

Office of Restorative Practices

2026-27 Restorative Practices Initiatives (RPI) Grant Program

Questions and Answers for the RFP to promote restorative practice programs

1. Question: For the proposed activities section, should applicants describe both their current restorative programming and the areas they hope to expand into within their service region or a new service region?

Answer: Yes. If you plan to use this RFP to support ongoing programming, we want to understand what is currently in place, how it is functioning, and how this grant would help sustain or expand that work. A clear picture of both your existing activities and your proposed growth helps us understand your vision and how the funding will strengthen restorative practices in your community.

2. Question: Are current ORP grantees eligible to apply? Could a response to this proposal be an add on to the grant that we already have in place?

Answer: Current grantees are eligible to apply for this funding opportunity. We do encourage applicants to be thoughtful about the purpose of their request. If you already have an active grant covering this same timeframe, additional funding should only be sought if you are proposing a distinct initiative, expansion, or new area of work—not simply duplicating what is already funded. Our goal is to ensure resources are distributed in ways that strengthen and broaden restorative practices across the state.

3. Question: Are grantees expected to complete all listed tasks and deliverables listed (pages 3-4 in the RFP), or can they focus on specific areas of specialization?

Answer: The tasks and deliverables listed are proposed examples, not requirements. Grantees are welcome to specialize and describe the specific work they plan to focus on.

4. Question: Does the RPAC need to be fully formed by the application deadline, or is it acceptable to identify members who will formally convene once funded?

Answer: There are RPAC's already formed that you can connect with even if they are outside your county or jurisdiction. You can find the list [here](#). If you want to pursue the creation of any RPAC please reach out to our office restorativepractices.dcyf@state.mn.us

5. Question: How would DCYF like to see applicants use referral pathways for Restorative Practices?

Answer: There are no defined referral pathways for this grant.

6. Question: Is Restorative Practices funding expected to continue?

Answer: The goal of the Office of Restorative Practices is to continue to pursue and advocate for funding to support Restorative Practices across that state.

7. Question: Could you take a moment to walk through the statutory impact [reporting requirements](#) and explain what they mean in practice for grantees?

Answer: ORP is still determining how best to meet this new statutory requirement. We are working closely with the Liberation Lab at the University of Minnesota and will partner with grantees to shape the specific data elements together. More information will be provided as this work progresses.

8. Question: What specific data will grantees be expected to report on recidivism, public safety, and local financial investments?

Answer: ORP is still determining how best to meet this new statutory requirement. We are working closely with the Liberation Lab at the University of Minnesota and will partner with grantees to shape the specific data elements together. More information will be provided as this work progresses.

9. Question: Do applicants need to include a narrative on Professional Responsibility and Data Privacy, and should they submit policies or materials demonstrating proactive steps to mitigate related risks?

Answer: Applicants need to share in writing if there have been any complaints filed within the last 6 years, any litigation in the past 2 years, or any breach of data privacy in the past 5 years. Refer to the RFP for specific information requested.

10. Question: In the RFP, it states that there is \$1,020,000 in 2026 and \$1,020,000 in 2027 – knowing that the funding period for 2026 will only be 3 to 4 months, does an applicant's budget request for funds need to be evenly distributed for each grant year?

Answer: No. Your budget should reflect the 15- month period that this grant will fund.

11. Question: If ORP is still working to understand the new reporting requirements grantees will need to report on, how should applicants write their evaluation plan?

Answer: Applicants should describe their program evaluation and measurement approach just as they would for any other grant application—identifying intended outcomes, how progress will be tracked, and the methods they will use to understand impact.

Because ORP is still working to interpret and operationalize the new statutory reporting requirements, applicants may also choose to include language such as:

“Upon award, we will work with the Office of Restorative Practices to align our data collection and evaluation methods with ORP’s reporting templates and definitions, ensuring we can meet all statutory reporting requirements.”

12. Question: Will this be the only info session offered for the RFP application?

Answer: Yes. The session was recorded and is now available on [DCYF RFP Page](#) as a video link, along with other resources.

13. Question: If an organization were to apply for the full \$500K but the evaluation of the application results in a recommendation of a lower amount award, will you consider partial funding for that project to advance their work?

Answer: Yes, some grantees may be awarded an amount less than they asked due to a variety of considerations. Partial funding of a grant application is possible.

14. Question: Is it possible for multiple organizations to go in on one RFP together?

Answer: Yes, we encourage collaboration! We have current grantees working with a fiscal sponsor because they are a smaller org and need that larger org support.

15. Question: Are stipends able to be awarded as part of the budget to recipients of the work?

Answer: Yes, stipends are allowable. The Budget Allowability Guide (BAG) is a tool that will help you figure out where specific items should be located in your budget.

16. Question: Is there a character limit on the application questions?

Answer: No, there is no character or page limits.

17. Question: If our community already has a Restorative Practices Advisory Committee (RPAC), do applicants need letters of support from all collaborating partners on that committee, or is a letter from the county RPAC sufficient?

Answer: The only requirement is to a letter of support for your application from an RPAC.

18. Question: For the last RFP we applied for \$500,000. We're a small nonprofit with an annual budget of \$50,000. We didn't get awarded. Can you explain why that might have happened?

Answer: While we can't speak to your specific application, one common issue is the size of the funding request compared to an organization's annual revenue. In reimbursement-based grants, reviewers look closely at whether the organization has the financial capacity to front expenses, manage a large award, and sustain the work after the grant ends. A request that is significantly larger than an organization's annual operating budget can raise concerns about cash flow, administrative capacity, and long-term stability, which may impact scoring.

19. Question: If our work falls within the service areas of multiple RPACs, do we need letters of support from all of them?

Answer: Only one letter of support is needed.

20. Question: Who are the current ORP grantees?

Answer: A list of current ORP grantees is available [here](#).

21. Question: Can a portion of the grant be used to support RPAC administration and operations, including stipends and transportation?

Answer: Yes. Grant funds may be used to support RPAC-related administrative and operational needs, including stipends and transportation.

22. Question: Is there an acceptable section in the RFP to include a visual attachment to provide a snapshot of our program success so far?

Answer: The Executive Summary component (#2) of the application asks responders to distinguish if the proposal is to support new programming or to expand existing programming. This could be the place to include a visual attachment that provides a snapshot of the program success so far.

23. Question: May a proposal include a budget request that designates funds toward the operation of the regional Restorative Practices Advisory Committee?

Answer: Yes. A proposal may include a budget request to support the operation of the Restorative Practices Advisory Committee (RPAC). This can include reasonable costs associated with convening the RPAC and supporting its effective functioning such as meeting logistics, facilitation, materials, stipends for community members, or other participation supports.

24. Question: The ORP legislation in Subd 6 mentions using grant funds to help community members participate in the RPAC. Does this RFP allow for stipends for RPAC Community members who "reflect the racial, socioeconomic, and other diversity of the population of a county that will be served by the local restorative justice program and the individuals most frequently involved in the truancy, juvenile offender, and juvenile safety and placement systems"? If so, what are the guidelines on the amount of stipends allowable under this RFP?

Answer: Yes. This RFP does allow applicants to include stipends, or other participation supports for RPAC community members. Currently, ORP is not setting a fixed stipend rate or maximum allowable amount.

25. Question: Does this RFP allow for funding to grow beyond the current size of the requesting organization? For example, is the award amount limited to the amount of the previous 15 months of income of the requesting organization?

Answer: ORP only requests and reviews the applicant's annual budget from the last fiscal year.

26. Question: Will there be another Restorative Practices Initiatives (RPI) grant opportunity in 2026?

Answer: No. There will not be another funding opportunity in 2026. This RFP represents the only planned funding opportunity for that year, so applicants should submit their full proposal during this round if they wish to be considered for funding.

27. Question: Should applicants without a local RPAC reach out directly to an existing RPAC, or will the state facilitate that connection?

Answer: Applicants are welcome to contact existing RPACs directly.

28. Question: If an applicant from a county without an RPAC is awarded funding, would establishing a local RPAC become an expectation of the initiative, or is that determined at the county level?

Answer: No. Establishing a local RPAC is *not* an expectation of this initiative for counties that do not currently have one. Decisions about creating a local RPAC remain at the community level.

29. Question: My county does not yet have an established Restorative Practices Advisory Committee (RPAC), we will need a letter of support from an existing RPAC. Should we request this letter directly from an established RPAC, or does this need to be coordinated through DCYF?

Answer: Applicants are welcome to contact existing RPACs directly to request a letter of support.

30. Question: Would the same RPAC be able to provide the required letter of support for restitution funding?

Answer: Yes.

31. Question: Do the grant proposals need to be screened by the local RPAC prior to submission to the Office of Restorative Practices (ORP)?

Answer: Yes. RPACs should review proposals in advance of submission to ORP, so a letter of support can be provided and uploaded with all the other required proposal materials by December 19.

32. Question: Can grant funds be used to support staffing or additional FTE, such as stabilizing or supporting RC lead roles if reductions occur?

Answer: The positions funded by this grant should be directly tied to the proposed project and should be included in the project budget and workplan.

33. Question: Can funds be used both to support restorative positions in buildings and to build adult capacity across sites (for example, coaching, PD, readiness assessments, and broader system-building work)?

Answer: Yes

34. Question: Are external partners allowable expenses, including consultants who provide implementation support, coaching, or systems-alignment work?

Answer: Yes

35. Question: Can funds be used for stipends for staff participating in site-based restorative culture teams, leadership planning, or implementation activities?

Answer: Yes

36. Question: Is this a one-time funding opportunity, or will applicants have the ability to apply for future rounds?

Answer: This is the only funding opportunity for 2026. Future funding opportunities will be communicated on [DCYF's Request for Proposal page](#).

37. Question: Can a portion of the grant be used for administrative or coordination costs, such as time for grant management? Is there a maximum percentage of the budget that may be used for administrative work?

Answer: Indirect Costs can be written into the budget using a federally approved indirect cost rate or up to the 15% de minimis indirect cost rate.

38. Question: What documentation is required for reimbursement submissions (e.g., expectations for timesheets, coding, invoices, etc.)?

Answer: All reimbursement submissions should be backed up with source documentation that is accessible when requested. Source documentation is required during a Financial Reconciliation.

39. Question: How frequently can or must reimbursement submissions be made, monthly, quarterly, or another schedule?

Answer: The schedule for reimbursement requests will be negotiated during the contract execution phase.