**STATE OF MAINE REQUEST FOR APPLICATIONS**

**RFA SUBMITTED QUESTIONS & ANSWERS SUMMARY**

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| **RFA NUMBER AND TITLE:** | 202306131 - A Future for ME - Transition Regional Interagency Collaborative Grant |
| **RFA ISSUED BY:** | Department of Education |
| **SUBMITTED QUESTIONS DUE DATE:** | 06/30/2023, no later than 11:59 p.m., local time |
| **QUESTION & ANSWER SUMMARY ISSUED:** | 07/19/2023 |
| **PROPOSAL DUE DATE:** | 07/26/2023, no later than 11:59 p.m., local time |
| **PROPOSALS DUE TO:** | [Proposals@maine.gov](mailto:Proposals@maine.gov) |

**Provided below are submitted written questions received and the Department’s answer.**

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| **1** | **RFA Section & Page Number** | **Question** |
| Activities and Requirements, Section A, pg. 9 | Will the purchase of the van be considered for the purpose of the grant? |
| **Answer** | |
|  | ARP-ESSER funds may be used to purchase and support the operation of vehicles to transport students with disabilities **if** it is reasonable, necessary, and there is a clear justification for how it responds to the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic.  The SAU should be able to demonstrate that the purchase of the vehicle would be more efficient and cost less overall than other means of transportation available. For example, if the SAU already has a vehicle that it could use to transport students to their school of origin or a less expensive means to transport the students (e.g., leasing a vehicle or using a private vehicle and reimbursing for the cost of transportation), it would not be reasonable and necessary to use ARP- ESSER funds to purchase a vehicle. If, however, the SAU determines that the cost of a vehicle, including related expenses such as fuel and insurance, is less than the cost of alternative means of transportation, the purchase may be considered reasonable and necessary given the circumstances.  In addition, there are certain federal requirements related to this type of expense.  - Cost comparisons should be conducted. - A vehicle purchased with ARP-ESSER funds could only be used to serve students with disabilities and *cannot be used for any other purpose as long as the SAU owns the vehicle*. To dispose or sell of the vehicle when it is no longer needed, the SAU is to request disposition instructions from DOE’s Office of Federal Emergency Relief Programs (OFERP).  - If a SAU wishes to purchase a vehicle with this funding, the SAU must receive prior written approval from the Maine DOE. An approved subaward agreement would suffice as prior approval. See [eCFR :: 2 CFR 200.439 -- Equipment and other capital expenditures](file:///C:\Users\Natalie.Owens\Downloads\eCFR%20::%202%20CFR%20200.439%20--%20Equipment%20and%20other%20capital%20expenditures,%20https:\www.ecfr.gov\current\title-2\subtitle-A\chapter-II\part-200\subpart-E\subject-group-ECFRed1f39f9b3d4e72\section-200.439).   * The Agency Uniform Guidance in the RFA details the federal procurement procedures that are to be followed for this grant. FMI: [eCFR :2 CFR Part 200 -- Uniform Administrative Requirements, Cost Principles, and Audit Requirements for Federal Awards](https://www.ecfr.gov/current/title-2/subtitle-A/chapter-II/part-200?toc=1) | |

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| **2** | **RFA Section & Page Number** | **Question** |
| Activities and Requirements, Section A, pg. 9 | Will part of the grant amount be allowed to be destined to cover the cost of the van maintenance for the first two years? |
| **Answer** | |
| No, only expenses incurred through 08/31/2024 will be eligible for reimbursement. | |

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| **3** | **RFA Section & Page Number** | **Question** |
| Details and Instructions, Section C, pg. 6 | Are SPPSs’ allowed to apply for this grant? |
| **Answer** | |
| No, SPPSs’ are not listed in the definition of SAU. SAU’s are the required lead applicant. However, SAU are strongly encouraged to partner with SPPSs’ in their district or regions. | |

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| **4** | **RFA Section & Page Number** | **Question** |
| Details and Instructions, Section C, pg. 6 | Can a Maine Educational Service Center apply for this grant? |
| **Answer** | |
| The application must be submitted by a lead entity (SAU) who must be a school administrative unit as defined under [20-A M.R.S. §8601-A (1))](https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=http%3A%2F%2Flegislature.maine.gov%2Fstatutes%2F20-A%2Ftitle20-Asec1.html&data=05%7C01%7Ctitus.orourke%40maine.gov%7Ca374d04391174579104408db78bd8aa9%7C413fa8ab207d4b629bcdea1a8f2f864e%7C0%7C0%7C638236527693591835%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=xIfhb9OouzoStF%2FZYu8cGbpb28igmU7Lbllw1AjcoHw%3D&reserved=0). Furthermore, the lead SAU’s superintendent signature is required on the application. | |

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| **5** | **RFA Section & Page Number** | **Question** |
| Details and Instructions, Section C, pg. 6 | Does this need to be a collaboration between districts or can it be a collaboration with one district and regional agencies? |
| **Answer** | |
| A collaboration between districts and regional SAUs, including regional agencies, are highly encouraged. | |

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| **6** | **RFA Section & Page Number** | **Question** |
| Details and Instructions, Section C, pg. 6 | Is this available to CTEs? |
| **Answer** | |
| CTE’s are encouraged to apply *in collaboration with* their sending SAUs. The application must be submitted by a lead entity (SAU) who must be a school administrative unit as defined under [20-A M.R.S. §8601-A (1))](https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=http%3A%2F%2Flegislature.maine.gov%2Fstatutes%2F20-A%2Ftitle20-Asec1.html&data=05%7C01%7Ctitus.orourke%40maine.gov%7Ca374d04391174579104408db78bd8aa9%7C413fa8ab207d4b629bcdea1a8f2f864e%7C0%7C0%7C638236527693591835%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=xIfhb9OouzoStF%2FZYu8cGbpb28igmU7Lbllw1AjcoHw%3D&reserved=0). | |