

Updated September 9, 2024

- 1) What is meant by “real-world evaluation”? What level of implementation would need to be assessed in the PC CDS tool evaluated?**
  - a. The RFA does not specify a required level of detail for what would be considered an appropriate response to “real-world evaluation.” Applicants should sufficiently describe their plans for implementation and evaluation so that the plans can be adequately assessed against the review criteria by the study section. Note that the CDSiC has several products (e.g., measures and frameworks) that may be appropriate for your approach.
  
- 2) Is there a hard cutoff date for receiving feedback on the 1-pager?**
  - a. We will do our best to review the 1-pagers and provide feedback as quickly as possible. It depends on workload, so a general expectation is up to a few business days.
  
- 3) How should we provide collaborator qualifications for someone \*not\* included on the PI or budget? In our case, we have a core collaborator at a university that will be providing a Letter of Support but has their own funding through an existing grant.**
  - a. If your core collaborator will not spend any time doing actual research as part of the grant, they do not have to be part of the budget section. However, including their resume with the application that highlights their expertise would be helpful during the peer review process. You can also provide an additional paragraph in the Letter of Support where they highlight their qualifications. If they are receiving funding through an existing grant (from AHRQ or elsewhere), there cannot be overlapping aims.
  
- 4) Do we need to provide any sort of certification in being a small, minority-owned business within ASSIST? Or is it just an attestation?**
  - a. Since this is an announcement for a financial assistance opportunity, you can self-certify as a small business when you register with SAM.gov at <https://sam.gov/content/home>. As stated under Section III. 1. Eligible Applicants of the NOFO, all applicant organizations must complete and maintain an active registration with SAM.gov.
  
- 5) We have an SBA 8a application that is currently in “Pending” status with the SBA. Is this relevant? And if so, how should we address the pending aspect that is out of our control?**
  - a. The NOFO eligibility includes small business, or “other than small.” Therefore, the results of your SBA 8a application should not affect your eligibility to apply, as this is not a procurement solicitation.



**6) As this is our first time submitting an application to AHRQ, we are a bit nervous on accidentally disqualifying ourselves due to some minor administrative issue. As we approach the deadline, is there a way with ASSIST, or some other tool, to validate that we are compliant with the more mundane submission requirements that may be buried in the “General Instructions for NIH and other PHS Agencies” documentation?**

- a. There is no tool that can validate an application for all possible issues. Additional information about the system validations can be found at <https://grants.nih.gov/grants/how-to-apply-application-guide/submission-process/how-we-check-for-completeness.htm>. It is important to note that the system validations do not check all possible requirements, and it is important to use the instructions in Section IV of the RFA, combined with the information in the application guide (<https://grants.nih.gov/grants/how-to-apply-application-guide.html>) and forms instructions (<https://grants.nih.gov/grants/how-to-apply-application-guide/forms-h/research-forms-h.pdf>). The annotated form set ([https://grants.nih.gov/grants/ElectronicReceipt/files/Annotated\\_Forms\\_General\\_FORMS-H.pdf](https://grants.nih.gov/grants/ElectronicReceipt/files/Annotated_Forms_General_FORMS-H.pdf)) may also be helpful in preparing an application as it includes some information about form fields that may be required but are not validated during the system validations.

**7) What qualifies as a small company?**

- a. The U.S. Small Business Administration determines an entity’s small business status. If you are unsure of your status, select the following link to access the SBA Size Standard tool: <https://www.sba.gov/size-standards/index.html>. However, for the purpose of this NOFO, small and other than small businesses are eligible to apply under this financial assistance opportunity.

**8) My organization is planning to apply as the lead applicant. However, we were recently approached by a partner organization that is interested in writing us in as a subrecipient. Before we commit to this, we wanted to make sure this is allowed under the funding opportunity. Would submitting as an applicant preclude us from participating in another proposal as a subrecipient?**

- a. You can serve as subrecipient on another application provided that each application is “scientifically distinct.” Therefore, for each application, there must **not** be any duplication or overlap of funding for scientific aims, specific budgetary items, or an individual’s level of effort.