

ERIE COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES

QUESTIONS & ANSWERS

RFP # 2025-005VF: Child Poverty Reduction Initiative Services

Questions submitted via email and at the Informational Meeting on February 3, 2025

- 1. When is the start and end date to provide services with this RFP?**
The target implementation date is June 2025. Services are expected to run through 2026.
- 2. If you don't have employees yet, can you still apply?**
Yes. The expectation is that the proposer will staff the program and implement services effective June 2025.
- 3. Do you need your own location to provide the services?**
The proposer is responsible for securing a location to operate out of.
- 4. Is it a must to have your own building?**
It is not required that the proposer have their own building, but how and where services are provided should be noted in the proposal.
- 5. If it's my company's first time applying, what amount is usually suggested for first timers?**
The proposer determines the amount based on their expenses and services proposed.
- 6. The RFP states that Families may receive up to 29 incentive payments. Does this mean that the program can be implemented in up to two and half years?**
The incentive payments are performance outcome based. The program is expected to run 18 months.
- 7. Is the funding for a 3-year window?**
It is expected that participants will be engaged in the first six months and receive incentives as they achieve each component over a 12-18 month period. Subsequent cohorts will be engaged as needed, until a total of 600 participants have been served. \$1.4 million is available for the requested services for the total life of the program.
- 8. Will the incentive payments affect current benefits the participant is receiving?**
A waiver has been approved so that SNAP and TA benefits will not be negatively affected by the receipt of incentive payments. It is unknown at this time whether Section 8 assistance will be impacted by the receipt of incentive payments.

9. On Appendix B are current contracts to be listed in the Current Contract column?

The Current Contract column is for the contract amounts of this service. Since this is a new service, the Current Contract column should be blank for all proposers.

10. Is the County able to partner outside Erie County?

The County is looking for a local partner with an onsite presence to engage and provide in-person services on an as needed basis.

11. Is it required that referrals come from the County?

The primary referral source will be TANF eligible families. The County will accept outside referrals, but participants must be cleared by the DSS Workforce Development Specialists to ensure they meet program eligibility guidelines.

12. What expenses are eligible? Are training course expenses eligible or just career coaching?

This initiative covers the career coaching and life coaching expenses (administrative and program costs) but does not cover training expenses.

13. Are the incentive payments made by an outside agency?

Incentive payments may be provided by the same agency depending on whether they propose to meet that component as well. Otherwise, agencies will collaborate with another agency providing that service and DSS.