HSA Evaluation Grant Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)

The questions below were submitted by applicants during the pre-application question period (which ends August 29) and are available to assist all applicants in completing the HSA Evaluation Grant application

1. **Are the behavioral outcomes already defined by OSSE?**

   Behavioral outcomes will be defined by the applicant in their application. Applicants are encouraged to use the Healthy Schools Act Theory of Change to inform specific behavioral outcomes. After the grant is awarded OSSE may work with the grantee to further define desired behavioral outcomes.

2. **Does OSSE have a Community Assessment that has already been created or would the grantee create the assessment?**

   The grantee will create the Community Assessment.

3. **The HSA began in 2010. Has OSSE funded evaluation studies earlier and, if so, what organization was the lead, and what kind of reports are available to applicants?**

   OSSE has not previously funded any outcome evaluation studies. OSSE is required to report on the implementation of the HSA yearly to the Mayor and City Council. These reports may be found here. OSSE also collects School Health Profiles data from all schools each year and this data can be made available to applicants. If you wish to obtain this data, please complete the OSSE Data Request Form.

4. **In the application, how extensive a literature review do you expect?**

   Applicants should follow the rubric laid out in the Narrative Form. The inclusion and length of a literature review to support each of these sections is up to the discretion of the applicant.

5. **Are grant resources intended to be provided directly to schools so they can implement the intervention?**

   Grant resources may be provided directly to schools to implement the intervention, but this is not required. The grantee will determine the best way to implement the selected interventions and this will be dependent upon the research approach and selected intervention.

6. **Will schools be provided with other resources to implement the intervention beyond what is available through the evaluation?**

   Some schools are recipients of School Garden Grants, Physical Activity Grants, Farm Field Trip Grants, or participate in other grant programs through the Division of Wellness and Nutrition

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Services including the [CDC Physical Education Grant](). Participation in these programs will be taken into account by OSSE and the grantee when selecting schools to participate in this research.

7. **The RFA says at least 6 schools, but is there a number of students that OSSE is looking for?**

   OSSE does not have an expected number of students that must be included in this research. This will depend on the data collection activities that are planned, as well as time and funding. Ultimately we would like to have a student sample size that will provide statistically sound data that can be generalized to the entire population of elementary school students in the District.

8. **Are the secondary research questions intended only to cover facilitators and barriers as they manifest themselves in the control and intervention schools or does the evaluation need to address these issues District-wide in all schools?**

   Secondary research questions are intended to be answered for the schools in which research is taking place. However, the intent of the research is to be generalizable to all DC public and public charter elementary schools.

9. **Do you expect to fund this incrementally each year or all at once? Is there an expectation of even expenditure each year, or more of an "S" path of expenditure?**

   The $2.4 million is the total funding available over the three year grant period. Expenditures can occur at a pace deemed appropriate by the grantee as presented in the budget submitted with their application.

10. **Is an opt-out approach sufficient for parental consent?**

    This will be determined by Institutional Review Board approving the research. The grantee is responsible for obtaining IRB approval.

11. **Can food be bought with grant funds?**

    Food, including food for participant incentives, may not be bought with the grant funds.

12. **Of the three documents that we submit for the application, within which one can letters of support from partners be include?**

    If an applicant wishes to provide letters of support, they may be sent to nancy.katz@dc.gov in one PDF with the title "EvaluationGrant15_Institution/CompanyName_Letters". Letters of support are not required.

13. **Does the data use form need to be completed with the submission?**

All three documents (Narrative Form, Documents Form, and Budget and Timeline Template need to be completed with submission. A new version of the Documents Form was posted online on August 20th.

14. **Are there standard Terms and Conditions that could be made available so that we can better understand the DC competitive funding regulations?**

Terms and Conditions are available in both the Narrative Form and Documents Form, and in the Request for Applications. Please review all Terms and Conditions carefully.

15. **Is there a page limit for each section of the application?**

The required Narrative Form has character limits.

16. **Is the character count with or without spaces?**

The character count includes spaces.

17. **Is there a date anticipated for the grant to be awarded?**

An award date has not been selected, but we are planning for a quick turnaround time as the funding will be available beginning October 1, 2014.