

RESS/TA
Offeror's Conference Questions and Answers

1. Are there in-kind match requirements?
 - A. An in-kind match is not required; however, leveraging resources is advantageous.

2. Why are VESL/ES and SA/CO funded to separate agencies? It seems like they would work best hand in hand since they cover different services.
 - A. With limited funding, we want to serve as many eligible clients as possible. A number of years ago, it was determined that there was overlap in employment services and social and acculturation services. SETA found many clients co-enrolled with the same provider for employment and social and acculturation services, limiting the number of refugees that could be reached. After making the decision to split the activities among service providers, the number of clients served increased dramatically. We urge all of our service providers to form strong collaborations, and to refer clients to one in another for other services as needed.

3. What kind of extra paperwork is required for sub-contracting technical services?
 - A. Subcontracting is rarely allowed. It is only approved on a case-by-case basis with highly technical, specialized services. Subcontracts need to be reviewed and approved by SETA for form and content. Service providers who subcontract approved services will be required to maintain all subcontractor fiscal expenditure and program documentation at their facilities.

4. For the counseling aspect of SA & CO, are referrals to counselors as needed sufficient or is there an expectation of group counseling in the curriculum?
 - A. Group counseling for topics such as anger management, alcohol and drug abuse, and domestic violence counseling should be readily available. Due to the high cost of individualized counseling by a credentialed physician/therapist, it may be necessary to make referrals for individual counseling as necessary.

5. Is there a preferred English language test to use?
 - A. BEST and CASAS are both commonly utilized. If using the CASAS, there is a handy conversion chart that provides the comparable SPL score upon test completion.

6. Under the TA dollar amount of \$336,616, can you break down how much for VESL/ES and the ES stand alone amount itself?

A. An estimated \$336,616 has been set aside under TA for the ES stand alone component and \$514,583 has been set aside under RESS for the VESL/ES component. Please keep in mind that these totals are estimates, as SETA has not received notification of the official PY 2011-12 allocation and won't know of carryover funds, if any, until after this PY ends.

7. Can an organization apply for more than 1 activity?

A. Organizations can apply for VESL/ES and ES stand alone OR SA&CO. SETA will not fund an organization for VESL/ES and SA&CO or ES and SA&CO. SETA can fund a successful proposer for both VESL/ES and ES components.

8. If so, does the organization need to submit a separate proposal for each of the activities?

A. Yes, VESL/ES and ES stand alone require two separate proposals, and the ES component must be clearly described in both.

9. For SA & CO, how likely would it be to get funding if our average cost per participant was significantly greater than \$200, but it was a program that filled a serious need?

A. Funding determinations will take into consideration historic costs for similar programs, in conjunction with the proposed costs of each proposer. Our goal is to provide quality services to as many eligible refugees as possible, with declining funds. A strong justification for a higher cost and an in-depth analysis of an unmet need would be required for SETA to consider a proposal with significantly greater costs.

10. Who are the current RESS/TA VESL/ES and ES stand alone providers?

A. Current SETA VESL/ES and ES providers:

Asian Resources, Inc.

Bach Viet Association, Inc.

Sacramento City U.S.D.

Sacramento Occupational Advancement Resources, Inc.

Twin Rivers U.S.D.

Current SETA SA&CO providers:

Hmong Women's Heritage Association

Slavic Assistance Center

Southeast Asian Assistance Center, Inc.

11. How many awards will be granted?

A. It depends on several factors, including the number of successful proposals received, the services that are proposed, the geographic areas covered, Sacramento County's final RESS and TA allocations, and the amount of any carry over funds from this program year that may be available. SETA is not required to fund a specified number of proposals.

12. Who are the new arrivals? Can you provide the break down of ethnic groups?

A. The California Department of Social Services, Refugee Programs Bureau website is an excellent resource to collect historical, as well as current arrival statistics and ethnic backgrounds.

13. What is SPL (page II-6)?

A. Student Performance Level. It is utilized to gauge English language proficiency.

14. Is there a Refugee OJT program? What happened to the vocational training and OJT categories? If SETA currently funds adult and youth OJT programs, why were refugee OJT's eliminated?

A. Due to severe funding cuts in the last program year, SETA was faced with the difficult decision to cut the least effective refugee services. Again, our goal is to provide quality services to as many eligible refugees as possible, with declining funds. Refugees are still eligible to be placed into OJTs through SETA's Adult/Dislocated Worker OJT providers utilizing WIA, NEG and CalWORKs funding offered at the Sacramento Works Career Centers. SETA included OJT and VT as potential components in the PY'2012-1014 Draft Plan in the event that the RESS and TA allocations to Sacramento County increase significantly. Should such increases materialize, SETA may exercise the option to release an RFP to, specifically, solicit OJT, VT, or WEX services.