

Questions for AL COSSAP project

1. There are two versions of the RFP included in the solicitation materials (both with the same solicitation number): one released in July 2022 and due in August 2022 and the other released in Sept 2022 and due in Oct 2022. How should vendors use the July RFP in guiding their response to the Sept 2022 RFP?

Response: Please rely on the September 2022 RFP.

2. The RFP appears to be for a third-party evaluator (TPE) for the COSSAP program, but some information included in the RFP (e.g., the Document Description and pages 15-18 in the RFP) refers to the COSMOSS program. Can you please confirm RFP 043 22000000005 seeks a TPE for the COSSAP program? Should we ignore information in the RFP that refers to the COSMOSS grant? Is there any additional information about the COSSAP program, rather than the COSMOSS program, that should have been included in the RFP?

Response: Yes, this was an error. Please ignore COSMOSS information. A corrected version will be sent to any vendor who contacts us requesting one.

3. B.2. states, "The CDR provides research reports and current data from various statewide agencies regarding the drug use epidemic." Can you describe the "current data" that are or will be contained in the CDR? Specifically, will the CDR contain disaggregated data that the TPE can link to data from COSSAP participants?

Response: The other data that would possibly be available varies depending on the participating agency and a request to use and link those data must be made and approved by each agency. It would be difficult to be more specific at this point since we have not executed an MOU with the CDR yet.

4. How do the CDR and data tracking plan (D.3) relate to each other? Will there be data collected beyond that which is collected and managed by the CDR?

Response: Yes, we will collect data internally on are metrics needed for evaluate COSSAP.

5. B.3. states "ABPP... will establish an infrastructure to enable offenders to communicate with nurses, physicians, certified treatment providers, mentors, instructors, and other individuals as needed." Can you explain what you mean by "infrastructure?" Do you anticipate offenders will receive services 1) at established centers where services are located, 2) from a network of providers located throughout each county, or 3) in different ways, based on the county?

Response: All of the above. Grant sites with onsite treatment providers, Day Reporting Centers, may provide treatment and services on site. The nurse will coordinate with treatment staff.

At grant sites with a Day Reporting Center LITE the social service case worker at each site will coordinate treatment referrals and at the two sites with no DRC programming a specialist from the field office will coordinate services. ROSS & PIER mentors will be available at each grant site to assist with transportation, support and some programming.

6. Will the COSSAP program serve all types of offenders (as defined in B. 1.), or will the program serve a subset of offenders (e.g., only probationers, only parolees)?

Response: Parole and split sentence probationers. A period of incarceration is required

7. B.6. asks that the TPE design an outcome study. What are your outcomes of interest (e.g., reduced recidivism, reduced substance misuse/abuse, improved mental health)? B.4. references "several pre-selected outcome measures," what are the pre-selected outcome measures?

Response: There are no preselected outcome measures other than recidivism and reduced substance use. The TPE would assist in developing other appropriate measures as part of their research design.

8. D.5. indicates the vendor should "engage in ongoing communication with the University of Alabama on the development and maintenance of the current Central Depository Registry (CDR)". Will the TPE have access to CDR data? Do you anticipate that the TPE will need to execute a formal MOU or data sharing agreement with the University of Alabama to access CDR?

Response: Yes the TPE will have access to the CDR and will aid in developing ways to analyze the data that is shared with them. No independent MOU is needed.

9. D.2. indicates APPB anticipates a minimum of 300 offender participants. To date, has the COSSAP program enrolled any participants? If yes, when were the first participants enrolled and how many are currently enrolled?

Response: Currently there are no participants.

10. E.4.j. In the budget, how would you like us to cover indirect expenses? Would you like them to be their own line item, included under operating expenses, or included in the cost of other line items?

Response: Please include under operating expenses.

11. D.3 mentions a needs assessment. What do you want to understand better after conducting the needs assessment? Are you interested in the needs of the participants, available (and unavailable) community resources, identifying data needs, or something else?

Response: Yes. We are also interested in comparing the original assessment to a rescent at the completion of the program to determine the effectiveness of the grant deliverables.

12. D.4 asks for “practitioner-friendly interim reports.” How often would you like these reports (e.g., monthly, quarterly)?

Response: Quarterly

13. D.5 requests “monthly reports,” How do the monthly reports differ from the interim reports (D.4)? Monthly reports will be needed more towards the end of the project and will share summary stats derived from the data. The interim reports will be needed to assess the progress of the project and address any barriers or trends that are present.

14. Is this program voluntary for participants?

Response: No, they will be enrolled per assessed need.

15. D.2. states asks that the TPE “compare data from participants to the overall recidivism baseline...” How does APPB define recidivism? When evaluating justice-system interventions, recidivism is often measured at 1-, 3-, and 5-year intervals, post intervention. Will there be enough data to do this, or should the TPE plan for shorter intervals?

Response: There will not be enough time to compare to ABPP 3 year recidivism rate but we do have data on shorter time frames and can look at providing a baseline for the 6, 12 and 18 month marks.

16. Can you explain what you mean by “overall recidivism baseline?” Do you want to compare data about participants to previously calculated recidivism rates, compare participants to offenders who did not participate in the COSSAP program, or something else?

Response: Compare to previously calculated recidivism rates for like risk offenders.

17. Could you provide an updated URL for (k) Attachments (page 9 of the RFP)? The link is broken.

Response: We continue to work on this issue and will replace the link as soon as possible. However, until that time, please use: <https://paroles.alabama.gov/resources/requests-for-proposal/>

