

2023-2025 New York State RECOVS: Recover from COVID School Program
(RECOVS) Questions & Answers Summary

RECOVS UPDATE

New York State Education Department (NYSED) Funding Opportunity:

2023-2025 New York State RECOVS: Recover from COVID School Program

Combined with required applicant-provided 100% matching funds and/or in-kind contributions, *Mental Health RECOVS Grant* awards and/or *Learning Loss RECOVS Grant* awards will allow for School Districts and BOCES to address student well-being and learning loss in response to the trauma brought about by the COVID-19 pandemic.

The following outlines an updated timeline for the RECOVS grant application process:

Tuesday, September 19, 2023 at 5:00pm is the extended RECOVS RFP deadline for complete electronic application submissions. As a reminder, completed applications must be received through the [Survey Monkey Apply portal](#). If applying for both grants, a separate and complete application must be submitted for each *Mental Health RECOVS Grant* and *Learning Loss RECOVS Grant*.

Applicants that have already submitted may choose to revise and resubmit their application(s) based on the updated RFP. Otherwise, NYSED will review the application(s) that the applicant already submitted. If an applicant chooses to resubmit their application(s), they must clearly indicate on the application cover page that this application replaces one previously submitted.

For assistance, please contact RECOVSRFP@nysed.gov.

Q1)

What flexibility is the updated RECOVS RFP offering?

A1)

The updated RECOVS RFP no longer requires the requested grant award to be evenly distributed between Year 1 and Year 2 of the two-year project period. While Year 1 and Year 2 grant award amounts can be split 50/50 over the two years, Year 1 and Year 2 grant award amounts may differ, but not by more than 20%. For example, either year may not be less than 40%, or more than 60% of the two year total. Grant awards cannot be \$0 for any year. It continues to allow the same flexibility for the applicant-provided match.

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Q2)

What if applicants have new questions based on the updated RECOVS RFP?

A2)

Continue to send questions to RECOVSRFP@nysed.gov by August 25, 2023. An additional questions and answers summary will be posted to [P12 Funding Opportunities](#) by August 30, 2023.

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General

Q3)

Does the proposed project need to meet all of the objectives outlined in the RECOVS RFP, or can an applicant focus on meeting one or two of the objectives? For example, if applying for a RECOVS Mental Health grant, can the project focus only on Mental Health Objectives MH.Obj.1 and MH.Obj.2?

A3)

Applicants are required to propose activities that are aligned with all objectives, sub-objectives, outcomes, and reporting requirements of whichever RECOVS grant they are applying for. For related information, see RECOVS RFP Section 1.B.

Q4)

Is it possible to submit a RECOVS application for Learning Loss and Mental Health, or must we choose?

A4)

As stated throughout the RECOVS RFP, “Individual School Districts, individual BOCES, a consortium of School Districts, a consortium of BOCES, or any combination of these entities are eligible to apply for either or both Mental Health RECOVS Grant and Learning Loss RECOVS Grant. If applying for both, a separate and complete application must be submitted for each grant.”

Q5)

I am considering applying for the Mental Health RECOVS Grant for my district. As I reviewed the application, I noticed that one question asks if we will also appear in a BOCES application. I am unsure if our BOCES has applied for this grant as well, but want to answer correctly. Can you direct me to how I can find the answer?

A5)

If any applicant intends to include any school district or BOCES in any capacity (to be served or to be a consortium member) on any RECOVS grant application, it is very important that the applicant communicates and coordinates with school districts and/or BOCES named on their applications. A school district or BOCES applicant cannot appear on multiple applications for the same RECOVS grant program; for example, a school district cannot appear as a consortium member on one Mental Health application

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that BOCES is submitting as a lead applicant, then also appear as a single applicant on the school district's own Mental Health application. .

Applicant Eligibility and Prioritization

Eligible Applicants: NYS School Districts and BOCES

Q6)

How do I know if my School District qualifies to apply for a RECOVS grant?

A6)

An applicant qualifies to apply for a RECOVS grant by being a New York State School District or BOCES. All New York State public School Districts and boards of cooperative educational services (BOCES) are eligible to submit single or joint applications for either or both Mental Health RECOVS Grant or Learning Loss Grant. Individual School Districts, individual BOCES, a consortium of School Districts, a consortium of BOCES, or any combination of these entities may apply for either or both Mental Health RECOVS Grant and Learning Loss Grant. If applying for both, a separate and complete application must be submitted for each grant.

Q7)

My School District is located within the New York City Department of Education. How do I know if my School District qualifies to apply for the RECOVS grants?

A7)

If an applicant's School District is located within New York City Department of Education (DOE), contact the DOE. The DOE is applying as one department.

Q8)

What data is being used to determine if a School District or BOCES is eligible to apply?

A8)

No data is being used to determine if a School District or BOCES is eligible to apply for a RECOVS grant. All New York State public School Districts and BOCES are eligible to submit single or joint applications for either or both Mental Health RECOVS Grant and Learning Loss Grant.

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Q9)

Is a School District qualified to apply for RECOVS if its Economically Disadvantaged rate is 15?

A9)

A School District is eligible to apply for RECOVS if its Economically Disadvantaged rate is at any percentage. Individual School Districts, individual BOCES, a consortium of School Districts, a consortium of BOCES, or any combination of these entities may apply for either or both Mental Health RECOVS Grant and Learning Loss Grant. An eligible applicant's Economically Disadvantaged rate does not determine an applicant's eligibility. For related information, see RECOVS RFP Section II.C Eligible and Prioritized Applicants.

Q10)

We are a Section 4410 private preschool not operated by a School District, but approved by NYSED and funded through county taxes. Are we eligible to apply directly to NYSED RECOVS funding?

A10)

The RECOVS RFP states, "For the purposes of this grant, charter schools, nonpublic schools, and community-based organizations (CBOs) are not eligible to apply for these funding opportunities. CBOs interested in collaborating with School Districts and/or BOCES to deliver collaborative programming and/or services may inquire with potential School District and BOCES applicants." Since the Section 4410 private preschool is not operated by a School District, it is ineligible to directly apply to NYSED for RECOVS funding. The Section 4410 private preschool is encouraged to inquire with potential School District and/or BOCES applicants with whom the preschool could possibly collaborate via a subcontract; the programmatic and fiscal details of which would be outlined within their RECOVS applications to NYSED. CBOs are not confined to partnering only with the School District or BOCES within which the organization is located. CBOs may inquire with other School Districts and BOCES.

Q11)

We are a Section 853 Special Education School and Day Treatment Program. Our facility is located within a School District. I believe we would need to apply in partnership with the School District, but wanted to confirm if our school is eligible to apply directly to NYSED for RECOVS funding.

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A11)

The RECOVS RFP states, “For the purposes of this grant, charter schools, nonpublic schools, and community-based organizations (CBOs) are not eligible to apply for these funding opportunities. CBOs interested in collaborating with School Districts and/or BOCES to deliver collaborative programming and/or services may inquire with potential School District and BOCES applicants.” A Section 853 school is not eligible to directly apply to NYSED for RECOVS funding. It is encouraged to inquire with potential School District and/or BOCES applicants with whom the Section 853 school could possibly collaborate via a subcontract; the programmatic and fiscal details of which would be outlined within their RECOVS applications to NYSED. CBOs are not confined to partnering only with the School District or BOCES within which the organization is located. CBOs may inquire with other School Districts and BOCES.

Q12)

Our school has no cafeteria. The student population is 71% Latino. Almost 50% of these Latino parents do not trust the government, nor look for any support. Yet, we know at least 40% of our students are in need. Yet, we know these families have substantial need. Our students have little or no support at home. Does our school qualify to apply for RECOVS funding?

A12)

Individual schools are not eligible to apply for RECOVS, but the School Districts within which they are located are eligible to apply. A School District’s Economically Disadvantaged data does not factor into applicant eligibility. For related information, see RECOVS RFP Section II.C Eligible and Prioritize Applicants.

Prioritized Applicants: Economically Disadvantaged

Q13)

Is the Economically Disadvantaged rate for priority applicants by School District or by the buildings within which an applicant proposes to serve with RECOVS grant funds?

A13)

The Economic Disadvantaged rate for priority applicants is by School District per 2021-2022 student data reported to NYSED by School Districts in the Student Information Repository System (SIRS). For related information see RECOVS RFP Section II.C.2.

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Q14)

Applicants that are already Economically Disadvantaged are not likely to have the means to provide a 100% match, as well as paying for project activities up front and waiting for reimbursement. What is the reason for the 100% match and reimbursement requirements?

A14)

RECOVS' 100% applicant-provided match and Economically Disadvantaged requirements are outlined in statute per the NYS legislature's RECOVS budget appropriation established in State Fiscal Year 23. NYSED-administered State-funded grants traditionally operate on a reimbursement schedule, with an initial payment of 25% of the grant award available upon the awardee's Grant Award Notice (GAN.)

Q15)

To what extent does NYSED believe RECOVS grant awards will be available to applicants that are between 0% and 53.9% Economically Disadvantaged, thus, scoring 0 of 10 points on the 25-point Need Narrative? Is it a waste of time to apply with an Economically Disadvantaged rate less than 54%?

A15)

Out of the available \$100 million in RECOVS grant award funding, it is impossible to predict how many RECOVS grant applications will be awarded. NYSED strongly encourages School Districts and BOCES to apply and not be deterred by the Economically Disadvantaged point distribution:

- Applicants below 54% Economically Disadvantaged receive no advantage; and a maximum application score of 90;
- Applicants between 54% and 69.9% Economically Disadvantaged are at a 6 out of 100 point advantage; with a maximum application score of 96; and
- Applicants at or above 70% Economically Disadvantaged are at a 10 out of 100 point advantage; with a maximum application score of 100.

For related information, please see [RECOVS RFP](#) Section II.C.2.

Q16)

Are applicants with less than the required number of Economically Disadvantaged students discouraged to apply for RECOVS funding?

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A16)

RECOVS does not prescribe a required number of Economically Disadvantaged students. NYSED strongly encourages School Districts and BOCES to apply and not be deterred by the Economically Disadvantaged point distribution:

- Applicants below 54% Economically Disadvantaged receive no advantage; and a maximum application score of 90;
- Applicants between 54% and 69.9% Economically Disadvantaged are at a 6 out of 100 point advantage; with a maximum application score of 96; and
- Applicants at or above 70% Economically Disadvantaged are at a 10 out of 100 point advantage; with a maximum application score of 100.

For related information, please see RECOVS RFP Section II.C.2.

Q17)

We are a BOCES that is planning on applying as a consortium with some of our component districts. We would be serving all our students from all of our School Districts whether or not each student's home School District applies with us. That being said, it would make sense for us to include all component School Districts, but we would like confirmation. Do we average the Economically Disadvantaged student rates of the School Districts that we are partnering with as part of the consortium application, or do we average all component districts served by our BOCES?

A17)

As required of all RECOVS applicants before submitting applications(s), BOCES is required to reach out to all proposed school districts served to determine if those school districts are also applying for RECOVS funding, and in what configuration. BOCES cannot apply on behalf of a school district's students without consulting the school district to determine in what single or consortium configuration the BOCES is going to apply for RECOVS funding. This is because the same applicant cannot appear on more than one application of the same grant program. For example, the same school district cannot appear on a BOCES' Learning Loss RECOVS application as a school district served, as well as a submitting their own Learning Loss RECOVS application. As instructed in the RECOVS RFP, the proper procedure is to average the Economically Disadvantaged student rate for all the School Districts of the students proposed to be served by RECOVS programming. For related information, please see RECOVS RFP Section MH.2.Need.A.

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Q18)

We are wondering how as a BOCES we identify our economically disadvantaged data for students attending our center-based programs. We are applying to support our internal K-21 special education programs that come to us from approximately 40 different districts (component and non-component). We have 79% of our approximately 600 students receiving free and reduced lunch. Please advise if this is the metric we should use for our grant application.

A18)

No, Free or Reduced Price Lunch data is not a factor in the economically disadvantaged percentage for purposes of this RFP. Applicants should calculate the average Economically Disadvantaged rate for the school districts from which your participating students originate. The Economically Disadvantaged rate is based on student data reported to NYSED by districts in the Student Information Repository System (SIRS).

Q19)

We are applying as a BOCES to offer Youth Mental Health First Aid training and Second Step SEL curriculum to our sites and component districts. If we average the Economic Disadvantage rate of all 27 component districts, it's 46%, but we have 6 districts with higher than 60% ED Student Rate. If we apply on behalf of those six districts to provide a YMHFA training service and an SEL curriculum service (at no cost to them), can our other districts use those services as well? Or do we need to identify all 27 districts in the proposal and receive a score of 0 for the ED Student Rate?

A19)

All school districts with students that will be served by your grant application will factor into the Economically Disadvantaged rate calculation. Identify and average the Economically Disadvantaged rates of all school districts the BOCES applicant intends to serve.

Q20)

We are a BOCES that is planning on applying for RECOVS as a single applicant serving School Districts within our entire county. In calculating our Economically Disadvantaged student rate, do we use our current student enrollment or that of the entire county?

A20)

As instructed in the RECOVS RFP, the proper procedure is to average the Economically Disadvantaged student rate for all the School Districts of the students

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proposed to be served by RECOVS programming. For related information, please see RECOVS RFP Section MH.2.Need.A.

Q21)

If a BOCES is applying for RECOVS funding to serve students in BOCES-operated programs (such as CTE or special education programs), how would it figure out the Economically Disadvantaged rate in order to calculate the bonus points?

A21)

The Economically Disadvantaged 0-10 out of 25 point distribution is included within the 100 points of the RECOVS grant application; associated points are not bonus points. Since BOCES does not provide Economically Disadvantaged data to NYSED, BOCES in this scenario would average the Economically Disadvantaged School District Rates of students proposed to be served. For related information, please see RECOVS RFP Section MH.2.Need.A.

Applicant Configurations: School District and BOCES / Single and Consortium

Q22)

In what configurations can eligible School District and/or BOCES applicants apply for RECOVS funding?

A22)

Eligible School District and BOCES applicants are permitted to apply for RECOVS funding in any configuration, including, but not limited to:

- School District Single Applicant serving students from its School District;
- BOCES Single Applicant serving students from one or more School Districts;
- School District Lead Applicant of a Consortium consisting of any number and combination of partnering School District and/or BOCES consortium members; or
- BOCES Lead Applicant of a Consortium consisting of any number and combination of partnering School Districts and/or BOCES consortium members.

For related information, please see RECOVS RFP Section II.C.) Eligible and Prioritized Applicants.

Q23)

With the lack of clarity in the RECOVS RFP regarding BOCES applicants (see previous questions regarding BOCES applicants), posting clarifying answers about the most

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basic structure of acceptable grant partners and grant activities two weeks before the grant deadline does not allow enough time to develop a high-quality program. As such, would NYSED consider extending the deadline, and also letting applicants know about any extension with enough lead time for the extension to be helpful? If not, could NYSED provide answers to the BOCES-related questions before August 4, 2023.

A23)

In accordance with New York State procurement process guidelines and the RECOVS RFP, all responses to RECOVS RFP questions from all sources are provided at the same time in this Q&A Summary. As of the posting date of this Q&A Summary, NYSED has extended the RECOVS application deadline to September 19, 2023.

Q24)

How does RECOVS describe a BOCES consortium?

A24)

BOCES can apply as the lead of a RECOVS consortium consisting of any number and combination of partnering School Districts and/or BOCES consortium members, or BOCES can be a member of a School District-led consortium or other BOCES-led consortium.

Q25)

We are a BOCES. Specific to the budget, how would funding to the partnering districts be allocated? Would it be as a subcontract in FS-10 Proposed Budget Code 40 Purchased Services to the School District to implement the proposed services (i.e., funding as a subcontract for the School District to hire their own mental health professional), or would it be listed under Code 15 Salaries for Professional Staff and Code 16 Salaries for Support Staff categories and specified by the district partner?

A25)

If a BOCES applies as a lead applicant of a consortium, it must also function as its coordinator of data collection, reporting, monitoring, technical assistance and professional learning. As the fiscal agent, the BOCES must receive and administer grant funds and submit the required reports to account for the use of grant funds. Each consortium partner must sign an agreement with the fiscal agent that specifically outlines all services each partner agrees to provide. The fiscal agent cannot act as a flow-through for grant funds to pass on to other recipients. Therefore, BOCES cannot list their consortium member School Districts under FS-10 Proposed Budget Code 40 Purchased Services. NYSED has established a 20% minimal level of grant-funded

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programming to be provided by the consortium lead, in this case BOCES, functioning as the fiscal agent. The fiscal agent is permitted to contract for services with other consortium partners or consultants to provide services that the fiscal agent cannot provide themselves. Finally, the fiscal agent is responsible for the performance of any services provided by the partners, consultants, or other organizations and must coordinate how each plan to participate.

Q26)

Within the same RECOVS grant program, Learning Loss, for example, can an eligible School District or BOCES applicant appear on one Learning Loss application as a single applicant, as well as on another Learning Loss application as the lead applicant or member of a consortium?

A26)

A School District or BOCES applicant under any single or consortium applicant configuration may not appear on multiple Mental Health RECOVS applications. A School District or BOCES applicant under any single or consortium applicant configuration may not appear on multiple Learning Loss RECOVS applications.

Q27)

Can an eligible School District or BOCES applicant appear on one Learning Loss RECOVS application as a single applicant, as well as on a Mental Health RECOVS application as the lead applicant or member of a consortium?

A27)

Under any single or consortium configuration, a RECOVS applicant can appear on a Mental Health RECOVS application and a Learning Loss RECOVS application. For related information, see RECOVS RFP Section II.C) Eligible and Prioritize Applicants.

Q28)

What data is being considered in BOCES being eligible applicant?

A28)

No data is being considered in BOCES being an eligible applicant for RECOVS. For related information, see RECOVS RFP Section II.C) Eligible and Prioritize Applicants.

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Q29)

If a BOCES applies for funding to serve its component School Districts, are those districts considered to be part of a BOCES-led consortium with member School Districts, or should BOCES apply as a single applicant? Is a BOCES applicant serving its component School Districts required to apply as a consortium?

A29)

In consultation with its component School Districts, BOCES is free to make its own determination as to which single or consortium applicant configuration it would like to apply and operate. BOCES and its component School Districts are encouraged to discuss and determine who is applying for which types of Mental Health and/or Learning Loss RECOVS funding and in which single or consortium configuration. For example, if a BOCES component School District is applying for a Mental Health RECOVS Grant as a single applicant, the School District is not allowed to also appear as part of a consortium on a BOCES Mental Health grant. Nevertheless, the School District would be allowed to appear as part of a BOCES' consortium for a RECOVS Learning Loss grant. For related information, see RECOVS RFP Section II.C Eligible and Prioritized Applicants.

Q30)

Are BOCES applicants intended to or required to serve all of their component School Districts? What if a BOCES is opting to serve some of its component School Districts, but not others? Would the BOCES apply as a consortium with those School Districts it is planning to serve, or should BOCES apply as a single applicant?

A30)

RECOVS does not prescribe any requirement or convey any intent for a BOCES applicant to serve and/or partner with all of its current component School Districts. A BOCES applicant can propose to serve and/or partner with some of its component School Districts, but not others. A BOCES applicant can propose to serve and/or partner with other School Districts outside of its existing component district structure. A BOCES applicant can propose to serve and/or partner with any combination of other BOCES. It is up to each BOCES applicant and the BOCES and/or School Districts it would like to serve to communicate in making the determination about what type of RECOVS relationship they want to have in terms of BOCES applying as a single applicant or consortium applicant. Any consortium applicant has to ensure that members of the consortium are not applying for the same mental health-specific or learning loss-specific funding. An applicant cannot appear on more than one Mental Health RECOVS application. An applicant cannot appear on more than one Learning

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Loss RECOVS application. For related information, see RECOVS RFP Section II.C Eligible and Prioritized Applicants.

Q31)

For BOCES applicants, is RECOVS' intent for BOCES to serve students from their component School Districts, or is the intent for BOCES to serve students attending BOCES-operated programs, such as CTE or special education programs?

A31)

RECOVS does not prescribe or convey any intent for which students BOCES would serve with matching and grant funds, nor does it convey any intent for BOCES to apply as a single or consortium applicant. BOCES is free to be innovative in proposing a grant aligned RECOVS program.

Q32)

Can BOCES applicants go into consortia with other BOCES?

A32)

BOCES applicants can go into consortia with other BOCES and/or School Districts. Individual School Districts, individual BOCES, a consortium of School Districts, a consortium of BOCES, or any combination of these entities may apply for either or both Mental Health RECOVS Grant and Learning Loss RECOVS Grant. For related information, see RECOVS RFP Section II.C Eligible and Prioritized Applicants.

Q33)

We are applying as a BOCES-led consortium. Specific to the RECOVS FS-10 Proposed Budget, how would funding to the School Districts who are BOCES-led consortium members be allocated and documented? Would funding allocated from the BOCES lead to each School District consortium member be listed as a subcontract under Code 40 Purchased Services? For example, would a BOCES-lead School District consortium member hire their own mental health professional, and would this be captured in Code 40 Purchased Services, or in such a case, would funding allocated from the BOCES lead to each School District consortium member be documented under Code 15 Salaries for Professional Staff?

A33)

Functioning as a consortium lead, a BOCES applicant is not allowed to function as a flow-through of funds to consortium member School Districts. As the lead, BOCES must

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collaborate with its consortium member school districts to propose a consortium budget that comprehensively serves the entire consortium, including the expenses BOCES will incur providing professional learning activities to consortium member School Districts. As the programmatic and fiscal consortium lead, BOCES manages expenses and proposes the entire consortium's FS-10 Proposed Budget. Consortium member School Districts are not to be presented as line items in Code 40 Purchased Services of the FS-10 Proposed Budget. For related information, please see RECOVS RFP Section II.C.1) NYSED Consortium Policy for State and Federal Discretionary Grant Programs..

Grant Period

Q34)

Are we really going to get approval by November 1, 2023?

A34)

Preliminary award notifications are anticipated to be sent in October with final approval expected in the following months.

Q35)

Is a grantee required to spend its grant award by the end of the RECOVS project period? Is there a time frame by which the awarded funds need to be spent?

A35)

Yes. All RECOVS awardees will be required to spend their grant awards over the two-year project period between November 1, 2023 and October 31, 2025.

Q36)

The RECOVS grant period is only for two years. Then, applicants must show how School District and BOCES will sustain those grant-funded activities after October 31, 2025, beyond the end of the grant funding?

A36)

The fourth objective for each RECOVS grant directs the applicant to document how it will ensure financial stability and continuation of student access to evidence-based and evidence informed school-based mental health interventions, program services, and supports beyond the second and final year of the RECOVS Mental Health and/or Learning Loss Grant Programs. For related information, please see RECOVS RFP Section MH.Obj.4 and Section LL.Obj.4.

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Q37)

Is there more than one RECOVS grant period so an applicant who is not able to complete the application by September 1, 2023, can apply for a later grant period? Can applicants apply for only the second year of RECOVS?

A37)

There is only one RECOVS grant period of November 1, 2023 – October 31, 2025. Applicants cannot apply for only the second year of RECOVS. All applications for the two-year grant period are due on the extended deadline of September 19, 2023, reflecting activities and expenses occurring the entire duration of the two-year RECOVS' grant period:

- RECOVS Year 1 is from November 1, 2023 to October 31, 2024, and
- RECOVS Year 2 is from November 1, 2024 to October 31, 2025.

Q38)

Why does the RECOVS grant period start November 1st rather than aligning with the school year?

A38)

The RFP development and approval process affected the timeline for the RECOVS RFP.

Q39)

Given the unusual timeline for the grant period to begin on November 1, 2023, an applicant will lose several valuable occasions on which to provide staff training that is essential to this grant, and to a smooth "kick-off" of new programming, etc. Applicants will lose the opportunity to use summer professional development days, opening day(s), Superintendent's Conference Day in September, and the October Superintendent's Conference Day if they are not allowed to use these training opportunities, and have the costs associated with them "count" toward their "in-kind" or matching contributions. In light of this, can an applicant use dollars from their 2023-24 school budget on training that is needed to prepare faculty and staff for new programs, approaches and interventions that will be used in their buildings, and apply those dollar totals to their "in-kind" or matching contribution? If these allowances were made, schools would have a much easier time finding opportunities to schedule essential training.

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A39)

The project period for the 2023-2025 New York State RECOVS: Recover from COVID School Program's Mental Health RECOVS Grant and Learning Loss RECOVS Grant is two (2) years beginning November 1, 2023, and ending October 31, 2025. Only expenses incurred during this period will be eligible for coverage with these State funds. For related information, please see RECOVS RFP Section II.B) Project Period.

Q40)

Theoretically, if we were looking to hire new staff, we could plan for say a January 1, 2024 hire date and have our matching funds (local general fund or other grant) equal salary/benefits, etc. for Jan - June for this employee. Then we could apply for the 24-25 school year next summer? This would avoid the Sept. 1 - Nov. 1 gap. Would this work and be advisable?

A40)

There is only one RECOVS grant period of November 1, 2023 – October 31, 2025. Applicants cannot apply for only the second year of RECOVS. All RECOVS programming and staffing funded by the applicant-provided match and/or grant award is expected to occur during the two-year grant period starting November 1, 2023, and ending October 31, 2025.

Q41)

Do we understand correctly that RECOVS is for new staff to be hired in the current 2023-24 school year?

A41)

RECOVS two-year grant period starts November 1, 2023, and ends October 31, 2025. Reimbursement for grant-aligned staff occurs during the grant period. New staff are expected to have a November 1, 2023 start date. Existing staff serving in RECOVS-specific roles can be considered an in-kind contribution to satisfy the applicant-provided match requirement.

Q42)

Are matching and grant award funds required to be expended equally between the two years of the grant period, or can we submit an application for expenses that will be incurred only in the second year of the grant? The reason for this is that we would like to

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continue initiatives that are currently funded through ESSER that are already covered through August 2024.

A42)

Matching and grant award funds are not required to be expended in equal amounts or proportions between the two years of the grant period. While Year 1 and Year 2 grant award amounts can be split 50/50 over the two years, Year 1 and Year 2 grant award amounts may differ, but not by more than 20%. For example, either year may not be less than 40%, or more than 60% of the two year total. Grant awards cannot be \$0 for any year. Regardless of match or grant award funding source, RECOVS programming is required to be fully funded and implemented the entire two-year grant period from November 1, 2023 through October 31, 2025. Applicants cannot apply for only the second year of the grant period.

Q43)

If an applicant uses existing funding for an expenditure such as employing Social Emotional Learning coaches for the 2023-24 school year, can doing so satisfy the match requirement that would then allow the RECOVS grant award to continue the expenditure to continue employing the SEL coaches for the 2024-25 school year? If the applicant pays for something in the first year of the RECOVS grant period, can that first year applicant-funded expenditure serve as the match for the grant award continue to that expense in the second year of the grant period?

A43)

Expenditures such as the employment of the proposed SEL coaches would have to align with the RECOVS grant period from November 1, 2023 – October 31, 2025. Regardless, if funded by the match or award, the SEL coaches would have to be assigned to the RECOVS grant in both project years. Their roles would have to be completely grant-aligned for the entire two-year duration of the RECOVS project period. An applicant's accounting mechanism would be in place to demonstrate the change in salary sources over two-year project period. Matching and grant award funds are not required to be expended in equal amounts or proportions between the two years of the grant period. While Year 1 and Year 2 grant award amounts can be split 50/50 over the two years, Year 1 and Year 2 grant award amounts may differ, but not by more than 20%. For example, either year may not be less than 40%, or more than 60% of the two year total. Grant awards cannot be \$0 for any year. Regardless of match or grant award funding source, RECOVS programming is required to be fully funded and implemented the entire two-year grant period from November 1, 2023 through October 31, 2025. The RECOVS application must propose two years of grant-aligned programming regardless of how each year is funded. For related information, please see RECOVS RFP Section II.B) Project Period.

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Q44)

Can RECOVS funds be used for summer school salaries?

A44)

Salaries for both professional and support staff are allowable FS-10 Proposed Budget expenditures as long as they occur between November 1, 2023 and October 31, 2025, and each meets the requirements of an allowable reimbursement cost as set forth in the RECOVS RFP. Therefore, 2023 summer school salaries would not be approvable, but 2024 and 2025 summer school salaries funding grant-aligned positions could be proposed. For related information, please see RECOVS RFP Section 5 Budget Narrative.

Q45)

A RECOVS applicant currently has a coordinator of mental health services on staff, but the funding for that position will run out in October 2024. Can the applicant expand the coordinator role in RECOVS Year 1 (November 1, 2023-October 31, 2024) serving as the match, then, fully-fund that same position through the RECOVS grant award the following Year 2 (November 2024-November 2025?)

A45)

Applicants are welcome to propose expanding upon existing programming, services, and activities that are aligned to the objectives of the Mental Health or Learning Loss RECOVS grant. Any RECOVS program expense can be funded solely by the grant award as long as an equivalent amount of applicant-provided matching funds are applied to other RECOVS expenses over the two-year grant period. Matching and grant award funds are not required to be expended in equal amounts or proportions between the two years of the grant period. Year 1 and Year 2 grant award amounts may differ by no more than 20%. For example, either year may not be less than 40%, or more than 60% of the two year total. Regardless of match or grant award funding source, RECOVS programming is required to be fully funded and implemented the entire two-year grant period from November 1, 2023 through October 31, 2025. The RECOVS application must propose two years of grant-aligned programming regardless of how each year is funded. For related information, please see RECOVS RFP Section II.D Grant Award and 100% Match.

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Q46)

If we have mental health positions in any/all of the ARP/ESSER grants that are expiring 9/30/23 and/or 9/30/24, would applying to fund these positions through Mental Health RECOVS Grant be considered supplanting or would it be allowable/considered.

A46)

Applying to fund these positions through Mental Health RECOVS Grant would be allowable and not supplanting if the positions funded with ARP/ESSER grants are expiring prior to or during the two-year project period and an applicant match is provided.

When matched funds expire during the two-year grant period, alternate sources of applicant-provided funds may replace them, but the matching funds do not need to be spread equally across both years.

Q47)

The School District applicant is eliminating the school counselors that were hired during/with COVID [funding]. The district would like to use RECOVS grant funding to maintain the same level of student support [positions]. Is this considered a supplement, not a supplant?

A47)

Applicants can use RECOVS grant funding to maintain the same level of staffing positions that have been eliminated, if they have matching funds. Applicants can only request a RECOVS grant award that the applicant can 100% match with funds or in-kind contributions during the two-year project period of November 1, 2023 through October 31, 2025.

Q48)

Understanding that the RECOVS project period begins on November 1, 2023, applicant spending prior to that date cannot be considered a matching contribution, nor can expenses incurred before that date be reimbursed with this funding. However, for the two months before the RECOVS period, to align with the district calendar instead of waiting for November 1, 2023, could the applicant elect to fully fund an intervention from September 1 through October 31, 2023, and THEN shift to a 50% RECOVS grant funding / 50% applicant matching contribution? The applicant wants to be certain that the district funding 100% of the intervention for the first two months of the school year doesn't then create a 'supplement not supplant' issue (since the district paid the full amount for 2 two months before shifting half of the remaining expense to the grant). For context, the applicant is considering adding school-employed academic recovery

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professionals for the 2023-24 and 2024-25 school years. Can the applicant hire this staff and have them begin work in September of 2023 without creating a 'supplement not supplant' issue when we switch from paying 100% of salary and benefits with district funds to 50% starting in November. Can we fund locally from September 1, 2023 through October 31, 2023 without affecting the supplement and not supplant requirement?

A48)

NYSED understands that applicants are making their best attempts to provide continuity of services throughout the entire school year, as well as complying with RECOVS requirements. The applicant could propose the above scenario as long as the positions are RECOVS-specific as of the 2023-2024 school year, and the applicant does not propose intent to claim the September 1, 2023 through October 31, 2023 salary expenses to satisfy any part of the applicant's match burden, or to submit as an expenditure against the requested grant award. The RECOVS grant period is November 1, 2023 through October 2025 for both matching and grant award purposes. It is important to note that the applicant would be at its own risk hiring staff members in September 2023, but then not awarded a RECOVS grant as of November 2023.

Funding Sources

Grant Award

Q49)

To confirm, does, "No single or consortium applicant within New York State outside of New York City will be awarded more than \$5 million (2.5 million per year) in either grant program" mean that we as a School District can then apply for no more than \$5 million (2.5 million per year) for each of the program grants \$5 million over two years for Mental Health RECOVS and \$5 million over two years for Learning Loss RECOVS?

A49)

Correct.

Q50)

How does the \$1,200 per student per program year calculate into a RECOVS annual grant award amount as written on Page 4 [of the 6/30 posting of] the RECOVS RFP, "100% Match Requirement: Used for the same purposes as requested RECOVS grant funds, a minimum 100% funding match is required from any combination of each

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applicant's federal, state, local, and/or other resources. An applicant may not apply for a grant award amount higher than the applicant is able to match. For each Mental Health RECOVS Grant and Learning Loss RECOVS Grant, applicants may apply for up to \$1,200 per student per program year for two years in grant award funds described in the corresponding application; the total of which the applicant will 100% match. The first year's grant award will be the second year's maximum grant award. Contingent on meeting the 100% match and other requirements, each grantee's maximum grant payable for the second year of this two-year RECOVS grant program will be calculated by multiplying each grantee's first year per student rate by the number of students served in the second year."

A50)

The updated RECOVS RFP provides more flexibility in the Year 1 and Year 2 distribution of matching funds/in-kind contributions and requested grant awards by removing the language, "The first year's grant award will be the second year's maximum grant award. Contingent on meeting the 100% match and other requirements, each grantee's maximum grant payable for the second year of this two-year RECOVS grant program will be calculated by multiplying each grantee's first year per student rate by the number of students served in the second year." Matching and grant award funds are not required to be expended in equal amounts or proportions between the two years of the grant period. Year 1 and Year 2 grant award amounts may differ by no more than 20%. For example, either year may not be less than 40%, or more than 60% of the two year total. The RECOVS application must propose two years of grant-aligned programming. To determine the applicant's requested two-year grant award, it must first determine how much current funding and/or in-kind contributions it has the ability to 100% match over the two-year project period. To determine the minimum number of students to be served per year, the requested grant award is divided by \$1,200. The match amount is not a factor in the \$1,200 per student per year calculation. For example, if requesting a \$75,600 grant award for a social worker, then that social worker would be committed to serving a minimum of 63 students at \$1,200 per student per year. Please reference the RECOVS RFP Proposed Funding Table for more information.

Q51)

What if an applicant's proposed requested RECOVS grant award is higher than the amount that NYSED is able to or willing to award? Is there a maximum grant award?

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A51)

If an applicant applies for a specified amount of RECOVS funding, it could receive less than requested. There are a variety of factors for an applicant to consider when requesting a RECOVS annual grant award, including how much funding can the applicant possibly match, and how many students (at \$1,200 per student per year) are proposed to be served. As a whole, New York City DOE is capped at \$40 million over the two-year grant period. Rest of State is capped at \$60 million over the two-year grant period. No single or consortium applicant outside of New York City will be awarded more than \$5 million (\$2.5 million annually) in either Mental Health or Learning Loss RECOVS grants.

Q52)

If an applicant applies for a specified amount of RECOVS funding, could it receive less than requested?

A52)

If an applicant applies for a specified amount of RECOVS funding, it could receive less than requested. Based on standard policy, NYSED reserves the right to eliminate any inappropriate expenses: “Any FS-10 Proposed Budget’s itemized expenses that are deemed non-allowable, excessive, or inappropriate will be eliminated, and the budget will be reduced accordingly. Budgets that include non-allowable, excessive, or inappropriate itemized expenses will receive a lower score.” An applicant could be awarded less than its requested RECOVS grant award if it has failed to document and attest to being able to meet the RECOVS 100% match. An applicant will not be approved for more grant award funding that it can match. Also, the applicant has to demonstrate that the requested grant award would be minimally serving the corresponding number of students at \$1,200 per student per year. If not, then the requested grant award will be reduced. An applicant could be awarded less than its grant award request if it is the last and lowest scoring awardee, which would receive the remainder of RECOVS funding that may equal or be less than the requested grant award.

Q53)

I am writing the two grants for the RECOVS Mental Health, as well as the Learning Loss for our individual district. I am at the latter portion of the Mental Health grant and I am seeking some advice on how to complete section E of the application. Is there someone

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I can talk to? We will contract with three community agencies, and I am not sure if those qualify etc.

A53)

If by Section E, the applicant is referencing the [M/WBE](#) Documents package, the three community agencies will likely know if they are certified M/WBE vendors. M/WBE certification can be verified by searching the [New York State M/WBE Directory](#). For additional assistance, contact MWBEGrants@nysed.gov.

Q54)

What is the minimum M/WBE participation for RECOVS? Is it the same for New York City?

A54)

The minimum M/WBE participation rate for RECOVS is 30% of each applicant's total discretionary non-personal services budget for each year of the grant; including for New York City.

Q55)

Are the M/WBE documents required for the applicant-provided matching funds?

A55)

No. M/WBE documents do not apply to applicant-provided matching funds. RECOVS applicants should not include any information regarding applicant-provided matching funds on M/WBE documents.

Q56)

Are applicant provided matching funds reflected on the FS-10 Proposed Budget(s)?

A56)

No. Applicant-provided matching funds are not reflected on the FS-10 Proposed Budget(s).

Q57)

If an applicant is submitting two FS-10 Proposed Budgets; one for Year 1 grant award expenditures and another for Year 2 grant award expenditures, does the applicant also have to submit M/WBE documents for both years?

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A57)

No. M/WBE documents are required exclusively for a RECOVS applicant's Year 1 requested grant award. Year 2 M/WBE documents are not necessary at this time. M/WBE documents do not apply to applicant-provided matching funds. RECOVS applicants should not include any information regarding applicant-provided matching funds on M/WBE documents.

Q58)

Is the App. E section (M/WBE) required for all RECOVS grant applicants? Are School Districts required to comply with the M/WBE requirements if their application for grant funding is lower than \$25,000 for the full grant period?

A58)

M/WBE instructions are in RECOVS RFP Section App.E - MWBE Documents Package. M/WBE requirements do not apply to applications for less than \$25,000 over the entire grant period, in RECOVS' case, two years. Nevertheless, it is highly questionable whether an applicant can adequately demonstrate meeting all RECOVS Mental Health or Learning Loss grant objectives and outcomes at or less than \$25,000 over the two-year grant period. All M/WBE requirements listed in the RECOVS RFP apply when an applicant submits an application for grant funding that exceeds \$25,000 for the full grant period, in RECOVS' case, \$12,500 per year. In the case that Line 11 on Attachment 3's M/WBE Goal Calculation Worksheet calculates to \$0 M/WBE Goal, the applicant still needs to complete and submit via Survey Monkey Apply, the following M/WBE documents found in the RECOVS RFP:

- 1) Attachment 3: M/WBE Goal Calculation Worksheet
 - Referencing the applicant's FS-10 Proposed Budget, the requested line items on this document should calculate to a final M/WBE Goal Amount (Line 11) of \$0.
- 2) Attachment 4: M/WBE Cover Letter
 - Full Participation has been prepopulated, as it is the correct option to select when a M/WBE Goal Amount calculates to \$0.
 - This document requires an original signature.
- 3) Attachment 10: Equal Opportunity Staffing Plan
 - This form is required for all applications regardless of M/WBE status.

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Q59)

If an applicant submits mental health and learning loss grant applications, and the plan on the FS-10 is entirely staff salaries and related benefits, how are we supposed to handle all of these M/WBE forms? Do they need to be part of our applications or would they only be used if necessary? The grants will not be used to procure items where these would be applicable.

A59)

In this case when Line 11 on Attachment 3's M/WBE Goal Calculation Worksheet would calculate to a \$0 M/WBE Goal, the applicant still needs to complete and submit via Survey Monkey Apply, the following M/WBE documents found in the RECOVS RFP:

- 1) Attachment 3: M/WBE Goal Calculation Worksheet
 - Referencing the applicant's FS-10 Proposed Budget, the requested line items on this document should calculate to a final M/WBE Goal Amount (Line 11) of \$0.
- 2) Attachment 4: M/WBE Cover Letter
 - Full Participation has been prepopulated, as it is the correct option to select when a M/WBE Goal Amount calculates to \$0.
 - This document requires an original signature.
- 3) Attachment 10: Equal Opportunity Staffing Plan
 - This form is required for all applications regardless of M/WBE status.

Q60)

Can an applicant choose the Total Waiver option if we don't want to use M/WBE vendors?

A60)

No. Please see M/WBE instructions in RECOVS RFP Section App.E - MWBE Documents Package.

Q61)

Are Purchased Services (FS-10 Proposed Budget, Code 40) subject to M/WBE compliance? This will make it very hard to hit the MWBE goal especially if consortium member applicants are also included under Purchased Services.

A61)

Each expenditure listed in Category Code 40 Purchased Services, Category Code 45 Supplies and Materials, Category Code 20 Equipment, Category Code 30 Minor Remodeling, and Category Code 46 Travel Expenses of the FS-10 Proposed Budget

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may be subject to M/WBE compliance. For every line item, the applicant must search the [M/WBE Directory](#) to determine if there are associated M/WBE-certified providers. M/WBE instructions are in [RECOVS RFP](#) Section App.E - MWBE Documents Package.

100% Applicant-provided Match

Q62)

Can there be more guidance for the 100% matching requirement?

A62)

On July 13, 2023, NYSED hosted a RECOVS webinar focused on the 100% applicant-provided match requirement. Questions received are captured and answered in this Q&A Summary. To understand, implement, and meet all fiscal requirements, RECOVS applicants should be closely consulting and collaborating with the fiscal professionals in their School District and/or BOCES Business Offices through the entire application process. For related information, please see [RECOVS RFP](#) Section II.D) Grant Award and 100% Match Requirement.

Q63)

Where in the application does an applicant elaborate on our match appropriation?
Where do we include the description of the match, in structure and organization?

A63)

The description of the match is included in the Oversight, Management, and Reporting section, Budget Narrative section, including the Proposed Funding Table. For related information, please see [RECOVS RFP](#) Section III,C Proposal Application Instructions.

Q64)

If applying for both RECOVS Mental Health and Learning Loss Grants, does an applicant need two separate matches?

A64)

If applying for both RECOVS Mental Health and Learning Loss grants, each application, associated requirements, sources of matched and grant award funding are considered completely separate from the other; matching funds cannot be combined or commingled. Related information can be found in [RECOVS RFP](#) Section III.C) Proposal Application Instructions.

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Q65)

Does the applicant need to provide the match broken down by year, or just a total for the two-year period?

A65)

In the RECOVS application, the Proposed Funding Table requires total two-year and Year 1 and Year 2 distribution of the 100% applicant-provided match further broken out by year and by type: matching funds and/or in-kind contributions.

Q66)

Can the source of matching funds change during the course of the RECOVS grant award period of November 1, 2023 – October 31, 2025? For example, if an applicant proposed to use ARPA funds expiring September 30, 2024, as matching funds, could we then switch the sources of matching funds to general fund dollars starting October 1, 2024?

A66)

Applicants are allowed to modify the source of their matching funds during the course of the RECOVS grant award period. In order to understand, implement, and meet all fiscal requirements, RECOVS applicants should be closely consulting and collaborating with the fiscal professionals in their School District and/or BOCES Business Offices through the entire application process. For related information, please see RECOVS RFP Section II.D) Grant Award and 100% Match Requirement.

Q67)

Considering applicant School Districts and BOCES did not have the opportunity to budget for RECOVS' 100% match requirement when we passed our 2023-2024 budgets back in May 2023, how are we expected to document a source of matching funds that were not budgeted for? Do we have to show a particular budget line item or just show that the actual grant expenses were covered by a 100% match?

A67)

If an applicant has already budgeted for 2023-2024 programming that aligns with RECOVS mental health and/or learning loss grant objectives, it can propose applying those budgeted funds as a match in the form of dollars and/or in-kind contributions. When proposing expanded grant aligned programming that the requested grant award would be applied to, the applicant would propose any combination of serving more students than budgeted for and/or enhancing budgeted programming. An applicant would document all by providing all requested information in the RECOVS RFP in

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narrative form and the Proposed Funding Table. Upon project implementation, the grantee is responsible for providing an accounting mechanism to track how total RECOVS two-year expenses are funded 50% at most by the grant award, and 50% at least by the applicant provided match. To understand, implement, and meet all fiscal requirements, RECOVS applicants should be closely consulting and collaborating with the fiscal professionals in their School District and/or BOCES Business Offices through the entire application process.

Q68)

Question about the following statement: “If, prior to submitting this grant application, an applicant has already expended or obligated 2023-2024 funds and/or in-kind contributions on existing activities that align with the applicant’s Mental Health and/or Learning Loss RECOVS Grant objectives, and intends to expand those activities to serve additional students throughout the grant period, the applicant may include those expended funds, obligated funds and/or in-kind contributions in the 100% match.” Is there a place in the proposal where applicants should prove or explain that they are taking this approach to the match requirement?

A68)

By comprehensively providing all requested information in the RFP, all aspects of the above will be covered. To understand, implement, and meet all fiscal requirements, RECOVS applicants should be closely consulting and collaborating with the fiscal professionals in their School District and/or BOCES Business Offices through the entire application process.

Q69)

What qualifies as a 100% match? For example, if we apply for funds to pay for I-ready individual lessons in the amount of \$10,000 does the school have to spend a matching \$10,000 on the same program?

A69)

The applicant’s matching and RECOVS grant award funds are not required to be expended in equal amounts or on the same expenses between the two years of the grant period. While Year 1 and Year 2 grant award amounts can be split 50/50 over the two years, Year 1 and Year 2 grant award amounts may differ, but not by more than 20%. For example, either year may not be less than 40%, or more than 60% of the two year total. Grant awards cannot be \$0 for any year. Regardless of match or grant award funding source, RECOVS programming is required to be fully funded and implemented the entire two-year grant period from November 1, 2023 through October 31, 2025. The RECOVS application must propose two years of grant-aligned programming regardless

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of how each year is funded. To determine the applicant's requested two-year grant award, it must first determine how much current funding and/or in-kind contributions it has the ability to 100% match over the two-year project period. To understand, implement, and meet all fiscal requirements, RECOVS applicants should be closely consulting and collaborating with the fiscal professionals in their School District and/or BOCES Business Offices through the entire application process. For related information, please see RECOVS RFP Section II.D) Grant Award and 100% Match Requirement.

Q70)

Do existing staff who are considered in-kind to meet the RECOVS match requirement required to directly contribute to the RECOVS project?

A70)

Yes, existing staff members who are considered in-kind to meet the RECOVS match requirement are required to directly contribute to the RECOVS project serving in grant aligned roles that are proportionate to their assigned Full Time Equivalency (FTE) to RECOVS.

Q71)

Can an applicant use an existing staff member as the "match" if seeking to expand an existing program? For example, if we have a mental health counselor serving a building, but want to use grant funds to add an additional mental health counselor, can the funds used to pay the salary of the existing counselor be used as the match?

A71)

As long as the existing mental health counselor's role is grant-aligned during the entire November 1, 2023 – October 31, 2025 RECOVS grant period an applicant may use an existing staff member toward meeting its match burden. The applicant's matching and RECOVS grant award funds are not required to be expended in equal amounts or proportions between the two years of the grant period. While Year 1 and Year 2 grant award amounts can be split 50/50 over the two years, Year 1 and Year 2 grant award amounts may differ, but not by more than 20%. For example, either year may not be less than 40%, or more than 60% of the two year total. Grant awards cannot be \$0 for any year. Regardless of match or grant award funding source, RECOVS programming is required to be fully funded and implemented the entire two-year grant period from November 1, 2023 through October 31, 2025. The RECOVS application must propose two years of grant-aligned programming regardless of how each year is funded. To determine the applicant's requested two-year grant award, it must first determine how much current funding and/or in-kind contributions it has the ability to 100% match over the two-year project period. To understand, implement, and meet all fiscal requirements, RECOVS applicants should be closely consulting and collaborating with the fiscal

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professionals in their School District and/or BOCES Business Offices through the entire application process. For related information, please see RECOVS RFP Section II.D) Grant Award and 100% Match Requirement.

Q72)

If an applicant currently employs a social worker, for example, and wants to use that social worker's salary as an in-kind contribution to meet the match requirement, could the applicant apply for a RECOVS grant award to fund an additional social worker.

A72)

As long as both social workers' roles are grant-aligned during the entire November 1, 2023 – October 31, 2025 RECOVS grant period, a currently employed social worker and their salary may be credited as an in-kind contribution toward meeting the match requirement. To understand, implement, and meet all fiscal requirements, RECOVS applicants should be closely consulting and collaborating with the fiscal professionals in their School District and/or BOCES Business Offices through the entire application process. For related information, please see RECOVS RFP Section II.D) Grant Award and 100% Match Requirement.

Q73)

An applicant is requesting a RECOVS grant award for a Social Emotional Learning (SEL) coach, for example, with RECOVS- specific roles and responsibilities. We want to match the value of that SEL coach by using applicant funds to hire an additional district social worker. That social worker would have similar and additional RECOVS duties. Would that be approved?

A73)

To be approved as a 100% match, the applicant-funded social worker's role would have to be 100% dedicated to RECOVS during the November 1, 2023 – October 31, 2025 project period. If the applicant-funded social worker's duties were only 50% dedicated to RECOVS, then the grant award request for the SEL coach would be reduced accordingly. The applicant's matching and RECOVS grant award funds are not required to be expended in equal amounts or on the same expenses between the two years of the grant period. While Year 1 and Year 2 grant award amounts can be split 50/50 over the two years, Year 1 and Year 2 grant award amounts may differ, but not by more than 20%. For example, either year may not be less than 40%, or more than 60% of the two year total. Grant awards cannot be \$0 for any year. Regardless of match or grant award funding source, RECOVS programming is required to be fully funded and implemented the entire two-year grant period from November 1, 2023 through October 31, 2025. The RECOVS application must propose two years of grant-aligned programming regardless of how each year is funded. To determine the applicant's requested two-year grant award, it must first determine how much current funding and/or in-kind contributions it

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has the ability to 100% match over the two-year project period. To determine the minimum number of students to be served per year, the requested grant award is divided by \$1,200. The match amount is not a factor in the \$1,200 per student per year calculation.

To understand, implement, and meet all fiscal requirements, RECOVS applicants should be closely consulting and collaborating with the fiscal professionals in their School District and/or BOCES Business Offices through the entire application process. For related information, please see RECOVS RFP Section II.D) Grant Award and 100% Match Requirement.

Q74)

As long as funding and in-kind contributions are going towards new or expanded programming that does not violate the supplement not supplant requirement, what are examples of federal, state, and local funding sources from whom RECOVS applicant can obtain pre-approval from NYSED to apply to the RECOVS' 100% applicant-provided match requirement?

A74)

The funds for activities supported with the formula or discretionary grant sources named below that are consistent with allowable RECOVS activities described in the RFP are considered pre-approved by NYSED for the purposes of meeting matching requirements. *As such, applicants proposing to use any of the sources named above for RECOVS allowable activities are not required to secure additional approvals from the program offices.* Please still check the box for Attestation #2 found at the bottom of the Proposed Funding Table on the RECOVS RFP. Please note that previously awarded formula or discretionary grant awards cannot be modified for the sole purpose of meeting the match requirement. When considering potential funding sources to propose for matching purposes, applicants should first look to activities supported with Federal Education COVID Response Funding since they directly align with the intent and purpose of the RECOVS Grant Program. These funds include:

- American Rescue Plan (ARP) Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief (ESSER) Fund;
- ARP Homeless Children and Youth (HCY); and
- ARP State Reserve dollars.

Next, applicants should consider activities supported with available state and local funds to propose for RECOVS matching funds. These funds include, but are not limited to:

- Extended School Day/School Violence Prevention (ESD/SVP);
- My Brother's Keeper grants;
- Smart Schools Bond Act;

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- “General Funds” (e.g., state aid and/or local tax levy funds); and
- Community donation of funds and/or in-kind contributions.

In addition, certain federal education funds may also be considered. These include sources such as:

- Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) Title II, Part A Supporting Effective Instruction;
- ESSA Title IV, Part A Student Support and Academic Enrichment; and
- McKinney-Vento Education of Homeless Children and Youth competitive subgrant funds.

Q75)

As long as funding and in-kind contributions are going towards new or expanded programming that does not violate the supplement not supplant requirement, what are examples of federal, state, and local funding sources from whom RECOVS applicants seek out approval from NYSED to apply to the RECOVS’ 100% applicant-provided match requirement?

A75)

Applicants considering the use of ESSA funds allocated under Title I, Part A, Title I Part D, or Title I School Improvement Grant Funds as part of the required match must seek approval through the program office. Please email conappta@nysed.gov with the following information if an applicant wishes to consider Title I funds for matching purposes:

- Funding source proposed for match (i.e. Title I, Part A);
- Amount of match request;
- Description of activities that align with the RECOVS activities; and
- A copy of the applicant’s written methodology for distributing state and local funds to Title I schools.

Applicants considering the following fund sources in meeting the match requirement are required to reach out to the appropriate agency for approval:

- [Student Mental Health Support Grants to School Districts](#) administered by the New York State Office of Mental Health (OMH);
- [Project AWARE](#) administered by NYSED (Contact NYSED) and OMH

Q76)

What are examples of federal funding sources that cannot be proposed to apply to RECOVS 100% applicant-provided match requirement?

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A76)

Due to federal supplement not supplant requirements, the following federal fund sources cannot be used to meet the match requirement:

- [Title III, Part A; and](#)
- [21st Century Community Learning Centers](#)

Q77)

What is meant by "documented approval from program/funding managers of sources of matched funds and/or in-kind contributions" found on the RECOVS RFP? During the July 13, 2023 RECOVS webinar, the host mentioned that applicants who are proposing to use other grant funding as RECOVS matching funds must have permission from the funding organization and that the approvals must be in place by the August 18, 2023 grant deadline. Why does an applicant have to seek out matching approval from its funding sources? If every applicant is required to contact every funding source to get permission to match funds, how will application be done on time? If applicants cannot obtain these approvals within this short timeframe, can they not designate funding from those sources as matching funds? How should applicants prove that such permissions have been obtained when applying for this grant? What does approval in writing mean? How is approval documented and demonstrated? Is it necessary to submit the approval documentation as part of the application?

A77)

Please see answers about pre-approval in Questions 74 to 76. If the pre-approval is not listed above, the burden falls on the applicant to seek out, receive, and save evidentiary documentation of approval. RECOVS applicants are to contact their current funders, provide a link to the RECOVS RFP, explain the 100% match requirement, and request each funder's documented approval (e.g., an email) to apply a specified amount of their award/allocation to expand upon currently funded activities that align to RECOVS objectives. It's important that the prospective RECOVS applicants describe to their current funders how they plan to expand existing services to the same number of currently funded-students or expand the number of students currently served by existing funding. Ultimately, approval is up to the current funder. *It is not necessary to submit the approval documentation as part of the application.* RECOVS applicants will need to indicate on the application that the current funder approves the use of any RECOVS funds awarded to expand services and/or the numbers of students served to satisfy the relevant portion of the applicant's 100% match burden. Please see the responses to Questions 62 and 63 for details related to match fund sources and pre-approval processes. *Whether pre-approved as listed above or seeking approval, the applicant is*

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still required to check Attestation #2) at the end of Proposed Funding Table of the RECOVS RFP.

Q78)

Who does a RECOVS applicant contact seeking approval to match through state aid, federal funds, etc.?

A78)

Please see the responses to questions 74 through 76 for details related to match fund sources and approval processes. To understand, implement, and meet all fiscal requirements, RECOVS applicants should be closely consulting and collaborating with the fiscal professionals in their School District and/or BOCES Business Offices through the entire application process.

Q79)

Who does an applicant contact seeking approval to match through local general funds? Does a School District applicant need to obtain Board of Education Approval? Taxpayer approval?

A79)

In seeking approval to match through local general funds, due to the RECOVS timeline, documented Superintendent approval will suffice under the condition that it is presented to the Board of Education at its next meeting. To understand, implement, and meet all fiscal requirements, RECOVS applicants should be closely consulting and collaborating with the fiscal professionals in their School District and/or BOCES Business Offices through the entire application process.

Q80)

If an applicant supports Title I math and reading teachers to meet the RECOVS match requirement, we need someone at NYSED to approve that?

A80)

Please see the responses to Questions 62-65 for more detail related to match approval. At minimum, the applicant is required to check Attestation #1 and #2) on the Proposed Funding Table of the RECOVS RFP.

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Q81)

Can the local matching funds/in-kind contribution come from a RECOVS applicant's other funding sources such as ARP grants, or does it have to be from the general fund only?

A81)

A minimum of 100% fund matching is required from any combination of applicant's federal, state, local, or other resources. Please see the responses to Questions 62-65 for more detail related to match approval. The original legislative budget language suggested the use of American Rescue Plan (ARP) funds for the required match. To understand, implement, and meet all fiscal requirements, RECOVS applicants should be closely consulting and collaborating with the fiscal professionals in their School District and/or BOCES Business Offices through the entire application process.

Q82)

Understanding that that applicants must be either NYS public schools or BOCES. Additionally, I read that, "for the purposes of this grant, charter schools, nonpublic schools, and community-based organizations (CBOs) are not eligible to apply for these funding opportunities. CBOs interested in collaborating with school districts and/or BOCES to deliver collaborative programming and/or services may inquire with potential school district and BOCES applicants". However, the information presented either on the website or in the application does not include information about approved CO-SERs. The support we provide to school districts and BOCES through being on the approved CO-SER list would meet the Learning Loss RECOVS Grant objectives, required outcomes, and required reporting. Therefore, would we able to support our school districts/BOCES in applying for these grants given our services? To satisfy the RECOVS match requirement, is a School District allowed to apply its BOCES CO-SER?

A82)

Inasmuch as a CBO's services are consistent with the allowable uses of the RECOVS Grant, if said CBO is contracted by a BOCES for services related to a CO-SER, those CO-SER services may be used to meet the matching requirement.

Q83)

If an applicant School District purchases BOCES services for their portion of the in-kind contribution, using their general funds, is it eligible for BOCES aid? Can RECOVS grant award funds be proposed to be utilized for Purchased Services with BOCES?

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A83)

Generally, expenses for BOCES services that are funded by State, Federal, or other third-party grants are not eligible to be claimed for BOCES Aid, and RECOVS Grant funds are not exempt from this rule. However if expenses for BOCES services consistent with the allowable use of the RECOVS Grant are funded by a district's General Fund as part of a district's matching contribution, these expenses would be eligible for BOCES Aid, consistent with BOCES Aid rules for the specific CO-SER activity. Standard reporting between districts and BOCES inform BOCES whether services were purchased with the use of this type of grant. Often this comes as a letter from the BOCES to components soliciting information about the source of funds paid for BOCES services. Districts and BOCES must communicate to ensure these funds are accurately reported from the component district to the BOCES. As part of BOCES aid claims in SAMS, each BOCES uses this information to complete the form titled "Other Misc. Deductions Including Components Federal Aid Used to Fund Service." BOCES should use this form to enter aidable expense deductions by services and component district and should be used for otherwise aidable services purchased with RECOVS Grant funds.

Q84)

Wondering if RECOVS applicants can use federal funding for matching purposes or just other state & local funds?

A84)

Used for the same purposes as requested Mental Health and/or Learning Loss RECOVS Grant funds, a minimum 100% funding match is required from any combination of each applicant's federal, state, local, and/or other resources. Please see Questions 62 to 65 for more detail related to funds that can be used for match purposes. To understand, implement, and meet all fiscal requirements, RECOVS applicants should be closely consulting and collaborating with the fiscal professionals in their School District and/or BOCES Business Offices through the entire application process. For related information, please see RECOVS RFP II.D) Grant Award and 100% Match Requirement.

Q85)

Can matching funds be from federal [IDEA Section 611 and 619 Special Education](#) grants?

A85)

In collaboration with the School District or BOCES Business Office, applicants should reach out to IDEA@nysed.gov for more information on whether those funds can be

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used toward meeting a RECOV applicant's match burden. For more information, please see RECOVS RFP Section II.D) Grant Award and 100% Match Requirement.

Q86)

If an applicant has budgeted for a full time reading teacher, would that be considered our local fund match and be applicable to satisfying the RECOVS match requirements?

A86)

To be considered as a RECOVS local 100% match, the applicant's full-time reading teacher's salary would have to be dedicated to RECOVS.

Q87)

How does an "in-kind contribution" go toward meeting the RECOVS 100% match requirement?

A87)

An in-kind contribution means the reasonable value of donated goods, services, and/or time that would have otherwise been purchased to support grant-aligned programming and activities. Cash contributions provided by a third party are not typically considered in-kind contributions, however, for the explicit purposes of the Mental Health and Learning Loss RECOVS Grants, cash contributions by a third party can fulfill part or all of the 100% match requirement. For example, grant-aligned donations may be accepted from philanthropies and/or foundations. Donated services by collaborating CBOs can be matched as an in-kind contribution as long as there is an agreement between the collaborating CBO and the School District(s) and/or BOCES, documenting that the donated mental health or academic recovery services are grant-aligned. To understand, implement, and meet all fiscal requirements, RECOVS applicants should be closely consulting and collaborating with the fiscal professionals in their School District and/or BOCES Business Offices through the entire application process. For related information, please see RECOVS RFP Section 100% Match Requirement.

Q88)

Is there a list of what qualifies as an in-kind contribution toward meeting the RECOVS 100% applicant-provided match requirement?

A88)

Due to the wide variety of goods and services that may be proposed as in-kind contributions, it would not be possible to create a list that could capture all the variations of what may qualify as in-kind contributions. However, in-kind means the reasonable

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value of donated goods, services, and/or time that would have otherwise been purchased to support grant-aligned programming and activities. To understand, implement, and meet all fiscal requirements, RECOVS applicants should be closely consulting and collaborating with the fiscal professionals in their School District and/or BOCES Business Offices through the entire application process.

Q89)

Can the following be an example of an in-kind contribution that would meet the RECOVS 100% match requirement? If a private community based organization/agency operates an after school program in space within a school building that a School District donates, can the School District use the value of that district-donated space over the two-year grant period to satisfy the match requirement in the form of an in-kind contribution when applying for a RECOVS Learning Loss grant to enhance the after school program?

A89)

In this in-kind contribution example, the full value of the School District-donated space would be considered in-kind contribution to meet the RECOVS' match requirement as long as throughout the two-year grant period, 100% of the after school programming would be RECOVS-aligned and expanded with any combination of enhanced program services to the same students, and/or serving an increased number of students. If, for example, only 25% of the after school programming would be RECOVS-aligned, then only 25% of the value of the School District-donated space would be applied to the match in the form of an in-kind contribution. To understand, implement, and meet all fiscal requirements, RECOVS applicants should be closely consulting and collaborating with the fiscal professionals in their School District and/or BOCES Business Offices through the entire application process. For related information, please see RECOVS RFP Section II.D Grant Award and 100% Match Requirement.

Q90)

Can local instructional funds be used as part of the match?

A90)

Local funds can be proposed to meet a RECOVS applicant's match burden if the local funds are grant aligned and the applicant is able to obtain and document Superintendent approval. To understand, implement, and meet all fiscal requirements, RECOVS applicants should be closely consulting and collaborating with the fiscal professionals in their School District and/or BOCES Business Offices through the entire

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application process. For related information, please see RECOVS RFP Section II.D Grant Award and 100% Match Requirement.

Q91)

Can we use the program coordinator salary as matching funds?

A91)

The program coordinator role and salary can be used as matching funds if the applicant donates the program coordinator role and salary to RECOVS as an in-kind contribution toward meeting the entire grant aligned project's 100% applicant-provided match requirement. To understand, implement, and meet all fiscal requirements, RECOVS applicants should be closely consulting and collaborating with the fiscal professionals in their School District and/or BOCES Business Offices through the entire application process.

Utilization of Applicant-provided Match and Grant Award Funding

Q92)

Can RECOVS matching funds be used to sustain an applicant's covid-related mental health and/or learning loss programming that is currently at risk of being cut due to lack of continued funding?

A92)

Yes. If a program's funding is being cut, and there are applicant-provided in-kind or funding resources that could serve as the match to the requested grant award, then a RECOVS grant award can be used to replace funding for a program that is losing its funding.

Q93)

Can we develop our expanded learning program to address learning loss with the integration of Social Emotional Learning?

A93)

Yes, however much more specific information would be needed in the RECOVS application. The proposed expanded program would have to be aligned to all grant objectives. If this is the only programming being proposed, it would have to be funded equally by the requested grant award and the applicant-provided match. For related

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information, please see RECOVS RFP Section II.F.2 Learning Loss Objectives, Activities, Outcomes and Reporting.

Q94)

Question about the following statement: “If, prior to submitting this grant application, an applicant has already expended or obligated 2023-2024 funds and/or in-kind contributions on existing activities that align with the applicant’s Mental Health and/or Learning Loss RECOVS Grant objectives and intends to expand those activities to serve additional students throughout the grant period, the applicant may include those expended funds, obligated funds and/or in-kind contributions in the 100% match.” Is there a place in the proposal where applicants should prove or explain that they are taking this approach to the match requirement?

A94)

By comprehensively providing all requested information in the RFP, all aspects of the above will be covered.

Q95)

Is an applicant allowed to use Title 1 funds that currently funds a School District’s Academic Intervention Services (AIS) program to satisfy the RECOVS Learning Loss grant’s match requirement if the AIS program would be expanded to include additional AIS services and after school tutoring?

A95)

Title I funds that currently fund a School District’s Academic Intervention Services (AIS) program may be proposed to meet the RECOVS Learning Loss grant’s match requirement if the AIS program would be expanded to include additional AIS services and after school tutoring. The applicant would need to obtain approval from its Title I administrator at NYSED by emailing conappta@nysed.gov. For related information, please see RECOVS RFP Section II.D) Grant Award and 100% Match Requirement.

Q96)

Please clarify whether the applicant-provided 100% match should be a 1:1 dollar match, or do the services rendered have to be matched, as well? For instance, if an applicant is applying for the RECOVS Mental Health Grant, and as part of their strategy to combat mental health student concerns, a counselor is being funded by the RECOVS grant,

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would a counselor be required for the match or could a similar type position be used, such as restorative coaches?

A96)

Yes, similar grant-aligned positions can be funded by the match. A 50/50 split of the RECOVS grant award and the applicant-provided match is possible, but not necessary or required for every single RECOVS expense. The applicant's matching and RECOVS grant award funds are not required to be expended in equal amounts or on the same expenses between the two years of the grant period. While Year 1 and Year 2 grant award amounts can be split 50/50 over the two years, Year 1 and Year 2 grant award amounts may differ, but not by more than 20%. For example, either year may not be less than 40%, or more than 60% of the two year total. Grant awards cannot be \$0 for any year. Regardless of match or grant award funding source, RECOVS programming is required to be fully funded and implemented the entire two-year grant period from November 1, 2023 through October 31, 2025. The RECOVS application must propose two years of grant-aligned programming. To determine the applicant's requested two-year grant award, it must first determine how much current funding and/or in-kind contributions it has the ability to 100% match over the two-year project period. By the end of the two-year grant period, the grantee will be expected to provide evidentiary documentation that *total* RECOVS expenses were 50% funded by the grant award, and 50% funded by the applicant-provided match. For related information, please see RECOVS RFP Section II.D) Grant Award and 100% Match Requirement.

Q97)

If an applicant is currently participating in another grant related to suicide awareness and prevention, would any of those professional development trainings and programs that are being implemented count towards the RECOVS grant requirements?

A97)

Applicants are welcome to propose expanding upon existing programming, services, and/or activities that are aligned to the objectives of the Mental Health or Learning Loss RECOVS grant.

Q98)

We utilized ARP money to develop and implement several programs (i.e. High Dosage tutoring, After School Programs, Summer Programs, etc.) Upon evaluation, we have found success or made adjustments along the way. Is it possible to continue some of the programs developed with ARP money utilizing RECOVS grant money during the grant time period? Since the RECOVS grant is 100% matching, the district will need to determine funds and sustainability

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A98)

RECOVS grant money could be used to continue programs developed with ARP funding if ARP funding will become unavailable during the RECOVS grant period. If ARP funds would be available during the grant term, then the applicant could propose applying those funds as a match to expand upon current programming that is aligned to RECOVS grant objectives, sub-objectives, and outcomes.

Q99)

To clarify, an applicant can use the portion of a current staff member's salary and benefits toward the match, so long as they are directly involved in the proposed RECOVS project. Is that correct? We understand that an applicant can only use the portion of those expenses that would be incurred after November 1, 2023. Can we use the value of existing district staff time who will be involved in the project for the match?

A99)

Funded by the applicant-provided match and/or RECOVS grant award, a current staff member's role would have to change as of November 1, 2023 to become RECOVS-specific in proportion to the full-time equivalency (FTE) assigned to that staff member's assignment to RECOVS grant-related tasks and activities. If the existing staff member contributes to the objectives, sub-objectives, and outcomes of the RECOVS program, the staff member's value can contribute toward meeting the match requirement. For related information, please see RECOVS RFP Section II.D Grant Award and 100% Match Requirement.

Q100)

Could RECOVS match and grant award funding be used to implement an attendance officer who could connect with families and students to ensure they attend school on a regular basis?

A100)

Applicants can propose utilizing RECOVS funds to hire staff aligned to the RECOVS objectives and required outcomes of the RFP. For related information, please see RECOVS RFP Section II.F.1) Mental Health Objectives, Activities, Outcomes and Reporting, and Section II.F.2) Learning Loss Objectives, Activities, Outcomes, and Reporting.

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Q101)

Is RECOVS focused solely on hiring new staff (in-house or through a CBO) to provide services, or can an applicant collaborate with an agency to train our current staff in practices that improve student learning and mental health? We would like to contract with an agency to learn and better expand mental health and learning loss access for students, but not necessarily expand employment of our schools or their agencies.

A101)

Applicants can collaborate with an agency to train School District staff per RECOVS objectives, MH.Obj.2.a and LL.Obj.2.a. Nevertheless, this is only one part of the grant. All grant objectives and associated outcomes must be met to be considered for a RECOVS grant award. For related information, please see RECOVS RFP Section II.E.1) Organizational Capacity.

Q102)

Can RECOVS grant award funds be proposed to be utilized for the following salaries:

- Principal/AP
- Guidance Counselor
- Social Worker
- Math and ELA Interventionist
- School Psychologist
- Behavioral Specialist
- Data Coordinator
- Clerical Staff
- Bus Drivers/Bus Aids?

A102)

As long as they claim the portion of their time dedicated to RECOVS, all proposed grant-aligned staffing are related to the RECOVS objectives and required outcomes of the RFP, salaries for Principals and Assistant Principals, Guidance Counselors, Social Workers, Math and ELA Interventionists, School Psychologists are allowable and can be listed as itemized expenses on the FS-10 Code 15 Salaries for Professional Staff. Salaries for Data Coordinators, Clerical Staff, Bus Drivers, and Bus Aids are also allowable and can be listed as itemized expenses on the FS-10 Code 16 Salaries for Support Staff. Please include staff per diem calculations in the appropriate Code 15 or 16 categories – not in Purchased Services. For related information, please see RECOVS RFP Section II.F.1) Mental Health Objectives, Activities, Outcomes and Reporting, and Section II.F.2) Learning Loss Objectives, Activities, Outcomes, and Reporting.

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Q103)

Can RECOVS grant award funds be proposed to be utilized for employee benefits?

A103)

FS-10 Proposed Budget Code 80 Employee Benefits may be claimed for the salaries of personnel listed under Codes 15 and 16 of the FS-10 to the extent that these salaries are actually expended on the project. For example, if only 10% of an employee's job is related to RECOVS, then only 10% of their employee benefits can be funded by the RECOVS grant award.

Q104)

In regard to the Mental Health RECOVS grant, what would happen in the event an applicant is awarded a grant, but due to lack of qualified applicants is not able to locate/hire the additional mental health staff?

A104)

NYSED's Office of Grants Finance has an amendment process in place which would allow applicants to submit proposed changes to their FS-10 budget in order to provide same service in a different manner or with a different provider. However, if an alternate provider of similar services cannot be secured, grantees cannot be reimbursed for services not provided.

Q105)

Can RECOVS grant award funds be proposed to be utilized for purchased services?

A105)

RECOVS grant award funding can be proposed on Code 40 Purchased Services of the FS-10 Proposed Budget to request expenditures such as hiring of personnel from outside the agency as consultants, as well as rentals, admission fees, tuition costs, telephone, repairs to equipment, and contracted services as long as all itemized expenses meet the RFP guidelines for allowable, reasonable and necessary for the proper and efficient operation of the program. A consortium applicant cannot list consortium member school districts as line items in FS-10 Proposed Budget Code 40 or Code 49. Based on standard policy, NYSED reserves the right to eliminate any inappropriate expenses: "Any FS-10 Proposed Budget's itemized expenses that are deemed non-allowable, excessive, or inappropriate will be eliminated, and the budget will be reduced accordingly. Budgets that include non-allowable, excessive, or inappropriate itemized expenses will receive a lower score."

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Q106)

Can RECOVS grant award funds be proposed to be utilized for supplies and materials?

A106)

As long as all proposed itemized expenses meet the RFP guidelines as being allowable, reasonable and necessary for the proper and efficient operation of the program, RECOVS grant award funding may be proposed to be utilized for FS-10 Proposed Budget Code 45 Supplies and Materials. Only items with a per unit cost of less than \$5,000 would be captured in Code 45 Supplies and Materials. Proposed expenses must be itemized in detail. Any line item with a per unit cost of \$5,000 or more must be itemized under Code 20 Equipment. As per the RECOVS RFP, equipment purchased for administrative or personal use is not allowed. Only furniture that is an integral part of an equipment workstation or to provide reasonable accommodation to students with disabilities are allowable expenses. Based on standard policy, NYSED reserves the right to eliminate any inappropriate expenses: "Any FS-10 Proposed Budget's itemized expenses that are deemed non-allowable, excessive, or inappropriate will be eliminated, and the budget will be reduced accordingly. Budgets that include non-allowable, excessive, or inappropriate itemized expenses will receive a lower score." Please note that supplies and materials are subject to M/WBE requirements.

Q107)

Can RECOVS grant award funding be used as a financial incentive to students who succeed in recovering from learning loss?

A107)

No. RECOVS grant award funding cannot be used as a financial incentive. Only expenditures that are appropriate, reasonable, and necessary to the proper and efficient operation of the RECOVS program are allowed.

Q108)

Can RECOVS grant award funding be proposed in FS-10 Code 45 Supplies and Materials that would be utilized for providing incentives to students? For example, could grant-funded incentives be proposed such as T-shirts for attendance improvement? We would like to give high school students items such as T-shirts as well as gift cards to local restaurants, gas cards, etc.

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A108)

Only expenditures that are appropriate, reasonable, and necessary to the proper and efficient operation of the RECOVS program are allowed. Incentives such as T-shirts and gift cards would not be considered appropriate, reasonable, and necessary to the proper and efficient operation of a proposed RECOVS program. Please also note the State Comptroller has determined that such items represent gifts of public funds which are unallowable under the State Constitution. Based on standard policy, NYSED reserves the right to eliminate any inappropriate expenses: “Any FS-10 Proposed Budget’s itemized expenses that are deemed non-allowable, excessive, or inappropriate will be eliminated, and the budget will be reduced accordingly. Budgets that include non-allowable, excessive, or inappropriate itemized expenses will receive a lower score.”

Q109)

Can RECOVS grant award funding be proposed to be utilized for equipment?

A109)

Tangible, nonexpendable, personal property having a useful life of more than one year with a per unit acquisition minimum cost of \$5,000 is allowable as an FS-10 Code 20 Equipment expenditure. However, as per the RECOVS RFP, equipment purchased for administrative or personal uses is not allowed. Only furniture that is an integral part of an equipment workstation or to provide reasonable accommodation to students with disabilities are allowable expenses. In addition, equipment purchased with State grant funds must be used for the program for which it was purchased as long as it is needed. If an item has a lifetime expectancy that runs longer than the length of the grant program, the equipment may be used in another federal or State supported program. Local agencies should have a capitalization policy covering grant equipment that establishes a clear dollar value for capitalized equipment and it must maintain an inventory of capital assets. Cost must be prorated for two-year RECOVS grant utilization. Based on standard policy, NYSED reserves the right to eliminate any inappropriate expenses: “Any FS-10 Proposed Budget’s itemized expenses that are deemed non-allowable, excessive, or inappropriate will be eliminated, and the budget will be reduced accordingly. Budgets that include non-allowable, excessive, or inappropriate itemized expenses will receive a lower score.” Please note that equipment is subject to M/WBE requirements.

Q110)

Can RECOVS grant award funding be proposed to be utilized for travel expenses?

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A110)

Travel expenses such as student transportation expenses and student participation in field trips are allowable expenses to propose for RECOVS grant funding in FS-10 Proposed Budget Code 46 Travel. Expenses for transportation, lodging, subsistence, and related items by employees traveling on official business are also allowed. Based on standard policy, NYSED reserves the right to eliminate any inappropriate expenses: “Any FS-10 Proposed Budget’s itemized expenses that are deemed non-allowable, excessive, or inappropriate will be eliminated, and the budget will be reduced accordingly. Budgets that include non-allowable, excessive, or inappropriate itemized expenses will receive a lower score.” Please note that travel is subject to M/WBE requirements.

Q111)

Can RECOVS funding be utilized for minor remodeling?

A111)

If the applicant is able to clearly demonstrate how minor remodeling is appropriate, reasonable, and necessary to support the RECOVS objectives of their program, then RECOVS funding may be proposed on FS-10 Proposed Budget Code 30 Minor Remodeling. Only the portion of the remodeling that will benefit RECOVS-specific programming can be paid for with RECOVS grant funds. The proposed expenditures must be prorated for two-year RECOVS grant utilization. For example, if the remodel serves the specific program only 20% of the time, then only 20% of the allowable line-item expenses may be claimed for grant funding. Based on standard policy, NYSED reserves the right to eliminate any inappropriate expenses: “Any FS-10 Proposed Budget’s itemized expenses that are deemed non-allowable, excessive, or inappropriate will be eliminated, and the budget will be reduced accordingly. Budgets that include non-allowable, excessive, or inappropriate itemized expenses will receive a lower score.” Please note that minor remodeling is subject to M/WBE requirements.

Q112)

Can Indirect Cost calculated in Code 90 of the grant award’s FS-10 Proposed Budget be applied to the RECOVS 100% applicant-provided matching requirement? Are indirect costs an allowable grant award expense?

A112)

Indirect costs sourced from RECOVS grant award funds are not eligible to be applied to the RECOVS 100% applicant-provided matching requirement. Broadly defined, indirect

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costs are central administrative costs and certain other organization-wide costs incurred in connection with a grant, but that cannot readily be identified with the grant (e.g., payroll preparation, central purchasing). Thus, indirect costs are allowable to be proposed as a grant award expense, but not allowable to be proposed as matching funds.

Oversight Staffing

Q113)

Can the RECOVS grant award fund the Program Coordinator role?

A113)

A Program Coordinator's salary can be funded solely by the RECOVS grant award as long as an equivalent amount of applicant-provided matching funds are applied to other RECOVS expenses over the two-year grant period. A 50/50 split of the RECOVS grant award and the applicant-provided match is possible, but not necessary or required. By the end of the two-year project period, the grantee will be expected to provide evidentiary documentation that total RECOVS expenses were 50% funded by the grant award, and 50% funded by the applicant-provided match.

Q114)

Is the RECOVS Program Coordinator role required?

A114)

The assigned or hired RECOVS Program Coordinator role is required. Program Coordinator are responsible for managing, overseeing, and implementing all aspects of grant planning, staffing, oversight, implementation, collaboration with collaborating providers, communicating with, and reporting to NYSED. Grantees are required to assign or hire a staff member or members to function as RECOVS Program Coordinator(s). For additional information see RECOVS RFP Section II.E.2) Qualifications, Roles, and Responsibilities of RECOVS Program Coordinators.

Q115)

Is the Program Coordinator role required to be full-time?

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A115)

Although not required to be full-time, RECOVS Program Coordinators have many required tasks and responsibilities. RECOVS applicants will need to demonstrate that an adequate amount of time has been allotted to the Program Coordinator role to oversee the successful implementation of the RECOVS program that would be reflected by meeting all RECOVS objectives, sub-objectives, and outcomes while ensuring compliance to all program requirements including, but not limited to reporting, privacy law compliance, and communication with NYSED. For related information, please see RECOVS RFP Section II.E.2 Qualifications, Roles, and Responsibilities of RECOVS Program Coordinators.

Q116)

Does the Program Coordinator role have to be filled by a new staff member, or can an existing staff member fill the position who would then adopt this role as part of their work duties?

A116)

The roles and responsibilities of the RECOVS Program Coordinator(s) can be assigned to existing staff or hired staff.

Q117)

Is there a minimum full-time equivalency (FTE) required for the RECOVS Program Coordinator role?

A117)

RECOVS does not prescribe a minimum Full Time Equivalent (FTE) for the position of Program Coordinator. NYSED highly recommends that the Program Coordinator's FTE provides an accurate reflection of the responsibilities of coordinating the RECOVS grant program. See related information in RECOVS RFP Section I.E.2) Qualifications, Roles, and Responsibilities of RECOVS Program Coordinator(s).

Q118)

The RECOVS RFP indicates they we are required to assign or hire a staff member or members to function as the Program Coordinator(s). We intend to apply for both the Mental Health and Learning Loss Grants. Can we hire/assign one staff member to act as program coordinator for both programs?

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A118)

Given the comprehensive objectives and requirements unique to each grant, NYSED highly recommends that applicants applying for both RECOVS grants propose to assign and/or hire separate Mental Health and Learning Loss Program Coordinators. For related information, please see RECOVS RFP Section II.E.2 Qualifications, Roles, and Responsibilities of RECOVS Program Coordinators.

Q119)

Is the RECOVS Fiscal Manager role required?

A119)

The RECOVS Fiscal Manager role is required. RECOVS Fiscal Managers have many RECOVS-specific tasks and responsibilities, including providing evidentiary documentation of meeting all RECOVS match and grant award requirements, including accounting, reporting, and communicating with NYSED. For related information, please see RECOVS RFP Section II.E Oversight, Management and Reporting.

Q120)

Is the required RECOVS Fiscal Manager required to be full-time or just assigned to existing staff? Fiscal Managers can be assigned or hired. Is there a minimum full-time equivalency (FTE) required for the RECOVS Fiscal Manager role?

A120)

Although the RECOVS Fiscal Manager role is not required to be full time, NYSED highly recommends using RECOVS funding to provide adequate Business Office resources so that the matching and grant award funds are managed with fidelity. Applicant Business Officials who are already very intimately involved in meeting the fiscal requirements of this grant application, will continue to dedicate significant time to the day-to-day RECOVS fiscal operations, including separation of match and award funds, expenditures, reporting, and regular communication with NYSED. If not full time, the applicant will need to demonstrate that the RECOVS Fiscal Manager role is allotted an adequate amount of time to meet all RECOVS fiscal requirements with fidelity. For related information, please see RECOVS RFP Section II.E Oversight, Management and Reporting.

Services, Supports, Activities, Programming, and Policies

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Q121)

If awarded a RECOVS grant we plan to contract with a community-based organization to provide learning loss academic programming and support. Our district requires an RFP to identify and select any collaborating independent contractor(s)/service provider(s). As such, the district plans to issue an RFP in early September to solicit responses by the end of the month, and the RFP will specify that a contract and implementation is contingent upon our district receiving a RECOVS Learning Loss grant. We would inform the selected provider(s) that best meet our needs and the RECOVS program objectives upon a RECOVS award notification. Would NYSED have any issues with this timeline and process?

A121)

NYSED has no issues with timeline and process presented above, as long as the district's RFP has a contingency clause in place in case it is not awarded RECOVS funds.

Q122)

We have been approached by one of the unions regarding supporting the mental health needs of teachers through their EAP. Is this something that can be supported through the RECOVS Mental Health Grant?

A122)

The employment of mental health professionals, the expansion of school-based mental health services, or other evidence-based mental health supports for students and school staff is allowable.

Q123)

We plan to apply for a Learning Loss grant. but would like to incorporate elements of social emotional learning/relationship building to support academic recovery in our application. Doing so may also incidentally help meet some of the Mental Health RECOV objectives. Are there any issues with our district's plan in this regard, given NYSED's differentiation between Learning Loss and Mental Health?

A123)

There are no issues if the applicant is able to demonstrate how its SEL programming would align with a RECOVS Learning Loss grant sub-objective,.

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Q124)

Can a district's high school students be considered "peer tutors" in an after school program as it relates to Required Sub-Objective LL.Obj.2.b?

A124)

Yes. High school students can be considered peer tutors.

Q125)

Does RECOVS funding require awardees to serve the same students across the entire duration of the two-year November 1, 2023 – October 31, 2025 funding period, or can the funding/programming serve different students each year?

A125)

RECOVS does not prescribe serving the same students in Year 1 and Year 2 of the project period, nor the necessity of tracking students from year to year. RECOVS does require that applicants propose serving a minimum number of students annually. The minimum number of students is determined by dividing the requested grant award by \$1,200 per student per year. Students must be served in a manner that meets the RECOVS grant's required objectives, sub-objectives, and outcomes.

Q126)

If a RECOVS applicant proposes to serve 100 students, for example, would all 100 students be required to receive the same intensity of services or could students receive various elements of the proposed project depending on their needs?

A126)

Whether applying for a Mental Health RECOVS grant or Learning Loss RECOVS grant, applicants are required to propose how they will meet each grant's required objectives, required sub-objectives, required outcomes, and required reporting for all students served. That being said, just as students are diverse, their collective and individual needs are, as well. Proposed grant-aligned activities, programming, and services are expected to be varied to be able to meet the individual needs of the students proposed to be served.

Q127)

Does the RECOVS grant program require a Board of Education to revise its current policies and/or adopt new policies?

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A127)

Mental Health RECOVS grant Sub-Objective MH.Obj.3.b of the RECOVS RFP requires collaboration between school and community stakeholders to update documented student mental health and wellness board policies, school practices and procedures that promote student diversity, equity, and inclusion while being evidence-based, evidence-informed, trauma-responsive, restorative, culturally and linguistically responsive and sustaining. Learning Loss Sub-Objective LL.Obj.3.b RECOVS RFP requires collaboration between school and community stakeholders to update documented learning loss and academic recovery board policies, practices and procedures that promote student diversity, equity, and inclusion while being evidence-based, evidence-informed, trauma-responsive, restorative, culturally and linguistically responsive and sustaining. For related information, please see RECOVS RFP Section MH.Obj.4 and Section LL.Obj.4.

Q128)

If an applicant intends to provide grant-aligned programming services to fewer than 7 children under the age of 13 at the School District's Family Support Center that is at a location other than the School District, would the applicant be required to obtain and submit the School-Aged Child Care (SACC) registration forms?

A128)

If an applicant intends to provide grant-aligned programming and service to fewer than seven children under the age of 13 beyond school hours at a location other than the school district or BOCES building, they will not be required to obtain or submit evidence of School-Age Child Care (SACC) registration prior to the first day of serving students. However, regardless of the number of students served, all applicants are required to meet all the program objectives, sub-objectives, outcome and reporting for all students in alignment with the RECOVS RFP. For related information, please see RECOVS RFP Section II.E.4.

Q129)

Since our School District program proposal will take place during the school day, is the SACC registration a requirement? If so, can the School District write a letter that states "we assume responsibility for student safety?" (SACC Registration - Section II.E.4)

A129)

In accordance with the New York State Office of Children and Family Service (OCFS) Regulations at 18 NYCRR Part 414, an applicant school district, BOCES, and/or its

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collaborating community-based organization (CBO) intending to provide grant-aligned programming services to seven or more children under the age of 13 beyond school hours at a location other than the school district or BOCES building, is required to obtain and submit evidence of School-Age Child Care (SACC) registration. School district programs running during the school day do not require such evidence of registration. For related information, please see RECOVS RFP Section II.E.4.

Technical

Q130)

Will you accept the forms signed using Adobe Sign or are you requiring original signatures?

A130)

As the instructions indicate, the RECOVS RFP requires original signatures on the Application Cover Page and the FS-10 Proposed Budget.

Q131)

When writing responses in the narrative sections, is it required to repeat the instructions under each alphabetical section in the written narrative? For example, in responding to LL.2.Need.C can the response just be under the heading, “LL.2.Need.C” vs “LL.2.Need.C. Identify and describe current gaps in school-based academic recovery programming, services and staffing, and how the grant award would resolve identified resource gaps in countering student learning loss.

A131)

Each heading such as, “LL.2.Need.C” in the above scenario is sufficient. Each heading’s description is not at all necessary.

Q132)

Is there a RECOVS listserv and/or email distribution list?

A132)

Announcements from RECOVSRFP@nysed.gov go to School District and BOCES Superintendents whose email addresses are on file with NYSED. There is no additional listserv and/or email distribution list. All potential applicants who have registered in SMA will receive updates through that system as needed.

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Q133)

For sub-objective MH.OBJ.1.b, I am assuming there are words missing. Should, "offer evidence-based and programming..." say "offer evidence-based and evidence-informed programming..."?

A133)

The aforementioned wording was a typographical error on Page 36 of the original version of the RECOVS RFP. Required Mental Health Sub-Objective MH.Obj.1.b has been corrected in the updated RECOVS RFP to read, "Expand school-based student access to and utilization of school-based mental health centers operated by the school district or BOCES and / or satellite clinics operated by collaborating community mental health providers that offer evidence-based and evidence-informed programming, services, supports and practices promoting student mental health and wellness."

Q134)

If/When I have difficulty navigating Survey Monkey Apply (SMA), who do I contact?

A134)

An applicant can refer to the "[Instructions for SurveyMonkey RFP Application Portal](#)" for guidance navigating the Survey Monkey Apply portal. Should an applicant need further assistance, please reach out to RECOVSRFP@nysed.gov.

Q135)

If one grant writer is writing an application for more than one applicant, how does that work in Survey Monkey with just one email address?

A135)

A grant writer using one email address is able to submit multiple RECOVS applications in Survey Monkey Apply. Please be sure to easily distinguish multiple grant applications by assigning a clear organizational title for each application. Please email additional SMA questions to RECOVSRFP@nysed.gov.

Q136)

Is there a sample RECOVS grant to help grant writers? Is there any sort of exemplar to follow?

A136)

There is no available exemplar.

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Q137)

When in Survey Monkey Apply (SMA), how does an applicant access the content of the RECOVS RFP?

A137)

An applicant can download the RECOVS RFP by clicking on the link titled “Click here for the RECOVS RFP” in each section of the Survey Monkey Apply Application.

Q138)

Will there be a mandatory portal submission to report expenditures? What do we need to track for the portal compliance?

A138)

All proposed grant award expenditures are to be reported using the FS-25 Request for Funds form, with proposed expenditure changes submitted during the grant program year using the FS-10A, and final program year expenditures reported using the FS-10F Final Expenditure Report.

Q139)

Is it required to paginate the Table of Contents? Do we include page numbers for all subtopics in the Table of Contents? Can you provide an example of how the Table of Contents should look, considering the narrative sections not being combined into one file for submission?

A139)

Since not prescribed in the RECOVS RFP, pagination on the Table of Contents is not required. Page numbers are only required on pages within sections that have page limits. The Table of Contents does not have a page limit. Since pagination and formatting instructions are not prescribed in such detail for the table of contents in the RECOVS RFP, applicants are free to use their professional judgment at no risk of adversely impacting an application’s score. For related information, please see RECOVS RFP Section III.C) Proposal Application Instructions beginning.

Q140)

Is every page of the application required to have a page number?

A140)

Page numbers are only required on pages within sections that have page limits.

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Q141)

Does pagination have to continue between sections?

A141)

Since pagination instructions between sections are not prescribed in such detail in the RECOVS RFP, applicants are free to use their professional judgment at no risk of adversely impacting an application's score. For related information, please see RECOVS RFP Section III.C) Proposal Application Instructions.

Q142)

The RECOVS RFP instructions indicate that we should not combine the different sections of the grant narrative. If we are uploading a different file for each of the five required sections (plus the cover page, checklist and table of contents), how should the different sections be paginated? Should the page numbers continue from one section to the next section? For example, if Section 2 ends on Page 5, should Section 3 begin with Page 6, or would Section 3 restart with Page 1? Does pagination have to continue between sections?

A142)

Since pagination instructions specific to application sections are not prescribed in such detail in the RECOVS RFP, applicants are free to use their professional judgment at no risk of adversely impacting an application's score. For related information, please see RECOVS RFP Section III.C) Proposal Application Instructions.

Q143)

Does the table that must be copied, pasted, and completed for MH.2.Need.A and LL.2.Need.A count toward the 5 Page limit for Section 2, or would only the text written in response to section 2.MH or 2LL.Need B, C and D count toward that limit?

A143)

All requested content in the Need Narrative counts toward the 5 page limit. Any text, including endnotes, beyond 5 pages will not be read or scored by reviewers.

Q144)

Will references included as endnotes be included in the page limitations? For example, we are citing data as endnotes for the Need Narrative which is limited to only 5 pages. Will those endnotes be counted in the 5-Page limit?

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A144)

References included as endnotes will be included in the page limitations. Specific to the example provided, any need narrative text, including endnotes, beyond 5 pages will not be read or scored by reviewers. For related information, see RECOVS RFP Section 2 Need Narrative.

Q145)

When reporting data, will a narrative be acceptable, or will charts/tables with specific student data be required?

A145)

In the RECOVS RFP, when instructions do not prescribe to copy, paste, and complete a table, the applicant is free to provide a narrative. For related information see RECOVS RFP Section III.C Proposal Application Instructions.

Q146)

Was the July 13, 2023 RECOVS webinar recorded and made available for those who were unable to attend?

A146)

During the July 13, 2023 Zoom webinar meeting, SED approved all requests for participants to record on their end. Covered topics focused on the matching requirement were limited compared to the scope of topics covered in questions submitted to RECOVSRFP@nysed.gov. SED did not post a webinar recording because it was not comprehensive, however, questions submitted are documented and answered in this RECOVS Q&A Summary.

Q147)

Will there be an additional RECOVS webinar held that provides more information? Can there be an additional RECOVS webinar specifically held for BOCES applicants?

A147)

No, there will not be an additional webinar. Questions have been documented and answered in this RECOVS Q&A Summary. Please continue to send questions to RECOVSRFP@nysed.gov by August 25. An additional Questions and Answers Summary will be posted by August 30.