

Questions and Answers

RFP Number: GT-05

Undergraduate Clinically Rich Teacher Preparation Pilot Program

Eligibility:

1. The RFP states that partner schools must have 50% poverty. Does that mean 50% free and reduced lunch?

ANSWER:

To be eligible, a Residency School must meet the following criteria:

It must have at least 50 percent of its students in poverty, as determined using the criteria specified under section 1113(a)(5) of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act: There are a number of criteria to determine the percentage of students that are in poverty. FRPL is just one criterion.

<http://www2.ed.gov/policy/elsec/leg/esea02/pg2.html#sec1113>

ESEA:

(5) MEASURES- The local educational agency shall use the same measure of poverty, which measure shall be the:

- *number of children ages 5 through 17 in poverty counted in the most recent census data approved by the Secretary,*
- *the number of children eligible for free and reduced priced lunches under the Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act,*
- *the number of children in families receiving assistance under the State program funded under part A of title IV of the Social Security Act, or*
- *the number of children eligible to receive medical assistance under the Medicaid program,*

or a composite of such indicators, with respect to all school attendance areas in the local educational agency:

2. Does anyone know a contact in New York City DOE to talk to about being an LEA?

ANSWER:

New York City Department of Education has identified the contact as:

Rakeda A. Leaks
Director of Teacher Recruitment and Applicant Services
Office of Teacher Recruitment and Quality
(O) 718.935.4929 | (E) rleaks@schools.nyc.gov | www.teachnyc.net

3. Are individual NYC schools covered by an overall NYC DOE APPR?

ANSWER:

Yes, except charter schools are separate. Schools that are not charter schools within NYC would be covered by NYC's overall APPR Plan.

4. Pursuant to the mandatory requirement B in the RFP, "Annual Profession Performance Review", are charter schools required to submit an APPR plan using the online system?

ANSWER:

No, the MOU must briefly describe the charter schools' teacher and principal evaluation system, consistent with the Race to The Top "Participating LEA Final Scope of Work-Teacher and Principal Evaluation System Implementation Certifications" and the Teacher-Student Data Linkage Verification Reports-Charter School Guidance memo dated April 18, 2012.

<http://www.p12.nysed.gov/psc/documents/allchartersTSDLmemo18march2012.pdf>

If the charter school is not a RTTT participating LEA, attached to the MOU must be the form found on page 4 of the Race to The Top Participating LEA Final Scope of work:

<http://usny.nysed.gov/rttt/scopeofwork/evalcerts.pdf>

5. Can a LEA listed on one of the SINI lists be an eligible partner even if the subject area for which they are on the improvement list is not an area targeted by the certification of the proposal? For example - a school/district is on the list for low scores in ELA. Can they be a partner in a proposal for clinically rich UG adolescent math and science certification?

ANSWER:

Yes, this would meet the eligibility requirement.

6. I think the question about the timeline for program approval is to do with the time it takes to get a program approved by curriculum committees and other college bodies. This can take many months.

ANSWER:

Applicants are required to already have registered programs in the targeted certificate areas. This assures that an applicant will be able to comply with the Commissioner's Regulations for program registration of teacher education programs. NYSED encourages applicants to begin to construct their programs for this proposal as soon as possible.

7. Can the definition of high needs LEA's be revisited? The section of ESEA cited in the RFP does not seem to list multiple criteria that have to be met as was mentioned in the answer previously given. Instead it seems to list a series of possible measures that can be used. For example - it says the census data citing # of children in poverty OR number of children in free/reduced lunch program OR # of children qualifying for Medicare - OR some composite of these measures. Can we then use any of these measures to determine high need status?

ANSWER:

It is not joint criteria, it is alternative measures, the interpretation is correct. You may use any of these measures to determine high needs status. Please see question #1.

8. Are five year education programs eligible?

Question was reframed by participant: If programs that combine undergraduate and graduate preparation can they eligible?

ANSWER:

No, it is strictly an undergraduate preparation program

9. Does the residency school need to be SINI, SURR, and/or PLA? (specifically, is one of these categories enough to deem it "low performing")?

ANSWER:

Residency Schools are the designated high-need P-12 school(s) within one or more partner LEAs where candidates will be placed for their clinical residencies. Residency schools may include charter schools. To be eligible, a Residency School must meet the following criteria:

- It must have at least 50 percent of its students in poverty, as determined using the criteria specified under section 1113(a)(5) of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act; AND
- It must be low-performing, as indicated by its designation as either a School Under Registration Review (http://www.p12.nysed.gov/accountability/APA/SURR/SURR_home.html), a Persistently Lowest Achieving (PLA) school (<http://www.p12.nysed.gov/irs/accountability/LowAchieve/2009/PLASchools-d3tod6.pdf>), or a School in Need of Improvement (<http://www.p12.nysed.gov/irs/accountability/designations/home.html>)

10. Would a residency school be eligible that isn't itself SINI, SURR, or PLA but that is located in a Children First Network with other schools that are?

ANSWER:

No, refer to question #9.

Proposal:

11. The University timeline for new program approval makes it difficult to meet the 30 day requirement for program approval by NYSED. Will the NYSED allow time for planning to meet both the higher institution guidelines and NYSED guidelines?

ANSWER:

When you submit a proposal under this RFP, you do need to submit the program registration and application at the same time so, you have between now and the

deadline for the proposal to develop that program registration application. Once an applicant's proposal qualifies for an award if there are any deficiencies in the Application for Program Registration, the applicant will be notified via e-mail of the deficiencies. The applicant will have 7 business days to remedy those deficiencies.

12. If we would like to serve two cohorts but find it difficult within the timeframe of the grant, would it be possible to get an extension to December 2014 in order to accomplish this?

ANSWER:

No, the funds are Race To The Top funds. The funding for this program ends on August 31, 2014.

13. Can the residency take place over a number of weeks spread over the project period, totaling one year?

ANSWER:

Please refer back to the RFP on page 7. The residency is designed to be one school year long. Residencies must meet the criteria outlined in the RFP. The residency design elements a proposal will be scored upon may be found on page 19 of the RFP in B3: Design of Clinical Residency Component and program support.

14. We've never completed an FS-10. Is this something our partnering residency school(s) would complete?

ANSWER:

The applicant completes the FS-10. Forms and guidance can be found at:

<http://www.oms.nysed.gov/cafe/forms/>

<http://www.oms.nysed.gov/cafe/guidance/guidelines.html>

Program Design:

15. Are there any guidelines/restrictions on the number of candidates involved in the program from an IHE?

ANSWER:

No, there is not, the programs are designed by the IHE for the best use of the funding for the program they design.

16. Does the partner LEA commit to hiring the candidates in the clinically rich program by participating in this pilot?

ANSWER:

There is not a stipulation in the RFP that they do, however, you might want to encourage working and partnering with the LEA that would have the intention of hiring a candidate that is clinically prepared from this pilot program.

17. Can you clarify what tuition can be paid? Can participants be given scholarships? (Sorry if you already answered this - I had some technical difficulty getting on.)

ANSWER:

This is up to the institution to make the determination of how they would best use the funding up to the allowable expenses specified on page 21 of the RFP: Allowable Uses of Funds. Scholarships are separate from this pilot program, the funding for the scholarship would not be included in the funding from the UG CR Teacher Preparation Pilot Program.

18. Please give an example of paying program tuition.

ANSWER:

The applicant will determine how the funds will be used for the program.

19. Can the first year of this program be a planning and recruitment year?

ANSWER:

No, there is not enough time for a planning year given the project period.

20. Would a small program that serves 5-10 students be competitive?

ANSWER:

There are no restrictions as to "cohort size" for the program candidates. The applicant's program design which meets the requirements of the RFP should determine the ideal cohort size based on the applicant's institution.

21. What percentage of a student's tuition can be paid through this program?

ANSWER:

The applicant may determine how to best use the award funds from this RFP to clinically prepare candidates in an upper division teacher preparation pilot program. The Allowable Uses of Funds are detailed on page 21 of the RFP.

22. Is it expected that the program will serve one cohort of students or two?

ANSWER:

The RFP states that the program will begin approximately in November 2012 and end on August 31, 2014. It is an upper division baccalaureate program serving one or two cohorts depending on the how the institution designs their proposed for this program.

23. Is recruiting from community colleges an appropriate strategy for attracting participants?

ANSWER:

Recruitment will be determined by the applicant based on how they define their program and their program strategy for enrolling candidates.

24. Is there any requirement about the dollar amount of the stipend for the students?

ANSWER:

No, there is no required dollar amount for a stipend to students. This is dependent on the institution's program design.

25. So the residency must take place during one contiguous school year? Can an undergrad student teach for one semester in the school, and then accumulate the other semester's worth of residency distributed over three semesters?

ANSWER:

The RFP states the departments' expectations for this and explains what the reviewers will be looking for when they score the application. The applicant may design the program to best meet the expectations of the RFP.

26. Is it acceptable to develop the program and recruit students from Nov. 2012 - May 2013?

ANSWER:

The design of the program is left up to the applicant. It must lead to a baccalaureate degree by the date specified in the RFP: August 31, 2014.

27. What do you consider a school year - university or school district year?

ANSWER:

The intention in the RFP refers to the P-12 school year.

Program Registration:

28. Is Math 7 - 12 and Science 7 - 12 considered one program? Or, can you only do one or the other?

ANSWER:

They could be one program or could be separate programs. These two targeted certificates are both in the same funding stream. The IHE needs to decide if they want their proposed program to lead to Math 7-12 and Science 7-12 or to lead only to Math 7-12, but they may only submit one application. Also see question 38.

29. What grades does the TESOL funding apply to? Are all three "pots of funding" similarly competitive, i.e. is the more funding in one or other of the pots?

ANSWER:

TESOL is a K-12 certification and math and sciences 7-12 with bi-lingual extensions are at the 7-12 level. The three funding streams are considered equal pots.

30. Does the condition that the program be "upper division" prohibit any early field experiences in lower level courses?

ANSWER:

No, if you are referring to other field experiences that a candidate would have in an undergraduate program prior to being enrolled in this RFP Pilot Program, the answer would be no, it would not affect those experiences.

31. If we did the application for program registration last year, must we do it again this year?

ANSWER:

The submission for this RFP is for a grant for an Upper Division Undergraduate Clinically Rich Teacher Preparation Pilot Program. One of the requirements of the RFP is an applicant must submit a new program application with the submission of the proposal for this pilot program. Any previously registered programs an applicant has do not qualify for this RFP.

32. If you are submitting an existing program do you need to re-register the program?

ANSWER:

This RFP is for an undergraduate clinically rich pilot program; existing programs are not acceptable. There are specific mandatory requirements that need to be met for each program that is being proposed. Each program proposed requires a separate application for program registration.

33. Do you expect to fund only 6 math/science awards in total? (3 in NYC and 3 in Rest of State?)

ANSWER:

The limits to the funding are specific to the funding streams as identified in the table below. Each funding stream has targeted certificate titles.

Region	Secondary ELL	Secondary SWD	Adolescent 7-12 Math / Science	Regional Total
NYC	Funding available of up to \$531,783 per program	Funding available of up to \$531,783 per program	Funding available of up to \$531,783 per program	\$4,786,049
	TOTAL: \$1,595,350	TOTAL: \$1,595,350	TOTAL: \$1,595,350	
ROS	Funding available of up to \$553,488 per program	Funding available of up to \$553,488 per program	Funding available of up to \$553,488 per program	\$4,981,397
	TOTAL: \$1,660,465	TOTAL: \$1,660,465	TOTAL: \$1,660,465	
TOTAL FUNDING				\$9,767,446

34. Can more than one application therefore be submitted to each of the targeted certification titles? The RFP reads that you can apply to ONE program within each of the titles; the explanation just given seems inconsistent. Please clarify.

ANSWER:

There are three funding streams for this RFP. Applicants may submit only one application for each of the three funding streams. Each funding stream has target certificate titles as indicated in the table below. The design of the proposed program must lead to one or more of the targeted certificate titles and/or extensions to base certificates associated with the funding stream. However, a candidate may not be recommended for dual certification (Math and Biology 7-12). SEE EXAMPLE BELOW.

Applicants may submit only one application for each of the three funding streams

Funding Streams with Targeted Certificate Titles	Secondary ELL (TESOL, Math 7-12 or Science 7-12 Education (Physics, Chemistry, Biology, and Earth Science) with bilingual extensions	Secondary SWD (SWD 7-12 Generalist, with or without SWD subject area extensions and with or without bilingual extensions)	Adolescent 7-12 Math / Science (Math 7-12 or Science 7-12 Education (Physics, Chemistry, Biology, and Earth Science)
Examples of possibilities for program design:	Proposal A- Leads to Math 7-12 Initial with Bilingual Extension	Proposal A- Leads to SWD 7-12 Generalist Initial with Bilingual Extension	Proposal A- Leads to Physics 7-12 Initial
	Proposal B – Leads to TESOL	Proposal B – Leads to SWD 7-12 Generalist Initial with Bilingual Extension and Math Extensions	Proposal B – Leads 7-12 Physics or Chemistry or Math Initial
	Proposal C – Leads to Earth Science or Biology Initial with Bilingual Extension		Proposal C – Leads to 7-12 Earth Science or Biology

35. How does this program apply to graduate programs?

ANSWER:

This RFP is only an Undergraduate program and it does not apply to a graduate program.

36. Would Math 7-12 and Math 7-12 with Bilingual extension be considered as two separate applications?

ANSWER:

Yes, they would be two separate applications. Refer to questions 33 and 34.

37. If you have more than one science preparation program (earth science, biology, etc) considered to be a separate proposal for the purposes of this RFP?

ANSWER:

Only one application per funding stream may be submitted. However, the design of the program may be such that the program could lead to more than one science certificate. A candidate cannot be recommended for a dual certificate upon completing this program. See questions 33 and 34.

38. Just to clarify: we can submit both a math and a science non-bilingual application and they're two separate apps? Or can we combine them into one? I'm still unclear...

ANSWER:

You may only submit one proposal per program funding stream. The program proposal may be designed to lead to more than one certificate; however, an institution may only recommend a candidate for one initial certificate. Dual certification is not permitted. Please refer to questions 33 and the table with examples in question 34.

39. Earlier in the presentation graduate programs were mentioned as a possibility for students with disabilities 7-12, please clarify once again.

ANSWER:

Graduate programs are not applicable to this RFP. It is an RFP for an undergraduate pilot program only. In order to be eligible, an applicant for this RFP must be an institution of higher education (IHE). The institution must have a registered program in the certificate area the applicant is proposing. Because we want to make sure that you are ready to hit the ground running with this pilot program and that you have the elements available at your institution to deliver such a program.

Example: If you were to propose a pilot program for Student Disabilities Generalist 7-12 and the only SWD 7-12 program your IHE has registered is at the graduate level, that would be sufficient to meet the eligibility requirement in order to apply to this RFP to propose an undergraduate pilot program in that certificate area, but you may not propose a graduate program under this RFP. That will not be funded.

40. Can you clarify what is meant by statement that dual certification programs are not eligible to apply?

ANSWER:

Although a program may be designed to lead to more than one certificate title (7-12 Biology and Earth Science with bilingual extensions), the IHE may only recommend for one stand alone certificate. In this case, the IHE could recommend the candidate for one of the sciences with the bilingual extension, but not both.

41. So, would an SWD 7-12 generalist with a subject area extension be considered a dual certification program?

ANSWER:

Extension are fine, they are not the same as dual certifications. An extension must be connected to a valid base certificate.

42. In our current Math 7-12 program, students typically take 12 credits in their major during senior year. Is it possible to do this while in a residency program?

ANSWER:

This is a question of program design which is up to each applicant that is proposing this innovative pilot program. However, there should be 30 credits of math within the undergraduate program(s).

43. What happens if a program is proposed to NYSED but during the process of review at the university, revisions are made?

ANSWER:

Generally speaking, the proposal that you submit, if it is funded, becomes your contract to operate a program.

44. If we have a program in undergraduate adolescent math ed, can we redesign for this program to add on an ESL extension? Or does the math with ESL extension already have to exist?

ANSWER:

Yes, you may, you do not already have to have a Math with the ESL extension registered.

45. Our institution has a 5 year program which exits for students with a Master's degree, ready for certification. Our programs are currently registered, active and accredited in TESOL and other areas. Are we eligible to apply in partnership with an LEA?

ANSWER:

Yes, your institution would be eligible to apply for this RFP.

46. As ours is a TESOL program, do we need to partner only with secondary schools (grades 7-12) or could it be K-12 schools including at the elementary level? We ask because there is a sentence on p. 12 of the RFP that states "For TESOL programs, schools can be at any K-12 level." However, elsewhere in the RFP "Secondary ELL" programs are referenced.

ANSWER:

The reference to secondary ELL is a reference to bilingual extensions to math and science certificates at the secondary level. The response to the RFP should show how you will prepare TESOL teachers for both the elementary and secondary levels. There is potential for partnering with elementary level LEAs.

47. Since we have learned through experience that our undergraduates who have completed the adolescent certification content areas and also have completed the SWD certification are highly sort after for employment, we are interested in knowing why dual certification programs are not eligible to apply for the Undergraduate Clinically Rich RFP. Is there a particular clause in the RTTT funding that prohibits dual certification programs?

ANSWER:

Dual certificates are not permitted because the intent of this RFP is to have a clinically rich student teaching experience. It would be nearly impossible to well prepare teachers, in a clinically rich environment, for two separate teaching certificates, in the limited time span of an upper division program.

48. Can we apply even though our initial certification program (Mathematics 7-12) that is currently registered with SED is at the Master's level? We would like to pilot a clinically rich undergrad program. Thank you.

ANSWER:

Yes, you may apply provided you have a registered teacher education program that leads to one of the eligible certificates at either the graduate or undergraduate levels. To apply for this RFP, the IHE must submit an application, based on the requirements of the RFP.

49. Will it be possible for degree candidates in clinically rich TESOL programs to complete a year-long field placement in one school, or will two placements, one K-6 and one 7-12, be necessary to be eligible for K-12 certification?

ANSWER:

The language in the RFP allows the applicant to design the student teaching experience(s) to ensure that the candidates are prepared to teach in the entire range of the certificate K-12.

50. Our institution has a five-year teacher preparation program in the sciences. The school considers all students in this program to be undergraduates until they graduate. Upon graduation, these students concurrently receive a BA and an MA. Does this program qualify for the Undergraduate Clinically Rich Teacher Preparation Pilot Program?

ANSWER:

No. To apply for this RFP, the IHE must submit an application, based on the requirements of the RFP. The program design may look similar to a program you currently have registered, but you must complete an application to apply for this RFP. Additionally, five year programs will not be considered as the intent of this RFP is to fund programs at the undergraduate level to prepare teachers for initial certification.

51. My understanding of a statement made in the Webinar (at about 50 minutes) is that a single IHE cannot submit both a 7-12 Math and 7-12 Science application. However, I cannot find this anywhere in the RFP itself. Where does it say this in the RFP?

ANSWER:

Solely for the purposes of this RFP, a candidate cannot be recommended for more than one base teaching certificate. However, the IHE can respond to the RFP with an application for one program designed to lead to more than one certificate, such as Math 7-12 and Biology 7-12. However, since dual certification is not permitted, a candidate may only be recommended for one base certificate.

MISCELLANEOUS:

52. Can external funds (not from this grant) support tuition of students in this grant program?

ANSWER:

Yes, we have no stipulation that external funds cannot be utilized in conjunction with the RFP.

53. We have an NSF Noyce scholarship program. Can these programs work in conjunction?

ANSWER:

We encourage the applicant to verify with their counsel whether a specific grant/scholarship program can be used in conjunction with the terms/conditions of this program.

54. Can you clarify the following sentence from page 10 of the RFP "Due to the innovative design of the pilot programs, the applicant must be mindful of the educational requirements for awards and loans (8 NYCRR §145-2.1[a][1]) if applicant intends for the pilot program to be eligible for such assistance."

ANSWER:

To clarify, the applicant must meet the requirements of this RFP as well as be mindful of the requirements of section 145-2.1 of the Commissioner's Regulations which outlines the educational requirements for awards and loans.

55. As you know, New York City is an entity of it's own in the state. Is the entire NYCDOE our partnering LEA, or would it be a single Children First Network (CFN)? Related to this, could our residency school partners be in multiple CFNs, or would they all need to be within the same CFN?

ANSWER:

Yes, NYCDOE is the LEA. Residency schools may be in multiple CFNs, however, this should be verified with the NYCDOE contact for this RFP:

Rakeda A. Leaks
Director of Teacher Recruitment and Applicant Services
Office of Teacher Recruitment and Quality
(O) 718.935.4929 | (E) rleaks@schools.nyc.gov | www.teachnyc.net

56. I noticed on the Race To the Top website the Undergraduate Clinically Rich Teacher Preparation Pilot Program RFP has been updated. What specifically has been updated and what are the important dates for this RFP?

ANSWER:

The following is the timetable of important dates:

Activity	Date
Issue of RFP	4/30/12
Applicant Webinar	5/14/12
Final Receipt of Questions	5/17/12
Official Responses to Questions	6/4/12
Proposal Due Date	6/29/12
Anticipated Preliminary Notification of Awards	8/15/12
Projected Start Date	11/1/2012

The updates were as follows:

On page 7 the approved APPR date for this RFP is by August 14, 2012.

On page 21 the cumulative total funding is \$1,595,350 NYC region and \$1,660,465 ROS region.