



Indian Education Discretionary Grant Programs – CFDA 84.299A Demonstration Grants for Indian Children and Youth Program: Accessing Choices in Education (ACE) Grant Competition for 2020

Questions and Answers from the Pre-Application Webinars held on July 23 and 30, 2020.

Section 6: ACE Services

Question 48:	Can services be provided to pre-K students?
Answer:	Just as with NYCP, this priority under the Demo authority is for Indian children and youth and includes pre-K students.
Question 49:	Can we provide credit recovery to students who have dropped out?
Answer:	Yes, high school credit recovery for students who have dropped out can be one of the services offered for parent and student selection.
Question 50:	Could a virtual individualized learning curriculum be included for students living in remote locations? What about support for in-home learning?
Answer:	A project could include a choice for parents (or, as appropriate, students) to access remote learning opportunities that are not available from the student’s school. Services funded by the grant must be supplemental to the education program provided by local schools attended by the students to be served. Support for in-home learning could be a service option for parents. Please note that “home education expenses” are one of the specific options listed under Program Requirement 2.
Question 51:	Can visits to local colleges be one of the services offered?
Answer:	Yes, college visits as part of students’ college and career readiness are allowable as a service that parents, or students could choose.
Question 52:	The Tribe currently offers tutoring services and provides services to Tribally enrolled students but NOT to all Native Americans living in the service area. Can the grantee include tutoring services in the grant application for all Native American students?
Answer:	<p>There is a requirement that a grantee not supplant existing services or existing funding sources. So, a grantee could allow more students to take advantage of an existing program if parents or students select that service but could not pay for services to the same students who are already funded.</p> <p>In addition, the grantee must ensure that each contract for services includes a provision by which the service provider commits to not discriminating based on affiliation with a particular Tribe.</p>
Question 53:	Can we contract with a university or community college to provide services?
Answer:	Yes, as long as you are contracting to provide services for P-12 students. A grantee can contract with a college, a school district or school, a non-profit or for-profit organization, or with individuals to provide services. It is incumbent on the grantee to ensure quality and reliability of providers and to enter into contracts with each provider that meet all requirements identified in the NIA.

	Please note that the ACE grant cannot be used to provide services college students.
Question 54:	If there is a specific service to be offered and only one provider offers it, is it necessary to put out an RFP for bidders?
Answer:	Grantees should make sure that they follow local, Tribal, and State procurement law and regulations. For purposes of federal law, please refer to the provisions in the Uniform Guidance at 2 CFR 200.317-326.
Question 55:	Can direct services be provided during a planning year?
Answer:	<p>The planning period can be less than a year. Once all of your planning period activities are complete, you can transition from planning to direct services, even if this is during the first project year. Be sure to include a detailed budget that explains the proposed length of the planning period and related costs in the budget and project narrative.</p> <p>Please note that a grantee cannot begin direct services until it has completed the planning period activities and submitted the following required documents to the Department: a description of the operational service selection process, a description of the operational parent involvement and feedback process, a sample written agreement and a list of service providers with which the grantee has signed written agreements, and a description of the process that will be used to choose students to be served. These processes are integral to each project and direct services cannot begin until they are developed and operational.</p>
Question 56:	Can we serve out-of-state students?
Answer:	There is no prohibition against serving students in a different state from the location of the lead applicant. Note, however, that one of the selection criteria is the extent to which services would meet the needs of the local population, as demonstrated by an analysis of community-level data, including direct input from parents and families of Indian children and youth.
Question 57:	Do we need to offer more than one provider per service?
Answer:	There is no requirement that you have more than one provider per service offered. Projects must, however, include more than one “education option,” i.e., more than one type of service, which may include those listed in Program Requirement 2 in the NIA.
Question 58:	Please explain counseling services as an available service option.
Answer:	<p>Counseling cannot be in the form of psychiatric or medical services. Therapy or conversational sessions are allowed, but prescribing medicine is not. In the case of a provider who offers both medical and non-medical services, only the non-medical services may be part of the grant.</p> <p>Keep in mind there is a supplement-not-supplant requirement, so a grant may not use grant funds to pay the salary of an existing school counselor but could add an additional counseling service that parents or students could select.</p>

<p>Question 59:</p>	<p>What if we wish to hire an additional person, such as a counselor, with these funds? In other words, the position would become ours and not be considered a contractor. Is this acceptable?</p>
<p>Answer:</p>	<p>The project must include a project focus and service providers from which parents and students may select services. If the project focus in your application supports counseling as one of the services to be provided, then a counselor (or several counselors) could be among the service providers, assuming they are supplementary to what the school currently offers, but they would be paid based on parent or student demand. The grantee would enter a contract with each service provider and pay them for the services they provide to students. The service provider should be paid from the portion of the grantee’s budget dedicated to paying for direct services for students. As noted in the responses to Questions 10 and 42, it is possible for the grantee to be one of the service providers but that involves careful and separate budgeting.</p>
<p>Question 60:</p>	<p>Are Tribal students residing outside the Tribe's service area eligible to receive services under this program?</p>
<p>Answer:</p>	<p>Yes, an applicant can choose the service area and any students in that area can be served. Note that all providers must agree to a nondiscrimination clause that prevents the provider from discriminating based on Tribal membership; in other words, services must be open to any students who meet the definition of “Indian” in ESEA Title VI.</p>
<p>Question 61:</p>	<p>Can there be only two choices for parents?</p>
<p>Answer:</p>	<p>Grantees must provide multiple options for services. A grantee must also be responsive to parent feedback as explained in the NIA.</p>
<p>Question 62:</p>	<p>Can we serve Native students from outside the United States (e.g., Canada or Mexico)?</p>
<p>Answer:</p>	<p>Students to be served by Demonstration grants are those students who meet the ESEA Title VI definition of “Indian,” which generally includes members of federally-recognized Tribes and state-recognized Tribes, and Alaska Natives. Students who are from a Tribe that is Canadian or Mexican would not be eligible for services.</p>