

## **Frequently Asked Questions**

### **Will there be a Training and Q&A Session available about the Request for Applications funding?**

Yes, the Alaska Office for Refugees (AOR) will host an overview of the funding opportunity and answer questions from interested agencies on Monday, September 11 at 11:30 AM. The meeting will be hosted on Zoom and login information is below. There is no need to register in advance. The FAQ sheet will be updated following the training if necessary.

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/87378144902?pwd=OEI2QUIDeXhjZVUwWG1FYis2dHJ1UT09>

Meeting ID: 873 7814 4902

Passcode: 734552

### **What if we are not able to attend the Q&A session and have questions?**

All questions can be directed to the State Refugee Coordinator, Issa Spatrisano, at [ispatrisano@cssalaska.org](mailto:ispatrisano@cssalaska.org). It is recommended interested agencies try to send a representative to the scheduled Q&A session if possible.

### **Is the data provided in the Request for Applications the expected caseload for the grant period?**

The AOR has provided as much data as possible to help with the application and development of projects. However, only data showing currently enrolled clients can be provided. These awards will also serve the new arrivals that will come in FY 24 and FY 25. Unfortunately, AOR cannot predict the exact caseload sizes by communities for future years but does expect continued growth and arrivals statewide. Please plan accordingly for this growth when developing your projects and determining outcomes.

### **Is there any flexibility in increasing budgets?**

Currently, AOR has allocated all resources available to serve arrivals in Alaska. We ask that you submit projects within the budgeted amounts. AOR cannot predict future funding from the Office of Refugee Resettlement. However, if funding does increase and can be applied to projects, sub-awardees will be notified of any available increases post awards in FY 24 and FY 25.

### **Who is on the review panel?**

AOR has recruited multiple individuals to serve on the review panel. All these individuals are employed outside of Catholic Social Services and currently receive no funding from Catholic Social Services. All reviewers have professional experience writing or administering grants.

### **Can my agency submit the 10% de minimus indirect rate if we do not have a negotiated indirect cost rate agreement (NICRA)?**

Yes, AOR will accept a 10% de minimus indirect rate on all proposals.

### **Do page limits include the budget and budget narrative?**

No, the budget and budget narratives do not count in page limits. You should include within the page limit your: program design, implementation timeline, client outreach and engagement plan, community partnerships, outcomes table, program administration, and staff sections. If you are applying for more than one location in an application an additional 3 pages are allowed per location. For example, if the page limit is 10 and you are applying for services in both Anchorage and Mat-Su, your page limit would be 13. This is to accommodate for additional information which may be needed to differentiate service provision in various locations.

### **Are all the allowable categories listed on the budget template?**

We ask that you use the budget template for submission and keep the main categories. All items that do not fit into the main categories should be listed under “other.” Some common items (e.g. Translation and Interpretation) are currently listed as an example but are not required.

### **What is Apricot?**

Apricot is the statewide refugee data system. Apricot is maintained by CSS and sub-awardees will be provided with an appropriate number of logins to provide essential data required by the Office of Refugee Resettlement. We understand that agencies may also have their own reporting systems or database systems. All sub-awardees providing direct client services must enter data into Apricot to avoid duplicative services and to capture accurate statewide service provision. Apricot Training will be provided to each sub-awardee as needed.

### **Will there be an onboarding meeting post awards?**

Yes, all new sub-awardees will have a meeting with AOR scheduled in early November post final awards to provide guidance and training as needed. It is expected that all sub-awardees participate in the Quarterly Alaska Refugee Partner’s Meeting through the grant cycle to remain connected with other service providers.

### **Can we budget for professional development/training for staff?**

Yes, relevant professional development and training can be budgeted into the grants. Please outline what these are in your budget narratives. AOR suggests that all applicants budget \$125/pp for the Alaska Resettlement Conference scheduled for April 24 & 25<sup>th</sup>. AOR encourages all sub-awardees to participate.

### **There are some abbreviations I haven’t seen before? What do they mean?**

REF – refugee

ASY – asylee

CHE – Cuban/Haitian Entrant

AHP – Afghan Humanitarian Parolee

UHP – Ukrainian Humanitarian Parolee

VOT – Victim of Trafficking

AUSAA – Additional Ukraine Supplemental Appropriations Act (Congressional appropriation for additional services for Ukrainians)

ASA – Afghan Supplemental Act (Congressional appropriation for additional services for Afghans)

RSS – Refugee Support Services