Notice of Funding Opportunity

Application due July 22, 2025 at 11:59 p.m. ET

ADMINISTRATION FOR CHILDREN & FAMILIES

Family and Youth Services Bureau (FYSB)
Division of Positive Youth Development

Title V Competitive Sexual Risk Avoidance Education (SRAE)

Opportunity number: HHS-2025-ACF-ACYF-TS-0007

Contents

Before you begin

If you believe you are a good candidate for this funding opportunity, secure your SAM.gov and Grants.gov registrations now. If you are already registered, make sure your registrations are active and up-to-date.

SAM.gov registration (this can take several weeks)

You must have an active account with SAM.gov. This includes having a Unique Entity Identifier (UEI).

See Step 2: Get Ready to Apply

Grants.gov registration (this can take several days)

You must have an active Grants.gov registration. Doing so requires a Login.gov registration as well.

See Step 2: Get Ready to Apply

Apply by the application due date

Applications are due by 11:59 p.m. Eastern Time on July 22, 2025 at 11:59 p.m. ET.

To help you find what you need, this NOFO uses internal links. In Adobe Reader, you can go back to where you were by pressing Alt + Left Arrow (Windows) or Command + Left Arrow (Mac) on your keyboard.

Step 1:
Review the Opportunity

In this step

Basic information

Administration for Children and Families (ACF)

Family and Youth Services Bureau (FYSB)

Division of Positive Youth Development

Provide funding to organizations to implement sexual risk avoidance education.

Summary

The Title V Competitive Sexual Risk Avoidance Education (SRAE) program funds projects that implement sexual risk avoidance education and teach youth to voluntarily refrain from nonmarital sexual activity.

Eligible projects must:

- Ensure that the unambiguous and primary emphasis of all content normalize the optimal health behavior of avoiding non-marital sexual activity.
- Use medically accurate and complete information referencing peer-reviewed publications by educational, scientific, governmental, or health organizations.
- Be age appropriate.
- Implement an evidence-based approach by integrating research findings with practical strategies that align with the needs and desired outcomes for the intended audience.
- Teach the benefits associated with personal responsibility, self-regulation, goal setting, healthy decision making, and a focus on the future.
- Include the physical, emotional, and financial advantages of avoiding nonmarital sexual activity.
- Discourage sexual coercion, dating violence, and other youth-specific risk behaviors such as underage drinking or illegal drug use.
- Consider culturally appropriate activities, recognizing the experiences of youth from diverse communities, backgrounds, and experiences.

Have questions?
See Contacts and Support.

Key facts

Opportunity name: Title V Competitive Sexual Risk Avoidance Education (SRAE)

Opportunity number: HHS-2025-ACF-ACYF-TS-0007

Announcement type: Initial

Federal assistance listing: 93.787

Statutory authority number: 42 U.S.C. 710

Key dates

Application submission deadline: July 22, 2025 at 11:59 p.m. ET

Expected project start date: September 29, 2025

Funding details

Type: Grant
Expected total program funding: $3,683,467
Total expected awards: 16
Minimum award amount for the first budget period (award floor): $13,501
Maximum award amount for the first budget period (award ceiling): $450,000

We plan to fund a 2-year project period. Each project period has two 1-year budget periods.

Table: Funding available for FY2025 Title V Competitive SRAE awards

State/Territory	FY2025 Award Amounts	Floor	Ceiling
Alaska	$106,495	$106,495	$106,495
California	$1,070,800	$300,000	$450,000
Connecticut	$189,899	$189,899	$189,899
District of Columbia	$109,495	$109,495	$109,495
Idaho	$270,042	$270,042	$270,042
Maine	$155,245	$155,245	$155,245
New Mexico	$320,053	$320,053	$320,053
North Dakota	$78,175	$78,175	$78,175
South Dakota	$160,328	$160,328	$160,328
Vermont	$51,465	$51,465	$51,465
Washington	$1,006,515	$300,000	$450,000
Wyoming	$14,335	$14,335	$14,335
American Samoa	$71,778	$71,778	$71,778
Marshall Islands	$13,501	$13,501	$13,501
Northern Mariana Islands	$47,341	$47,341	$47,341
Palau	$21,000	$21,000	$21,000
Total:	**$3,683,467**		

Applicants that propose to serve more than one territory through a consortium may submit a year 1 budget based upon the cumulative annual award floors and ceilings for each of the territories to be served.

The estimated award amount is based upon FY 2025 funding available for Title V Competitive SRAE awards and is subject to change.

Year 2 funding will be based on approval of the non-competing continuation applications and satisfactory progress.

To determine satisfactory progress, we will use your semi-annual, performance progress reports and financial reports, site visit reports, audit reports, and other supporting documentation.

Awards made under this funding opportunity are subject to federal funds availability.

Eligibility

Eligible applicants

These types of organizations are eligible for an award:

- County governments
- City or township governments
- Special district governments
- Independent school districts
- Public and state-controlled institutions of higher education
- Native American tribal governments (federally recognized)
- Public housing authorities/Indian housing authorities
- Native American tribal organizations (other than federally recognized tribal governments)
- Nonprofits with a 501(c)(3) status with the Internal Revenue Service (IRS), other than institutions of higher education
- Nonprofits without 501(c)(3) status with the IRS, other than institutions of higher education
- Faith-based organizations
- Private institutions of higher education
- For-profit organizations other than small businesses
- Small businesses
- Others (see other eligibility criteria for clarification)

Individuals, including sole proprietorships, and foreign entities are not eligible.

Other eligibility criteria

Locality restrictions

Eligible applicants are limited to local organizations, including faith-based organizations or consortia, that have the capacity to develop and implement Title V Competitive SRAE projects in states and territories that did not accept FY 2025 allocations for Title V State SRAE.

As of the publication of this NOFO, organizations and consortiums located in the following states and territories are eligible to propose Title V Competitive SRAE projects:

- Alaska

- California
- Connecticut
- District of Columbia
- Idaho
- Maine
- New Mexico
- North Dakota
- South Dakota
- Vermont
- Washington
- Wyoming
- American Samoa
- Marshall Islands
- Northern Mariana Islands
- Palau

Faith-based and community organizations that meet the requirements are eligible for awards under this funding opportunity.

Disqualification factors

We will review your application to make sure it meets these responsiveness requirements.

We won't consider an application that:

- Requests funding above the award ceiling.
- Is submitted after the deadline.
- Is from an individual, including a sole proprietorship, or a foreign entity.
- Is received in paper format that didn't have a previously approved exemption from ACF.
- Is received from entities located in ineligible states and territories.
- Is received from applicants located in or proposing to manage a project from an ineligible state.
- Is from entities that are not located in the eligible state or territory (in the case of consortia applying to serve an eligible state or territory).

Application limits

If you submit the same application more than once under this notice of funding opportunity (NOFO), we will only acknowledge the last, on-time submission.

You may submit multiple applications under this NOFO, but each one must propose a unique project with different service sites, populations, and core approaches.

Cost sharing

This program has no cost-sharing requirement. If you choose to include cost-sharing funds, we won't consider it during review. However, we will hold you accountable for any funds you add, including through reporting. If you don't provide your promised amount, we may have to decrease your award amount or use other enforcement actions.

Program description

Statutory authority

The Title V SRAE Program is authorized and funded by section 510 of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 710).

Program overview

For a glossary of terms used in this NOFO, please see the appendix.

The goal of the Title V Competitive SRAE Program is to encourage youth to avoid non-marital sexual activity and other risky behaviors linked to adolescent sex.

The objectives of this program are to:

- Implement an educational curriculum with an unambiguous and primary emphasis that normalizes the optimal health behavior of avoiding nonmarital sexual activity.
- Implement an educational curriculum based on medically accurate information.
- Implement educational curriculum and strategies that are age appropriate i.e., designed to match the learning and developmental needs for the specific age group being targeted.
- Implement educational curriculum and strategies that are culturally appropriate, recognizing the experiences of youth from different communities, backgrounds, and experiences.
- Teach skills to help youth avoid risks without normalizing sexual activity outside of marriage.
- Serve youth ages 10 to 19.

Projects funded under this program must meet the requirements detailed in the following sections. Full program implementation of funded projects must start within 90 days of award.

Medically accurate; age and culturally appropriate

Title V Competitive SRAE projects must be based on medically accurate and complete information and be culturally, and age appropriate.

- **Medically accurate and complete:** Project materials must be verified or supported by the weight of research conducted in compliance with accepted scientific methods and published in peer-reviewed journals, where applicable; or comprising information that leading professional organizations and agencies with relevant expertise in the field recognize as accurate, objective, and complete.

- **Age appropriate:** Projects must provide age-appropriate information and activities. Topics, messages, and teaching methods must be suitable to particular ages or age groups of children and adolescents, based on developing cognitive, emotional, and behavioral capacity typical for the age or age group.
- **Culturally appropriate:** Projects must use culturally appropriate interventions that recognize the experiences of youth from diverse communities, backgrounds, and experiences.

Title V Competitive SRAE programs must ensure that:

- Any information provided on contraception is medically accurate and ensures that students understand that contraception only offers physical risk reduction, not risk elimination.
- The education provided will not include demonstrations, simulations, or distribution of contraceptive devices.
- Youth participation is voluntary.
- Programs will be required to take appropriate action to correct any medically inaccurate or age-inappropriate information discovered by FYSB during the project period. As requested, curricula must be submitted for FYSB to conduct a medical accuracy review and respond to requests to make modifications to ensure curricula and other program implementation materials are medically accurate and complete.

Evidence-based and evidence-informed interventions and strategies: Core topics and curriculum requirements

Title V Competitive SRAE programs must exclusively implement education in sexual risk avoidance, defined by statute as voluntarily refraining from non-marital sexual activity (42 U.S.C. 710(b)(1)).

In accordance with the Title V SRAE legislation (42 U.S.C. 710)(b)(3)), interventions must address the following A-F topics:

a. The holistic individual and societal benefits associated with personal responsibility, self-regulation, goal setting, healthy decision-making, and a focus on the future.
b. The advantage of refraining from non-marital sexual activity to improve prospects and the physical and emotional health of youth.

c. The increased likelihood that youth are more likely to avoid poverty if they become self-sufficient and gain emotional maturity before having sex.
d. The basics of healthy relationships and their impact on forming healthy marriages and safe, stable families.
e. How other risk behaviors (such as drug usage and underage alcohol usage) increase the risk for teen sex.
f. How to resist and avoid sexual pressure, and also how to seek and receive help with potential unwanted sexual situations including unwanted sexual pressure and dating violence. Recognition that even with consent, teen sex remains a youth risk behavior.

In furtherance of these statutory goals, we encourage you to incorporate promoting the Success Sequence for Poverty Prevention in your program. The Success Sequence teaches youth the importance and benefits of achieving three core steps to ensure successful financial, physical, and emotional outcomes in adulthood. The steps include 1) graduating high school, 2) getting a full-time job, and 3) getting married before having children.

You are not required to choose from a prescribed list of curricula, but you must, at minimum, implement evidence-based or evidence-informed projects that comply with the following requirements:

- Teach the benefits of personal responsibility, self-regulation, setting goals, healthy decision making, and planning for the future.
- Discourage sexual coercion, dating violence, and other risk behaviors such as underage drinking or illicit drug use.
- Encourage making choices that avoid sexual activity outside of marriage.
- Provide formal training for program leaders and educators on the program's approach, and factors that affect youth's sexual risk avoidance. This training must be led by experts and professionals who can give ongoing support to facilitators.
- Connect program participants to other services, local community partners, and agencies that support the health, safety, and well-being of program participants.

The partnering agencies should share a commitment to optimal health outcomes that do not normalize sexual activity outside of marriage. Partnering agencies must:

- Choose programs and/or program elements that research shows are effective in achieving positive behavior changes, such as preventing unmarried teen pregnancies, STIs, and non-marital sexual activity, for the group being served.
- Select curricula that are medically accurate, age-appropriate, culturally appropriate.

- Select curricula that address healthy relationships, life skills, and decision-making with a positive youth development (PYD) approach.
- Make sexual risk avoidance education the focus of their SRAE funded project.

We encourage you to review evidence-based programs and their components (activities that make up programs) to see if they can be adapted, as long as copyright rules allow. Make sure interventions can be faithfully implemented and follow the key curriculum elements required for this award.

Using a positive youth development approach

Projects must incorporate a positive youth development (PYD) approach. Key principles of PYD include:

- Providing positive opportunities and support to youth within the context of positive relationships.
- Consulting with young people and giving them chances to provide input on how programs are carried out.

You can learn more about the key principles of PYD and the role of PYD in adolescent pregnancy prevention [PDF] in ACF's fact sheet "Building on Strengths." You can also use the checklist for putting PYD into action in your program [PDF].

Reaching youth from diverse communities, backgrounds, and experiences

Your program must provide services to youth between the ages of 10 and 19. It must be culturally appropriate, meaning it recognizes the experiences of youth from diverse communities, backgrounds, and experiences. The implementation of diversity, equity, and inclusion initiatives that prioritize services for one race, color, or national origin of youth participant over any other is not allowed. Your program must ensure there is no prioritization of any race, color, or national origin of youth when accessing Title V Competitive SRAE funded services.

Referrals and connections to youth-friendly health care and other services

Connections and referrals to health care and other services should be easy for youth to access. Your program should include referrals and service documentation to youth-friendly services that do not normalize sexual activity outside of marriage, such as:

- Local faith-based organizations.
- Health care providers.
- Educational services (such as tuition for formal K-12 or General Education Diploma classes).

- Career development.
- Counseling services (such as substance use disorder treatment, tobacco cessation, mental health counseling, and intimate partner violence counseling).

We encourage you to build partnerships to help with these referrals and keep records of them. When possible, you should track when services are started.

Prohibition on abortion referrals or services

Funds awarded under this NOFO may not be used to fund abortion-related services, including referrals. Programs must ensure that all referrals and services provided are consistent with this prohibition.

Performance measurement

Performance measures are a set of indicators that reflect program performance.

Recipients report on performance measures through semi-annual reporting. These performance measures provide information based upon these three categories of data collection:

- Structure, cost, and support for program implementation.
- Attendance, reach, and dosage.
- Participant entry and exit surveys (which capture characteristics, behaviors, program experiences, and perceptions of effects).

Recipients are expected to:

- Check local and state laws, policies, and procedures to ensure the practical collection of data, and obtain any necessary permissions (e.g., formal agreements with partners, Institutional Review Board approval, copies of school district approvals).
- Ensure all subrecipients and implementation sites collect and submit the SRAE performance measures data. FYSB will provide training on how to conduct data collection and submission.

While FYSB has specific indicators to be collected, recipients may:

- Develop additional OMB approved questions relating to program performance, including adding items to the end of the entry or exit surveys that are non-OMB approved.
- Collect additional service satisfaction feedback from youth participants entry and exit surveys.

For more information about the SRAE performance measures, including definitions, survey instruments, and data collection tools, please see the SRAE Performance Analysis Study website.

Local evaluation (optional)

You have the option to conduct a program evaluation, referred to as a local evaluation, of your project.

SRAE local evaluations are:

- Separate from performance measurement.
- Designed to answer recipient-driven research questions that assess the program's effectiveness, impact, implementation, and participant outcomes.
- An opportunity to assess areas of improvement.
- A way to contribute to the evidence base for SRAE programming.

The local evaluation must answer one or more recipient-specific research questions related to your program. In accordance with the legislation, the Title V Competitive SRAE evaluation that you opt to conduct must be:

- Rigorous.
- Evidence-based.
- Designed and conducted by independent researchers who have experience in conducting and publishing research in peer-reviewed journals or other outlets.

Opting not to include a local evaluation will not decrease your funding level. If you do conduct a local evaluation, you must set aside a maximum of 20% of your annual funding allocation for evaluation activities.

Methodology

If you opt to conduct a local evaluation, you can use any of these methodologies:

- **Impact evaluations**: Effectiveness studies that have a control group that receives no services or different, distinctive services from the intervention group. These studies should also evaluate behavioral outcomes beyond the period directly following the end of programming.
- **Comprehensive needs assessments**: Systematic investigations that identify needs and challenges around a given issue; determine root causes, identify current barriers to addressing the need and set priorities for future actions.
- **Descriptive studies**: Studies that document and link program implementation and participant outcomes. Descriptive evaluations generate knowledge or understanding about the programs and populations served and do not have a control group.

Planning your evaluation

Well-conducted evaluations require time for planning, implementation, analysis, reporting, and dissemination activities. We advise you to carefully consider, based on the study selected, whether you have enough time and resources to conduct your evaluation. We also recommend that you review the current SRAE evaluation resources to inform your evaluation plan.

The independent, local evaluators who design and conduct the local evaluation must have experience in conducting evaluations of youth-focused programs in the community. They should match the type of methodology to the proposed local evaluation. Local evaluators may be from universities, research organizations, evaluation consultancies, or other institutions with experience in conducting high-quality evaluations of community programs.

Technical assistance

If you conduct a local evaluation, we will provide technical assistance and training to you and your local evaluator. This support will focus on planning, implementation, analysis, reporting, and dissemination. You may have to complete standardized forms and templates, describe your evaluation plans, and submit evaluation updates.

We will review your evaluation plan before you start evaluation activities. We may suggest improvements including revisions to the evaluation design and funding.

National evaluation

We will conduct a national, descriptive study with recipients. We may invite a subset of program projects to participate in a rigorous federal evaluation. Federal evaluations are subject to the Paperwork Reduction Act, and ACF/FYSB will receive all approvals prior to launching any evaluations.

Project sustainability

Recipients should collaborate with their subrecipients and partners to implement a sustainability plan that ensures the continuation of the project after the period of federal funding ends. For additional information please see the Sustainability of Your Project Tip Sheet.

Funding policies and limitations

General policies

- We will only make awards if this program receives funding. If Congress appropriates funds for this purpose, we will move forward with the review and award process.
- Support beyond the first budget period will depend on:
  - Appropriation of funds.
  - Satisfactory progress in meeting your project’s objectives.

  - A decision that continued funding is in the government's best interest.
  - Whether a state chooses to accept the state allotment making funds unavailable for SRAE.
- If we receive more funding for this program, we will consider:
  - Funding more applicants.
  - Extending the period of performance.
  - Awarding supplemental funding.

ACF does not allow funds awarded under this NOFO to support any costs related to diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI) activities, including research in support of such initiatives, and any other initiatives that discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, national origin or another protected characteristic. This also includes any diversity, equity, inclusion, and accessibility (DEIA) initiatives, and any discriminatory equity ideology in violation of a Federal anti-discrimination law. The definition of "discriminatory equity ideology" is in Section 2(b) of Executive Order 14190 of January 29, 2025, which can be found here: 2025-02232.pdf.

For guidance on additional types of costs that we restrict or do not allow, see General Provisions for Selected Items of Costs of the Uniform Guidance, 45 CFR part 75 (or, starting October 1, 2025, 2 CFR part 200).

Program-specific limitations and policies

We do not allow the following costs under this notice of funding opportunity (NOFO):

- Construction.
- Purchase of real property.
- Major renovation.
- Service provision, including those arranged through the program.

You must also abide by the following rule:

- No more than 20% of the allocated funds can be used for evaluation.

Funds under this NOFO cannot be used for the following purposes:

- To replace current public or private funding.
- To replace existing, ongoing, or usual activities of any organization involved in the project.
- To pay for referral services for youth.

See 2 CFR 200.420-200.434 for detailed guidance and clarification on the allowability and restrictions of specific cost items. (*Effective October 1, 2025.)

Indirect costs

Indirect costs are costs you charge across more than one project and cannot be easily separated by project.

To charge indirect costs you can select one of two methods:

Method 1—Approved rate. You currently have an indirect cost rate approved by your cognizant federal agency.

Method 2—*De minimis* rate. Per 2 CFR 200.414(f), if you **do not** have a current negotiated indirect cost rate (including a provisional rate), you may elect to charge a *de minimis* rate. If you choose this method, costs included in the indirect cost pool must not be charged as direct costs. This rate is 15% of modified total direct costs (MTDC). See 2 CFR 200.1 for the definition of MTDC. You can use this rate indefinitely.

Subawards

As the prime award recipient, you must maintain a substantial role in the project. We define a substantive role as conducting funded activities and providing services that are necessary and integral to completing the project. Monitoring your subrecipient's activities alone as described in 45 CFR 75.352 (or, starting October 1, 2025, 2 CFR 200.332) is not a substantive role.

We do not fund awards where your role primarily serves as a conduit for passing funds to other organizations unless that arrangement is authorized by statute.

If they do not have one, all subrecipients must obtain a Unique Entity Identifier (UEI) through the System for Award Management (SAM.gov).

Subrecipients must meet the eligibility requirements of this NOFO.

Salary rate limitation

The salary rate limitation in the current appropriations act applies to this program. You may not use awarded funds to pay a salary at a higher rate than the rate for Executive Level II. For the Executive Level II salary, please see guidance from the Office of Personnel Management on executive and senior level employee pay.

The salary limitation reflects a person's base salary (including any portion of the salary that is paid for with indirect costs). It does not include fringe benefits or any income the person is allowed to earn outside of the duties of the applicant's organization. This salary limitation also applies to subawards, contracts, and subcontracts under an ACF grant or cooperative agreement.

Program income

Program income is money earned as a result of your award-supported project activities. You must use any program income you generate from awarded funds for approved project-related activities. Find more about program income at 45 CFR 75.307 (or, starting October 1, 2025, 2 CFR 200.307).

Step 2:
Get Ready to Apply

In this step

Get registered

SAM.gov

You must have an active account with SAM.gov. This includes having a Unique Entity Identifier. SAM.gov registration can take several weeks. Begin that process today.

To register, go to SAM.gov Entity Registration and select Get Started. From the same page, you can also select the Entity Registration Checklist for the information you will need to register.

When you register or update your SAM.gov registration, you must agree to the financial assistance general certifications and representations. You must agree to those for financial assistance specifically, as opposed to contracts, because the two sets of agreements are different. You will have to maintain your registration throughout the life of any award.

Grants.gov

You must also have an active account with Grants.gov. You can see step-by-step instructions at the Grants.gov Quick Start Guide for Applicants.

Need help? See Contacts and Support.

Find the application package

The application package has all the forms you need to apply. You can find it online. Go to Grants Search at Grants.gov and search for opportunity number HHS-2025-ACF-ACYF-TS-0007. Then select the Package tab.

After you select the opportunity, we recommend that you select the Subscribe button to get updates.

If you can't use Grants.gov to download application materials, you may request them from the grants management contact.

If you are also unable to apply through Grants.gov, see the section on exemptions for paper submissions.

Learn more

Visit Applying for an ACF Grant Award on the ACF Grants page.

Step 3:
Prepare Your Application

In this step

Application contents and format

Application components

You will submit two files plus the standard forms in the application package.

Your organization's authorized official must certify your application.

File one

To submit file one, you will use the Project Narrative Attachment form found in the Grants.gov application package for this NOFO.

This file includes:

- Table of contents.
- Project summary, one page.
- Project narrative.
- Line-item budget and budget narrative.

File two

To submit file two, you will use the Other Attachments form found in the Grants.gov application package for this NOFO.

This file includes all attachments.

Standard forms

The Grants.gov application package for this NOFO includes forms beyond those required for file one and file two. Complete all of these forms and submit through Grants.gov.

See the list of standard forms.

Required format

Page limit for file one and file two combined: 100 pages.

File format: Portable Document Format (PDF) is recommended, but not required. ACF supports the following file formats when you attach files to the Project Narrative Attachment form and the Other Attachments form:

Accepted file formats

- Adobe PDF (.pdf)
- Microsoft Word (.doc or .docx)
- Microsoft Excel (.xls or .xlsx)
- Microsoft PowerPoint (.ppt)
- Image formats (.JPG, .GIF, .TIFF, or .BMP only)

Document formats

Paper size: 8 ½ inches x 11 inches

Margins: 1 inch all around

Language: English

If possible, include page numbers.

Do not include external links to information you want reviewers to assess because reviewers will score the application solely on information provided in the application.

Fonts

Font: Times New Roman

Color: Black

Size: 12-point font

Footnotes and text in tables and graphics may be 10-point.

Spacing

Table of contents: Must be single-spaced

Project summary: Must be single-spaced

Project narrative: Must be double-spaced

Logic model: Must be single-spaced

Line-item budget and budget narrative: Can be single-spaced

Attachments: Can be single-spaced

Tables and footnotes throughout: Can be single-spaced

See disqualification factors to understand what may disqualify your application from consideration.

Table of contents

At the beginning of file one, insert a table of contents that guides a reader through the contents of both files in your application. If possible, include links to the relevant content in file one.

Project summary

Provide a one-page summary of the project description. Do not cross-reference to other parts of your application. The summary must include:

- At the top, the project title, applicant name, address, phone numbers, email addresses, and any website URL.
- A brief description of the project, including the needs and population you will address, and your proposed services.

Project narrative

The project narrative is where you address all your proposed activities. It is a critical section of your application, which we evaluate using merit review criteria and rank based on application scores. Remember that substance and measurable outcomes are more important than length. We are particularly interested in project narratives that convey strategies for achieving intended performance.

In it, you must:

- Explain how the project will meet the purpose of the NOFO, as described in the program description section.
- Make sure your narrative is clear, concise, and complete.
- Use cross-referencing rather than repetition.
- Be sure to include any required supporting documents noted. You generally provide these in your attachments.
- Use the headings and order of the sections that follow.

Geographic location

Provide the precise physical location of your project and boundaries of the area you will serve. If you will include any subrecipients in your project that will serve the geographic areas include their locations as well. Please see locality restrictions for guidance.

Need for assistance

Identify the problems you plan to solve. These problems could be physical, economic, social, financial, institutional, etc. To do so:

- Demonstrate the need, including the nature and scope of the problem.
- Provide, as appropriate, supporting documentation, such as letters of support and testimonials, in your attachments.
- Include any relevant data based on planning studies or needs assessments. You may refer to them in the endnotes or footnotes.
- Use demographic data and participant or beneficiary information where you can.

Objectives

State your main objectives and any sub-objectives, if applicable. Address how the objectives stated relate to the overall purpose of this program and describe how you will achieve the objectives.

Expected outcomes

Identify the outcomes you plan to achieve. Outcomes should be related to the overall program as described in the program description section. If research is part of the proposed work, outcomes must include hypothesized results and implications of the proposed research.

Approach

Outline your action plan. Describe the scope of your proposed project and describe in detail how you will accomplish it. Account for all functions or activities you identify in your application.

Explain potential obstacles and challenges to accomplishing your project goals. Explain the strategies you will use to address them.

Referrals and connections to youth-friendly health care and other services

- Describe how your program will include referrals and other connections to youth-friendly services.
- Include details about the referral resources you will use, how you make referrals to other services, and how you will follow-up on and track referrals, when needed.

Project timeline and milestones

Provide a timeline for your project that includes milestones. To do so:

- Organize the information by task and subtask, showing related milestones.
- Provide monthly or quarterly estimates of what you plan to achieve and by when. For example, provide the number of people you plan to serve or the number of a certain activity you plan to complete by a specific date.

- Provide target dates for activities you can't quantify.
- Cover the full period of performance in your timeline.

Organizational capacity

Provide the following information for your full project team, including the applicant organization and any cooperating partners, contractors, and subrecipients:

- Provide evidence that your team has the relevant experience and proficiency needed to carry out your project.
- Describe your team's experience (including any partnering organizations) with administering, developing, implementing, managing, and evaluating similar projects.
- Provide evidence that your team, including partnering organizations, has the organizational capability to fulfill their roles and functions effectively.
- You must disclose your plan to enter into subaward agreements. If planning subawards, describe the work each subrecipient will complete.
- Describe the recruitment, retention, professional development, and training plan for staff throughout the project period. Describe how each proposed position is appropriate and relevant to the successful implementation of the proposed project.
- Describe the organizational executive leadership and the existing staffing structure or a proposed staffing plan that will support full program implementation **within 90 days of award.**
- Provide a succinct plan to monitor the effective management and coordination of activities by any partners, contractors and subcontractors, and consultants, if applicable
- Provide some supporting information in the organizational capacity supporting information section of your attachments.

Current and pending funding support

Provide a list of your current and pending funding support for ongoing projects and proposals. Include all sources such as federal, state, and local governments, public or private foundations, and for-profit organizations.

Indicate which projects and proposals require committed time from the project director, principal investigator, or other key personnel of the project you are proposing in this application.

Show the total award amount, awarding entity, and the amount of time each key staff member will devote to each project.

Plan for oversight of federal award funds and activities

You must ensure proper award oversight. The regulation that governs this oversight is 45 CFR part 75 (or, starting October 1, 2025, 2 CFR part 200). It includes standards for:

- Financial and program management.
- Property management.
- Procurement.
- Performance and financial monitoring and reporting.
- Subrecipient monitoring and management.
- Record retention and access.
- Remedies for noncompliance.
- Prior written approval.

Describe your framework to make sure that your federal funds and activities have proper oversight. Include:

- A description of the governance, policies and procedures, and systems you use for record keeping and financial management.
- A description of the procedures you use to identify and mitigate risks and issues. These might include audit findings, continuous performance assessment findings, and monitoring.
- The key staff who will be responsible for maintaining oversight of program activities staff and any partners or subrecipients.

Project performance evaluation plan

Describe a plan for how you will monitor your project's performance and how it will contribute to continuous quality improvement. This plan must describe:

- How you will monitor ongoing activities and the progress toward the project's goals and objectives.
- The inputs, key activities, and expected outcomes of the funded activities. Inputs might include your collaborative partners, key staff, budget, service processes, or other resources.
- How you will measure the inputs, activities, and outcomes.
- How you will use the collected data to inform improvements of the funded activities.
- Any processes that support the overall data quality.
- The organizational systems and processes that will track performance.

- How your organization will collect and manage data in a way that allows for accurate and timely reporting of performance outcomes. This might include assigned skilled staff, data management software, and data quality.
- Any potential obstacles to implementing the project performance evaluation and how you will address them.
- A timeline for how you will review information from the performance evaluation and apply it to your ongoing project.
- How you will collect and report on OMB-approved program performance measures.

Local evaluation (optional)

- Clearly state whether you plan to conduct an optional local evaluation or not. If you propose to conduct a local evaluation, you must provide a plan to implement the evaluation in the 24-month project period.
- Your plan should:
  - Explain how your evaluation will answer important questions of interest to you, to the community, and to the larger SRAE field.
  - Address sexual risk avoidance outcomes—specifically, sexual activity or other sexual behaviors, to include preventing pregnancy among youth.
  - Address key program outcomes.
  - Meet expectations of rigorous evaluation design that ACF provides through a system of technical assistance.
  - Include an appropriate evaluation design. Include a reliable measurement plan, detailed timeline, and sound methodological design.
  - Describe the use of viable methods to determine if the project outcomes were achieved.
  - Describe how you will procure an independent evaluator. Include the independent evaluator’s experience and proposed evaluation infrastructure.
  - Describe the details about the proposed data collection activities, the participants, data management, data integrity, and analyses plans.
  - Describe any potential obstacles in implementing the evaluation and how you will address them.
  - If multiple waves of data collection need to be conducted, describe their timing and how respondents will be tracked over time for later data collection.
- Modifications to your evaluation plan may be required after an evaluator is officially hired and/or federal government-sponsored technical assistance is provided.

Logic model

You must submit a logic model for designing, managing, and evaluating the project. A logic model is a diagram that:

- Presents how inputs drive activities to produce outputs, outcomes, and the ultimate goals of the proposed project.
- Explains the links among project elements.
- Targets the identified objectives and goals of the project.

While there are many versions of logic models, for the purposes of this funding opportunity, the logic model may include the connections between:

- Inputs such as additional resources, organizational profile, collaborative partners, key staff, and budget.
- Target population, such as the individuals to be served or identified needs.
- Activities, mechanisms, and processes such as evidenced-based practices, best practices, approaches, key intervention and evaluation components, and continuous quality improvement efforts.
- Outputs, which include the immediate and direct results of program activities.
- Outcomes, which include the short- and long-term results you expect the project to achieve. These are typically described as changes in people or systems.
- Project goals, such as overarching objectives and reasons for proposing the project.

Your logic model should provide up to six outcomes that clearly state expected results or benefits of the intervention proposed and link with them with the goals. Proposed outcomes must be specific, measurable, achievable, realistic, and time-framed.

Project sustainability plan

You must propose a plan for project sustainability after the period of federal funding ends. We expect you to sustain key elements of your project. These elements can include strategies or services and interventions that have improved practices and outcomes.

- Provide an approach to project sustainability that is effective and feasible.
- Describe:
    - The key people and organizations whose support you will require.
    - The types of alternative support you will require to maintain the project.
    - If the proposed project involves key project partners, how you will maintain their cooperation or collaboration after the federal funding ends.

Protection of sensitive or confidential information

Describe how you will collect and safeguard protected, personally identifiable information and other information that is considered sensitive. Make sure your approach is consistent with applicable federal, state, local, and tribal laws regarding privacy and obligations of confidentiality.

Provide:

- The methods and systems you will use to protect confidential and sensitive information, including that of subrecipients and contractors.
- A plan for the disposition of such information at the end of the period of performance.

For more information, see 45 CFR 75.303(e) (or, starting October 1, 2025, 2 CFR 200.303(e)).

Line-item budget and budget narrative

The line-item budget and budget justification support the information you provide in the Budget Information Standard Form SF-424A.

HHS now uses the definitions for equipment and supplies in 2 CFR 200.1. The new definitions change the threshold for equipment to the lesser of the recipient's capitalization level or $10,000, and the threshold for supplies to less than that amount.

Justify the costs you ask for and provide detail, including calculations for the "object class categories" in the Budget Information Standard Form. You will provide this information for the initial budget period only. See information on funding periods.

As you develop your budget, consider:

- If the costs are necessary, reasonable, allocable, and consistent with your project's purpose and activities.
- How you calculate your costs in ways that are clear and repeatable.
- The restrictions on spending funds. See the funding policies and limitations.

Please also review the Standard Form instructions.

To create your line-item budget and justification, see detailed budget instructions on our website.

In general, you must:

- Indicate the method you will use for your indirect cost rate. See the indirect costs section for further information.
- Include estimation methods, quantities, unit costs, and other similar quantitative details necessary for the calculation to be duplicated.

- For any cost sharing, include a detailed listing of any funding sources identified in Block 18 of the SF-424 Application for Federal Assistance.
- For applicants planning to use subawards, if your subaward budget is more than 50% of total direct costs, justify why you are subawarding that portion of the project. Explain:
  - How you plan to maintain a substantive role in the project.
  - Why you cannot achieve your goals without the subrecipients' participation.
- Include a line-item budget for subawards.
- Budget costs for two key staff members to attend the Adolescent Pregnancy Prevention (APP) Program Grantee Annual Training Event, and for two staff members to attend a minimum of one of two topical training sessions offered in each year of the 24-month project period. Staff members with significant involvement in day-to-day project management and/or working directly with youth should be encouraged and allowed to attend these trainings as appropriate.

Proprietary or personally identifiable information

In your application, you may identify salary or other proprietary information or personally identifiable information. We will remove this information from applications before they go to reviewers.

If you have an exemption for a paper submission, you can protect salary information and any proprietary information by placing that information only in the original application. You can remove the information from the copies, keeping summary information.

Attachments

You will upload attachments in Grants.gov using the Other Attachments form. These attachments are included in the overall application page limit, unless it says otherwise in this section.

Indirect cost agreement

If you include indirect costs in your budget using an approved rate, include a copy of your current agreement approved by your cognizant agency for indirect costs. If you use the *de minimis* rate, you do not need to submit this attachment. See the indirect costs section for more information.

Legal proof of nonprofit status

If your organization is a nonprofit, you need to attach proof. We will accept any of the following:

- A reference to your listing in the IRS's most recent list of tax-exempt organizations.
- A copy of a current tax exemption certificate from the IRS.
- A letter from your state's tax department, attorney general, or another appropriate state official saying that your group is a nonprofit and that none of your net earnings go to private shareholders or others.
- A certified copy of your certificate of incorporation or similar document. This document must show that your group is a nonprofit.
- Any of these for a parent organization. Also include a statement signed by an official of the parent group that your organization is a nonprofit affiliate.

Legal proof of for-profit status

If your organization is a for-profit, including a small business, you need to attach proof.

Include documentation establishing your organization's power to enter into contractual relationships or accept awards. This might include your articles of incorporation or bylaws.

Legal proof of small businesses

In addition to the proof that your organization is for-profit required in the previous section, small businesses must submit a certification signed by the chief executive officer or designee that states that the entity qualifies as a small business under 13 CFR 121.101-121.201.

Additional eligibility documentation

To be eligible for funding, an entity must possess an IRS registration within the eligible state, crediting the entity as a legal and registered taxpayer in that state. IRS registration must be submitted with application.

Organizational capacity supporting information

You must attach the following information to support the information in your organizational capacity section:

- Organizational charts, including all partners.
- Resumes, biographical sketches, or curricula vitae for all key personnel.
- Job descriptions for each vacant key position.
- List of your board of directors.
- Copy or description of the applicant organization's fiscal control and accountability procedures.
- Evidence that the applicant organization, and any partnering organizations, have relevant experience and expertise with administration, development,

implementation, management, and evaluation of programs similar to that offered under this funding opportunity.

Third-party agreements

You must submit agreements with all third parties involved in the project. Third parties include subrecipients, contractors, and other cooperating entities. Third-party agreements include letters of commitment, memoranda of understanding, and memoranda of agreement. **We do not consider general letters of support to be third-party agreements.**

Any such agreement must:

- Describe the roles and responsibilities for project activities.
- Describe the support and resources that the third-party is committing to the proposed project.
- Be signed by the person in the third-party organization with the authority to make such commitments.
- Detail work schedules and estimated compensation with an understanding that the parties will negotiate a final agreement after the award.
- Identify the primary applicant and all collaborators responsible for project activities if the agreement is for a collaboration or consortia.
- If the agreement covers a loan transaction, include:
    - The purposes for the loan.
    - Interest rates and other fees.
    - Terms of the loan.
    - Repayment schedules.
    - Collateral security.
    - Default and collection procedures.
    - The signatures of the authorized officials of the lender and the borrower.
- If the agreement covers an equity investment, include the:
    - Purposes of the equity investment.
    - Type of equity transaction (i.e. a stock purchase).
    - Cost per share, and the basis on which the cost per share is derived.
    - Number of shares being purchased.
    - Percentage of ownership in the business.
    - Term of duration of the agreement.
    - Number of seats on the board, if applicable.

- Signatures of the authorized officials of the applicant and third-party organization.

Standard forms

You will need to complete some other required standard forms. Upload the following forms at Grants.gov. You can find them in the NOFO application package or review them and their instructions at Grants.gov Forms.

Forms	Submission requirement
Application for Federal Assistance (SF-424)	With the application.
Budget Information for Non-Construction Programs (SF-424A)	With the application.
Key Contacts	With the application.
Grants.gov Lobbying Form	With the application or before award.
Disclosure of Lobbying Activities (SF-LLL)	If applicable based on instructions, with the application or before award.
Project/Performance Site Location(s) (SF-P/PSL)	With the application. Cite your primary location and up to 29 additional performance sites.

Important: Public information

When filling out your SF-424 form, pay attention to Box 15: Descriptive Title of Applicant's Project.

We share what you put there with USAspending. This is where the public goes to learn how the federal government spends their money.

Instead of just a title, insert a short description of your project and what it will do.

See instructions and examples.

Step 4:
Learn About Review and Award

In this step

Application review

Initial review

We will review your application to make sure that it meets the responsiveness requirements listed in the disqualification factors section. If your application does not meet these criteria, we will disqualify it and we will not move it to the merit review phase.

We will let you know if your application is disqualified within 30 days of the application deadline. You won't receive any notice from ACF if your application failed Grants.gov validation checks.

If you submit more than two files in addition to your forms, we will remove the extra files. We will let you know if this happens.

We will also remove blurred or illegible pages and any file formats that are not supported.

We will not review any pages that exceed the page limit.

If your application fails to adhere to ACF's NOFO formatting, font, and page limitation requirements, we will adjust your application by removing page(s) from the application. We will remove the pages before the merit review and will not send them to reviewers.

If we do so, we will send you a letter after we make awards to notify you that we amended your application.

Merit review

A panel reviews all applications that pass the initial review. The panel members use the criteria in this section.

Our reviewers typically are not federal employees. See the section on proprietary and personally identifiable information.

Criteria

Criterion	Total number of points = 100
1. Objectives, needs for assistance, and outcomes	20 points
2. Project timeline and milestones, approach, and project sustainability plan	45 points
3. Program performance evaluation plan	10 points
4. Organizational capacity and plan for oversight of federal awarded funds	20 points
5. Budget and budget justification	5 points

1. Objectives, need for assistance, and outcomes

Maximum points: 20

The reviewer will assess:

1. The extent to which you do the following **(0 to 4 points)**:
   - Clearly define the geographic areas to be served by your project.
   - Explain why you chose those areas.
   - List data to support the selection of your service areas.
2. The extent to which you do the following **(0 to 2 points)**:
   - Clearly describe a compelling need for the proposed project including the nature and scope of the problem.
   - Document relevant data including unmarried teen birth data, STI rates, youth risk behavior data, and other relevant data from planning studies or needs assessments (you may refer to them in the endnotes or footnotes).
3. The extent to which you demonstrate a thorough understanding of the population's needs and justify the number of participants you will serve. Your plan includes the following **(0 to 4 points)**:

- Number of youth served.
- Age groups or grades.
- Other descriptive factors, as applicable.

4. The extent to which you clearly and thoroughly describe the objectives, activities, and outcomes of the project, reflecting the overall goal and objectives of Title V Competitive SRAE. **(0 to 10 points)**

2. Project timeline and milestones, approach, and project sustainability plan

Maximum points: 45

The reviewer will assess:

1. The extent to which you describe in detail how you will ensure the following **(0 to 6 points)**:
    - All project materials are medically accurate and complete.
    - Your project provides age-appropriate information and activities. Your project is culturally appropriate to youth served.
    - Your project addresses the needs of youth served. Your project serves youth from different communities, backgrounds, and experiences. Your project provides voluntary education and services.
2. The extent to which you do the following **(0 to 20 points)**:
    - Describe a detailed plan to implement education exclusively on sexual risk avoidance, through teaching the A-F topics required by the legislation, which may include the Success Sequence for Poverty Prevention. **(0 to 6 points)**
    - Describe the curriculum modules, interventions, and activities that will be conducted and how they align with the SRAE statutory program requirements. **(0 to 6 points)**
    - Describe the rationale for choosing the selected curriculum, citing evidence that demonstrates how the curriculum and overall proposal apply the key program elements and positively influence youth behavior change, namely delaying initiation of sexual activity until marriage. **(0 to 5 points)**
    - Describe the process and tools that you will use to monitor program fidelity, and, if adaptations are planned, provide a clear rationale for the proposed adaptations. **(0 to 2 points)**
    - Describe any project design or technological innovations you propose to use to reach more youth and how they will support the project. **(0 to 1 point)**
3. Describe how the program will incorporate a positive youth development (PYD) approach (including targeting risk and protective factors) and demonstrate the ways you plan to incorporate meaningful youth engagement. **(0 to 2 points)**

4. The extent to which you clearly describe the following **(0 to 6 points)**:
   - Your participant recruitment and retention plan for youth ages 10 to 19. The approach described must be specific for the population served and include how you will successfully recruit and retain said population. **(0 to 2 points)**
   - The methods you will use to ensure facilitators/educators who will deliver the program have been or will be formally trained in the proposed SRAE program model and/or strategies. **(0 to 4 points)**
5. The extent to which you describe thoroughly how your project will include referrals and connections to youth-friendly services. The description identifies referral resources and includes information about how referrals will be made to other services and details on how you will follow up on and track referrals, when appropriate. **(0 to 4 points)**
6. The extent to which you describe a clear, detailed process for conducting all your proposed functions or activities identified in your application, including the following **(0 to 3 points)**:
   - Major milestones.
   - Target dates.
   - A timeline that covers the full period of performance, is sufficient, and includes time for planning, implementation, analysis, and reporting and dissemination activities, as applicable.
7. The extent to which you include a well-defined logic model that demonstrates a reasonable and significant relationship between planned Title V Competitive SRAE project activities and intended outcomes and outputs. **(0 to 2 points)**
8. The extent to which you describe a plan for project sustainability that details how the project will create self-sufficiency, which ensures the project activities will continue after federal funding has ended. The plan thoroughly addresses how program participants, family members, and community leaders will be involved with making recommendations to improve and sustain the program. **(0 to 2 points)**

3. Program performance evaluation plan

Maximum points: 10

The reviewer will assess how well you:

1. Indicate your agreement to collect and report on OMB-approved program performance measures. **(0 to 2 points)**
2. Clearly describe the use of data collection methods that determine if the project outcomes are being achieved. **(0 to 4 points)**

3. Describe in detail how the data collected will be used to engage in continuous quality improvement of the Title V Competitive SRAE program. **(0 to 4 points)**

4. Organizational capacity and plan for oversight of federal awarded funds

Maximum points: 20

The reviewer will assess how well you:

1. Clearly describe the organization’s relevant experience in providing SRAE Services and the experience of any partner organizations identified in the MOU or MOA. **(0 to 5 points)**
2. Clearly describe organizational executive leadership and the existing staffing structure, or a proposed staffing plan that will support full program implementation within 90 days of award. You should provide a succinct plan to monitor the effective management and coordination of activities by any partners, contractors, subcontractors, and consultants. **(0 to 3 points)**
3. Include a clearly defined organizational chart, Board of Directors list, and governance structure. **(0 to 2 points)**
4. Describe the duties of the proposed Project Director and how key project staff demonstrate relevant knowledge and experience (as demonstrated by a resume or curriculum-vitae) in SRAE to effectively institute and manage a project of this focus, scope, cost, and complexity. **(0 to 4 points)**
5. Describe the role, responsibilities, and time commitments for each proposed project staff position, including partners, consultants, and contractors and/or subcontractors, and demonstrate that each proposed position is appropriate and relevant to the successful implementation of the proposed project. **(0 to 2 points)**
6. Describe in detail your fiscal controls and how your accounting procedures will ensure prudent use, proper and timely disbursement, and accurate accounting of federal funds received under this NOFO. **(0 to 2 points)**
7. Detail a plan for how facilitators and educators will be recruited and retained and receive professional training and development throughout the project period. **(0 to 2 points)**

5. Budget and budget justification

Maximum points: 5

The reviewer will assess how well you:

1. Include a proposed line-item budget and narratives that are feasible, reasonable, and aligned with the requirements of the NOFO (including not allocating more than 20% of your budget toward conducting a local evaluation, if you opt to conduct one). **(0 to 2 points)**
2. Include a detailed budget justification of project costs and demonstrate how cost estimates were derived. Calculations must include estimation of methods, quantities, and unit costs. **(0 to 3 points)**

We do not consider voluntary cost sharing during merit review.

Risk review

Before making an award, we review the risk that you will mismanage federal funds or fail to complete the project objectives. We need to make sure you've handled any past federal awards well and demonstrated sound business practices. We use SAM.gov Responsibility/Qualification to check this history for all awards likely to be over $250,000.

If we find a significant risk, we may choose not to fund your application or to place specific conditions on the award.

For more details, see 45 CFR 75.205 (or, starting October 1, 2025, 2 CFR 200.206).

Selection process

When making funding decisions, we consider:

- Merit review results. These are key in making decisions but are not the only factor.
- Organizations serving emerging, unserved, or underserved populations.
- The larger portfolio of agency-funded projects by considering geographic distribution.
- The past performance of the applicant.
- The application's compliance with this NOFO's prohibition on using funds awarded under this NOFO to support any costs related to:
    - Diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI) activities, including research in support of such initiatives,
    - Any other initiatives that discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, national origin or another protected characteristic, and

- Any diversity, equity, inclusion, and accessibility (DEIA) initiatives, and any discriminatory equity ideology in violation of a Federal anti-discrimination law. The definition of “discriminatory equity ideology” is in Section 2(b) of Executive Order 14190 of January 29, 2025, which can be found here: 2025-02232.pdf.

We may:

- Fund applications in whole or in part.
- Fund applications at a lower amount than requested.
- Decide not to allow a prime recipient to subaward if they may not be able to monitor and manage subrecipients properly.
- Decide not to fund a project with high start-up costs or unreasonably high operating costs.
- Choose not to fund applicants with management or financial problems.
- Designate your application as “approved but unfunded” if it was successful but there was not sufficient funding to make an award. You may receive funding if additional funds become available within the fiscal year.
- Choose to fund no applications under this NOFO.

We will not fund:

- A disqualified application.
- An incomplete application.

Award notices

How we make awards

If you are successful, we will email or transmit through our grant systems a Notice of Award (NoA) to your authorized official. We will email you if your application is disqualified or unsuccessful.

The NoA is the only official award document. The NoA tells you about the amount of the award, important dates, and the terms and conditions you need to follow. Until you receive the NoA, you have not received an award. Project costs that you incur before you receive a NoA are at your risk.

By drawing down funds, you accept the terms and conditions of the award. The award incorporates the requirements of the program and funding authorities, the grant regulations, the GPS, and the NOFO.

If you want to know more about NoA contents, go to Notice of Award at ACF’s website.

Step 5:
Submit Your Application

In this step

Application submission and deadlines

Deadlines

Application

Due on July 22, 2025.

- For electronic submissions, the due time is 11:59 p.m. ET.
- If you receive an exemption from electronic submission, the due time is 4:30 p.m. ET. See the section on exemptions for paper submissions.

Grants.gov creates a date and time record when it receives the application. If you submit the same application more than once, we will accept only the last on-time submission.

The grants management officer may extend an application due date based on emergency situations such as documented natural disasters or a verifiable widespread disruption of electric or mail service.

Submission methods

Grants.gov

You must submit your application through Grants.gov unless we give you an exemption for a paper submission. See information on getting registered.

For instructions on how to submit in Grants.gov, see the Quick Start Guide for Applicants. Make sure your application passes the Grants.gov validation checks. Do not encrypt, zip, or password protect any files. We encourage you to leave yourself plenty of time to upload documents.

See Contacts and Support if you need help.

Issues with federal systems

If you experience a systems issue with Grants.gov or SAM.gov, please refer to ACF's Policy for Applicants Experiencing Federal Systems Issues [PDF].

Exemptions for paper submissions

We need to give you an exemption before you can apply on paper. See the ACF Policy for Requesting an Exemption from Required Electronic Application Submission [PDF]. Once we have approved your exemption, download your forms package under the Package tab in Grants.gov.

To submit your application, mail it to:

Chéri Thompson
Administration for Children and Families
FYSB Grant Operation Center
ATTN: SRAE NOFO HHS-2025-ACF-ACYF-TS-0007
1401 Mercantile Lane, Suite 401
Largo, MD 20774

Follow these requirements when you submit your paper application:

- Print your application and all copies one-sided.
- Submit one original and two copies of the complete application, including all required forms.
- Submit both the original and additional copies in a single package. If you plan to submit more than one application under this NOFO or others, you must submit them separately. Clearly label each package with the NOFO title and funding opportunity number. Your authorized organization official must sign the application. The original application must include an original signature.

Intergovernmental review

This NOFO is not subject to Executive Order 12372, Intergovernmental Review of Federal Programs. No action is needed.

Application checklist

Make sure that you have everything you need to apply.

Component	Grants.gov form	Included in page limit?
File one: Narratives	Use the Project Narrative Attachment form.	
☐ Table of contents		Yes
☐ Project summary		Yes
☐ Project narrative		Yes
☐ Line-item budget and budget narrative		Yes
File two: Attachments	Insert each in the Other Attachments form.	
☐ Indirect cost agreement		Yes
☐ Legal proof of nonprofit status		Yes
☐ Legal proof of for-profit status		
☐ Legal proof of small businesses		
☐ Additional eligibility documentation		
☐ Organizational capacity supporting information		Yes
☐ Third-party agreements		Yes
Standard forms	Upload using each required form.	
☐ Application for Federal Assistance (SF-424)		No
☐ Budget Information for Non-Construction Programs (SF-424A)		No
☐ Key Contacts		No
☐ Grants.gov Lobbying Form		No
☐ Disclosure of Lobbying Activities (SF-LLL)		No
☐ Project/Performance Site Location(s) (SF-P/PSL)		No

Step 6:
Learn What Happens After Award

In this step

Post-award requirements and administration

Administrative and national policy requirements

There are important rules you'll need to follow if you get an award. You must follow:

- All terms and conditions in the Notice of Award, including the ACF Standard Terms and Conditions and, if applicable, any program-specific terms and conditions. We incorporate this NOFO by reference.
- The rules listed in 45 CFR 75, Uniform Administrative Requirements, Cost Principles, and Audit Requirements for HHS Awards in effect at the time of award and any updates, or any superseding regulations.
    - Effective October 1, 2024, HHS adopted the following superseding provisions:
        - 2 CFR 200.1, Definitions, Modified Total Direct Cost.
        - 2 CFR 200.1, Definitions, Equipment.
        - 2 CFR 200.1, Definitions, Supplies.
        - 2 CFR 200.313(e), Equipment, Disposition.
        - 2 CFR 200.314(a), Supplies.
        - 2 CFR 200.320, Procurement methods.
        - 2 CFR 200.333, Fixed amount subawards.
        - 2 CFR 200.344, Closeout.
        - 2 CFR 200.414(f), Indirect (F&A) costs.
        - 2 CFR 200.501, Audit requirements.
    - Effective October 1, 2025, HHS will adopt the remaining 2 CFR part 200 provisions and the HHS-specific modifications located in 2 CFR part 300.
- The HHS Grants Policy Statement (GPS) [PDF]. This document has terms and conditions tied to your award. If there are any exceptions to the GPS, they'll be listed in your Notice of Award.
- All federal statutes and regulations relevant to federal financial assistance, including those highlighted in the HHS Administrative and National Policy Requirements [PDF] and the ACF Administrative and National Policy Requirements.

- 45 CFR Part 87 Appendix B, Equal Treatment for Faith-Based Organizations. This appendix explains the obligations of and protections for faith-based organizations applying for grants.
- SRAE awards are subject to requirements at sections 503 (relating to payment), 507 (relating to criminal penalties for false statements), and 508 (relating to nondiscrimination) of the Social Security Act, 42 U.S.C. 703, 707, and 708.

SRAE post-award requirements

By accepting this NOFO's federal funds, recipients must comply with the following requirements:

- Have the program fully functioning within 90 days following the NoA for the grant.
- Have facilitators and educators formally trained in the program model or elements of the program model by professionals who can provide follow-up technical assistance.
- Include a description of the types of participants by age groups or grades, and other descriptive factors.
- Budget the annual costs of sending at least two key staff members to attend the 3-day Annual Adolescent Pregnancy Prevention Program Grantee Training Conference to be held in June 2026, location TBD.
- Budget the annual costs for at least two staff members to attend a minimum of one of two topical training sessions offered each year of the 2-year project period in areas such as Washington, DC, Portland, OR, or Boston, MA, or through a virtual platform.
- Collect and report on all OMB-approved federal SRAE performance measures for recipients, partners, and subrecipients.
- For states and subrecipients conducting local evaluations, participate in training and technical assistance provided by the federal government and follow related guidance provided by ACF/FYSB.
- Participate in a new recipient orientation webinar. The webinar is expected to be held shortly after the official award date.
- Develop a sustainability plan with any proposed subrecipients and collaborating partners to create self-sufficiency and continue program activities after federal funding ends.
- Agree to participate in the national evaluation, if selected.
- Participate in a medical accuracy review of selected curricula sponsored by ACF/FYSB.

Reporting

As a recipient, you will have to submit performance and financial reports. To learn more about reporting, see Reporting at the ACF website.

- Performance report form: ACF-OGM-PPR OMB, Approval number: 0970-0406, Expiration date: 01/31/2026
    - Performance report frequency: Semiannually
- Financial report form: SF-425 FFR, OMB number: 4040-0014, Expiration date: 02/28/2025
    - Financial report frequency: Semiannually

Contacts and Support

In this step

Agency contacts

Program

Chéri Thompson
202-205-8173
fysb.nofo.csrae@acf.hhs.gov

Grants management

David Lee
202-690-5811
fysb.nofo.csrae@acf.hhs.gov

Grants.gov

Grants.gov provides 24/7 support. You can call 1-800-518-4726 or email support@grants.gov. Hold on to your ticket number.

SAM.gov

If you need help, you can call 1-866-606-8220 or live chat with the Federal Service Desk.

Reference websites

- U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS)
- Administration for Children and Families (ACF)
- Grants.gov
- Applying for an ACF Grant Award
- Grants.gov Accessibility Information
- Code of Federal Regulations (CFR)
- United States Code (U.S.C.)
- Award Terms and Conditions (see also the ACF Standard Terms and Conditions [PDF])
- ACF Administrative and National Policy Requirements
- ACF Property Guidance
- Search Institute
- The Exchange
- FYSB
- Title V State Sexual Risk Avoidance Education Fact Sheet

Please note that providing these links does not constitute an endorsement by ACF or any of its employees of the sponsor of these sources or of the information or products presented on these sites.

ACF cannot attest to the accuracy of the information provided by linked websites.

You can review FAQs about this NOFO on the FYSB website. The program office plans to post questions and answers on an ongoing basis up until June 2, 2025. Applicants are strongly encouraged to check the FAQ website link periodically for updates. In the event of a discrepancy between the FAQs and the NOFO, the NOFO takes precedence.

Paperwork Reduction Act disclaimer

As required by the Paperwork Reduction Act, 44 U.S.C. 3501-3521, the public reporting burden for the project description (project narrative, line-item budget, and justification) is estimated to average 60 hours per response, including the time for reviewing instructions, gathering, and maintaining the data needed, and reviewing the collection information. The project description information collection is approved under OMB control number 0970-0139, which expires March 31, 2026. An agency may not conduct or sponsor, and a person is not required to respond to, a collection of information unless it displays a currently valid OMB control number.

Appendix

Glossary of terms

The terms "age-appropriate," "rigorous," "medically accurate," and "youth" are defined according to the legislation at 42 U.S.C. 710(e). All other terms are defined by applicable research for the purposes of this NOFO.

Activities – All the actions needed to prepare for and carry out the program. This includes program and financial management, intervention activities, training activities, and staff debriefings.

Age-appropriate – Suitable (in terms of topics, messages, and teaching methods) to the developmental and social maturity of the particular age or age group of children or adolescents, based on developing cognitive, emotional, and behavioral capacity typical for the age or age group.

Continuous quality improvement – A continuous and ongoing effort to achieve measurable improvements in the efficiency, effectiveness, performance, accountability, outcomes, and other indicators of quality in services or processes.

Comprehensive needs assessment – Scientific/systematic investigations that identify needs and challenges in an area, determine root causes, identify current barriers to addressing the need, and set priorities for future actions.

Core components – Program characteristics that must be kept intact when an intervention is being replicated or adapted for it to produce program outcomes similar to those demonstrated in the original evaluation research that provided evidence for effectiveness.

Dating violence – The type of intimate partner violence that occurs between two young people who are, or who were, once in an intimate relationship.

Effectiveness – The impact of a program under conditions that are likely to occur in a real-world implementation.

Evidence-based – Interventions, strategies, approaches, and/or program models that have been evaluated using rigorous evaluation design such as randomized controlled or high-quality, quasi-experimental trials, and that have demonstrated positive impacts for youth, families, and communities.

Evidence-informed – Interventions, strategies, approaches, and/or program models that bring together the best available research, professional expertise, and input from youth and families to identify and deliver services that have promise to achieve positive outcomes for youth, families, and communities.

Fidelity – The degree to which an intervention is delivered as designed. Faithfulness with which a curriculum or program is implemented; that is, how well the program is implemented without compromising the core content that is essential for program effectiveness.

Goal setting – The process of deciding what to accomplish and devising a plan to achieve the desired results.

Healthy relationships – Peer, romantic, marriage, family, and other interactions that are based on trust, honesty, and respect and allow adolescents to feel supported, connected, and independent. In healthy relationships, key elements are communication, appropriate boundaries, empathy, effective conflict resolution, and resistance of peer pressure.

Impact evaluation – Efficacy/effectiveness study; has a control/comparison group that receives no services or distinct services from the intervention group.

Implementation – The process of introducing and using interventions in real-world service settings, including how interventions or programs are adopted, sustained, and taken to scale.

Key program elements – Information and concepts central to implementation of the sexual risk avoidance education program.

Medically accurate and complete – Verified or supported by the weight of research conducted in compliance with accepted scientific methods and (A) published in peer reviewed journals, where applicable; or (B) comprising information that leading professional organizations and agencies with relevant expertise in the field recognize as accurate, objective, and complete.

Memorandum of understanding (MOU) – A written statement from a stakeholder organization, or individual describing a commitment, including possibly a financial role, in supporting the implementation of a program.

Normalizing sexual activity outside of marriage– Creating the impression that sexual activity outside of marriage is appropriate and/or healthy behavior.

Objectives – The specific and measurable actions that support the expected result of the program.

Organizational capacity – The resources (for example, staff, skills, facilities, finances, technology, partnerships, and capabilities) an organization has to implement a program.

Outcomes – The intended effects of the implemented program or program elements, such as increase in knowledge, development of skills, and behavior changes.

Performance measures – Indicators that are designed for the ongoing monitoring and reporting of program accomplishments, particularly progress toward pre-established goals.

Promising practices – Models, interventions, strategies, and ideas that have been implemented and evaluated to varying degrees in programs and communities and demonstrate positive or promising outcomes.

Rigorous – With respect to research or evaluation, using established scientific methods for measuring the impact of an intervention or program model in changing behavior (specifically sexual activity or other sexual risk behaviors), or reducing pregnancy among youth; or other evidence-based methodologies established by the Secretary.

Self-regulation – The act of managing thoughts and feelings to enable goal-directed actions, including a variety of actions necessary for success in school, relationships, and the workplace.

Sexual risk avoidance – Voluntarily refraining from non-marital sexual activity.

Sexually transmitted infections (STIs) or sexually transmitted diseases (STDs) – STIs/STDs are harmful diseases that are passed from one person to another through sexual contact. These include chlamydia, gonorrhea, genital herpes, human papillomavirus, syphilis, and human immunodeficiency virus. Many of these STIs/STDs do not show symptoms for a long time. Even without symptoms, they can still be harmful and passed on during sex. Avoiding sexual activity is the most reliable way to prevent and protect against STIs/STDs. See the CDC's STI informational site.

Success Sequence for Poverty Prevention – An evidence-based formula which teaches youth the importance and benefits of achieving three core steps to ensure successful financial, physical, and emotional outcomes in adulthood. The steps include 1) graduating high school, 2) working a full-time job, and 3) getting married before having children.

Youth – One or more individuals who have attained age 10 but not age 20.

Youth-friendly – Youth-friendly services are those that attract young people, respond to their needs, and retain young people for continuing care. Youth-friendly services are based on a comprehensive understanding of what young people want and need (rather than being based only on what providers believe youth need).

Modifications

Modification Description	Updated Date