

Health Resource Advocates Questions – October 19, 2021

Program Information Questions:

1. What is the difference between the Health Resource Advocates and the CDC Foundation School Liaisons? *See chart on Slide 6, School Liaisons Presentation*
2. Is there any other approval needed or are we authorized to move forward and contract with two people to do this work? *Yes*

If so, can you clarify the date we can begin incurring expenditures and the last date by which the funds must be spent? *July 1, 2021 – June 30, 2022*

3. Are we locked into the clinical or non-clinical requests we made in our applications? *No*
4. Can we subcontract to our local health department? *Yes*
5. Can we use a staffing agency to hire these positions? *Yes*
“MDHHS encourages the use of the staffing agencies through the MI Deal program.” We have contacted those agencies and they also do not have the staff. capacity to fulfill all our slots.
6. Can we contract with multiple agencies not on the MI Deal list to fulfill the intended staffing slots without bidding? *Yes*
7. Can we contract with a local district as well? *Yes*

Can funds be passed through to local districts for them to hire staff on an additional schedule basis rather than the ISD contracting with or hiring employees? *Yes*

Is there a specific mechanism for this? *No*

8. I am being hired as an independent contractor so I would like to know if I should carry my own Liability Insurance since I am not covered by the school's. *Yes, Personal Liability Insurance is always recommended for Nurses in schools.*
9. We have a job posting for a Registered Nurse and have received several applicants that are RN's but do not have a bachelor's degree. Can I hire one of them to implement a testing plan for the county? *A Bachelor's degree is highly recommended, but there is flexibility for RNs with Associate Degrees during this nursing shortage.*
10. What about LPNs? *LPN scope of practice dictates that they cannot function without oversight from an RN or higher.*
11. Can we hire multiple people at less than full-time roles, as long as we do not go over the total dollar allocation? *Yes, as long as the hourly compensation remains the same.*

The answers to these questions may be subject to change.

12. What is the end date for the grant? is it June 30, 2022, or July 31, 2022? **The end date of the grant is June 30, 2022.**
13. Is there any information on the potential of a second year of funding? **No, not at this time.**
14. We have not received the conditional award letter or not heard a final answer. (Wayne, Kent, Kalamazoo) **Someone is checking on the status.**
15. Can we get something in writing regarding the role of the HRA to correct the Oct 7th email? **See attached School Liaisons question & answer.**

CLIA Questions:

16. Do we still have a statewide CLIA Waiver for School Covid Testing?
The MDE blanket CLIA waivers for schools are valid for 2 years. The expiration is January 2023. Here is a link for a look-up. [CLIA Waiver Lookup Tool](#)

Workplan and Reporting Information Questions:

17. Is there a workplan template or an example that we should be using? **No, we do not have a template workplan. The workplans should be developed to fit the needs of the local area.**
What should the workplan include? **At the minimum, the workplan should include the test plan, where the HRAs will be assigned and how the HRA will engage with stakeholders.**

18. What are the reporting requirements?
This is not finalized. However, there are some general reporting items that we are considering:
Total number of at-home test kits sent out by the school and local school district
Total number of positives and negatives reported
Verification that tests results are reported to: Michigan Antigen Testing Results
Notification of tests results provided to students and parents.
Total number of school-related outbreaks in your area, during the reporting period
please list the school names, locations, and number of cases (new and ongoing).

Is there a template that we should be using? **Please see attached draft template.**

Supply Questions:

19. Do you have tests available? My local ordered antigen tests, and I, as the ISD, put a request in but was told there were not available.

Yes, antigen tests are still available. Below you will find the testing process:

Schools and ISDs access to BinaxNow Antigen Kits: Test Ordering Process

1. The schools should submit a test request for enough tests to last them 1 month [by using this form](#).
2. Once the order is received, it will show on the [MI Safer School Dashboard](#).
3. The Intermediate School District (ISD) should review the MI Safer School Dashboard for the test requests and supply tests to the school if they are available.
4. Should the ISD need additional tests to meet the needs represented on the ISD Dashboard, the ISD should place a test order [using this form](#)
5. The tests will be sent to the ISD for distribution.
6. Schools with questions about the status of their orders should reach out to their ISD
7. ISDs with questions about the status of orders should contact MDHHS at MDHHSTestingSupport@michigan.gov

Note:

Schools should order based on an estimated need for 1 month. When additional tests are needed additional orders can be placed through the [school ordering form](#).

Orders placed by schools using the ISD link will be rejected and the MDHHS team will redirect them to the appropriate form for ordering. MDHHS can only supply tests to ISDs for distribution to school districts and schools.

20. Any news as to whether the BinaxNow tests from last spring, which have been extended till November and December, are likely to be extended again? **No, we do not have any new updates on the BinaxNOW test expiration date extension.**

Finance Questions:

21. If so, can I also divide up the funds and allocate them to my local districts for them to use the money towards adding time to existing staff members? **Yes**

22. Will this funding be included in our regular state aid payments?
The payments will NOT be in their regular monthly cadence of state aid payments. Instead, the ISDs will log into the electronic system (NexSys) and request payments on the cadence that makes the most sense for them. They can do this weekly, monthly, quarterly.
23. Can I reimburse my LEAs with some of this funding to help offset their cost for all the daily work they have for contact tracing? *Yes*
24. When will this show up in NexSys? *We are hoping for the beginning of November. Presently, we do not have a definitive date.*
25. How does MDE plan to pay out the funds? *The ISDs will draw funds from Nexsys and MDE can use those draws to send to MDHHS for the monthly reports. The ISDs will have to fill out a Final Expenditure report at the end of the grant period and keep any records, in case MDHHS requests any additional information.*
26. Can funding be used for indirect costs, specifically, equipment and mileage?
Equipment and Mileage are not indirect costs, they are direct costs. Valid direct costs can have the indirect cost rate applied to them. The allowable costs are all inclusive, if, they are related to the position of the HRA supporting and testing in schools. For example, if new equipment is necessary, then it qualifies as allowable cost for HRA. If an HRA is traveling to provide services/testing between schools or ISDs then it would be an allowable expense.
27. Can we use an Indirect Cost Rate that has been approved by MDE for Federal awards? *Yes, it has been confirmed that indirect costs can be applied to this grant.*
28. We have not received the conditional award letter or not heard a final answer (Wayne, Kent, Kalamazoo). When we receive the official approval, *A conditional award letter is never a good idea. When we receive the official approval, a GAN/Letter can be provided.*
29. Since the HRA is reimbursable for the ISDs, will they have to spend the money up front for the HRAs and then get reimbursed, later? *This is the preferable method.*
30. Is it correct that the ISDs will have to submit financial reporting in the Final Expenditure Report? *The Final Expenditure Report is a budget form they fill out in NexSys categorizing their expenses. At this point, we do not anticipate any other required financial reporting.*

31. Are ISDs considered sub-grantees or vendors? **ISDs are considered sub-grantees.**

QUESTIONS/COMMENTS to consider from October 19 HRA Networking Meeting

32. Emergent Issues: Currently in the HRA hiring process with interviews scheduled. In addition to assisting districts with contact tracing and testing, we have heard from the schools that assistance addressing stress, anxiety, depression, and fear would also be helpful.