

FAQ Document- Sexual Violence Tribal Coalition

Question: What happens to funding after 4 years? Is funding expected to be continued?

Answer: Funding depends on the availability of funding (federal budget). If funding is available, a new NOFO will be announced before the current NOFO ends.

Question: Is the \$90K per year set in stone, or can it fluctuate from year to year based on expenditures? For example, could a grantee spend \$60,000 one year and carry over the \$30K in subsequent years?

Answer: The \$90,000 funding proposed for each budget year is subject to funding availability. Yes, an awarded recipient will be able to carry over any unspent funds to subsequent years.

Question: For tribal coalitions who received funding in 2023, under the current grant NOFO, would they skip the first-year strategy of conducting a primary prevention capacity of their project and instead start on strategy 2 (year 2) activities? We received verbal guidance onsite but would prefer written guidance that existing RPE tribal coalition grantees (MIWSAC and FNWA) are required to include all strategies in their NOFO proposal.

Answer: Applicants who receive a Notice of Award for this NOFO would still need to submit their primary prevention capacity assessment 18 months post award, but they can use the existing primary prevention capacity document. Because they have already completed the capacity assessment process, those recipients, with the approval of their project officer, could begin on strategy 2 activities during year one.

Question: Please confirm the period of performance is all four years.

Answer: Yes, the period of performance is 4 years.

Question: Can coalitions choose 1 focus area to focus on for all 4 years?

Answer: Yes, recipients are required to implement one program, practice, or policy in one focus area for the duration of the grant.

Question: Is braiding and blending funds allowable (there is a concern that \$90K won't support a whole project)? For example, is there any prohibition on using OVW tribal coalition dollars to support a staff position?

Answer: Funds awarded under this NOFO can only be used for RPE-approved activities and cannot be mixed with other funds. However, voluntary cost-sharing funds can be included and reported as listed on Page 6 of the NOFO under "Cost Sharing and Matching Funds. It states the following:

"This program has no cost-sharing requirement or matching funds requirement. If you choose to include cost-sharing funds as a contribution to the award, we won't consider it during the review of

your application. If you receive an award, voluntary cost-sharing funds will be a requirement for your award, and you will need to report on them."

Question: Can coalitions share funds if awarded and another coalition is not? Can tribal coalitions partner to submit one grant application?

Answer: One entity can only apply, but a coalition may fund another tribal coalition as a sub-recipient.

Question: If a tribal coalition is not selected to be funded, may a tribal coalition that is funded modify its grant proposal to include the unfunded tribal coalition as a project partner?

Answer: The unfunded tribal coalition can be considered a sub-recipient of the applying recipient.

Question: Clarity is needed around focus areas/ strategies for the duration of the four years. This relates to the Outcomes listed on pg. 9 not matching the strategy numbers on pgs. 10-13. Logic model- 1.1 and 1.3 are **, under the description page, under strategy 1, activity 1.1 is present on pg. 10, but required activity 1.3 is missing

Answer: The required NOFO Strategies and Activities are listed in the left-hand column of the logic model and described in detail in the Required Strategies and Activities section. The outcomes listed in the last columns of the logic model aren't required activities. The expected results of the activities are shown in column 1. Some activities may have multiple related outcomes, so the activity numbering in the logic model will not align with the number of outcomes. For example, Activity 1.1 is expected to have an impact on outcomes 1.1 and 1.3, and Activity 2.1 is expected to impact outcomes 2.1 and 2.2. Information about how you will measure progress toward these outcomes will be collected as part of your evaluation plan. In the second column of the logic model, the first two outcomes should be 1.1 and 1.2, not 1.1 and 1.3.

Question: How does the CDC define tribal leadership, see pg. 10 of the NOFO?

Comment: Tribal coalitions are nongovernmental, nonprofit Tribal organizations whose boards and membership include the tribal governments and tribal communities they serve. Tribal coalitions would broadly define tribal leadership, including tribal government leaders, tribal victim service program leaders, tribal nonprofit organization leaders, etc.

Answer: Tribal leadership may vary by tribe/village and may include the Tribal/Village Council, President, or other designated executive leader. For organizational capacity, you must describe organizational infrastructure and capacity, including identified key leaders to implement and evaluate SV prevention programming in Indian Country.

Question: Tribal Support Letters for each of the Tribes an applicant will be working with are stated to be optional. Is verbal support sufficient?

Answer: No, verbal support isn't sufficient. If you want to recognize tribal support, Tribal support letters should be submitted with the application as a formal letter. However, the NOFO notes that a Tribal Support Letter is optional.

Question: Does the CDC support gift cards as an allowable cost under the project? [NOTE: Although context was not specifically provided, for the purposes of this Q&A, if a tribal coalition is conducting a focus group, may it compensate focus group participants with a gift card for their time?

Answer: You can use gift cards or incentives, but first seek approval. If you want to include participant support costs in your budget, like stipends or gifts, you'll need to ask for permission by submitting a budget amendment. You also need a clear policy for buying, distributing, and safeguarding gift cards. Your budget plan should explain how you'll use the gift cards, when, and how you decided on the amounts. If the grant is awarded and you have questions or need more help, please contact your Grants Management Specialist.

Question: Is the logic model required for application?

Answer: The logic model is not required for the application but will be included in your evaluation plan due with your annual performance report.

Question: Acknowledging that research is not an allowable expense or activity (pg. 25), please confirm that data collection under the NOFO is not considered research?

Answer: This non-research grant includes a requirement for program evaluation and monitoring. Recipients are expected to identify existing data and gather data on community- or tribal-level SV indicators to monitor, track, and inform your SV prevention efforts.

This data is intended to be used for program improvement and evaluation. Examples of possible indicators can be found on pages 20 and 21 of the NOFO. Additional guidance will be provided to recipients upon award to assist with developing a program evaluation plan (due at the end of the first year of funding).

Note that if a recipient chooses to collect data in addition to information collected as a part of their program evaluation, they may not use more than two percent of the amount received for surveillance or prevalence studies each fiscal year.

Question: Is there guidance on the difference between evaluation/research?

Answer: Program evaluation is a systematic way of collecting, analyzing, and using data to assess the value and impact of programs, policies, and practices and to contribute to continuous program improvement.

Research is a means of systematic investigation, including research development, testing, and evaluation, designed to develop or contribute to generalizable knowledge. Although research and program evaluation may use systematic methods to collect and examine information and data, the purpose and goals of the two activities are different.

The research aims to test a theory or model by controlling contextual factors and attributing observed changes in intended outcomes to a particular set of activities to produce generalizable knowledge.

The purpose of the evaluation is to understand whether a program may or may not be working for whom and why and to understand how a program contributes to observed changes in intended outcomes to improve the program. More information can be found at <https://vetoviolenace.cdc.gov/apps/evaluation/basics>.

Question: Are surveys, focus groups, etc. allowable under the NOFO?

Answer: Recipients may use surveys or focus groups for their program evaluation. Upon award, CDC will provide more guidance about the program evaluation to assist the recipients with completing their evaluation plan by the end of the first year of funding.

Comment: Funding up to 10 tribal coalitions where there are 20 tribal coalitions in existence creates a competitive grant process. The tribal coalition hopes that the CDC will explore discretionary funding to support all tribal coalitions wishing to implement sexual assault prevention strategies in their respective service areas.

Comment: Tribal coalitions voiced concern over data sovereignty. Any data coming from a tribal government will need to be considered for data sovereignty and ownership.

Response: The CDC provides guidance to assist with requesting tribal data from the CDC. [Guidance for Federally Recognized Tribes and Tribal Epidemiology Centers on Requesting CDC Public Health Data.](#)

Recipients will need to report progress as outlined in their work plan and program evaluation plan; this reporting does not entail sharing specific tribal data with the CDC.