

Request for Proposals (RFP)

Training and Education – Trauma Informed Response Training and Practice

RFP Release: September 23, 2020
Proposal Due Date: October 20, 2020

1. Overview and Scope

The State of Ohio is committed to changing the culture on Ohio's campuses, public and private, in regard to preventing and responding to sexual violence. To promote a safer campus environment for all of Ohio's students, the Ohio Department of Higher Education (ODHE) encourages campus professionals have an understanding of trauma and how to build skills to respond to a disclosure of gender based violence in a trauma-informed manner. With the goal of ending and preventing sexual violence on Ohio's campuses, the Chancellor of the Ohio Department of Higher Education is issuing this RFP for training workshop(s) for campus Title IX investigators. The program supports the following recommendations from the Changing Campus Culture report:

- Empower staff, faculty, campus law enforcement and students to prevent and respond to sexual violence through evidence based training.
- Adopt a Survivor-Centered Response.

The report can be found at www.ohiohighered.org/ccr/report.

The Chancellor is seeking proposals from qualified vendor(s) and will review proposals to provide training on trauma and trauma informed response to Ohio campuses. The award of this RFP will result in a contract with the Chancellor. The Chancellor has designated up to \$40,000 for completion of the work.

The Chancellor's actions and this RFP are pursuant to Section 381.120 of Amended Substitute House Bill 166 of the 133rd General Assembly, which directs the Chancellor to develop model best practices for preventing and responding to sexual violence on campus and protecting students and staff who are victims of sexual violence on campus. The Chancellor is also directed to convene state institutions of higher education and private nonprofit institutions of higher education in the training and implementation of best practices regarding campus sexual violence.

2. Program Process

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| • RFP release date | September 23, 2020 |
| • Questions due at 12:00 p.m. | September 30, 2020 |
| • Deadline to submit proposals at 12:00 p.m. | October 20, 2020 |

- Review, score, and select vendor(s)

October 20 –
November 4, 2020

- a) Release of the RFP from the Ohio Department of Higher Education (posted at <https://www.ohiohighered.org/grants>) on September 23, 2020.
- b) Responsive proposals must be emailed to Kerry Soller at ksoller@highered.ohio.gov with the subject 'Training and Education – Trauma Informed Response Training and Practice [Name of Applicant].' See section 6 for detailed submission instructions.
- c) The cost of preparation and delivery of the proposal are solely the responsibility of the applicant.
- d) The Chancellor will provide an opportunity for interested parties to seek assistance through an open-question period. Interested parties' questions are to be submitted in writing via e-mail to Kerry Soller by 12:00 p.m. on September 30, 2020. Responses to questions will be posted online at www.ohiohighered.org/grants to provide the information to all interested parties.

3. Proposal Criteria

Respondents are required to address and demonstrate expertise and experience in training campus professionals to understand trauma and teach skills on responding to someone who has experienced trauma. The training should be applicable to all Ohio campuses (two-year & four-year public and private campuses) and should be inclusive of the diverse populations within the campus environment. It is preferred that respondents also demonstrate knowledge and experience in working with campus sexual misconduct related response protocols, trauma and its impact on diverse campus populations, and developing an effective skill building curriculum.

RFP response may consist of two or more parties with shared capabilities and capacity partnering to provide the requested services. This RFP indicates the respondent as "vendor." The vendor may identify as a for-profit or non-profit organization. The Chancellor may make one award to a lead party on behalf of a consortium or partnership.

4. Project Term

The project term will commence upon execution of an agreement with the Chancellor. All services and a final report must be completed by April 30, 2021.

5 . Evaluation & Proposal Scoring Criteria

The cost of preparation and delivery of the proposal are solely the responsibility of the respondent. The Chancellor's staff and appointed review team will evaluate RFP responses based on predetermined criteria. The Chancellor reserves the right to contact any reference to assist in the evaluation of the proposal, to independently verify information contained in the proposal, and to discuss the vendor's qualifications with any person or entity not affiliated with the Chancellor's office. Finalists may be required to make a presentation of the proposal, which would occur in person or virtually. The presentation cannot materially change the information contained in the proposal. The Chancellor shall evaluate the candidates and exercise independent judgment in making the final decision.

6 . Proposal Contents & Page Limits, Format & Submission Instructions

This Request for Proposals (RFP) is designed to furnish detailed information regarding the responder's ability, expertise, and capacity to develop the toolkit. Additional information may be requested. All information submitted in response to this RFP is public information unless a statutory exception exists that exempts it from public release. Responses that are poorly formatted or submitted, incomplete, or otherwise determined to not meet the format and submission guidelines may be removed from the pool for review. Proposals shall not contain promotional or display materials.

Contents should be arranged in the following order and be at or less than the noted length:

1. **Cover Page (optional)**
2. **Abstract** – One page or less
3. **Proposal Questions** – Responder should answer the questions set forth in Exhibits I & II – 10 pages or less.
 - a. Resumes and other supporting material are not included in the page length.
4. **Budget & Budget Narrative (two pages maximum)** – In a narrative and summarized in an Excel spreadsheet, the budget and budget narrative will document:
 - a. Costs for each deliverable or training.
 - b. The underlying assumption for each cost (i.e. base cost for item or

service, number served, etc.).

Submission Instructions: One PDF in 11 pt. Arial font with normal margins, single line spaced on 8.5 x 11 inch paper. In the footer, all pages must be numbered consecutively using the format 'page x of y' (e.g., page 7 of 10) with the responder name. Consecutive page numbering applies to all pages of the proposal, including any appendices.

Attach one PDF of the entire proposal to an email and send it by 12 p.m. on October 20, 2020 to Kerry Soller at ksoller@highered.ohio.gov, with 'Training and Education – Trauma Informed Response Training and Practice [Name of Applicant]' in the subject line.

7. Legal Notice & Disclaimers; Obligations to Local, State, & Federal Governments

All information submitted in response to this RFP becomes property of the Chancellor and is public information unless a statutory exception exists that exempts it from public release under the Ohio Public Records Act, as defined in Section 149.43 of the Ohio Revised Code.

The Chancellor reserves the right to fund any proposal in full or in part, to request or use additional information to assist in the review process, to require new proposals from interested parties, to reject any or all proposals responding to this RFP, or to re-issue, modify, or cancel the RFP if it is determined that it is in the best interests of the institutions and/or the state. Issuing this RFP does not bind the Chancellor to issuing a contract. The Chancellor administers the process and reserves the right to adjust the dates for this process for whatever reasons are deemed appropriate. All costs incurred in preparation of a proposal shall be borne by the respondents and are not recoverable under an award. The decisions of the Chancellor are final. Respondents will be notified of the outcome of their proposal at the conclusion of the review process.

The respondents understand that the information provided in this RFP is intended solely to assist in the proposal submission process. To the best of the Chancellor's knowledge, the information provided is accurate; however, the Chancellor does not warrant such accuracy and any errors or omissions subsequently determined will not be construed as a basis for

invalidating this RFP. Interested parties bear the sole responsibility of obtaining the necessary information to submit a qualifying proposal. By submitting a proposal, respondents expressly agree to these terms.

a. Obligations to Local, State, & Federal Governments: The contract between the Chancellor and the chosen applicant (“vendor”) will require the vendor to comply with all applicable federal, state, and local laws in the performance of the project. Vendor(s) must accept full responsibility for payments of all unemployment compensation, insurance premiums, workers’ compensation premiums, income tax deductions, social security deductions, and any and all other payroll deductions required for all employees engaged on the performance of the work authorized by the contract.

Vendor(s) will be required to certify in the contract, among other things, that they do not owe any delinquent taxes or money to the state or a political subdivision of the state, whether the amounts owed are being contested in a court of law or not.

b. Trade Secret Language: All information submitted in response to this RFP becomes property of the Chancellor and is public information unless a statutory exception exists that exempts it from public release under the Ohio Public Records Act, as defined in Section 149.43 of the Ohio Revised Code:

All Lead Respondents are strongly discouraged from including in a proposal any information that the Lead Respondent considers to be a “trade secret,” as that term is defined in Section 1333.61(D) of the Ohio Revised Code. The institution or business asserting trade secret bears the responsibility to take formal action if necessary and defend such assertion. Otherwise, public records laws may require disclosure.

If any information in the proposal is to be treated as a trade secret, the proposal must:

- a. Identify each and every occurrence of the information within the proposal with an asterisk before and after each line containing trade secret information, and underline the trade secret information itself;
- b. Identify that the proposal contains trade secret information in the cover letter; and
- c. Include a summary page immediately after the cover letter that lists each page in the proposal that includes trade secret information and the number of occurrences of trade secret information on that page.

- d. To determine what qualifies as trade secret information, refer to the definition of “trade secret” in the Ohio Revised Code at 1333.61(D), which is reproduced below for reference:

(D) “Trade Secret” means information, including the whole or any portion or phase of any scientific or technical information, design, process, procedure, formula, pattern, compilation, program, device, method, technique or improvement, or any business information or plans, financial information, or listing of names, addresses, or telephone numbers that satisfies both of the following:

(1) It derives independent economic value, actual or potential, from not being generally known to, and not being readily ascertainable by proper means by, other persons who can obtain economic value from its disclosure or use.

(2) It is the subject of efforts that are reasonable under the circumstances to maintain its secrecy.

e. The Ohio Department of Higher Education requires non-disclosure agreements from all non-Department of Higher Education persons who may have had access to proposals containing trade secret information, including evaluators.

f. If the Responder claims that a record is not subject to disclosure under the Ohio Public Records law based on trade secret, it will bear costs of defending this claim.

Questions should be directed to Kerry Soller at ksoller@highered.ohio.gov with the subject ‘Training and Education – Trauma Informed Response Training and Practice.’

EXHIBIT I

Selected vendor(s) will provide a comprehensive training for campus professionals who may receive a disclosure of gender based violence. The training should be primarily geared towards those who do not normally investigate reported incidents of gender based violence. The training should be developed to have two different stand-alone components. The first is a pre-recorded online training which will promote best practices for understanding trauma with a specific focus on external trauma as related to diverse populations on Ohio campus. The second should include an in-person, skill building training that teaches participants how to employ the information learned in the online training through case studies, interactive role play, or other similar delivery methods. Both trainings will be made available to all campuses in Ohio for use at any time once published on the ODHE website. The Chancellor is seeking parties who can develop and deliver this type of training curriculum and materials for all campuses in Ohio. The Changing Campus Culture report can be found at www.ohiohighered.org/ccr/reports.

- A. Development of a comprehensive online training module on trauma.
 - 1. Training module should cover the basics of trauma and its impact on the individual.
 - 2. Training module should cover external trauma factors (ex. Protests) that may or may not be related to the assault which may factor into a person's response to additional trauma.
 - 3. Training module should be accessible to all different learning styles and abilities.
 - 4. Training module must be inclusive of diverse campus populations and inform participants of how campus responses need to be reflective of those populations and identities.
 - 5. The entire training must address diversity, inclusion and equitable response competencies.

- B. Development of an in-person, interactive training module to build skills in responding to a disclosure of gender-based violence.
 - 1. Training module should build on the online training program.
 - 2. Training module should include interactive components (i.e. case studies, role play scenarios) to help develop skills of participants.
 - 3. Training module should be inclusive and representative of the different populations on our campus communities.

4. A train-the-trainer video should accompany the in-person training module to help campus facilitators identify intended outcomes, potential pitfalls or challenges, and to respond effectively to individuals who may be triggered by the materials and/or participant responses during the training.

C. Qualifications of vendor services team.

1. Demonstrated knowledge and experience in campus sexual misconduct response processes and trauma.
2. Demonstrated knowledge and experience working with diverse populations and trauma.
3. Demonstrated knowledge of the differences between residential and commuter campuses and how to make connections between campus resources and those individuals.

D. Support Materials and References

1. Vendor should provide no less than two, but no more than three, references from campuses or community organizations who have experienced a training vendor has completed on trauma.
2. Vendor should also provide the name and contact information for at least one person for each example.

E. Costs and Timeline

1. Provide an overview of the cost by deliverable.
2. Vendor is encouraged to provide a timeline for completion of the different deliverables through April 30, 2021. Final determination of the date(s) will be agreed upon with ODHE.

F. Deliverables

By April 30, 2021, vendor will provide both training modules and all supportive and ancillary materials to ODHE.

The respondent should address all of the items listed in Exhibit I in their proposal; and detail the respondents' experience or expertise with the areas listed in Exhibit II.

EXHIBIT II

A. Respondent Information - The response needs to reference and address the proposal outline found in Exhibit I.

1. Describe the vendor and/or team. If your team is affiliated with two or more parties provide the following information
 - Name(s);
 - Address(es); and
 - Name and Contact (e-mail and phone) for this RFP.
2. Describe how the team will be inclusive of a diverse campus population, including but not limited to race, religion, national origin, ancestry, sex, age, marital status, familial status, sexual orientation, gender identity, and disabilities.
3. Describe the structure and composition of the team to provide the requested services.
4. Detail team experience with targeted areas, including work with trauma and diverse populations.
5. Describe the vendor's expertise.
6. Provide a detailed implementation plan and narrative highlighting roles and responsibilities of team member(s) to complete the proposed work.

B. Service Structure

1. Describe your service model as it relates to the development and execution of the deliverables (staff, responsibilities, interactions with proposed plan, team dynamics).
2. List the primary contact for our relationship and address the following questions:
 - Overall experience with developing similar trainings and programs;
 - Education, honors, designations, and other credentials;
 - Areas of expertise;
 - Years with the group/organization/firm; and
 - Role at the group/organization/firm.
3. Will the primary contact be the only person with whom we will be working? Yes/No
If no, please list name(s), titles, contact information, and profile information for each person:
 - Overall experience with developing similar toolkits and programs;
 - Education, honors, designations, and other credentials;

- Areas of expertise;
- Years with the group/organization/firm; and
- Role at the group/organization/firm.

C. Conflicts of Interest

Do you foresee any conflicts of interest? List potential conflicts of interest.

D. Vendor Certification Form

1. The vendor is not currently subject to an “unresolved” finding for recovery under Revised Code Section 9.24, and the vendor will notify the procurement representative any time it becomes subject to such a finding before the award of a contract arising out of this RFP.

2. The vendor certifies that its responses to the following statements are true and accurate. The vendor’s answers apply to the last seven years. Please indicate Yes or No in each column.

- The vendor has had a contract terminated for default or cause.
- The vendor has been assessed any penalties in excess of \$10,000, including liquidated damages, under any of its existing or past contracts with any organization (including any governmental entity).
- The vendor was the subject of any governmental action limiting the right of the vendor to do business with that entity or any other governmental entity.
- Trading in the stock of the company has ever been suspended with the date(s) and explanation(s).
- The vendor, any officer of the vendor, or any owner of a 20% interest or greater in the vendor has filed for bankruptcy, reorganization, a debt arrangement, moratorium, or any proceeding under any bankruptcy or insolvency law, or any dissolution or liquidation proceeding.
- The vendor, any officer of the vendor, or any owner with a 20% interest or greater in the vendor has been convicted of a felony or is currently under indictment on any felony charge.

3. If the answer to any item above is affirmative, the vendor must provide complete details about the matter. While an affirmative answer to any of these items will not automatically disqualify a vendor from consideration, at the sole discretion of the State, such an answer

and a review of the background details may result in a rejection of the proposal. The State will make this decision based on its determination of the seriousness of the matter, the matter's possible impact on the vendor's performance under the contract, and the best interest of the State.

4. The vendor certifies that neither it nor any of its people that may work on or benefit from the contract through the vendor has a possible conflict of interest (e.g., employed by the State of Ohio, etc.) other than the conflicts identified immediately below:

5. The State may reject a proposal in which an actual or apparent conflict is disclosed. And the State may cancel or terminate the contract for cause if it discovers any actual or apparent conflict of interest that the vendor did not disclose in its proposal.