

Mission:

To protect, promote and improve the health of all people in Florida through integrated state, county and community efforts.



Ron DeSantis
Governor

Joseph A. Ladapo, MD, PhD
State Surgeon General

Vision: To be the Healthiest State in the Nation

Questions and Answers
RFA26-001
STATE SEXUAL RISK AVOIDANCE EDUCATION GRANT (SRAE)

DATE: October 19, 2026

TO: Applicants

FROM: Division of Community Health Promotion - Bureau of Family Health Services
Florida Department of Health

SUBJECT: Questions and Answers: RFA#26-001

Question #1. Would grant funds permit the following when incorporated into an approved SRAE program focused on goal setting, protective factors, and positive youth development?

1. ACT/SAT preparation workshops or examination fees
2. College application assistance or application fees
3. Career readiness workshops and leadership development activities
4. Educational supplies and materials provided to participants
5. Nonmonetary recognition items for successful program completion

Please identify which expenses are allowable under Section 3.7 and whether prior written approval would be required.

Department Response: The expenses listed do not fall under the general list of unallowable expenses referenced in Section 3.7, however, all expenses must directly support the approved project plan which must align with the grant purpose through deliverables. Items listed in the budget must match the project plan. Testing preparation workshops, examinations fees, college applications and associated fees will not be approved by the program office.

Question #2. Priority area: We have identified Duval County with high teen birth rates and related risk factors, and to our knowledge it is not currently served by any state or federally funded SRAE or teen pregnancy prevention program. Can the Department confirm that this area is not currently receiving SRAE funding?

Department Response: It is the responsibility of the applicant to ensure that the area served does not currently receive federal funding for Sexual Risk Avoidance Education or similar youth-serving programs. This must be confirmed with partners (i.e. school district, youth-serving organizations, faith-based organizations) but may also be cross-referenced with federal funding sites.

Question #3. Delivery approach: Tailored Messages has developed a novel digital platform that delivers health education virtually and has scaled across the United States with 5,000+ users. It has been effective in other health contexts, including colorectal cancer screening promotion and opioid overdose response training. For SRAE, we would use only pre-scripted content approved by the Department, and a trained health educator who has completed Health Educator Academy 101 would provide support for digital interactions. Would this delivery approach be acceptable under the education content criteria and fidelity requirements in Table 5.4.B, for Real Essentials and/or one-time topical presentations?

Department Response: While some virtual presentations are acceptable, education participants must be well-documented and verifiable to show the fidelity requirement in Section 5.4 is being met. Topical presentations may be offered virtually; Real Essentials curriculum must be offered in person.

Question #4. Tailored Messages: Would you be willing to meet briefly with our team? We would demonstrate the platform and discuss whether this approach fits the program's goals.

Department Response: A platform demonstration is not part of the Request for Application process. The applicant's project plan and process must be clear from the written application submitted.

Question #5. Page 11, Table 5.4.B - Education Content Criteria:

Is the Health Educator Academy 101 developed by the Department of Health, or will the applicant be responsible for creating the one-time topical presentation for the Academy?

Department Response: Health Educator Academy is a Department-sponsored training required for funded health educators. The applicant, if awarded, is not responsible for creating the training. The awarded applicant must attend the training (Table 5.4.B).

Question #6. May a newly formed for-profit LLC apply using its founder's prior health-education and family-planning experience? Under Section 5.6.2, what documentation is acceptable if an LLC does not have a board of directors or a previous financial audit?

Department Response: Applicants may reference the previous work experience of any staff who will be actively working on the grant. The resume may be submitted with the appendices, and the staff person must be noted on the budget narrative. Applicants should include any of the supporting documentation listed as it applies. This may be one, two, three, or all four documents listed in Section 5.6.2

Question #7. Must educators hold the required certifications when applying, or may they complete the training after contract execution under Section 2.6? Are additional professional credentials required for nonclinical educators?

Department Response: As noted in section 2.6.A, applicants, if awarded will have 75 days to train recruited staff. Some trainings a staff may have ahead of time (i.e. Real Essentials), while others are only offered by the Department and must be completed after contract execution. Additional professional credentials are not required by this grant. Please note that clinical services are not part of this grant.

Question #8. May approved One-Time Topical Presentations be the primary educational format, or is Real Essentials also required? What restrictions apply to information about contraceptive methods within SRAE programming?

Department Response: Real Essentials is required for use. It is the primary curriculum for this grant award. Funding does not allow for education on contraceptives. Attachment IV – Written Assurance of Compliance details this requirement.

Question #9. We are a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization and file IRS Form 990 annually, but we do not currently have audited financial statements with an accompanying management letter. Is the management letter from a financial audit required to be included in the application submission, or is this requirement satisfied at a later stage — for example, prior to contract execution (as referenced in Section 8.3)?

We note that the Application Checklist (Attachment XIII) does not appear to list the management letter as a required submission item, and Section 9.10 states that the Financial and Compliance Audit form "is not part of the Application and should not be submitted." We want to confirm our understanding before investing significant application preparation time.

We also welcome any clarification on whether organizations that have not previously undergone an independent financial audit are eligible to apply, and if so, what alternative documentation (e.g., CPA review, 990, board-approved financial statements) would be acceptable.

Department Response: Applicants should include any of the supporting documentation listed as it applies. This may be one, two, three, or all four documents listed in Section 5.6.2. If the applicant has not previously undergone an audit, then nothing can be submitted.

Items supporting the Management Section must be submitted as appendices. This is noted in section 6 of the Application Checklist (Attachment XIII) under the second bullet.

Section 9.10 states that the Financial and Compliance Audit form is not to be submitted as it is only for the reference of the applicant. This form is used by the awarded applicant *after* contract execution. Applicants are encouraged to review the document table in Section 4.1.a and the summary of Section 9.0 to ensure the correct documents are referenced and submitted.

Question #10. How will the Performance History section (8 points) be scored for applicants that have not previously received SRAE funding from the Department?

Department Response: Applicants who have not previously been funded by the Department for SRAE will not receive points in the Performance History section. Applicants who have previously received funding will be awarded points according to quality completion of grant requirements.

Question #11. May an organization that currently holds a federal General Departmental SRAE award from ACF/FYSB apply to serve counties outside its federally funded service area? For purposes of Section 2.3.A, does the Department define an area "currently receiving state or federal funding for SRAE" by county, by zip code, or by subpopulation?

Department Response: Yes. An applicant who currently receives different funding stream for SRAE may apply for State SRAE funds from the Department with a clear

delineation of services and methodology to avoid duplication. An “area served” may be as specific as county, zip code, or sub-population (ex. juvenile justice residents). It is the responsibility of the awarded applicant to ensure that services are not duplicated, and this is verified by the program office. If duplication is found, the awarded applicant will not be paid for services.

Question #12. Which counties are currently served by Department-funded SRAE providers, including county health departments, whose services continue on or after October 1, 2026?

Department Response: The Department is in the process of funding new providers. There is not a list of currently funded providers.

Question #13. Do parents and significant adults who complete a One-Time Topical Presentation (75% attendance) count toward the required number of unduplicated education completers in Table 5.4.A?

Department Response: Yes. Parents and significant adults who complete a one-time topical presentation and complete 75% of content offered, count towards the unduplicated education completer count.

Question #14. Is county school district approval required for REAL Essentials when it is delivered only in community settings (for example, faith-based organizations, youth programs, and community centers) and not in schools?

Department Response: School district is only required for venues where the district has authority (i.e. public schools). Approval from a school district is not required for community settings.

Question #15. For a non-profit applicant that has not had a financial audit, what documentation satisfies the Section 5.6.2.C requirement for a management letter from the most recent financial audit? Also, if an applicant's Florida Consumer's Certificate of Exemption (DR-14) is pending, will an IRS 501(c)(3) determination letter together with active Florida Department of State registration satisfy Sections 3.4 and 3.5?

Department Response: Applicants should include any of the supporting documentation listed as it applies. This may be one, two, three, or all four documents listed in Section 5.6.2. If the applicant has not previously undergone an audit, then nothing can be submitted.

This is not a competitive solicitation subject to the notice or challenge provisions of section 120.57(3), Florida Statutes.