

SFY 2024-25 Mental Health Diversion Grant Program NOAF
Question & Answer

Question 1. *“Do we need a letter of intent/support from someone in the defense bar as well the Assignment Judge and the Regional Public Defender?”*

A. The Notice of Availability of Funds and Program Guidelines indicate which letters are required and which are recommended. All “New Programs must be developed in collaboration with the Vicinage leadership and other necessary partners, including the Office of the Public Defender and members of the defense bar; and all New Program applicants **must** provide a letter of intent or similar representation indicating consultation with and approval of the Plan from the Vicinage’s Assignment Judge and the Regional Office of the Public Defender.”

Additionally, the NOAF and Program Guidelines say, “Applications should include letters of intent from all agencies that will partner on the New Program.”

Question 2. *“Our purchasing is advising this is going to have to go out to an RFP for the mental health provider. This will not be returned in time for the May 21 deadline. Is it acceptable to apply for the grant with a partner mental health agency not named?”*

A. If any portion of the grant proposal, such as the provision of mental health services, is required to be competitively bid by the county, that information should be noted in the application along with an estimate of how long it will take for bidding and selection of a provider to occur. That information should also be built into the program timeline.

Note that this is a competitive grant, and the strength of the partnerships and ability to implement the program will be considered in the scoring.