Washington State Department of
HEALTH

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Washington State Department of Health

Technical Assistance Session:

Building Community Capacity for Equitable COVID-19 Recovery

Thursday, August 10, 2023

4:00 PM - 5:00 PM PST

[Captioner standing by]

>> KYLIN BEESON: Hi, folks! We're just waiting for folks to trickle in. I'm going to post our slide deck for the day, which is going to start with some information on our accessibility features.

>> LAURA CELIS BLACK: [Speaking Spanish]

>> KYLIN BEESON: I'm just going to give it a few more minutes.

>> LAURA CELIS BLACK: [Speaking Spanish]

>> KYLIN BEESON: Okay, I think I'll go ahead and get started.

>> LAURA CELIS BLACK: [Speaking Spanish]

>> KYLIN BEESON: So we do have closed captions for this meeting.

>> LAURA CELIS BLACK: [Speaking Spanish]

>> KYLIN BEESON: Instructions are on the screen for how to access those.

>> LAURA CELIS BLACK: [Speaking Spanish]

>> KYLIN BEESON: We also have Spanish interpretation available. So access this, you want to select "Interpretation" at the bottom bar. To hear the interpreted language only, click "Mute Original Audio".

>> LAURA CELIS BLACK: [Speaking Spanish]

>> MOMODOU: I don't seem to be hearing anything from the meeting.

>> LAURA CELIS BLACK: This person who is speaking cannot hear anything, but I can hear you.

>> KYLIN BEESON: Is anyone else having difficulty hearing us?

>> LAURA CELIS BLACK: [Speaking Spanish]

>> KYLIN BEESON: Momodou, if that was you, it might help to leave and come back to the meeting. Maybe there's an audio connection issue.

>> LAURA CELIS BLACK: [Speaking Spanish]

>> KYLIN BEESON: Okay, I will continue. I'm not seeing anyone else has issues at this point, but this will be recorded, so it will be available after the meeting.

>> LAURA CELIS BLACK: [Speaking Spanish]

>> KYLIN BEESON: Okay, so we're going to go ahead and start. I'm going to start with a Land Acknowledgement.

We start today with a Land Acknowledgement. We are meeting virtually from all over, but our physical offices are located in Tumwater, on the traditional territories of the Coast Salish people, specifically the Nisqually and

Squaxin Island peoples, Tumwater and the South Puget Sound region are covered by the Treaty of Medicine Creek, signed under duress in 1854. The employees of the State of Washington are guided by the Centennial Accord in Chapter 43.376 RCW-respecting and affirming Tribal sovereignty and working with our Tribal Governments throughout the state in Government-to-Government partnership.

I also just want to acknowledge that I work remotely from the traditional territory of Squaxin, Tatoosh, and Walla Wall Nations.

If anyone would like to acknowledge their own territory where they are working from, please go ahead and do so in the chat.

Okay, thank you for joining us for this Technical Assistance Session: Community Resilience Fund for Equitable COVID-19 Recovery. My name is Kylin Beeson, I often go by Ky. My pronouns are she/her and I present with short, black hair and a white, waffle sweater. I am the Contract Manager for this funding opportunity. I'm also here with a couple colleagues, including Macie Parker and Julia Wilson-Peltier, who are supporting this work.

So just a brief overview of the agenda. We're going to spend the next about 20 minutes or so going over the funding opportunity, including key information, goals and strategies, reviewing what the contract will look like, as well as eligibility, and then important dates for this funding opportunity.

And then at the very end we'll leave the last 30 minutes for questions and answers.

So I think it's important to mention that this funding comes from saved funds from a couple of CDC funding sources, including the Health Disparities Grant and COVID-19 Immunization Grant funds. So we have about 1.5 million

dollars in total funding available and it will be distributed across projects that express interest.

Up to $40,000 for each project that meets criteria is available.

And then funding -- the funding period for this ends pretty soon, it's next May of next year.

So we're sort of running on a short timeline.

So some of the funding goals for this work, the main goal is to improve access to COVID-19 vaccine information and communications and linguistic vaccines themselves.

Secondly, we want to develop meaningful, culturally relevant and linguistically appropriate communications around COVID-19.

We're also hoping to increase our reach and impact of Department of Health public health messaging through trusted messengers in the community.

We are working to grow in and invest in existing communications and community infrastructure, so utilizing what's already strong and in place within communities.

To build relationships between communities and the Department of Health.

And address the social determinants of health amplified by the pandemic.

So these are some targeted strategies that are going to help us reach our goals. So we're working through community outreach to share information.

Producing culturally relevant and linguistically appropriate information

and messaging through these community-based organizations.

Promoting accessibility.

Cross-partner collaboration to extend our reach of health information.

Culturally appropriate vaccination events.

And PPE distribution.

So we're really working to connect with -- to work with organizations that are serving priority communities and priority intersections. So we've outlined what these communities are and what these priority intersections are. It's important that a project that receives funding addresses one in each of these categories.

So we want to make sure we're addressing a priority community and a priority intersection.

Sorry, I was reading a different slide. [Laughter]

Okay, organizations that we're encouraging to submit an Interest Form include, but are not limited to:

Not-for-profit organizations, Urban Indian and/or Tribal-related organizations, faith-based organizations, and organizations that have fiscal sponsorship.

This may also include rural Health Centers, Community Health Centers, and federally qualified Centers that meet certain criteria.

Okay, and, again, I apologize, I was mixed up in my slides.

But, yes, we are wanting to reach communities that have underserved and minoritized in our efforts to address health disparities related to COVID-19.

So I just wanted to kind of go over some of the contract requirements. I

know that's a big question. We did recently post a sample contract on the website that will include essentially what these four activities are, deliverables and reporting requirements, as well as things like invoicing requirements.

And so I would encourage folks to review that, if that feels like helpful information. But I will sort of give a high level overview of what we're looking for as deliverables within the contract.

So the first piece will be submitting a project plan. I know that Interest Forms are more general, but we'll want to have a little more details and understanding of what exactly the body of work will look like for the project.

The second activity is implement culturally and linguistically appropriate COVID-19 education, outreach, and communication activities. This is sort of where the body of the work comes into play that you submit for an Interest Form. And this is sort of where we have a bit of flexibility in terms of what this looks like. So we are really leaving it up to organizations to decide what's appropriate, what's meaningful, what's accessible for their communities to communicate COVID-19-related information.

And so there is -- we want to just leave flexibility for that to some degree within the contract.

>> MOMODOU: Can I ask something real quick before you continue?

>> KYLIN BEESON: Yeah.

>> MOMODOU: I'm sorry to interrupt. I know we have left time for questioning, but can you go through item number one, submit a project plan. Just real quick. I missed that.

>> KYLIN BEESON: So the project plan will just be a more detailed,

flushed out version of your Interest Form. And so it will include things like a timeline and just sort of what you're expecting with -- it will just be the formal body of work that the project funding will -- the funding will be for the project.

Does that answer your question?

>> MOMODOU: Yes, thank you.

>> KYLIN BEESON: Okay. So the third piece here ensuring accuracy and validity of COVID-19 information using messaging, outreach, and communications. And this is just to make sure that we're aligning our communication between DOH and communities and what's going on out there in the communities, so making sure it's accurate and in line with messaging from the CDC as well.

And then the fourth piece is the contract management aspect and so really it's just an agreement that we'll meet monthly to check-in to see how I can support your project or your body of work. And so we just have to indicate that in the contract.

As for deliverables and reporting, there is an expectation of monthly Narrative Reports, which will be due the 15th of each month.

Now with this funding it may be the case that a project doesn't last the full, you know, six months or however long the contract period -- however long we have for the total amount of time for the contract, essentially until the end of May 2024. So you may have a simpler project where you're only really working for a couple months on the funding, so in that case we'd only have a couple reports, a couple Management Meetings, and things like that.

While we do anticipate that contracts will begin to be executed in December and end in May of 2024, it may not be the case that there's work to

be done throughout the six months.

And then invoices for reimbursement of funding will be due monthly, on the 30th of the month, following the month in which costs are incurred.

So just a little bit of drilling in to some of the technical pieces of the contract.

Okay, so because these are Federal funds that come from the CDC, there are restrictions and limitations on what the funding can be used for. And these restrictions and limitations are outlined in the sample contract that's available on the website. I can also e-mail that out to make sure everyone who is here receives it.

But I just wanted to make sure that it was clear that these are funds that are reimbursed and that there are restriction that is need to be made aware of.

So things like food and meals cannot be expensed. And there are certain restrictions around incentive materials as well. So just something to think about as you think about submitting an Interest Form.

Okay, we did create a template for Interest Forms and we have a version available both in English and Spanish. These are available on the website as well, though I am happy to send them out after this meeting.

The Interest Forms, I just want to flag, are due August 28th by 5:00 PM. And we have intentionally made it, you know, pretty short and hopefully simple and approachable to fill out. We're not asking for, you know, a ton of detail. You don't have to write, you know, a five-page report about it. We just want to collect some basic information and some background information about sort of the context of your organization and your community, your

project goals, and then making sure that we're reaching the priority communities and priority intersections.

It's also important to note that we do require the budget page to be filled out as well.

And once that's filled out, you simply would e-mail it to me at kylin.beeson@doh.wa.gov.

So we've set up a Review Committee or review process that include as Committee because we do anticipate that there will be more interest than funding available, in which case we'll want to be prepared to be consistent and transparent about how we're selecting organizations and projects and so there will be sort of an internal review first to verify projects are responsive to funding priorities and the community needs and for equity and geographic consideration.

So essentially making sure we're reaching the communities that are most impacted and maybe haven't received funding in other ways for this work.

And then we will be working with a Committee of the Community Collaborative. And the Community Collaborative is a body of community members that sort of provide an equity lens to the work of DOH and our decision-making. And they help us stay accountable to this work. But there will be a Committee with them to review and ultimately select projects.

One thing that I think might be helpful to see is what kind of guidelines we're using to review Interest Forms and so we're looking for a health equity approach to the work. Does the project center priority communities?   How does the project or activity involve community, if it does?

We're looking at feasibility. How feasible is the project in terms of time, budget requests, and resources available?

Again, we're sort of looking at a six-month time period for receiving and spending all these funds, so it can be -- sometimes be difficult to get things up and running. We want to make sure we're spending all the funds before they expire.

Another element is appropriateness and relevance. So it's important that this work address COVID-19 vaccines and health concerns and access, making sure we're reaching communities in culturally relevant and linguistically appropriate ways. And looking for clear goals and objectives.

And then the budget, so, you know, at most we can fund for up to $40,000 of projects.

I just sort of threw in a screenshot of the DOH page, which includes links to the different Interest Forms and resources, including the full funding announcement, the sample contract and statement of works, and then the sample general terms and conditions that are standard with DOH.

And then just wanting to highlight the key dates and the timeline that we're looking at, so we do have three additional open Office Hours available coming up in the next couple weeks.

Interest Forms, again, are due on August 28th at 5:00 PM.

And we anticipate reviewing them through September 18th and announcing around September 19th. That's sort of what we anticipate at this point and I don't see any changes, but there could be something that delays that.

And then we do anticipate holding an Orientation Meeting for funded

projects just to make sure that we're together on the contract piece.

And then, again, execution we anticipate beginning on or about December 1st. I know developing the contracts can take a while, so hopefully those will be up and running by December 1st.

And, again, these funds expire in May 2024.

So that's the end of my presentation. I will also add my contact info to the chat here.

And, again, there will be a follow-up e-mail to all registered folks with the recording, the transcript, and additional links for information to documents related to this funding opportunity.

So I'll stop screen sharing and I might need to get caught up on the chat for questions.

In the meantime, if anyone has questions, feel free to raise your hand.

>> MOMODOU: Yeah, good afternoon. Can you hear me?   Please?

>> KYLIN BEESON: Yes, we can hear you.

>> MOMODOU: Okay. I've been looking at this since yesterday and based on the presentation, now that COVID is believed to be behind us to a very light degree, so all of this education, is it based on what we will do in the future or what lessons we learned in the past because there's no more COVID?   If COVID was still active, we could talk about educating the people about PPEs, about getting vaccination campaigns and getting ready for COVID, but COVID is essentially dead, so how do we do this?   Just to make it a simple question.

>> KYLIN BEESON: Yeah, thank you. So I think what I understand your question is around sort of addressing sort of the changing dynamic of how

COVID is presenting in communities.

You know, I think one thing to keep in mind is that we'll be working -- these projects will be executed in the winter, so December through May, so something to think about is what the winter season looks like in terms of how COVID comes into these communities and how communities need to respond in those times.

So I don't know if I am answering your question very well, but we understand that community organizations -- community-rooted organizations know best in terms of how to respond to COVID in a way that their community responds to and so we're wanting to make sure that we are acknowledging that and leaving space for that in the contract for organizations to build out what those projects look like.

>> MOMODOU: Absolutely, you're right. I was just -- of course, yes. I was just saying that in the context of not getting people scared because during COVID it was particularly very bad. So if we go back to the communities talking about COVID, they might think it's on the way again and people can get scared. I based my question on that premises.

>> KYLIN BEESON: Yeah, thank you. So, you know, one thing that -- so this funding does need to address COVID in some way, but it's also possible that it's sort of piggybacking on existing community events or activities that are not necessarily COVID-related and so there's flexibility in that sense where, you know, we want to, I think, yeah, I think just acknowledging that it can be a component of a larger project for this funding to work, or, it could be its own project itself related to COVID.

So if it feels like spending focused attention or, you know, active

communication about COVID feels like a little too much, then, you know, weaving it into something else like childhood immunizations and things like that, going back to school, things like that might be helpful.

Frances.

>> MOMODOU: Thank you, thank you, yes, thank you.

>> FRANCES LIMTIACO: Yes, if I could add on to some of Ky's comment. Yes, this is COVID-19 funded so there has to be a COVID link.

One of the things I wanted to stress is that the COVID funding is funding to address those community that is have been disproportionately impacted by COVID. And so with COVID, although the public health emergency has ended and so, you know, definitely recognize that we don't want to create fear and there's a lot of COVID fatigue, I mean, we've heard that ourselves at the Department of Health, there's still folks, you know, in those minoritized communities that Ky had mentioned earlier, as well as the Focus Groups, or communities of focus that are listed in the funding announcement who continue to be disproportionately impacted, right, who are the ones who were -- who showed higher rates of COVID or who had higher rates of mortality.

There's still those folks who are immunocompromised, those who are chronically ill, definitely there are those who are struggling with long-COVID, more likely coming from those minoritized communities.

So there's still some work to be done around COVID. Now that said, the announcement also talked about those community conditions, right, that were amplified by the pandemic. So if there are things that you have seen or there are lessons that you have learned in your previous work around how

you can better address how to help community that is have been disproportionately impacted, please, put it in your Letter of Interest because we do want to broaden this beyond, beyond just vaccination or just information. That's why we're looking at you developing a project plan. We want to have communities better prepared to respond for future emergencies like a pandemic.

So hopefully that helps a little bit in understanding.

>> MOMODOU: Yes, yes, thanks, yes, it does.

>> KYLIN BEESON: Thanks, Frances.

>> MOMODOU: Thank you very much.

>> KYLIN BEESON: Dan, I see you have your hand raised.

>> DAN: Thanks, Ky. I'm starting up a non-profit in my community. I'm a licensed Mental Health Counselor, but this will be to help the community access more social and emotional skills and resources that -- it was started up post-COVID, so it is tied to COVID, but broader. I think you kind of just answered the question, but I was going ask if I can use this for mental health-focus primarily.

Thanks.

>> KYLIN BEESON: Yeah. I think, so, you know, I think COVID-related information and access is an important criteria and so that's something we're going to be looking for. It's an essential criteria.

And then as Frances mentioned thinking about the social determinants of health and the conditions in which we exist alongside COVID, right?   So the things that influence our ability to recover from COVID-19 as a community.

So, you know, my advice is really just to -- is including it in your Interest Form and making sure you're really addressing sort of the COVID aspect of it and a compelling case for why it would be related to mental health.

>> DAN: Thank you. I appreciate it.

>> KYLIN BEESON: I see a hand for -- yeah, go ahead.

>> Thank you so much. My name is Marisol Maletta and I'm representing a communication small business and we worked with the Department of Health pretty much through the entire COVID campaign, pretty much from 2020 until last year.

So we received funding from one of your partners and we develop and create content in Spanish and different Indigenous languages for Latin America. And we are able to work not just in the area, but also travel to rural areas, in Washington, or wherever the Latina community is affected.

So my question is, right now I'm really interested and submit my Interest Form, I'm looking at right now the potential fiscal sponsor. I'm already with a fiscal sponsor. Should I submit the Interest Form under our name or I need to wait until the final approval from the fiscal sponsor?

>> KYLIN BEESON: I would say go ahead and submit because we want to try and make sure we consider it and so unless there's anything preventing you from -- that you can anticipate from contracting, then, yeah. I mean, I think it's important to at least submit the Interest Form so it can be reviewed.

>> Yeah, because, I mean, we have experience, you know, working with your contracts and submitting monthly reports and everything, so we are capable to do that, even though we are a small business, we are capable to do

that. So I'm going to submit my Interest Form.

Thanks so much.

>> KYLIN BEESON: Mm-hmm. Okay, let's go with Magaly.

>> MAGALY: Yes, I just have a question. Can the Interest Form be submitted in any other language other than English?   Like Spanish?

>> KYLIN BEESON: Yeah, I did notice that question in the chat, so thank you for elevating it.

I don't want to say "no." We do have Spanish speaking members on the Community Relations and Equity Team, so I think if that was more conducive for you or for your organization to submit it in Spanish then I think that might be okay. I think other languages might be a little more difficult, but, yeah, I think we can do Spanish.

>> MAGALY: Thank you.

>> KYLIN BEESON: Bryan, Bryan Gordon.

>> BRYAN: Hello, thank you. I just had a question about the Interest Form and the space in which we write our answers. Is there any sort of word or character count or limit for those answers or will it expand to take a larger answer?

>> KYLIN BEESON: It should expand to take a larger answer. If you find that you are running out of space, go ahead and just submit it with a separate document or add those longer answers in a separate document.

>> BRYAN: All right. Thank you very much for the presentation.

>> KYLIN BEESON: It's not intended to limit anyone, but we also didn't want to present a huge document that people felt would be overwhelming to fill out.

>> BRYAN: Okay. I just normally -- we will submit proposal that is are a created document for each proposal. So we don't need to do that, we just follow the template and submit it as a PDF?

>> KYLIN BEESON: Mm-hmm, yeah.

>> BRYAN: Okay, perfect. And you'd prefer that?

>> KYLIN BEESON: Yeah, I think it will just make it easier for when we start to collect them and compile them, but, you know, if you just let me know in your e-mail that you have additional information, or I want to make sure another document is included, that's fine, just let me know.

>> BRYAN: Okay, thank you.

>> KYLIN BEESON: I see someone from CHWCMR.

>> Yes, hi. This is Dr. Ileana Ponce-Gonzalez. Thank you for doing that. I wanted to ask a question because I noticed this includes federally qualified Centers.   And I apologize for all of the e-mails I have sent and these phone calls.

I don't understand how this grant opportunity can be for federally qualified Centers that are already getting a lot of money, they have the infrastructure to make that, they have paid community health workers, there's even funding for [indiscernible] to do. They are doing a wonderful job.

But then, we as a non-profit organization, we don't have anything. We don't have grant-writing like they have. How are we going to compete with federally qualified Centers? I don't know why you don't divide that. My colleague was talking for me, he does a wonderful job in the media, and he filed a 501(c)(3) for fiscal sponsor counting on me.

But how are you going to resolve that?   We cannot compete with

federally qualified Centers.

>> KYLIN BEESON: Yeah, thank you for asking that. So, you know, we really will be prioritizing communities that will be served by the organization themselves. So it's a matter of reaching priority populations to we haven't reached as well with other funding, funding projects.

So, you know, I think the inclusion of federally qualified Health Centers was sort of -- it was included, but I don't know how many organizations are applying for that kind of funding and, you know, we're really looking at sort rural communities and community that is are isolated and communities that are serving community that is are part of the priority communities. And so I know Frances might be able to elaborate a little more.

>> FRANCES LIMTIACO: Yeah, let me answer real quickly. The reason why federally-funded Health Centers were included, this is coming from lessons learned also. In our previous work we found there were some geographic areas where there wasn't any community-rooted organizations or networks that would be able to do some of this work. So we were just trying to cast a wide net to be able to see whether or not there were organizations that can do some gap-filling.

But, you know, what it is that Ky said is true, that we will be definitely taking that into consideration and prioritizing to the best we can community-rooted, community-based organizations in this work. Absolutely.

>> Thank you. I understand the important, you know, federally qualified Centers, they do a great job. My respect to all of the excellent people that work there. But definitely organizations that file 501(c)(3) that are looking for sponsorship, it's not going to be a [indiscernible] when you compare

somebody that write down and it's the only thing they are doing, in addition to the Health Services they are doing.

We are an organization that is with the community that are facing all the health inequity, like living in [indiscernible], don't have a person for writing. Writing a letter in English when we speak Spanish. Spanish is our first language, English is the second.

And we have someone that is going to do the application. Oh, this application, the writing is very bad.

We don't have people in finance to do a good budget. We don't have a CPA, you know, like federally qualified Centers have.

I'm very worried who is going to review these and who is going to decide and where the money comes and goes. Because the intention is to help the community and the federally qualified organizations you can have them to compete, but it's a not a fair competition, having this community with community organizations running for the community like my community.

Thank you.

>> FRANCES LIMTIACO: Yeah, right. Just to add on to this because there were different phases of the pandemic when we were issuing out funding for community-based organizations in those geographic areas that didn't have organizations, then they were asking: Well, can communities -- can federally qualified Health Centers or some of these other organizations also apply for funding?   And we said, no, they couldn't. So what happened then was there were these huge gaps geographically where nothing was happening at all. So that really was our reason for casting a wider net.

But that point is very well taken, so we appreciate you bringing up that concern.

>> Thank you.

>> MOMODOU: I have a quick question about reporting, the reporting on the 15th. It says that it should include progress, challenges, and all of that good stuff. Is there reporting from template, a guideline, a portal?   Or do we just go to Word and write all of this to you and submit it?   Is there a process?

>> KYLIN BEESON: Yes, we'll provide all of the templates for reporting, so that will be very clear what that will look like.

>> MOMODOU: Okay, thank you.

At what point will you provide it, if you will?

>> KYLIN BEESON: I'm sorry, what was that?

>> MOMODOU: At what point will you be providing it?   Are you going to post it on the website?   Are you going to e-mail it?   And when?

>> KYLIN BEESON: Yeah, I can make that available on the website if that would be helpful, yeah.

>> MOMODOU: If you can also e-mail it to the members of this meeting, that would even help more because sometimes it may be difficult to navigate the website, but if you can e-mail it to us, then we will just -- it will be easy access and we can just grab it as we go, if that works.

>> FRANCES LIMTIACO: Yeah, typically what happens is after an organization has been told that the funding, you know, that their Letter of Interest has been reviewed and they will be provided with the funding, there will be another meeting where the contract, you know, DOH will go through the contract, go through the template, and go through all of the forms and

answer questions. So a very similar meeting like this.

And it's difficult to provide the reporting template now because the reporting template will include the aspects of your Letter of Intent or your Letter of Interest. So it will be hard to do that now if we don't have your Letter of Interest.

>> MOMODOU: What you said made a good point. That's an excellent point. Thank you.

>> FRANCES LIMTIACO: Ky, there are several questions in the chat. Do you want me to read those out?

>> KYLIN BEESON: Yeah, I know there's quite a few, we'll be sure to save the chat and then send out the questions and answers following this meeting.

I am just going to -- yeah, Frances, if you don't mind reading a few of them.

>> FRANCES LIMTIACO: Sure, okay.

So one question is: Can -- let me see -- can we have access to the kind of budget that you are expecting from us?

>> KYLIN BEESON: Yeah, so there is a budget template within the Interest Form Template. It's pretty straightforward in terms of, like, salaries, supplies, any travel costs that maybe you might need related to the work. And so it's pretty general and so hopefully that will be clear. But if there's any other questions around that, maybe we can expand on that.

>> FRANCES LIMTIACO: Okay, let me take another question and then we'll take somebody else who has their hand up.

After sending the Interest Form, does the organization send a

proposal?

>> KYLIN BEESON: A proposal. So I'm not sure I understand the question.

>> FRANCES LIMTIACO: I think -- let me take -- let me try this. The Letter of Interest does stand in for your proposal, so you won't have to submit another document. Your Letter of Interest will be reviewed and on that basis you will be told whether or not it's funded. So, you know, the project plan that Ky had mentioned, if you're funded, then you'll be asked to submit a project plan, but that comes later.

Okay, I'll kick it back -- oh, go ahead.

>> MOMODOU: Just to pick up from there. So the project plan on item number one in the activity that is we need to do, did you say that's going to go up later?

>> KYLIN BEESON: Yes.

>> FRANCES LIMTIACO: That will come later, yes.

>> MOMODOU: When is later?   After the contract is awarded, is that correct?

>> FRANCES LIMTIACO: Yes.

>> MOMODOU: Very good. Thank you.

>> KYLIN BEESON: Apologies that wasn't clear. The initial stage is Interest Forms and then once funding is announced for which projects will be funded, then we start entering into contracts, which is where the project plan comes into play.

>> MOMODOU: Thanks, yeah, that makes sense. Good questions.

>> FRANCES LIMTIACO: Ky, I don't know if you want to take somebody

else, a verbal question, before I go back to the chat.

>> KYLIN BEESON: Dan, I see your hand up. He may have his hand up from before.

>> FRANCES LIMTIACO: Yeah, might be.

Okay, so here's another question: What are some other examples of certain things that are not included in the budget regarding supplies for the proposal?

>> KYLIN BEESON: Let's see, do you know of any, Frances?

>> FRANCES LIMTIACO: That will depend, what's going to happen is the Committee or the reviewer will look at the proposal and make sure that whatever you are putting in your budget are aligned with your proposal.

What you don't want to do is include things that are -- what do you call them?   Swag. Does that make sense?   Different kinds of things like that are giveaways, like, gosh, I don't know how to describe it. Unless they are really affiliated with a project, like just individualized bags as an example. You really want to make it aligned with whatever it is you're doing.

An example was we got a request from a project that wanted to have bags that were branded, I guess, but they were doing a project with a Food Bank where they were going to be distributing food. Now there's a difference, right?   It was very much related to a Food Bank project. So it really is going to relate to what you're doing. So we're going to have to go through that and work with you on.

While we're on that topic, I do want to say because this is Federal funding, anything $5,000 and above would need to go through Federal approval and Ky can provide you with more information on that if you do have

an item on your budget for that amount. But we can go through that later.

Sorry, Laura, that I'm speaking so fast.

And Hilda, also. I'll try to speak slower.

Okay, here's the next question, Ky: Can this help fund purchasing of the new COVID-19 vaccine coming in the fall?

That's a good question.

>> KYLIN BEESON: Yeah, I think my understanding of the funding is that you cannot purchase vaccines directly. It needs to be supplies related to the distribution or activities around vaccination, but not vaccines directly. I'm not sure I know why, but that's what I understand.

>> FRANCES LIMTIACO: And that's something we can probably research. We do have a vaccine, a COVID Vaccine Program at the Department of Health, so we can go ahead and just see how we can collaborate with them to see how, like, if you are planning a vaccine event, how we can try and either get the caravan at your event because we do have the caravan, support some of your efforts.

It looks like, Melissa, you had asked that question.

Stephanie asks: Related to the question about the vaccines, will be the Department of Health be offering vaccine clinics to underserved communities?   And will they be able to offer home tests?   If we want to offer these things would we need to budget the costs of tests and vaccines, or, is there another funding source for that?

That's another good question.

>> KYLIN BEESON: So, again, not being able to use these fund to purchase vaccines, but around the supplies, for sure. I know we can use the

funding for at-home tests. It's a matters of being -- for communities being able to find those at-home tests. I know there's been trouble for some of our current organizations that are working in different areas and trying to find at-home tests and things like that.

In terms of a wider DOH initiative to provide vaccine clinics and at-home tests, I'm not familiar, but we can certainly look into that.

>> MELISSA: My question was around, I have the nursing Staff and set-up to give vaccines, we just finished a CDC grant for COVID, but we're going to have to start privately paying for COVID vaccinations coming up, so we were looking at this grant as maybe a way of being able to purchase those because right now the Adult Vaccine Program only covers uninsured people. So if you have Medicaid, you actually don't qualify.

>> KYLIN BEESON: Hmm. Yeah. Yeah, I mean, unfortunately, you know, the funding it can't be used to out-right buy vaccines. And we can look into what the reasoning is behind that.

And then we can also send out a little more comprehensive details about the funding sources that will include a little more information about the restrictions and limitations, if that's of interest. But that's sort of where we are now with this particular funding.

>> MELISSA: That would be really helpful for me. Thank you.

>> MOMODOU: It looks like in principle this is mainly going to be focused on outreach and education and community engagement for now.

>> KYLIN BEESON: Mm-hmm.

>> MOMODOU: Is that correct?

>> KYLIN BEESON: Mm-hmm.

>> MOMODOU: Okay, thanks.

>> KYLIN BEESON: I know we're at time here at 5:00, so we'll be sure to follow-up with these questions. They are really great questions and important for clarifying exactly for the funding of what's allowed and what the expectations are for the contract.

So please look out for a follow-up e-mail from myself and please don't hesitate to reach out to me if you do have other questions.

Thank you all!

>> MOMODOU: Thank you.

>> KYLIN BEESON: Have a good evening!

>> MOMODOU: Thanks!

[Session concluded]

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