# DYS 2019 Diversion Grant Application

# Q&A Teleconference Summary

# April 26, 2019

*Introduction Overview*

DYS is delighted that so many counties have expressed an interest in continuing or incorporating diversion grant services in the respective communities. This year’s application process will be more competitive. Currently, the diversion grant process includes 50 programs serving 59 counties. These services have touched the lives of at least 4,778 youth annually. Since 2008, DYS has invested $10 million a year in diversion grant services, and in 2018 the Alabama legislature budgeted an additional $1 million to fund additional diversion grant programs with an emphasis on evidence-based programming. The additional funding support added 7 diversion program for 13 counties.

*Q & A (Questions are not presented in any particular order. The questions and responses below were edited and/or expounded upon for clarity)*

* I received our data report from AOC today. In the report they included the offense of Minor Possession of Alcohol. Since this is not a committable offense, then, a child with this charge would never be eligible for our diversion program. Should this charge have been excluded from our data? Or, will it even matter?
  + *The AOC information is intended to help courts see what types of youth are coming into contact with their court. This will hopefully allow existing programs to assess whether or not the current program is adequate for youth or if changes are needed; and it will allow new programs to figure out the best direction for their proposed program. It should not have been excluded from the AOC data, and since your county had only one case, it is not extremely significant.*
* Should the target group of our data for the grant be the 2017-2018 fiscal years?
  + *The AOC data that you will request from Mandi Hall will include county court youth from October 1, 2017 to September 30, 2018. The data for the program outcome data will include program youth whose 6 month data was entered from January 1, 2018 to present. Unless you are requesting a new program for your county, that will all the data needed for the existing diversion program.*
* Do we still request data from Ms. Zachry?
  + *No, just go with the data info mentioned in the application. Mandi Hall at AOC and GIMS outcome information (which is accessible to program staff with GIMS access).*
  + *Additionally, new programs should pay special attention to page 3 item 2 and page 4 item d, which requires that new programs select 25 random court cases from their county to assist with the risk assessment determination.*
  + *Existing diversion programs will utilize previous diversion grant experience to determine the proposed risk level(s) for the upcoming fiscal year. The application should describe what method(s)/sampling technique(s) were used to identify the final risk level(s).*
* We have only 16 cases in the GIMS outcome list. Since GIMS has only been reporting outcome measures since January 2018, should we use some kids from the program that had outcome measures prior to January to make up the 25?
  + *No, we wanted a max of randomly selected 25 youth or all of the youth with data available if less than 16. Since you only have 16 youth with 6 month outcome data, just analyze the data for all 16 youth rather than doing random selection.*
    - *For programs that do not have at least 16 youth in the sample, please contact Pat Pendergast (*[*pat.pendergast@dys.alabama.gov*](mailto:pat.pendergast@dys.alabama.gov)*) or April Jones (*[*april.jones@dys.alabama.gov*](mailto:april.jones@dys.alabama.gov)*) to review possible alternative options.*
* On the grant application page 7 (#2) which refers to the 6 month outcome data, do we need to include the data percentages comparing the differences in the grant application?
  + *The comparison is referencing the initial outcome data that was completed at the point of program completion, and the 6 month outcome data for those same youth. You can include the data percentages, descriptors, or whatever information you believe will assist in the discussion. The outcome measures captured in GIMS include Destination, Education, Employment, Court Supervision, Reoffense.*
* Can we combine the outcome data if we have multiple programs, or does it need to be presented individually?
  + *Since the programs are separate and the data for each program is collected separately in GIMS, you will need to pull the outcome data for 25 youth for each program that will be included your application packet. This will help gauge the effectiveness of each program component.*
* The question in Section F, number 2, which refers to the outcome data for existing programs, is there a certain form we need to use to show the results of the data we analyze for our program? Or just answer in a written paragraph response?
  + *You can develop a chart, explain the results in narrative form, or a combination of the two. We’re flexible. Do your best to insure that our review committee can view your proposal and understand the outcome measure and numbers you have explained in your response.*
* Do you want only data from FY 2018, or FY 2017 & 2018 to be included in the grant application?
  + *The dates for the fiscal year for data are October 1, 2017 to September 30, 2018. The only other data range for existing programs is the outcome data available in GIMS.*
* On page 6 number 3, are you referring to DYS commitments over all, or DYS commitments of juveniles that have participated in the grant funded programs?
  + *This is referring to all DYS commitments from your county. You can use the commitment information included in the last report card, annual reports, and/or previous applications to understand the trend in DYS commitments from your county.*
  + *Since we are tracking commitments for your county and the grant is intended to help slow down commitments to DYS, this is important information that should be available and shared between the local court and the diversion program.*
* In years past, grant applicants have had to complete Committed Youth Data Analysis Forms for each county and Program Youth Data Analysis Forms. Are these no longer required? Or, is this what info we will get from AOC?
  + *We have changed the process a bit to try and simplify things. So, for existing programs you will only need the county data from AOC and then do an analysis on outcome data that you will get from GIMS (the outcome information is later in the application towards the end). No need to do the risk and needs assessment documents this time, you can use your knowledge to define the risk score section.*
* For programs that are currently operating, but not under a DYS grant -- can we continue to use our current protocol for length of time in the program? And would DYS accept "ongoing" as a length of time?
  + *A determinate average length of stay will need to be established and included in the application, “ongoing” will not be an acceptable response. This average length of stay may be established using whatever knowledge is deemed beneficial (i.e., existing program protocol, demographics of proposed program population, etc.)*
* I realize that the data received from AOC is used to define our program population.  But, since we are not using the forms/charts like we have for previous applications, can you give an example of how you want the data analysis to look for answering Section A, #3?
  + *This question is intended to assist with defining the population in the program by reviewing who and how many youth currently come into contact with your court. One possible presentation of this information is as follows:*

***AOC Data Analysis***

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Category | | Number of Total Youth | % of Total Youth |
| Delinquent Complaints | |  |  |
| Delinquent Petitions | |  |  |
| Age Range | 10 – 12 |  |  |
| 13 – 15 |  |  |
| 16 – 18 |  |  |
| 18+ |  |  |
| Gender | Female |  |  |
| Male |  |  |
| Offense Type (top 3 offenses) | Domestic Violence |  |  |
| Probation Violence |  |  |
| Theft of Property |  |  |

* Are the programs or probation officers responsible for reporting the 6 month follow-up information?
  + *For most diversion grant programs, the contracted program provider is responsible for entering the 6 month outcome information in GIMS since data enter is often completed by program staff. However, gathering the information needed will most likely require the assistance of the probation officer.*
* How do you determine funding amounts? How can existing programs request additional funding?
  + *DYS will not be receiving any additional funding.*
* How do courts determine which youth are better served in a diversion program as opposed to commitment to DYS?
  + *It is the expectation that the youth referred for diversion program services are the same youth that would be committed to DYS if those services were not available.*
* What is the threshold on the risk assessment to determine the type of service needed?
  + *More medium to high risk scores*
* Regarding page 2 in the Purpose Section, can you elaborate on the “additional evaluative ratings and considerations” given to proposals that include evidence-based practices? How exactly will these types of proposals be prioritized for funding?
  + *We are encouraging the inclusion of EBP in all grant proposals and will grade proposals with that in mind, particularly if making a competitive comparison.*
* In the 3rd paragraph of the Purpose Section, “agreed upon census numbers” are referenced in relation to monthly monitoring and future funding – could clarification be provided on where these census numbers come from (i.e., will they be the census numbers provided in the proposal)?
  + *This refers to the information included in the final grant agreement for each program which will consist of the annual numbers proposed in the application. Monthly monitoring is referencing the census numbers that are recorded in GIMS.*
* Regarding pages 3-4, section b, item 1e, would it be acceptable to propose two levels of service within one evidence-based practice for low level vs. high level substance abuse cases (and if so, will high level vs. low level substance abuse be labeled on the referral)?
  + *No, 2 different service levels may not be proposed within the same program.*

Deadline: May28