FY 2010 ABLE Grant Questions and Answers

1. Q. The grant application references “Agreements-Contracts-MOUs” as if they are distinct. Are they?

   A. Not necessarily. Examples of elements of an MOU (in the Guidance) and Contract (on the web site) are provided to give ideas of the kinds of detail that should be described between ABLE fiscal agents and other programs being contracted with for services, whether funds are involved or not. Applicants can decide whether they want to call such a document an agreement, contract or MOU, as long as there is sufficient detail provided to clearly understand the relationship(s).

2. Q. Are MOUs/Contracts/Agreements required of both Option 1 and Option 2?

   A. In Option 1, the fiscal agent is required to provide this documentation for the provision of Optional Components as well as a Signature Page (with original signatures) for partners. In Option 2, the fiscal agent may form an MOU/Contract/Agreement with other agencies to provide the optional components.

3. Q. In the application’s Part F. Program Design, Section 2 number 2 – Partnership Agreement, does the required partnership with a postsecondary education agency(ies) need to be verified through a formal, written agreement?

   A. A written formal agreement is not required with a postsecondary partnership, but if you prefer to have a formal agreement, you may.

4. Q. Is Corrections Education funding in addition to the estimated FY 2010 ABLE funding by county and EDR in the supplement?

   A. No. These estimated funding levels represent the entirety of ABLE funding to support this and all other required and optional ABLE components in FY 2010.

5. Q. As the fiscal agent, do I need to attach Desk Review and/or equivalent past performance data of other partner agencies?

   A. Yes.

6. Q. Does the 25 page limit apply to the whole Instructional Grant application or just Section F. Program Design?

   A. Just Section F.
7. Q. Do we use single-space or double-space format?

A. The application text must be double-spaced with 12-point Times New Roman or Arial font.

8. Do we use the state annual average of $548 per student to determine our costs?

A. This cost per student amount is provided as a guide. Applicants should do their best to determine their actual costs, including but not limited to access to alternative funding, if applicable.

9. Q. What costs comprise the 15% cap on administration?

A. This includes the Director’s salary and benefits, fiscal salary and benefits, rent, administrative operational costs, e.g. indirect costs, custodial and security services, and professional development. ABLELink-related costs are not part of this 15% cap. The coordinator can be a non-administrative cost if that position is a hands-on, not strictly a supervisory position. Usually coordinators in ABLE provide direct services such as working on curriculum and instruction, helping in the classroom and managing the orientation.

10. Q. Is the fiscal agent of either an Option 1 or Option 2 application responsible for all fiscal and other reporting and accountability elements of the grant?

A. Yes.

11. Q. Are the Instructional and EL/Civics rating rubrics available?

A. They will be available to the readers to use during the formal readers’ evaluation of applications. The PowerPoint used in the Bidders’ Conference, and now posted on the website, covered how sections would be rated.

12. Q. In the Needs Assessment, is the “counties to be served” determined by the counties where my students live?

A. No, “counties to be served” refers to where you physically have a class site. You can count students in your projected enrollment where you have a class site.

13. Q. Do I need to complete the Disclosure of Lobbying Activities form if I’m not intending to do any lobbying?

A. The form may be signed even if there is no additional information included and no intent to lobby. If the form is not signed, we will assume the program has no intent to lobby.