

## General RFQ Questions

#	Question	Answer	Date Posted
1	<b>If we were already approved through a previous RFQ process, do we need to reapply?</b>	<b>No.</b> Once approved, an individual/organization will remain approved for the duration of the Levy, as long as it continues to achieve Levy outcome and indicator results.	7/10/2013
2	<b>Is there an upcoming process for new organizations to be considered to provide services or are they only considered if a school decides to change their service model?</b>	<p><b>Yes, there are three upcoming opportunities:</b></p> <p><b>1) Summer/Fall 2013 Performance Pay</b> – Currently funded Levy schools will receive a significant portion of their SY 2012-13 performance pay award summer/early fall 2013. Schools may opt to contract with an organization to provide additional services using their earned performance pay.</p> <p><b>2) Fall 2013 Levy Awards</b> – The Office for Education (OFE) is scheduled to award four new Elementary School Innovation investments to schools plus additional Summer Learning investments. Only RFQ-approved CBOs may partner with Levy-funded elementary schools for contract amounts exceeding \$5,000 each school year. CBOs may apply directly for the Summer Learning investments. Please consult OFE's website for more information:  <a href="http://www.seattle.gov/neighborhoods/education/funding.htm">http://www.seattle.gov/neighborhoods/education/funding.htm</a>.</p> <p><b>3) Winter/Spring 2014 Levy Innovation Elementary, Middle, and High School Reauthorization Process</b> – Every year Levy-funded schools will update their implementation plans in March and April for the upcoming school year. Schools may revise their plans based on changing student data and needs. During the reauthorization process schools update their strategies, identify their CBO partners, and solidify their budget for the upcoming year. Schools may elect to change CBO providers during this process.</p>	7/10/2013
3	<b>Can for-profit companies complete the RFQ process?</b>	<b>Yes.</b>	7/10/2013
4	<b>Throughout the RFQ it is stated that "Vendors selling educational products (e.g. textbooks, curricula, intervention software applications) do NOT need to complete the RFQ process." What is the process for materials suppliers to access Levy funds?</b>	Schools awarded Levy funds through the RFI process may choose to purchase educational products to implement strategies outlined in their RFI plans. All proposed budget items, including educational products, are then reviewed and approved by OFE program staff as part of the annual budget review process. In addition, all purchases must comply with Seattle Public Schools district procurement policies.	7/10/2013
5	<b>Do organizations approved through a Request for Investment (RFI) process need to be approved through the RFQ process as well?</b>	Organizations approved through the RFI process to provide services in one of the three RFQ areas (College and Career Readiness; Expanded Learning Opportunities; and Social, Emotional, Behavioral, and Family Support) are considered approved for the same RFQ area. For example, if your organization was funded through the Community-Based Family Support RFI to provide social, emotional, behavioral, and family support services to students, then your organization would automatically be approved for the Social, Emotional, Behavioral, and Family Support RFQ. Your organization would not, however, be automatically approved for the College and Career Readiness or Expanded Learning RFQs. You would need to submit an RFQ for one of these two areas to then receive funding exceeding \$5,000 cumulatively from Levy-funded schools to provide College and Career Readiness or Expanded Learning Services.	7/16/2013 - Information Session
6	<b>If we are approved through the RFQ process, are we required to provide services to all students or may we focus on particular subpopulations?</b>	You may focus on a smaller group of students. Organizations should work closely with schools to identify target populations to receive services.	7/16/2013 - Information Session

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7	May schools restructure their Levy budgets at any point during the year?	<b>Qualified yes.</b> Schools primarily determine their budgets for the upcoming school year in April. Budgets are then finalized and submitted to SPS in August before the start of school. Schools may amend their budgets during the school year; however, these modifications must be approved by the OFE program manager. OFE works closely with schools to ensure spending aligns with student need.	7/16/2013 - Information Session
8	What are the approximate time estimates for when schools receive performance payments?	Schools may receive performance pay in March, July, and/or October depending on the measures selected by the school.	7/16/2013 - Information Session
9	How discretionary is performance pay?	Twenty-five percent (25%) of a school's annual Levy payment is based on performance. Schools have discretion in terms of allocating these performance pay dollars. It is the intent that these dollars are reinvested in programming and materials to further support Levy focus students. Performance pay expenditures are subject to Seattle Public Schools' spending guidelines and are reported to OFE.	7/16/2013 - Information Session
10	Do schools need to submit a plan to OFE for how they will spend performance pay?	No. Schools may discuss their intended performance pay spending plans, but they are not required to submit a plan for approval. All performance pay expenditures must conform to Seattle Public Schools' and the City of Seattle's spending guidelines.	7/17/2013 - Information Session
11	May for-profit companies apply for Request for Investments?	<b>Yes.</b>	7/17/2013 - Information Session
12	How are schools spending their Levy dollars?	Schools are primarily using Levy funds to hire additional teaching staff, pay for additional teacher time, purchase instructional materials and supplies, and contract with RFQ-approved organizations to provide expanded learning opportunities, college and career readiness and planning, and social, emotional, behavioral, and family support.	7/17/2013 - Information Session
13	What is an example of a specific program evaluation tool that you have seen CBOs use?	Some local organizations have used the Youth Program Quality Assessment. More information is available here: <a href="http://cypq.org/products_and_services/training/YPQA">http://cypq.org/products_and_services/training/YPQA</a> .	7/17/2013 - Information Session
14	How much money is available for summer learning?	\$152,976 is available for Elementary School Summer Learning in Summer 2013. The amount will increase by approximately \$150,000 each year, reaching a peak of over \$1.3 million for Summer 2019. \$280,488 is available for Middle School Summer Learning in Summer 2013. The amount will increase by approximately \$300,000 each year, peaking at approximately \$2 million for Summer 2018 and Summer 2019. \$470,460 is available for High School Summer Learning in 2013. Additional funding for high school awards will only be available to account for inflation each year.	7/17/2013 - Information Session
15	How do organizations approach schools to forge partnerships?	There are several options available to connect organizations and schools:  1) RFQ-approved organizations complete OFE's one-page program overview outlining students served, services offered, and expected costs. OFE then distributes this information to schools and posts to our website.  2) OFE sponsors a "meet and greet" opportunity during the Request for Investment process to facilitate approved organizations meeting schools and/or organizations applying for funding.  3) Organizations may contact school leadership teams directly.  4) Organizations may connect with CBO coalitions (e.g., Southeast Seattle Education Coalition or Youth Development Executives of King County) to foster relationships with interested schools.  5) Organizations may connect with OFE's three consultants (one each for elementary, middle, and high schools) to better understand schools' needs and possible partnership opportunities.	7/17/2013 - Information Session

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16	What is the difference between Innovation and Linkage schools?	There are two groups of Levy-funded middle schools: Innovation Middle Schools and Linkage Middle Schools. "Innovation" refers to schools serving the largest number of at-risk students. In turn, Innovation Middle Schools receive larger investments (between \$480,000 and \$560,000 in SY 2013-14) and are expected to deploy strategies in all of the major academic, case management, and college and career readiness investment areas. "Linkage" refers to schools serving smaller numbers of at-risk students. Linkage Middle Schools receive smaller investments (between \$50,000 and \$240,000 in SY 2013-14) and are expected to be more focused in the number of strategies implemented (ex. may solely focus on advancing the percent of 6th and 7th graders not on standard in math).	7/17/2013 - Information Session
17	In Section C: Previous Experience Improving Student Outcomes, may we discuss our success in other districts or must we discuss only experience in SPS?	Organizations may discuss experiences serving students residing in other districts. We are concerned that organizations have experience serving populations similar to our Levy focus students (see page 3 of the RFQ for a definition of "focus" student). It is perfectly acceptable to discuss your work serving at-risk students in other districts or states.	7/17/2013 - Information Session
18	Is there a minimum length for program-school partnerships (i.e. two weeks or one semester)?	No. The length of an organization-school partnership depends on the need of the school. It may make sense for an organization to provide services to a school for only a few days, a semester, or the entire school year.	7/17/2013 - Information Session
19	Will OFE continue to hold an RFQ process each spring or will this be the last RFQ opportunity?	This will not be the last RFQ process. OFE will continue to hold RFQ processes annually; however, the frequency and timing may change.	7/17/2013 - Information Session
20	Should we include studies or evaluations of our program in our data sample?	Please do not append lengthy program studies or evaluations in your data sample. The data sample should demonstrate how the applicant uses data to inform their work and/or measure progress towards goals. Organizations are encouraged to include relevant excerpts from studies or evaluations that detail your success improving outcomes for students in Sections C and D of the RFQ.	7/17/2013 - Information Session
21	Are schools focusing their Levy funding on specific academic areas?	Yes. Most schools are focusing on math and reading as the primary academic areas. Some schools are also implementing strategies in writing and science. The Innovation Elementary, Middle, and High Schools are also expected to dedicate resources to social/emotional learning, case management, and college and career readiness.	7/17/2013 - Information Session
22	If we are providing college and career planning, must we demonstrate student improvement in math and reading?	No. Organizations providing College and Career Readiness Services may provide evidence of improving the percent of students taking rigorous courses, fulfilling required courses for graduation, improvement on pre-college tests (e.g., ACT, SAT), as well as on-time graduation rates. At the same time, if the organization's efforts have resulted in improved math and reading scores, please include that information.	7/17/2013 - Information Session
23	Does the Levy focus on the measure "% of students earning a GED"?	Most of the Levy's high school academic investments are focused on first-time 9th graders promoting to 10th grade on time. In addition, the College and Career Readiness efforts are directed toward all grade levels with the expectation that ALL students graduate high school college and career ready. Since Washington State does not recognize earning a GED as graduating from high school, we do not include GED attainment as an acceptable outcome.	7/17/2013 - Information Session
24	How many of the first and second round RFQ applicants were approved?	<b>Round #1 RFQ:</b> 172 submissions received of which 145 were deemed compliant (84%). Of the 145 compliant RFQ submissions, 74 were approved (51%).  <b>Round #2 RFQ:</b> 30 submissions received of which 28 were deemed compliant (93%). Of the 28 compliant RFQ submissions, 18 were approved (64%).  <i>Note: "Noncompliant" RFQs include incomplete or late submissions.</i>	7/17/2013 - Information Session

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25	<b>If our umbrella organization was approved through the RFQ process, do we also need to complete a separate RFQ for each of our sites?</b>	No. Sites managed by the RFQ-approved umbrella organization do NOT need to complete a separate RFQ.	7/18/2013
26	<b>May we have a list of organizations who attended the info sessions? Such information may facilitate partnering.</b>	Ashoka Seattle Youth Venture Asian Counseling & Referral Service Bailey & Bailey Counseling and Consulting Boys & Girls Clubs of King County Catholic Community Services Children's Alliance Empowering Youth and Families Outreach Future Foundation International Literacy in the Community Multi-Media Resources (MMRTI) Peace for the Streets by Kids from the Streets Refugee Women's Alliance Seattle Education Access Seattle Indian Health Board Seattle MESA (Mathematics, Engineering and Science Achievement) Univ of Washington Seattle Symphony Urban Family Center Youth Suicide Prevention Program Zeno	7/25/2013
27	<b>When we submit the one application for our umbrella organization, can we submit a sample data set from one of the sites or must we have data from all of the sites?</b>	You only need to submit sample data from one of your sites.	7/25/2013
28	<b>Must all of our organization's sites be located within the Seattle School District if they work with Seattle Public School students?</b>	No. The Levy Ordinance does not require sites to be located in the city confines. The key element is that the Levy funds may only be used to support Seattle Public School students.	7/26/2013
29	<b>Is monthly reporting considered "regular and timely"?</b>	It depends. For applicants providing direct services and/or programming to students, you will need experience evaluating school-based student data on a <u>daily or weekly</u> basis.  For applicants providing professional development services to school staff and/or parents, you will need to show that you have experience evaluating school-based student data on a <u>regular and timely basis</u> to inform program strategies and interventions. You should provide a rationale for the frequency by which you evaluate school-based student data. If your organization provides professional development, you would provide your rationale for monthly reporting.	8/14/2013
30	<b>Is an annual update to programs considered sufficient?</b>	You will need to demonstrate capacity to effectively use data to make course corrections to Social, Emotional, Behavioral, and Family Support strategy implementation. In your case, you should provide rationale for annual course corrections versus a more frequent system of course corrections.	8/14/2013