing staff as a means of staff retention is an allowable expense. If yes, do we need to discuss turnover rates?
- Offering health insurance is a viable funding request for workforce support. Including challenges to staffing, including turnover, would help identify the need for core mission funding.
9. If we want to start a program with the goal of creating greater stability for women and providing stipends for participation, is a new program and those expenses allowable? Stipends might be childcare, transportation, or gift cards for participating. We are seeing employers wanting experienced workers and also a need for sound fiscal habits.
- We will be “cautious” around the implementation of a new program during this initiative; however, the expenses referenced above are part of your existing core mission and programs.
10. If we’ve already received a grant for a specific program, and the grant hasn’t covered all of the program costs, is it appropriate for this grant to cover some of those incremental costs?
- If the program is part of your core mission, this grant may cover the incremental costs. We’d like the story as to how the pandemic may have caused some of the shortfall.
11. If we are considering offering benefits in order to prevent staffing turnover, can it be for the entire organization or only for the staff currently funded through our 2021-23 grant?
- Using WGA Core mission funding for benefits to enable non-profit staff retention would be a viable funding request.
12. One impact of COVID has been on the sharp reduction in volunteer hours (due to social distancing). We know the approximate number of volunteer hours lost and, in the long term, are trying to translate those hours into donor dollars (needed). If we quantify the value of the volunteer hours lost, could we translate that into long term impact of COVID?
- We suggest you focus on COVID impact to date rather than trying to forecast long term impact; however, if the value of the lost volunteer hours to date is part of your ask, please include that information in your application.

NOTE: 2022 GRANT APPLICATIONS ARE DUE NO LATER THAN 5:00 PM ON MONDAY JANUARY 10.

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