

2019 Transformative Grant FAQs

Q: Will each project be automatically evaluated as part of the expectation if you receive funding, which is why each project has to work with evaluator? Will every grant project be evaluated? Or is there option for it not to be evaluated?

A: Southern AIDS Coaliton (SAC): There are some core indicators that each of the coordinating centers will want to collect regarding the work that is happening to the all of the funded projects, the level of evaluation for the work at SAC depends on the project that we are working with. An evaluation is happening in several ways, our evaluation support for those funded through SAC will be for programmatic evaluation to support the organization and developing tools that can be utilized with participants. Tools that can be utilized for program development at the formative phase with focus groups protocols, and higher evaluation not to mention how projects can be replicated, there are levels to the evaluation but we work very hard to show how the evaluation piece is right for the project of focus.

A: Emory University (Emory): In terms of the evaluation our center has a team of evaluators, so each organization that is selected for funding will receive technical assistance from our evaluation team to develop an evaluation process that is tailored to the project that was approved and they will work with our evaluation team to ensure that they are collecting the appropriate information to track both their progress but depending on the project also the progress of activity that they are proposing in the RFP. The Emory center will also right size what that evaluation looks like based on the organizations that were accepted and received funding from the center.

A: University of Houston (Houston): We also have evaluation team that the funding organizations will work with to tailor individual evaluation for the projects as well as to work with high level of evaluation required with Gilead Sciences.

Q: Substance abuse solely focused on opioid usage, or is it wide range?

A: Houston: It is wide range. Not just opioid for example crystal meth, heroin, cocaine, etc...

Q: For the building organizational capacity focus area does the organization have to be an ASO (AIDS Service Organization) or is it ok if they are a nonprofit, another main focus such as trans-justice that is also doing HIV work?

A: Emory: Yes, if the organization has a substantial focus we are primarily looking in organizations that having a substantial focus on HIV, however we recognize that a number of organizations have a different primary focus but incorporate HIV work, so yes those organizations will be eligible to apply and receive support from Emory.

Q: If an organization is new and an initial audit or 990 is not due until after the application date, how can the organization meet this requirement?

A: SAC: Submitting an explanation to that along with the your organizational budget and then if we have any questions we will be happy to follow up with you around that but we hope that you can consider when applying and please submit an explanation why a 990 has not been submitted.

A: Emory: That situation is the same for Emory, if you do not have a 990 or any other document that is similar, you can submit a letter like Dafina mentioned and we could review that as well.

A: Houston: Same for Houston, submit that documentation as well.

Q: One of their requirements is to acknowledge how HIV stigma is manifested in your community what if identify individual a structural manifestations of stigma are aims of your project?

A: SAC: Absolutely, we definitely recognize that stigma shows up in various communities and various ways and so we are very intentional and being broad in our interpretation around stigma. At the end of the day what we really want to see is that you develop a project that is addressing the impact of that stigma which is the impact that is had on persons living with HIV so we very much encourage you and that is one of the key take aways, please utilize the narrative as an opportunity to illustrate for us how that stigma is showing up in community naming it and the impact that you are seeing in the community that you are serving.

Q: Where would the grantee convening be held?

A: The grantee convening will be held in New Orleans, Louisiana in February 2020.

Q: Is the RFP available to ask questions regarding to area that we would like to apply to?

A: Emory: Each CC would be on each CC webinars, between the 28-30th each coordinating center will be holding their center specific webinar, and it is the best opportunity, and any questions can be submitted to info@gileadcompass.com and they can be forwarded to the appropriate coordinating center.

A: SAC: All webinars will be recorded and made available and you can hear them again at a later time if you need.

A: Houston: We concur.

Q: Is prevention and health education outreach incorporating stigma reduction an eligible submission?

A: SAC: That is a really good question and I can answer that based on our experience of last year. You will notice in our focus area we talk about the creations of new interventions as well as adaptation. What we noticed is that certain organizations who apply for funding who were utilizing evidence based interventions that were very much health education traditional primary prevention interventions and incorporated stigma modules or some activity that added additional deliverables that addressed stigma specifically. We definitely also recognize that we are not just creating something new but also adapting something new that is already working and tweaking it so that you are better addressing HIV related stigma through an intervention.

Q: Are indirect cost allowable in the budget?

A: Yes, indirect costs are allowable but there is a cap on the indirect cost it is 10-20% of total budget cost and is in detail in the RFP.

Q: How much can we request, can we request more than the allowed amount, is there any leniency?

A: Only requests for up to \$100,000 maximum.

Q: Have previous grantees requested at no cost extension?

A: We are currently in our first round of grants and due to number of reasons we have offered the opportunity for organizations to request at no cost extension and at this time we have not had any organization request that, as this grant cycle has not been finalized yet, but there is an opportunity for organizations to request that if they are needed.

Q: Will PrEP not be the focus or included in all COMPASS Initiative® grant applications or just this one specifically?

A: We recognize that PrEP is such a key piece of prevention strategy in this work and so important and we recognize while we have some limitations around how we can fund that, it is important if you have that concern in capacity building, where your PrEP service will be far removed from where you are seeking support, email that particular CC that you are interested in and get that question answered in more detail. The requirements that we are speaking of are specifically for this COMPASS initiative, please look for the eligibility requirements for those initiatives.

Q: How do we show adequate representation from community members where disclosure is hindered from stigma?

A: Often we talk about MIPA a lot and at the same time we talk about the autonomy around when we wish to disclose. Sometimes it feels like they fly in the face of one another, so we encourage the organizations to talk about the efforts that they are making to engage with folks who are living with and impacted by, in the manner that you address that but we know the disclosures are a challenge in our community. What are you doing to address that, and how. Even folks that are not in the space of disclosing their status, communities are the most vulnerable and impact how you engage. You want to make sure that the organizations are aligned with the goal of MIPA as part of the process of developing their proposals.

Q: Would the funding be allowable to pay for office space for the expanded services and HIV medical case management or harm reduction?

A: Emory: For our proposals office space would be at appropriate request, however one of the questions you should be prepared to discuss is how it would be sustained or maintained after this initial period so yes expansion of services and some office space is a feasible request, however there has to be a really strong sustainability plan for how that will look beyond that 12 months period.

A: SAC: Yes.

A: Houston: Space rental is allowable but it will be included in your indirect cost.

Q: Can we apply to more than one COMPASS Coordinating Center (CC)?

A: No, unfortunately you may only apply to one of the CCs for funding.

Q: Will these slides be available on the website or emailed to us when this webinar concludes?

A: They will be made available on the website.

Q: Where can I find the RFP?

A: Emory: The RFP can be found on our COMPASS Initiative website at www.gileadcompass.com, click on 'Community Investments' and then look under the grants tab and then transformative grants. It's located under the 'how to apply' header or you can also click the apply button on this page and find the full RFP located under the 'Application Requirements and Restrictions' header