**RFA – 2025.1.A:**

**Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs) Inclusive Postsecondary Education (IPSE) Planning**

**Question & Answer Document Updated October 07, 2024**

1. **Question: Do you need to already be working at an HBCU to apply?**

**Answer:** It is not required that you are working at an HBCU to apply, but because you need to start an IPSE program at an HBCU by January 2027, you will need a working relationship or agreement with an NC HBCU.

1. **Question: Are the only eligible applicants HBCUs? Or can other applicants apply?**

**Answer:** See answer to Question 1, above. See specific additional information required in the RFA Deliverables #1, #5, and #6, necessitating involvement with an HBCU.

1. **Question: What was the intent behind the RFA? Is there an expectation to have staff available to provide extra services and or have facilities altered to allow access to programming for faculty to be able to accommodate?**

**Answer:** The intent is outlined in the RFA’s *Intent* section and, in short, is to create and establish an Inclusive Postsecondary Education (IPSE) program within a HBCU university or college. In terms of expectations, please see RFA Deliverables #1, #2, #3, #4, #5, and #6 and Objectives #1, #2, #3, #4, #5, and #6.

1. **If there is a cap on the size of the awarded budget, can the contractor request more money with the proper implementation planning?**

**Answer:** NCCDD substantially increased the amount of funding for this initiative in order to pilot an IPSE initiative. Outside experts have suggested that this may be sufficient funds for the first eighteen to twenty-four months of the initiative. That said, the RFA *Intent* section outlines that ‘Additional funding outside of this grant may be needed to fund the pilot as explained in this Request for Applications.’ While NCCDD will support the initial program planning and setup, additional grants/funding/partnerships are outlined in RFA Deliverables #1, #4, and #5 outline additional resources and requirements, including the following:

‘Developing a plan for raising funds or charging tuition and fees to pay for any costs of the pilot program not covered by this grant. This can include but is not limited to applying for Transition and Postsecondary Programs for Students with Intellectual Disabilities funding (TPSID), funding through the Division of Employment and Independence for People with Disabilities (EIPD, formerly NC Division of Vocational Rehabilitation Services), tuition, state and federal resources, private/charitable and other funding while conducting grant activities. Such plan should include strategies to make the program increasingly more affordable for potential students.

Information on the *Funding* *Amounts* is included on Page 12 of the RFA, as follows:

“The funding for this RFA will be up to $60,000.00 for the first contract period (termed “Year 1” [of 4]) for 6 planning and development months, with required minimum of 25% non-federal matching funds ($20,000). The initial 6-month funded project begins April 1, 2025, and ends September 30, 2025. All additional contract periods (Years 2 through 4) will all be a full calendar year. The first six-month budget should be entered into the DD Suite application. (“Year 1” is only a six-month period.)

NOTE: Indirect costs in any contract period are not to exceed 10% of Modified Total Direct Costs (MTDC) (e.g., up to $5,455 for the first contract period) for contractors (also known as suppliers) that do not possess a Federally Negotiated Indirect Cost Rate. See attachment A [of the RFA] for additional information specific to Universities with Federally Negotiated Indirect Cost Rates, noting that Universities’ indirect costs should not exceed 8% of the MTDC.

Years 3 (of 4) and 4 (of 4): Each will be up to $200,000 with 25% non-federal matching funds ($66,667), with Year 3 (of 4) starting October 1, 2026 and ending September 30, 2027, and Year 4 (of 4) starting October 1, 2027 and ending September 30, 2028. One possible additional year could be allowed as shown below.

· Year 1 (of 4) – 6 Months: April 1, 2025 – September 30, 2025

o Up to $60,000 in federal funds (NCCDD)

o Estimated $20,000 in non-federal matching funds (25% Cost-Share)

· Year 2 (of 4) – 12 Months: October 1, 2025 – September 30, 2026

o Up to $120,000 in federal funds (NCCDD)

o Estimated $40,000 in non-federal matching funds (25% Cost-Share)

· Year 3 (of 4) – 12 Months: October 1, 2026 – September 30, 2027

o Up to $200,000 in federal funds (NCCDD)

o Estimated $66,667 in non-federal matching funds (25% Cost-Share)

· Year 4 (of 4) – 12 Months: October 1, 2027 – September 30, 2028

o Up to $200,000 in federal funds (NCCDD)

o Estimated $66,667 in non-federal matching funds (25% Cost-Share)

· One possible additional year (Year 5 of 5) could be approved by all parties of up to $100,000 if initiative can obtain a $100,000 non-federal match to show sustainability of initiative.”

1. **Does the 25% Non-Federal Matching Funds (i.e., Cost-Share) solely need to be in cash or can time be used also?**

**Answer:** It does not need to solely be cash. It can be in-kind. Please see the Information and Technical Assistance Center (ITACC) information on 2024 Financial Guide for Councils on Developmental Disabilities @ <https://itacchelp.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/07/FY-2024-Updated-Financial-Info-Guide-for-Councils.pdf> .

**See RFA Attachment A for additional information specific to Universities with Federally Negotiated Indirect Cost Rates**, noting that Universities’ indirect costs should not exceed 8% of the MTDC.

**Unrecovered indirect costs in excess of the 8% cap and the OSA indirect cost rate for universities or colleges may be used as part or all of the required match**.

Note: This grant program meets the ACL definition for training grants. For training

grants, applicants must limit the indirect cost rate to eight percent of total direct costs, exclusive of equipment, tuition and stipends, rental of space, major contracts or subgrants and renovation and alteration, under this program announcement.