

Public Information Request from Craig Mayers, scmayersii@gmail.com; 941-323-2999; 850-228-3029

Questions for the Children's Services Council of Palm Beach County

1. What are the criteria for selecting applications for funding after they receive the applications? Independent site visits to applicants?

We fund programs/organization using our procurement procedure through a competitive bid process (Request for Proposals). The requirements or criteria depend on the specific services we're looking for. Every competitive bid process has its own criteria and scoring. For more information about how we fund, see the attached RFP template and visit:

<https://www.cscpbcc.org/how-we-fund>

2. What internal controls does your organization prefer applicants for funding to have? This depends on the nature and size of the procurement. The larger the funding amount, the more internal controls we expect. In certain situations, we do provide financial support to organizations to enhance their infrastructure/capacity.

3. How thoroughly does your organization examine the Past Audits & Past Performance applicants? As discussed via our phone conversation, financial requirements depend on the requirements of the specific RFP.

4. Who participates in the application review process?

Depending on the RFP/bid process, there is generally a team of reviewers (both internal staff and external/community participants) across disciplines, with at least one person with subject matter expertise.

5. What sets applicants apart and makes them worthy of funding?

This would depend on the specific requirements of the RFP and on the applicant's submission and interview (if necessary).

6. Does your organization require Performance Data or Evidence-Based Performance Measures? If so, how many performance metrics are ideally included in an application for funding? If so, does your organization use standard metrics for all award recipients? Why or why not?

Yes, we require specific performance data or measures for accountability purposes. Those are outlined in the program contracts. We also use some across-the-board measures.

7. Do recipients of funding from your organization create unique performance metrics for themselves? Why or why not?

Not generally, but this could happen. Again, it depends on the nature of the service.

8. How often do the recipients of funding from your organization have to report?

Depending on the vendor or service, reporting may be quarterly, bi-annually or annually. Most programs report quarterly and are measured by CSC once or twice annually.

9. When are the recipients required to provide performance measurement data? Before the application is submitted, after the application is submitted

We measure performance relating to our own contracts, so this would not take place until after the provider has delivered the program or service for at least a year.

10. Does your organization independently audit the performance measurement data reports received from recipients of your organization's funding?

Yes.

11. Are any employees in the recipient organizations responsible for compiling the performance measurement data? Is it part of an employee's job description among the recipient organizations?

Some providers provide the data, but most enter data into our own performance data system. Both provider and CSC can access data and review performance reporting.

12. What percentage of applicants receiving funding are a continuation of projects that received funding in the previous fiscal year? Do the same recipient organizations always receive funding? (i.e. Continuation Funding)

We operate a system of care. This system operates with an entry agency and referral function. Many of the programs we fund are part of the system, so they necessarily are funded year over year, subject to meeting performance measures. Please visit our website here for more information: <https://www.cscpb.org/our-system-care>

13. How are individual members of your organization's governing Board selected? (i.e. politically appointed, volunteers etc.)

This is outlined in Florida Statute 125.901. For more on this, visit our website here: <https://www.cscpb.org/council>

14. Does your organization have a process that independently verifies the performance measurement data received from funding recipients?

Generally, yes. An annual performance assessment is conducted for agencies funded to implement a program with the intent to directly or indirectly impact outcomes for children and families served. This assessment includes an analysis of outcome achievement for those intending to have a direct impact.

15. Does your organization's application process incorporate a risk-based review? (i.e. Federal Government Grant Perspective - Past Audits, Past Performance, Internal Controls etc.)

When issuing a competitive bid, CSC does use a scoring section that includes the number of points awarded based upon demonstration of sound fiscal practices (competency and capacity).

16. May we have a digital copy of the application that applicants are asked to complete to be considered for funding?

Please see RFP template attached to this email.

17. May we have a copy of the document outlining the evaluation tools or format used when selecting recipients?

Every RFP has different questions and criteria so we do not have a uniform tool to measure applicants. We do use a scoring rubric. Please see RFP template mentioned above.

18. Does your organization overlap with the City Government and County Government regarding funding areas and projects? If so, how do you all communicate, prevent overlap, and if there is overlap how is the partnership between these entities structured?

We collaborate on a number of project/programs with local government. In some cases, we pool funding. In other cases, the collaboration is structural.

For more information about this, visit: <https://www.cscpb.org/community>

19. Does your organization have City Government and County Government contacts that might provide more insight into the relationships if one exists?

Our relationship with the County and cities, as well as other business and philanthropic stakeholders, is supported by a comprehensive collective impact effort called Birth to 22. You can learn more here: <http://pbcbirthto22.com/>

Affiliated with this effort is an active collaboration of funders of education, health and human services that encourages joint funding of projects, particularly in times of disaster relief and recovery.

20. Do you know of other Children's Services Councils that do an excellent job that we might also reach out to?

For more insight, you may want to reach out to the Florida Children's Council.

You may also want to reach out to the Children's Trust in Miami-Dade County or Broward County's Children's Services Council.