

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

Title: **Expanding Safe and Supportive Medical and/or Procedural Abortion Access in New York State Phase Two**

AGENCY: Health, NYS Dept. of

Division: Center for Community Health, Division of Family Health

Contract Term: 1/1/2023 - 12/31/2023

Date of Issue: 7/22/2022

Due Date/Time: 8/12/2022 4:00PM

Written questions will be accepted until 4 pm, July 29, 2022. All questions should be submitted electronically to the email address: nysabortionaccess@health.ny.gov. All questions should be submitted with the subject line “**Expanding Safe and Supportive Medical and/or Procedural Abortion Access in New York State Phase Two SOI Questions.**” In the event that any updates and/or clarification of information are warranted, information will be posted in the Contract Reporter under the tab “Documents” for this announcement. Responses to questions received by July 29, 2022 and will be posted on or about August 5, 2022.

Question 1:

Q. I completed the application, are there any other additional documents needed?

A. Yes. Per page 6 of the Solicitation of Interest (SOI), under “How to Apply,” and page 7 of the SOI, under “Documents,” there is a column that describes which items are required.

How to Apply:

To be considered for funding, an applicant must complete and upload the application (see attachment 1; Application) to nysabortionaccess@health.ny.gov. Only one application per organization will be accepted.

The project proposal must contain the following:

- The number of clinics and the location(s), including street address and county, of clinic(s) or professional office (s) of the applicant where abortion services will be provided.
- Number of clinical providers who are currently performing medical and/or procedural abortions.
- The number of medical abortions provided in calendar years 2017, 2018, 2019, 2020, and 2021, and if available from 7/1/21-6/30/22.
- The number of procedural abortions provided in calendar years 2017, 2018, 2019, 2020, and 2021, and if available from 7/1/21-6/30/22.

- The anticipated increase in the number of medical and/or procedural abortion access that could be made available with the funding.
- The completed **Budget form (Attachment 3; Budget Request)** detailing how you intend to allocate the funding. Applicants should determine amount requested not to exceed the maximum Base Award, plus any additional funding allowed based upon the criteria above.
- The completed **Workplan form (Attachment 4; Workplan)** of activities being proposed to support access to medical and/or procedural abortions.

Question 2:

Q. If we have already submitted our application, are we able to withdraw the application and resubmit?

A. Yes, we will allow organizations to withdraw their applications as long as the revised application is submitted by the due date and time as stated at the top of this document and in the Solicitation of Interest: Due Date/Time: 8/12/2022 4:00PM

Question 3:

Q. We have the following expenses and want to understand which of these can be covered by the Phase Two funding? Please confirm that these categories are acceptable expenses for the Phase Two funding, and please let us know which budget line to include each item on your spreadsheet.

- Pay for NPs performing medical abortions
- Medication costs for medical abortions (mifepristone and misoprostol)
- Supplies, printing, and postage costs to mail abortion medications
- Payment processor fees for credit card payments accepted
- Technology and software costs to offer telemedicine services
- Medical malpractice liability insurance for NPs

A. The “Budget Request” includes a tab “Where to Budget” with examples of line items that go under each budget category. If a line item is budgeted in the wrong category, during the award process, applicants will be guided to make necessary adjustments.

- *Pay for Nurse Practitioners (NPs) performing medical abortions:* salary and fringe to maintain new clinical/medical staff who can provide abortions under their licensure or who can support the provision of abortion services under the supervision of a clinical staff person are eligible costs. Additionally, costs to increase the number of hours, days, and/or alternate times (e.g., extended hours and weekends) for currently employed clinical staff to provide increased access to abortion services are eligible.
- *Medication costs for medical abortions (mifepristone and misoprostol):* Unreimbursed costs of medical and/or procedural abortion services, including medication and primary care preventive services, such as STI testing or contraception counseling and provision of

contraception, that are provided at the time of the abortion visit, provided no other funding source, such as Medicaid or commercial insurance under purview of NYS Insurance law, is available (i.e., payer of last resort) are eligible.

- *Supplies, printing, and postage costs to mail abortion medications:* Costs for the operations as a result of expanding access are eligible.
- *Payment processor fees for credit card payments accepted:* Costs for billing/claiming activities from expanded access to services are eligible.
- *Technology and software costs to offer telemedicine services:* Costs for other needs such as telehealth infrastructure to expand access are eligible.
- *Medical malpractice liability insurance for NPs:* Costs for the operations as a result of expanding access are eligible.

Question 4:

Q. To my understanding each facility has a base award of \$300,00 and if we go to 4,000 cases, we receive an additional \$250,000 totaling \$550,000. My question is on page 7 Bullet point 6 “Additional Funding Budget Request”. We will certainly go over the 4,000-cases mark set, is this an opportunity to get more funding than what is allowed?

A. Additional Funding if Funding Becomes Available, is an optional form. Organizations may complete the “Additional Funding Budget Justification” AND the “Additional Funding Budget Request to indicate what additional funds would be needed and for what purpose. Please include information about how the funding could further expand access to abortion services. Complete only relevant sections for which additional funding is identified as needed. Additional funding is not guaranteed.

Question 5:

Q. We have a question regarding the eligible expense:

"Unreimbursed costs of medical and/or procedural abortion services, including medication and primary care preventive services, such as STI testing or contraception counseling and provision of contraception, that are provided at the time of the abortion visit, provided no other funding source, such as Medicaid or commercial insurance under purview of NYS Insurance law, is available (i.e., payer of last resort)."

How should we detail our request for this funding in our application and budget? Specifically, will this be a state-led billable fund, or do we need to estimate the amount of funding needed for patients without insurance coverage? If the latter, do you have suggestions for how to estimate these costs given the anticipated increase in patients traveling from out of state?

A. Medicaid rate should be used as the rate of reimbursement when estimating the amount eligible for reimbursement. If any insurance has reimbursed a dollar amount that is the same or more than the Medicaid rate, the service will be considered fully reimbursed and not eligible for reimbursement under this funding opportunity.

Applicants should provide the methodology for calculating the funding amount needed for unreimbursed costs in the budget document (e.g., number of services multiplied by the cost per service for a total cost).

Question 6:

Q. We have one question as we prepare our submission: What is the optimal length for the Project Narrative section of the application?

A. The “Application” includes a section labeled Project Narrative. The “Application” project narrative should be a few concise sentences to present a complete and effective description of the proposed use of funds. The Project Summary that is in the “Work Plan” should include additional details as explained in the respective instructions.