

**RFP for Proposals for a Grantee(s) to provide Child Care Resource and Referral District Services for the Coordination and Delivery of Training**

1. **Question:** Why has DCYF decided to have a separate contract for Training Delivery, instead of staying with District services?

**Answer**: In 2024, DCYF conducted an extensive evaluation of training delivery through the Child Care Aware system. This RFP responds to evaluation findings that call for a more consistent and coordinated training delivery system for trainers and child care providers.

1. **Question:** How were the budget amounts determined for Training Delivery (which is only Plan and Support)? They do not reflect what has previously been spent in this area and appear to leave the District contracts with insufficient funds for PD Advising.

**Answer**: Budget amounts for training delivery were based on historical budgets and spending by current grantees, as well as reported staffing for positions that support training delivery. PD Advising will remain part of the District Region RFP -- Child Care Resource and Referral District and Region Services: Professional Development Services, Distribution of Grants, Parent Aware Outreach, Coaching and Technical Assistance, and Support to Start and Grow Child Care and Early Education Programs, found on the RFP webpage: [DCYF Grant RFP Programs](https://dcyf.mn.gov/partners-and-providers/grant-rfp-programs).

1. **Question:** Will the grantee who receives the contract for online training have an API connection to Develop? Or will completions require manual entries?

**Answer**: There will be an online training API connection to Develop.

1. **Question:** Can an agency apply to provide only online training services since it is considered “optional” in the RFP?

**Answer**: The RFP is to deliver in person training, with the option to add online. There is not an option to bid on online delivery alone.

1. **Question:** Does this contract for online training delivery replace Eager-to-Learn as the statewide online child care training delivery system for Minnesota?

**Answer**: The RFP language indicates a requirement to coordinate with Eager to Learn. Online training for this RFP would supplement, not replace, training delivered through Eager to Learn. See pages 13 and 14 of the RFP.

1. **Question:** Can an agency currently contracted to provide statewide online training delivery also apply for this contract?

**Answer**: Yes, however, they must apply for both in-person and online delivery.

1. **Question**: [Agency name] is planning to apply for the online training delivery system only. Because of this, are we obligated to address all of the goals listed within the RFP? It doesn't make sense for us to attend to the in-person delivery goals.

**Answer**: Please see answer to Question 4. The RFP is to deliver in person training, with the option to add online. There is not an option to bid on online delivery alone.

1. **Question:** I see there's references to federal funding in the RFP. Will this particular grant utilize federal funding?

**Answer**: The Child Care Aware program is funded with a combination of federal and state dollars.

1. **Question:** If an entity applies only for the online training component, is the 25% budget match still expected?

**Answer:** Please see answer to Question 1. There is not an option to bid on online delivery alone.

1. **Question:** Approximately how many courses are part of the current online training system?

**Answer:** Appendix K includes historical data on training events delivered by Eager to Learn, DCYF’s main grantee for online training delivery. Through our grantees, DCYF monitors demand for DCYF owned online courses, and tries to ensure funding meets that demand.

1. **Question:** Is there a specific budget for the online training component on its own?

**Answer:** No.Respondents need to demonstrate the budget breakdown for online and in person delivery for the district areas they’re applying for. Respondents can utilize any percentage of the total funding available in the districts they’re applying for to deliver online training statewide. One of the vendors selected for coordinating in-person delivery will also be selected to deliver online training statewide.

1. **Question:** Are any grantees currently doing some or all of the online training delivery work? If so, would those grantees continue doing some or all of that work automatically, or would they need to submit a proposal and be selected to continue the work? Will grantees be expected to prioritize DCYF courses? Will grantees be able to offer both instructor-led and self-paced online options?

**Answer:** Currently,DCYF funds Eager-to-Learn, Pine Technical Community College, and current district grantees to deliver online training. With the exception of Eager to Learn, the work will end on June 30, 2025. Beginning July 1, 2025, DCYF will fund up to three agencies to delivery in-person training. One of the vendors selected for coordinating in-person delivery will also be selected to deliver online training statewide. Respondents will need to prioritize DCYF courses for online delivery and may offer both instructor led and self-paced online options.

1. **Question:** Since online delivery is optional, can an agency submit a proposal to deliver only online training?

**Answer:** Please see answer to Question 1. There is not an option to bid on online delivery alone.

1. **Question:** For online training delivery – with regard to async trainings. Is this only DCYF owned trainings?

**Answer:** DCYF courses will be prioritized but other courses are eligible for asynchronous delivery as part of this RFP.

1. **Question**: How much of each District budget total is allocated for online training?

**Answer**: Respondents need to demonstrate the budget breakdown for online and in person delivery for the district areas they’re applying for. Respondents can utilize any percentage of the total funding available in the districts they’re applying for to deliver online training statewide. One of the vendors selected for coordinating in-person delivery will also be selected to deliver online training statewide.

1. **Question**: In the RFP for training, page 49, under the Training Delivery budget line item it refers to Guidance in Section 2.2, paragraph B. Where can that be found? Same notation on page 50 under In Person Training Delivery.

**Answer**: Please disregard. This verbiage was included in error. Updated templates can be found on the RFP webpage: [DCYF Grant RFP Programs](https://dcyf.mn.gov/partners-and-providers/grant-rfp-programs)

1. **Question:** Does the online training supplement the online delivery of Eager-to-Learn or is it meant to supplant Eager-to-Learn?

**Answer**: Please see answer to Question 2.

1. **Question:** Please clarify, if applying for multiple Districts, would that mean one work plan or one per District? If online is also being applied for would that be an additional work plan or could all of these be incorporated into one work plan?

**REVISED Answer:** Responders only need to submit one FY26/FY27 work plan, regardless of the number of Districts they’re applying for. Online training can be incorporated into the same work plan as in-person training.

1. **Question**: Is there a requirement to hire trainers as staff or is that optional?

**Answer:** It is a requirement to hire trainers. We also expect that respondents will need to supplement their own staff with contracts with outside trainers. Respondents will work with DCYF to prioritize which courses will be delivered by trainers that are staff.

1. **Question:** Please clarify what is meant by Training Subsidization in the Budget?

**Answer**: DCYF courses are free or low cost ($5/hour). This line item refers to the amount needed to ensure they are free or low cost. Appendix K includes historical data on training events offered by current grantees.

1. **Question:** Can you be awarded for part of what you apply for or is it all or nothing? For example, if you apply for 2 or 3 Districts, could you be awarded 1 or 2 but not all 3? Or if you apply for 2 Districts and Online, could you be awarded some but not all?

**Answer**: Yes, selected responders may be awarded for portions of or all of their submitted proposal. Section 7, paragraph 1(G) of the RFP states that the State may: “Negotiate as to any aspect of the Proposal with any Responder and negotiate with more than one Responder at the same time, including asking for Responders’ “Best and Final” offers;”