

## Supporting Language Access in Schools - Q & A Summary

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Monday, August 29, 2022

1. I just read that this funding cannot be used to purchase equipment [we use specific equipment to do the work of the proposed project]. From reading this information, I do not think we will qualify? It does say "match" can be used to purchase equipment. Can you clarify what "match" is?

**Answer:** *You can use equipment in the work of the project and still be eligible to apply. The equipment just cannot be purchased using MODDC funds. You can utilize equipment you already have, or you can have the equipment donated, or you can purchase the equipment. By obtaining the equipment in these three ways, you can count it toward your grant match. Grant Match is the contribution (cash or in-kind) the grantee contributes to the project along with MODDC's funding, to meet the scope of work. You can learn more about grant match on pages 5 -6 of the NoFA.*

2. We wanted to know if the enhancement of / expansion of existing programs are eligible for funding?

**Answer:** *Yes. MODDC funds can be used to expand or supplement activities that are already being provided. However, MODDC funds cannot be used to duplicate or replace services/activities that are already occurring or to fund an ongoing program. If you are using MODDC funding to supplement activities, proposals should be clear in describing how the funding will be used to expand the activities already being provided and how it will specifically meet the NoFA scope of work in an innovative way. It should also be clear in how building upon the current activities will be expanded so that people with I/DD and their families can benefit from the systemic change.*

3. [Based on the match requirement linked to counties] it appears you want local counties to submit proposals and not outside entities? This also leads to the question as to whether this is expected to be a state-level program or a county-level program. We need clarifications.

**Answer:** *The focus on counties being poverty or non-poverty are purely tied to the grant match classification. MODDC has funded statewide projects, as well as pilot projects that only focus on a couple of counties. MODDC desires to meet the needs of as many communities as possible. If your proposal only serves a couple of counties, document in your proposal why you made this decision and how the work might be extended in the future to other counties or statewide.*

4. The RFP is not clear as to what sorts of agencies are eligible to apply. In particular, are out-of-state agencies eligible, or are you looking for in-state applications. Some elements of the project description seem to require an in-state presence, which we are not, but we have in-state partners who fit that bill. IHEs? Only non-profit?

**Answer:** *MODDC is seeking the best, innovative proposal to meet the scope of work. In-state, Out-of-state, non-profits, and institutions of higher education are all eligible. MODDC has awarded projects to out-of-state applicants. Collaborations or partnerships to meet the scope of work are welcome.*

5. Please share more about who you consider “qualified interpreters”? Should the database be limited to those that go through a training provided by the recipient knowing that there is more involved in translating specific language around disability and IEP?

**Answer:** *In your proposal identify how you define “qualified interpreters”. Explain how you came up with your definition of qualified interpreter and why.*

6. Are both in-person and virtual PD sessions required?

**Answer:** *The Council did not set a requirement for the trainings to be in-person or virtual. Historically, MODDC has funded trainings projects that were provided in-person, virtual and/or hybrid. In your proposal, note what training format you chose to utilize and explain why you feel this approach is best.*

7. Can you explain the match calculation? If \$200K is awarded, is \$200K required to be matched from the organization in either cash or in-kind? Also, if we have intangibles to use as existing support materials, how is the fair market value of that work determined for match purposes?

**Answer:** *See pages 5-6 of the NoFA for a detailed breakdown of grant match. If utilizing the mixed: non-poverty and poverty counties option, the grantee will need to report outcomes and performance measures, per poverty county. On page 5 of the NoFA, there is a link entitled, “Missouri Poverty Rate by County” that notes the poverty status of counties in Missouri. For intangibles, do an estimate of the worth of intangibles and explain how you obtained those estimates. On page 5 of the NoFA, there is a link entitled, “in-kind” that can provide you more guidance.*

8. When awarded, what will be the reporting requirement? Will it be expense reimbursement or fee for service type of billing?

**Answer:** *Reporting will be provided on a quarterly basis, along with a quarterly invoice. Reporting is explained on page 10 of the NoFA with links to the specific quarterly report form and federally defined performance measures. Expenses invoiced each quarter will be reimbursed. Grant match should also be documented on the invoice, quarterly.*

9. Approximately how many interpreters do you anticipate being trained?

**Answer:** *The focus of the NoFA is to train and support school districts to include: educators, administrators and school attorneys. If you want to also train interpreters beyond the scope of work, that is welcomed. Please include in your proposal why you feel it is important to train interpreters to support the original scope of work.*

10. Are the reports referenced in the NoFA that led to its development available for review (for example, to learn what counties participated in the previous studies)?

**Answer:** *There were no specific formal reports from previous MODDC projects that noted language access concerns. However, through previous MODDC funded projects, we heard from families in the southwest Missouri and Kansas City regions of the state that expressed language access concerns. These projects included the following counties: Greene, McDonald, Barry, Lawrence, Christian, Jackson, and other surrounding counties in the Kansas City area.*

11. I need clarification on page 10 of the NoFA “each application must identify an unserved or underserved group which is ADDITIONALLY affected by this issue.” The NoFA is for students with disabilities who are Latinx. Do we need to identify yet another demographic category that the proposal will address?

**Answer:** *Yes. MODDC is interested in the intersectionality of our work and supporting unserved/underserved communities. Examples could include: socio-economic status, migrant families, how best practices in supporting language access for Spanish speakers might be extended and utilized to support language access for other languages, etc.*

12. I thought I heard you say earlier that you are not providing \$200,000 in funds and I don't understand the grant match graphs. Typically, when we apply for a grant there is no match requirements involved, we just have to provide support on how we use the funds and that it was used in accordance with our application...so if we were putting employees to that training document that we would obviously count the cost of their salary as part of that match.

**Answer:** *The funding MODDC is providing is \$200,000. The grant match is what we ask the grantee to contribute toward the work; whether it be in-kind or cash. The match is based on a formula which is determined by whether or not the counties being worked in by the grantee are designated as poverty, non-poverty, or grant match. You can use your employees' salaries working on the scope of work, as your grant match. You can find more information on pages 5-6 of the NoFA regarding grant match and in-kind documentation.*

13. Does Missouri schools have a home language survey or other way to capture information on the number of languages spoken in the state?

**Answer:** I am not aware of a home language study. You might consider asking [Missouri DESE](#). Census data has been helpful in determining different languages used in different counties.

14. Can we charge schools for cost not covered by the grant and use this as match?

**Answer:** No. Grantees cannot charge a fee for trainings or for any materials created with MODDC funds.

15. Can you elaborate more on the requirements for the database?

**Answer:** There are no requirements for the database other than MODDC wanting a statewide database of qualified interpreters/translators that school districts can utilize. In your proposal, describe what your requirements for a statewide database would be and how you would define “qualified interpreters/translators”.

16. So the trainings are only for educators, administrators, etc. on the need for interpreters and Title VI; not to train interpreters on how to provide interpretation, not interpreter training.

**Answer:** Review the scope of work on pages 3-4 of the NoFA. If you think it is also important to train interpreters that would be welcomed, but it would have to go beyond the original scope of work. If you want to train interpreters as well, in your proposal, note why you feel it is important to the success of the project. Please note, in the scope of work, there is also a component to educate Spanish speaking families and students about their language access rights and to inform them about disability education advocacy resources that are already developed.

17. Is there any information currently on how many educational interpreters or how many bilingual adults are currently acting in the role of educational interpreters in Missouri for the school districts?

**Answer:** I do not have that information. DESE may be able to provide it.

18. Could we include teachers or principals?

**Answer:** Yes. They would be a part of training the school district, educators and administrators.

19. How many school districts are there in Missouri?

**Answer:** I do not have this information. You should be able to determine the number of districts from this [website](#) or from [MO DESE](#).

20. How long has this NoFA been posted?

***Answer: The NoFA was first posted on August 1<sup>st</sup>, 2022***