

## QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

### 2021 RFP: THREE REGIONAL ACES COLLABORATIVES (RAC) FOR COMMUNITY INNOVATION MICROGRANTS

Questions? Email us anytime at [dcf.askrfp@dcf.nj.gov](mailto:dcf.askrfp@dcf.nj.gov)

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- 1. Page 6 of the RFP states that: Up to three (3) regional RACs will be awarded. Can one organization apply for and be awarded more than one regional RAC?**

Yes.

**If the answer is yes, should the organization submit a separate application for each RAC?**

Yes.

- 2. Many times, the same people on RAC boards also are on local community collaboratives and vice versa...how will this be handled for mini grants?**

If someone is on a RAC Board and a local Community Collaboratives organization applying for a grant, the RAC board member will have to recuse from voting on that application.

- 3. Do you prefer RACs to have strong existing inter county structure and collaboration or should that be built?**

Yes, we would prefer that the RAC has a strong intercounty structure. If it is not in place, describe how you will build it.

- 4. Can mini grants be one county pilot, or must they be for all counties?**

Yes, grants can be for region, counties or neighborhoods.

- 5. Will you be looking for Primary, prevention...or secondary/tertiary? Is that the main concern?**

We are not specifically looking for prevention. DCF is looking for programs and projects that are community generated and will address ACES. We are looking for broad representation.

**6. How many microgrants can be issued?**

That will depend on the number received and what the costs are. It is not about the size of the grants. The grants are intended to reach into the community to address the needs and the number issued will depend upon the application and ideas received.

**7. Is there a ceiling amount for the mini grants?**

No, the amount will be based on the project.

**8. How can organizations do all this with a \$75,000 budget?**

The \$75,000 budget is what we set, and services need to be done within that limit.

**9. Does this include transportation expenses?**

Yes, please refer to the RFP on the bottom of page 4:

(c) Transportation arrangements-RACs are required to provide transportation for innovators to meet concerning their applications and implementation of their projects if needed.

This can be included within the \$75,000 budget. RACs help build capacity and cultivate resources to build the community. It's about getting the resources that are allocated to you and through you to the community.

**10. Is this RFP for the awarded agency to become a grant in their community or will they be creating and providing a direct service in the community?**

It is not about the RAC being the provider of direct services. These grants will be provided by the RAC and make opportunities on a grass root level to local communities. Innovation grants can be provided to organizations that have not traditionally received state money, such as minority owned businesses, churches, women's groups, and little league teams. The focus is to build capacity, infrastructure and resiliency. This is also another way to break away from structural racism.

**11. Are creative components welcomed? For example, oral histories, collecting stories, restorative circles?**

Yes, these examples are some of what we are looking for.

**12. Can you clarify the \$75,000 and the time period covered?**

Funding for each RAC is available up to \$75,000 per year for approximately 18 months. Year 1 is anticipated to be from contract execution until June 30, 2022; Year 2 is July 1, 2022 to June 30, 2023.  
The total is \$150,000 for a fixed period of 2 years.

**13. The county council has been working in the community with families for years now. Can they apply separately with their authorized agents?**

Anyone can apply.

**14. What if an applicant applies for more than one region and needs the funds to support but is only awarded one?**

You can apply for more than one region and condition your application on the receipt of more than one region. Unless your score is the highest in more than one region, then you would not be awarded /considered for one region even if your score is highest.

**15. Will the RAC be precluded in participating in submissions for micro grant funding?**

Yes.

**16. If an agency applies to become a RAC, does this excludes us?**

Yes.

**17. Is there a projected date that requests for ideas to be released by the RACs?**

Please refer to page 5 of the RFP: a: Call for Ideas  
Within ninety (90) days of award, the RAC shall issue and publish a request or call for ideas.

**18. What about translation services? Is that included in the \$75,000 budget?**

We refer you to page 4 of the RFP.

**Operating Requirements for Regional ACE Collaboratives (RAC)**

Languages spoken.

The RAC shall have bi-lingual staff and/or access to language services in order to engage and assist innovators with their proposals and implementation.

There are state resources that may be available to support the RACs.

**19. When can we (provider agency) apply for the micro grants?**

This is a priority. There is process but not an exact time frame. First DCF needs to award the RACs. Then the RACs will publish and advertise a Request for Ideas (RFI) within 90 days of the award letter. After an acceptance of the idea, the RAC will work with the recipient to craft a formal application.

**Does flexibility mean mini grants do not have to be non-profits?**

Correct.

**20. We want to apply but can't figure out how to make it work for \$75,000. Do you have a sense how you anticipate an organization to budget this?**

This needs to be overseen by the RAC. Every organization needs to determine whether they can develop the work in accordance with their own fiscal plans and mission to serve the community.

**21. To clarify, if you are the RAC, you cannot receive a mini grant.**

Correct.

**22. Why isn't the community representative presented on the IGRB?**

The board includes community representatives. A number are direct members and represent particular groups. Also, please refer to the RFP on page 4 review board.

**23. Are we working in collaboration with DCF regarding who is awarded the micro grants?**

Yes.

**24. Is the RAC responsible for reporting requirements? Are we incentivizing to make larger grants to avoid 80 projects to report on?**

Yes, the RAC is responsible for reporting requirements.

**25. Will you be sharing the recording?**

Yes, it is posted on our website with the RFP.

**26. Will the RAC be responsible for providing technical assistance and budget reviews for the micro grant recipient?**

Yes, the DCF Office of Resiliency staff will also partner with the RACs.

**27. Many times, with community problems, “the community often look to fixing problem vs Prevention” which takes more time. How important is prevention and are we to “stretch” to prevention which often takes more prompting?**

It is not about fixing community problems. It can be any form of prevention, but it is also about offering opportunities to develop positive child experiences.

**28. If awarded as a RAC, can we reach out to agencies we feel are appropriate?**

Yes, but it is broader. We also want individuals and local community organizations to submit their ideas.

Also, a partnership with interagency teams from statewide departments is another resource for the RACs. RACs have the ability to meet with these teams that have representatives from state departments that are working on ACES.

**29. Who will be responsible for the marketing of the micro grants?**

We are asking the RACs to oversee marketing. We can also offer DCF social media platforms to assist and support the RACs.