

**RFA-CE-22-012; The CDC National Centers of Excellence in Youth Violence Prevention (YVPCs): Rigorous Evaluation of Prevention Strategies to Prevent and Reduce Community Rates of Youth Violence | Questions and Answers received from January 12 to February 7, 2022.**

1. **Question:** Should I use application kit Forms G or Forms F to apply to this NOFO?

**Answer:** Please be sure to use the form and instructions for SF424 (R&R) Form G. Applicants **must use FORMS-G** application packages when applying to this NOFO.

2. **Question:** How many new centers do you expect to fund as compared to funding existing YVPCs to continue?

**Answer:** Per Section II. Award Information, NCIPC intends to fund up to six applications. The funding announcement does not specify the proportion of awards to be made to new YVPCs or to existing YVPCs.

Applications will be evaluated for scientific and technical merit by an appropriate peer review panel and all applications will undergo a selection process in which only those applications deemed to have the highest scientific and technical merit will be discussed and assigned an overall impact/priority score. Applications will compete for available funds with all other recommended applications submitted in response to this NOFO.

Following initial peer review, recommended applications will receive a second level of review. During this second level of review one consideration for making funding recommendations is for “meritorious applications that propose the creation of a new Youth Violence Prevention Center (i.e., a YVPC not previously funded by CDC) that advances the field of community and youth violence prevention, as evidenced by the Research Strategy section of the application’s research plan.” Additional considerations during second level review are outlined in Section V. Application Review Information, Part 4. Review and Selection Process.

3. **Question:** Can research be limited to youth under the age of 21?

**Answer:** Yes, research can be limited to youth under the age of 21. Per Section I. Funding Opportunity Description, Part 2. Approach “Applicants may propose research evaluating strategies to prevent violence among a narrower age range of youth, but the focus of the intervention and evaluation must be constrained within the 10-34 year old age range.”

4. **Question:** Is there a requirement for applicants to be affiliated with a university?

**Answer:** No, there is no requirement for the applicant to be affiliated with a university. We recommend applicants review Section III. Eligibility Information, Part 1. Eligible Applicants which provides a list of organizations that are eligible to apply to this funding announcement. It is incumbent on the applicant to review this list to ensure their organization falls into one of the eligible categories.

5. **Question:** Will applications submitted to prior NCIPC Youth Violence Prevention Center NOFO announcements and designated as “Approved but Unfunded” from those announcements be reconsidered for funding under the RFA-CE-22-012 funding announcement?

**Answer:** No. Applications submitted to prior NCIPC Youth Violence Prevention Center NOFO announcements and designated as “Approved but Unfunded” from those announcements will not be reconsidered for funding under the RFA-CE-22-012 announcement. Applicants must submit a “Type 1: New” award and not a revision. Applicant organizations with prior NOFO approved but unfunded dispositions are required to submit new applications to RFA-CE-22-012 in order to be considered for funding under RFA-CE-22-012.

Research proposed in a new application to RFA-CE-22-012 may be similar to a previously submitted but unfunded application, provided that the new application meets the scientific and administrative requirements outlined in RFA-CE-22-012. Applicant organizations are strongly encouraged to review the updated scientific and administrative requirements in RFA-CE-22-012 prior to submitting a new application.

6. **Question:** Has a funding announcement similar to RFA-CE-22-012 been offered in the past?
- a. **Answer:** Yes, funding announcements similar to RFA-CE-22-012 have been offered in earlier years, including 2010, 2015, 2016, and 2021. For more information about previous YVPC please see CDC’s [YVPC website](#). NIH Reporter can also be searched for additional information about previously funded YVPCs.
7. **Question:** What are the publication requirements for the principal investigator?
- a. **Answer:** To be responsive to this funding announcement, applications must clearly document, in the SF-424 Biographical Sketch for the Principal Investigator (PI) and/or Co-Investigator(s) (Co-I), **at least one first-authored, peer-reviewed journal publication, as defined by the [NIH National Library of Medicine](#), in the design, implementation, and evaluation of strategies to prevent youth violence in communities with high rates of violence.** The citation(s) of the relevant publication(s) must be clearly identified (by bold text or highlight) in the appropriate BioSketch. This experience requirement may be demonstrated through the combined experiences of the PI and/or Co-I’s. Please see [Section III. Eligibility Information, Part 5. Responsiveness](#) for additional information.
8. **Question:** What is the application page length?
- Answer:** As stated in [Section IV. Application and Submission Information, part 7 Page Limitations](#), the Research Strategy component of the Research Plan narrative is limited to 40 pages.
9. **Question:** Can the application be single spaced?
- Answer:** Single space would be acceptable. Please see [Section IV. Application and Submission Information, 2 Content and Form of Application Submission](#) of the NOFO, it contains links to the General Instructions for NIH and Other PHS Agencies for the SF424 (R&R) Application Packages. Applicants are encouraged to download and save the document

as a pdf to make use of the “Find” feature to quickly get to specific information on how the application needs to be prepared.

10. **Question:** Do applicants need to have existing partnerships with a YVPC to apply to this funding announcement?

**Answer:** No. This NOFO does not require applicants to have a formal relationship with an existing YVPC prior to submitting an application. However, a YVPC Network will be established among the newly funded applicants. Please see [Section I. Funding Opportunity Description, 2 Approach, Administrative Core Section \(page 23\)](#) which includes additional information about applicant willingness to participate in the YVPC network.

11. **Question:** How can I determine if my organization is eligible to apply for this funding announcement?

**Answer:** We recommend applicants [review Section III. Eligibility Information, Part 1. Eligible Applicants](#) which provides a list of organizations that are eligible to apply to this funding announcement. It is incumbent on the applicant to review this list to ensure their organization falls into one of the eligible categories.

12. **Question:** To what extent have funded centers focused on evaluating programs that are already existing versus new programs?

**Answer:** For more information about the research interests of previously funded YVPCs, please see [CDC’s YVPC website](#), Applicants can also review [DVP’s previously funded research](#) and can also search NIH Reporter.

13. **Question:** Do applicant organizations already need to have an established YVPC to apply to this funding announcement?

**Answer:** No, applicant organizations do not already need to have an established YVPC to apply to this funding announcement.

14. **Question:** What are the registration requirements with NIH for applicants?

**Answer:** Please review [Section III. Eligibility Information, Part 6. Required Registrations](#) for more information about the registration requirements for applicant organizations.

15. **Question:** Do applicant organizations have to demonstrate receipt of multi-million dollar grant awards in the past in order to be eligible for funding under RFA-CE-22-012?

**Answer:** No. Applicant organizations do not need to demonstrate receipt of multi-million dollar grant awards in the past in order to be eligible for funding under RFA-CE-22-012.

All applicants are required to complete a risk assessment questionnaire, as indicated under [Section IV. Application and Submission Information, Part 11. Other Submission Requirements and Information](#): **“Risk Assessment Questionnaire Requirement** CDC is required to conduct pre-award risk assessments to determine the risk an applicant poses to meeting federal programmatic and administrative requirements by taking into account issues such as financial instability, insufficient management systems, non-compliance with

award conditions, the charging of unallowable costs, and inexperience. The risk assessment will include an evaluation of the applicant's CDC Risk Questionnaire, located at <https://www.cdc.gov/grants/documents/PPMR-G-CDC-Risk-Questionnaire.pdf>, as well as a review of the applicant's history in all available systems; including OMB-designated repositories of government-wide eligibility and financial integrity systems (see 45 CFR 75.205(a)), and other sources of historical information. These systems include, but are not limited to: FAPIIS (<https://www.fapiis.gov/>), including past performance on federal contracts as per Duncan Hunter National Defense Authorization Act of 2009; Do Not Pay list; and System for Award Management (SAM) exclusions."

Per Section V. Application Review Information, Part 4. Review and Selection Process "Prior to making a Federal award, CDC is required by 31 U.S.C. 3321 and 41 U.S.C. 2313 to review information available through any OMB-designated repositories of government-wide eligibility qualification or financial integrity information as appropriate" additionally "CDC will use a risk-based approach and may consider any items such as the following: (1) Financial stability; (2) Quality of management systems and ability to meet the management standards prescribed in this part; (3) History of performance. The applicant's record in managing Federal awards, if it is a prior recipient of Federal awards, including timeliness of compliance with applicable reporting requirements, conformance to the terms and conditions of previous Federal awards, and if applicable, the extent to which any previously awarded amounts will be expended prior to future awards; (4) Reports and findings from audits performed under 45 CFR Part 75, subpart F, or the reports and findings of any other available audits; and (5) The applicant's ability to effectively implement statutory, regulatory, or other requirements imposed on non-Federal entities." Please note that these reviews occur during second level review.

16. **Question:** Would an application that focuses on evaluating existing programs in their community and includes training of partners to implement the intervention meet the intention of this funding announcement?

**Answer:** Applicants may propose rigorous evaluations of programs that are currently being implemented in their community. Applicants should describe how the proposed research is innovative, advances the field of violence prevention, and adds to current evidence base by referring to CDC's Continuum of Evidence. In addition, there are some types of existing programs that would not be responsive to this funding announcement. Applicants are encouraged to review Section I. Funding Opportunity Description, 1 Background and Purpose and Section I. Funding Opportunity Description, 2. Approach for a detailed list of the strategies that either have an existing evidence base or current evaluation funding. Applications proposing to evaluate one of those strategies, including online or in-person adaptations of these strategies, will not be recommended for funding consideration during the NCIPC second level review.

Applications are also expected to clearly describe the nature of proposed partnerships, including the roles and responsibilities of the Principal Investigator(s) and of the outside entities or partner agencies, the existing working relationship, plans for the proposed

research, the nature and extent of the involvement to be provided by the applicant institution and outside entities or partner agencies, the outside entity or partner agency's scope of work, and how the partnership will ensure implementation and sustainability of the proposed research plan.

This NOFO seeks to train early career and junior researchers in youth violence prevention. Applicants must provide a description of proposed professional development and training activities for early career and junior researchers in youth violence prevention and how such activities will be integrated into the proposed YVPC activities. Applicants are encouraged to train a diverse group of trainees/mentees, including youth, young adults, and researchers who belong to underrepresented populations within the community (including but not limited to those experiencing reduced economic stability; people experiencing homelessness, a mental health condition, or recent release from incarceration, limited educational attainment; people with disabilities; people from non-English speaking populations, tribal populations, rural communities and other geographically underserved areas, racial/ethnic minority groups, sexual and gender minority groups).