



**Request for Qualifications:
Culturally Specific and Responsive - Mentoring Services
School Years 2019-20 through 2025-26
Middle and High School-Aged Youth**

Questions and Answers (Q&A)

Updated: July 23, 2019

Eligible Applicants

Question: I have read the intent closely and it appears that these funds are for African American men and boys. Does this mean that if [a community based organization] were to apply to serve Latino youth, would we be considered ineligible because we would not be serving African American youth?

Answer: The Culturally Specific and Responsive (CSR) funds align with and are intended to advance the long-term educational goals of Our Best, the City's racial equity project aimed at improving life outcomes for young Black/African-American men and boys (page 2). The CSR – Mentoring Services RFQ is a Request for Qualification intended to assess an agency's qualifications to perform a scope of work. As such, there are no direct funds associated with this RFQ but a determination of an organization's placement on a preferred provider roster. The RFQ is open to CBOs who meet one or more of the criteria for eligibility (outlined on page 5) and also included below. Therefore, a CBO that serves Latino youth would be considered eligible for the RFQ because they serve youth from a historically underserved group. "Historically underserved students" are defined as "students who experience systemic inequities in education achievement because of their race, ethnicity, socioeconomic status, refugee and immigrant status, English proficiency, special education needs, community wealth, familial situations, housing status, sexual orientation, or other factors." (page 10)

CSR Mentoring RFQ Eligibility criteria:

- Focused implementation and prioritized support to young Black/African-American men and boys and/or other historically underserved groups;
- Demonstrate a clear commitment to targeted universalism as a driver for advancing educational equity;
- Use culturally responsive practices, pedagogy or exemplary curricula;
- Have staff or an implementation team that reflect the priority student population for this investment;
- Are geographically located in areas of high concentration of the priority population for this investment;
- Utilize the local community as an extension of the classroom learning environment;
- Use professional development that is culturally responsive throughout the contract period;
- Utilize authentic student leadership and development in implementation;
- Have capacity to collect, analyze, and evaluate data (e.g., recruitment, track student performance and progress, adjust programmatic practices);
- Governance structure that provides oversight on organizational budget, operations, and data;

- Experience/track record of achieving positive outcomes for young Black/African-American men and boys and/or other historically underserved groups (academic and/or non-academic); and
- Ability to leverage multiple funding sources to maximize impact.

Question: Why these specific 4 schools

Answer: In-person answer: for investment alignment

Question: Will any schools be HS (of the expansion)

Answer: We do not yet know.

Question: How many schools will the RFQ applicant have to put in their application in the preparation of their proposal?

Answer: IPA: Zero, the applicant does not have to list schools, or to identify what schools they would like to serve, this is only focused on organization capacity (goes through the specifics of the timeline and networking/matchmaking process)

Question: We identify our kids in the 8th grade (MUST) if on the roster we don't support middle school, could we stay on the roster but not get funding b/c we dont serve middle ages, but for possible referral from the 4-schools principals to high schools for consideration after their students matriculate to HS.

Answer: IPA: will follow up and no definitive answer right now

Process and Timeline

Question: When will be evaluating taking those next steps in terms of adding new schools on? Will it be in the next year or two?

Answer: In person answer: in the next school year. This time next year we will know what schools we will expand to. This winter

Question: Who will be involved in the matching process with the schools?

Answer: IPA: principals, deel, any organizations

Question: Work Sample/Narrative: is there a detriment for going over the amount of requested pages?

Answer: IPA: Yes

Question: How will the mentoring programs be presented to the schools?

Answer: IPA: both in person and through written form

Program Requirements

Question: what's the offset for change in populations. Family migration and increased in west and north seattle. Will there be an adjustment made in year 2,3, or no? Is there consideration in expansion because of family migration?

Answer: In-person answer: The question raises the issue of forced mobility especially in the Black community. Short answer, yes, we will be following the trends. More concretely the 4 schools are the

pilot schools for KM flagship. KM will expand to 6 schools and our plan is to do just that, but we don't yet know where those schools are going to be. we are still looking to marry the KM and mentoring supports at those schools

Question: If a CBO is selected but provides a specific select set of services, if selected for the roster, do we have to stop (studying or tracking students we are currently studying and tracking). What is the adjustment period for that org?

Answer: IPA: Less for DEEL and more for the org to answer internally. Detailed conversation can happen in the matchmaking phase to help the org make that decision

Question: When must the SPS agreement must be in place?

Answer: IPA: Prior to the start of services

Question: What is the expectation of progress reporting?

Answer: IPA: Schools are required to work with the schools; this portion is being developed as DEEL's funding is performance based

Question: Who will make the final decision on who works with the schools

Answer: IPA: principals of the specific schools

Question: If there is a new principal in the middle of the contract what happens to the CBO?

Answer: IPA: The contracts are on an annual basis and while on the roster for two years, it is up to the current principal at the time of contract to make the decision of CBO subcontracting. Matchmaking is set to occur annually

Budget

Question: will the mentoring funding follow the student?

Answer: In-person answer: The funding is attached to the school. Where KM expands is where the funding expands

Question: Will the funding fall as a price to each CBO

Answer: IPA: No, DEEL will take on the funding for that

Question: How is the funding going to be determined?

Answer: IPA: The schools are determining the funding amounts