

CDFI 24 RFA Questions

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Submitted Questions	Answers
<p>1. The RFA says that grant recipients must be prequalified in Grants Gateway, but Grants Gateway has been discontinued by the state and replaced with the SFS system. Please confirm that Grants Gateway is no longer a requirement. Are recipients required to have accounts in SFS? If so, is this required at the time of application?</p>	<p><i>Yes, SFS is the successor of Grants Gateway. State agencies utilize SFS to keep track of the eligibility of certain businesses to receive grants. If you'd like more information on how to register, please follow this link which will provide you with the necessary info: Register Your Organization in SFS Grants Management (ny.gov)</i></p> <p><i>To receive the advance disbursement after the submission of an executed GDA and requested documents, the grantee must be registered.</i></p>
<p>2. The RFA states that matching funds must be non-state funds. Would federal funds that are passed through NY State be eligible match funds?</p>	<p><i>No, federal funds managed by New York State, including those allocated to State Small Business Credit Initiative (SSBCI) programs, are not eligible to be used as matching funds for this program.</i></p>
<p>3. Do match funds need to be for the same activities for which ESD funds are requested? For example, could match funds be lending capital if ESD funds are requested for providing TA?</p>	<p><i>Matching funds must align with the provisions outlined in the Request for Applications, specifically in the areas of Technical Assistance, Institutional Capacity, and Administration.</i></p>
<p>4. The description of Technical Assistance on pages 4-5 indicates that preference will be given for one-on-one counseling to borrowers. Would the provision of group education for existing or potential business owners be an eligible activity?</p>	<p><i>Yes, group education for existing or potential business owners is an eligible activity. However, we encourage one-on-one counseling as a preferred approach for this program, as outlined in the description of Technical Assistance on pages 4-5.</i></p>
<p>5. The RFA says that the 30% of allowable grant expenses for institutional capacity can be used to hire consultants. However, should any consultants involved in the provision of technical assistance be included under the</p>	<p><i>Yes, consultants hired to provide services that directly address the goals of technical assistance should be categorized under the 'Provision of Technical Assistance' spending category.</i></p>

<p>"Provision of Technical Assistance" spending category instead?</p>	<p><i>For example, if an organization engages a consultant to provide technical assistance to its community, the consultant's expenses should be allocated to the 'Provision of Technical Assistance.' Consultants performing tasks related to marketing, administrative duties, or other operational functions would fall under the 'Institutional Capacity' spending category.</i></p>
<p>6. For the Comprehensive Strategic Plan element of the eligibility requirements, will attaching a copy of our most recently completed strategic plan to the application suffice, or should we include a section in the narrative on the strategic plan as well (in addition to any other mentions of the strategic plan where relevant)?</p>	<p><i>Applicants should include both:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. <i>A copy of their most recently completed Strategic Plan, and</i> b. <i>A narrative detailing the Strategic Plan, including the status of the goals outlined within it.</i> <p><i>This approach ensures a comprehensive understanding of the plan's objectives and progress while fulfilling the application requirements.</i></p>
<p>7. Do applicants need to include completed versions of the linked OCSD forms and insurance requirements, or will this only be required of selected applicants when finalizing contracts?</p>	<p><i>Organizations are only required to submit the Office of Contractor and Supplier Diversity forms if they are awarded funding. Submission of these forms is not necessary as part of the response to this Request for Applications.</i></p>