

Every Kid Counts: Questions and Responses

The following Every Kid Counts RFA questions were submitted by the deadline of February 4, 2019.

The questions are categorized as follows: Evaluation Consortium, Funds, Application Details, Eligibility, and Miscellaneous.

Questions Regarding Evaluation Consortium		
Q#	Question	Response
1	For the evaluation consortium, will there be resources to grantees for this research data collection within or outside the grant we're applying for.	The grant money can be used for research data collection. <i>Please refer to page 3 of RFA under Expenditure of Funds.</i>
2	Is the evaluation consortium one that will be operated by the CA Student Aid Commission?	No. CSAC reserves the right to coordinate an evaluation consortium. The consortium will consist of funded grantees as agreed. <i>Please refer to page 3 of RFA.</i>
3	Will the evaluation consortium be identifying the independent researcher or is this something each grantee will need to do on their own? Or can funds be used to participate in an already existing evaluation consortium that we are already part of (or could join) so long as this grant funding is used to conduct data collection and evaluation of college savings account creation/activity, postsecondary aspirations, enrollment, and degree completion, and efforts to help beneficiaries of college savings accounts receive high school diplomas or the equivalent.	Funds may be used to participate in an already existing evaluation consortium that applicant is already part of. All applicants must agree to participate in an evaluation consortium. <i>Refer to page 3 of RFA under Qualifying Entities.</i>
4	May we allocate evaluation funds towards research to help us improve our marketing and outreach efforts? Or	Funds dispersed by the Commission may be used for any of the purposes as listed on <i>page 3 of RFA under Expenditures of Funds.</i>

	are the evaluation funds restricted to measuring the efficacy of the seed, matching, and incentive grants?	
5	Is an outside evaluator required, or can we, the applicant, meet the evaluation requirement by collecting and analyzing data on the program for inclusion in the required reports to the funder?	An outside evaluator is not required. However, applicant must agree to enter into an evaluation consortium that allows for independent research and evaluation of activities and outcomes associated with its college savings program.
Questions Regarding Funds		
6	Can funds be used for students in grades beyond K-6 if the program has students in grades K-10 by the end of the funding period?	The program shall primarily target pupils in K-6. <i>Refer to page 3 RFA under Qualifying Entities.</i>
7	Do funds received need to be allocated to the students as incentives or used by the end of the grant period? Can we budget for 100% participation or must we estimate the number of students who may earn the incentives during the grant period?	Funds may be allocated as incentives but must be expended or legally obligated to be expended by June 30, 2021. <i>Refer to pages 3 and 12 of RFA.</i>
8	Are activities related to outreach to families with children younger than kindergarten allowable under this grant?	The program shall primarily target pupils in K-6. <i>Please refer to pages 3 and 5 of RFA.</i>
9	If there is funding allocated to K2C programs in an upcoming budget but that budget has not been approved based on the fiscal calendar of the budgeting entity, does that disqualify those funds from counting towards allocations we can identify on the application?	Each applicant must have moneys, in addition to funding allocated pursuant to this title, to support its college savings program. <i>Please refer to page 3 of RFA under Qualifying Entities.</i> We recommend that applicants provide details in their budget narratives.
10	This question is regarding how the grant funds must be “expended or legally obligated by June 30, 2021” and how seed, matching, and incentive grant	Funds would need to be transferred into individual family college savings accounts or legally obligated to be expended for any of

	<p>funds are considered to be spent down for the purposes of the grant.</p> <p>In our case, all funds raised for the account matches are held together in a single account until time of disbursement for higher education. If we put the grant funds into this reserve account, is that sufficient to be considered “expended or legally obligated” according to the terms of the grant or do the funds need to be transferred into the individual accounts for the grant to be considered expended or legally obligated?</p>	<p>the purposes listed on <i>page 3 of RFA under Expenditure of Funds</i>.</p>
Questions Regarding Application Details		
11	<p>Is funding based on a formula outlined in the RFA or really based on programming/our needs?</p>	<p>The Commission will use a weighted formula to determine how much funding each qualifying entity will receive. <i>Please refer to page 26 of RFA.</i></p>
12	<p>Clarification requested on item D.1, funds not to be used for supplementation of existing funding and efforts. Does this mean that the funds must be used for <u>new</u> incentives or outreach efforts? Or can the funds be used for existing announced incentives or outreach efforts which we have not yet raised enough funds for?</p>	<p>Yes. Funds may be used to award seed, matching, or incentive grants for individual family college savings accounts, or to do outreach. <i>Please refer to page 3 of RFA under Expenditure of Funds, #1-2.</i></p> <p>Please Note: the word “supplementation” should have been “supplantation” on page 6 of RFA.</p>
13	<p>Under non-allowable costs the following is included, “supplementation of existing funds and efforts, including costs otherwise necessary to operate a college savings program without this grant.” Please provide clarification on what the commission has identified as the type of costs that fall into this category.</p>	<p>Please Note: the word “supplementation” should have been “supplantation” on page 6 of RFA.</p>

14	In the non-allowable expenses portion of the application document, please provide some clarification on what the commission considers, “one-time administrative costs.” Does this refer to potential staff, indirect costs or both? Is there any portion of this grant funding that can be put towards indirect costs?	One-time administrative costs <u>are allowed</u> . Refer to page 3 of RFA under Expenditures of Funds. We recommend applicants further describe costs in the budget narratives. Refer to page 6 of RFA under Non-allowable Activities and Costs.
15	Under the list of allowed uses of funds, seed money is indicated as an appropriate expenditure of grant funding. Does the Commission require that there be matching funding in place to use the grant funding for seed money?	The Commission does not require that there be matching funding in place. However, entities must have moneys to support its college savings program. Refer to page 3 under Qualifying Entities.
16	For Form A, is the applicant name the person completing the form, program name, or the organization applying for the grant?	The applicant name is the entity applying for the grant.
17	For Form C, is the request for total anticipated number of students served that year or just additional students to be added that year?	The total anticipated number of students served is the number of students intended to be served each year through 2021.
18	For Form C, can the number of students intended to be served include students beyond grade 6, if the program will serve students K-10 by that year? Or only students K-6?	The number of students intended to be served is the number of ALL students intended to be served each year through 2021.
Questions Regarding Eligibility		
19	Recently our jurisdiction passed a joint resolution creating college promise strategy that included K2C as part of the broader strategy for a meaningful promise program. Does this meet the requirement for either formal or informal action to implement a college savings program?	It may. Any supporting documents, including the resolution, should be submitted with the application.

20	Currently, we have kindergarten only programs active at ten schools split between two school districts – does our current program meet the eligibility standards for this grant application? If not, can we propose expansions/changes going forward that would bring the program in line with eligibility?	<p><i>Please refer to the eligibility requirements of the RFA, pages 4-5 of RFA under Eligibility Requirements.</i></p> <p>The EKC Act, a statute enacted by the Legislature and Governor, sets the eligibility requirements and may be amended.</p>
21	To meet the requirement that grantees track income levels of participating families, can we estimate that income level through Free and Reduced Lunch enrollment instead of asking directly? Since more than 90% of our students are enrolled in free or reduced lunch programs, which suggests that they come from low income households, do we need to directly ask for their income level when they apply for the program? We have refrained from doing it in the past so as to not put off anyone, but if it is a requirement, we will include that question on our application portal.	<p><i>Please refer to page 4 of RFA under Grant Information, #1-4, which lists the minimum to be included in applications.</i></p> <p><i>Please refer to page 8 of RFA under Program Deliverables, #1, which describes the required annual family income information that must be included in Program and Annual reports.</i></p>
22	If our existing program has not gathered income levels of participating families in the past will that negatively impact our application?	<p><i>Please refer to page 4 of RFA under Grant Information, #1-4, which lists the minimum to be included in applications.</i></p> <p><i>Please refer to page 8 of RFA under Program Deliverables, #1, which describes the required annual family income information that must be included in Program and Annual reports.</i></p>
Miscellaneous Questions		
23	If there are more than 29 qualified applicants, will you be prioritizing applications that use the funds <u>only</u> for seed, matching, or incentive grants? Another way to put it, if there are more than 29 qualified applications, will applications that include other activities	If there are more than 29 qualified entities identified, they will be prioritized according to <i>Steps 6a-f, beginning on page 32 of RFA.</i>

	in the proposal in addition to the seed, matching, and incentive grants (such as outreach efforts) be penalized?	
24	Does the commission allow for a larger consortium of jurisdictions and community partners to make joint applications?	Yes.