

State of Illinois Uniform Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO)
Summary Information

Awarding Agency Name	Human Services
Agency Contact	Natalie Bullock (natalie.bullock@illinois.gov)
Announcement Type	Initial
Type of Assistance Instrument	Grant
Funding Opportunity Number	26-444-80-3383-01
Funding Opportunity Title	High Risk Family Case Management
CSFA Number	444-80-3383
CSFA Popular Name	BMCH-HRFCM
Anticipated Number of Awards	3
Estimated Total Program Funding	\$2,106,000
Award Range	\$351000 - \$1053000
Source of Funding	State
Cost Sharing or Matching Requirements	No
Indirect Costs Allowed	Yes
Restrictions on Indirect Costs	<p>Yes : Indirect costs cannot be compensated without an election or a negotiated rate on file with the State of Illinois. All applicants are encouraged to utilize Indirect Cost as other budget categories will not be allowed to capture costs incurred for common or joint objectives and that cannot be readily identified with a particular final cost objective including but not limited to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Costs of operating and maintaining your organization's facilities -General Administrative Expenses -Property Insurance -Administrative Support -Clerical Support <p>eCFR :: Appendix IV to Part 200, Title 2 -- Indirect (F&A) Costs Identification and Assignment, and Rate Determination for Nonprofit Organizations</p>
Posted Date	04/02/2025
Application Date Range	04/02/2025 - 05/05/2025 : 12:00pm
Grant Application Link	Please select the entire address below and paste it into the browser... https://www.dhs.state.il.us/page.aspx?item=171282
Technical Assistance Session	

High Risk Family Case Management Pilot

26-444-80-3383-01

Notice of Funding Opportunity

1. Basic Information (CSFA Data Section)

i. Required Information:

- A. Awarding Agency Name
- B. Funding Opportunity Title
- C. Announcement Type
- D. Funding Opportunity Number
- E. Assistance Listing Number(s)

Items A through E are included in the CSFA Data Table below.

Awarding Agency Name	Illinois Department of Human Services
Agency Division Name	Family and Community Services
Agency Contact	Natalie Bullock DHS.OFWNOFO@illinois.gov (312)415-7369
Announcement Type	Competitive Initial Announcement
Funding Opportunity Title	High Risk Family Case Management Pilot
Funding Opportunity Number	26-444-80-3383-01
Application Posting Date	<i>April 2, 2025</i>
Application Closing Date	<i>May 5, 2025 12:00pm CDT</i>
Catalog of State Financial Assistance (CSFA) Number	444-80-3383
Catalog of State Financial Assistance (CSFA) Name	BMCH-HRFCM
Assistance Listing Number(s) (Federal)	Not applicable
Awarding Source	State
Estimated Total Program Funding Amount	\$2,106,000
Anticipated Number of Awards	Up to 4 total: <ul style="list-style-type: none">1. Sangamon County (up to 1 award)2. St. Clair County (up to 2 awards)3. Winnebago County (up to 1 award)
Award Range	\$351,000 - \$1,053,000 (serving 150-450 families monthly)

Cost Sharing/Matching Requirement?	No
Indirect Costs Allowed?	<p>Yes; Indirect costs cannot be compensated without an election or a negotiated rate on file with the State of Illinois. All applicants are encouraged to utilize Indirect Cost as other budget categories will not be allowed to capture costs incurred for common or joint objectives and that cannot be readily identified with a particular final cost objective including but not limited to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Costs of operating and maintaining your organization's facilities - General Administrative Expenses - Property Insurance - Administrative Support - Clerical Support <p>eCFR :: Appendix IV to Part 200, Title 2 -- Indirect (F&A) Costs Identification and Assignment, and Rate Determination for Nonprofit Organizations</p>
Restrictions on Indirect Costs?	Yes: Indirect costs cannot be compensated without an election or a negotiated rate on file with the State of Illinois. 2CFR200.414
Technical Assistance Session Offered	<p>Session Offered: Yes</p> <p>Session Mandatory: No</p> <p>Date/Time: To be posted on IDHS website on NOFO Q&A page</p> <p>Registration Link: To be posted on IDHS website on NOFO Q&A page</p>

F. Funding Details

1. Total Amount of Funding

The Department expects to award approximately \$2,106,000.

- a. The source of funding for this program is General Revenue Infant Mortality funds.

2. Number of Grant Awards

- a. The Department anticipates funding approximately three grant awards to provide this program.

3. Expected Dollar Amount of Individual Grant Awards

- a. The Department anticipates that the dollar amount of individual awards will be \$351,000-\$1,053,000.

4. Average Amount of Funding per Grant Award in previous years.

- a. Average funding amount for this grant award program in previous years was \$351,000-\$1,053,000.

5. Renewal or Supplementation of Existing Projects Eligibility

- a. Applications for renewal or supplementation: *Not applicable, this is not a renewal year for this cohort.*

- b. Successful applicants under this NOFO may be eligible to receive two subsequent one-year grant renewals for this program. Renewals are at the discretion of the Department and are based on sufficient appropriation and performance criteria including, but not limited to:
 - i. Grantee has performed satisfactorily during the previous reporting period.
 - ii. All required reports have been submitted on time, unless a written exception has been provided by the Division/Department.
 - iii. No outstanding issues are present (e.g., in good standing with all pre-qualification requirements and no outstanding corrective action, etc.)
 - 6. Sub-Recipient Agreements
 - a. Sub-Recipient Agreement(s) and budgets must be pre-approved by the Department and on file with the Department. Sub-Recipients are subject to all provisions of this Agreement. The successful applicant Agency shall retain sole responsibility for the performance and monitoring of the sub-recipient.
 - 7. Funding restrictions
 - a. Pre-Award Costs
 - i. Pre-Award Costs are allowed subject to the discretion, review, and prior approval of the IDHS Budget Committee. Pre-Award Costs must be identified as such in the IDHS Uniform Grant Budget Narrative. Pre-Award costs are/are not allowable for this award.
 - ii. IDHS grants are governed by 2 CFR. Part 200, Subpart E-Cost Principles. Principles and 30 ILCS 708 which include information on allowable costs, audit requirements, and financial records.
 - b. [Indirect Costs](#)
 - i. Indirect Costs *may* be applied to this grant award. Indirect Cost rates must be approved through the Illinois Indirect Cost Rate Election System (ICRES)
 - 8. The release of this NOFO does not obligate the Illinois Department of Human Services to make an award.
- G. Key Dates
- 1. Application Posting Date: April 2, 2025
 - 2. The Department must receive the Preliminary Submission materials (Letter of Intent, etc.): Not applicable. Letter of intent is not required.
 - 3. The Department must receive the Full Application: Due on May 5, 2025 at 12:00 CDT. Anticipated Award Date: May 28, 2025
 - 4. Anticipated Start Dates and Periods of Performance for new grant awards.
 - a. Subject to appropriation, the grant period will begin no sooner than 7/1/25 and will continue through 6/30/26.
- H. Executive Summary: High Risk Family Case Management (HRFCM) is pilot program that provides nursing assessment, intervention, and service coordination through nurse home visits to improve the health, social, educational, and developmental needs of high-risk pregnant & postpartum individuals and/or their high-risk infants throughout pregnancy and the first one year after birth.

- I. Agency Contact Information:
 - 1. If you have questions about this NOFO, please contact DHS.OFWNOFO@illinois.gov
 - 2. A frequently asked Question and Answer page is posted on the DHS website. Questions submitted up to two business days prior to the end of the NOFO posting period, will be posted on the website.
- J. Indirect Costs (for more information, refer to [Indirect Costs](#))

ii. Additional Information:

- A. This is a *pilot program*. The first cohort of the pilot was launched in Peoria County, Madison County and the west side of Chicago community areas in SFY25 through a Notice of Funding Opportunity. The NOFO described herein is to launch a second cohort in 3 new geographic areas to begin in SFY26.

2. Eligibility

- i. Eligible Applicants. This subsection MUST identify the following:
 - A. The specific types of applicants that may apply for the grant award are public or private organizations that have or will have a physical presence serving in the eligible geographic area described in Section I above, and the required staffing model in place within 30 days of the contract start date for which they intend to provide HRFCM services for the geographical area applied for, as described herein. Grantees failing to have required staffing model and nurse to family ratios in place within 30 days of the grant agreement start date or at any time during the grant period may be subject to grant suspension or termination. Eligible applicants are inclusive of units of local government, hospitals, community-based organizations, federally qualified health centers, and nonprofit organizations that plan to serve the eligible community in the geographical area applied for.
 - B. The applicant must meet the Registration, [Pre-qualification and any other Mandatory Requirements](#) listed in this funding opportunity.
 - 1. Applicants must provide the following information via the Grantee Portal annually to be registered with the State of Illinois as an awardee:
 - a. Organization name and contact information
 - b. Federal Employee Identification Number (FEIN)
 - c. Unique Identity Number (UEI)
 - d. Organization type
 - 2. Applicants must be prequalified; therefore, applications from entities that have not prequalified *prior to and are not prequalified on the due date of this application* will NOT be reviewed and will NOT be considered for funding. Items a) through e) below are the prequalification requirements.

- a. Unique Entity Identifiers and SAM Registration: Each applicant (unless the applicant is an individual or State awarding agency that is exempt from those requirements under 2 CFR § 25.110(b) or (c), or has an exception approved by the Federal or State awarding agency under 2 CFR § 25.110(d)) is required to:
 - i. Be registered in [Sam.gov](https://sam.gov) before the application due date.
 - ii. Provide a valid unique entity identifier (UEI) in its application.
 - iii. Continue to maintain an active SAM registration with current information at all times during which it has an active award or an application or plan under consideration by the awarding agency.
 - iv. The State Agency may not make an award until applicant has fully complied to all UEI and SAM requirements.
 - v. The State Agency may determine that an applicant is not qualified if they have not complied to requirements and use that determination as a basis to award another applicant or applicants.
- b. Must be in "good standing" with the Illinois Secretary of State if the Illinois Secretary of State requires the entity's organization type to be registered.
- c. Must not be on the Illinois Stop Payment List
- d. Must not be on the [Sam.gov](https://sam.gov) Exclusion List
- e. Must not be on the [Medicaid Sanctions List](#) (DHFS Provider Sanctions List)

3. Additional Mandatory Requirements

- a. Not applicable

- C. Eligibility factors for the principal investigator or project director: Not Applicable
- D. Successful Applicants will not receive an award if [pre-award requirements](#) are not met. Qualified status is re-verified nightly. If the entity's status changes, an email notice is sent to the designated entity representative with a link to the Grantee Portal.
- E. See Section number I(F) for funding restrictions, if applicable.
- F. Other factors that would disqualify an applicant or application include: Not Applicable
- G. Limit on number of applications. Not Applicable

ii. Cost Sharing:

- A. Providers are not required to participate in cost sharing or provide match.

3. Program Description

High Risk Family Case Management (HRFCM) is pilot program that provides nursing assessment, intervention, and service coordination to improve the health, social, educational, and developmental needs of high-risk pregnant & postpartum individuals and/or their high-risk infants throughout pregnancy and the first one year after birth. Families requiring services beyond the first year may be authorized with Departmental approval.

The Illinois Department of Human Services (IDHS/"Department") Bureau of Maternal Child Health (BMCH/"Bureau") seeks to facilitate nurse case management services to high-risk birthing families in the pilot areas, with the goal of reducing maternal and infant morbidity and mortality rates at both the state and local level with an emphasis on addressing racial/ethnic disparities in outcomes. To eliminate barriers to client transportation and decrease risk of communicable diseases in the high-risk population, nurse visits are expected to occur exclusively in the home setting monthly for the duration of pregnancy and at least the first three months after birth while family is enrolled in the pilot program.

In alignment with the Improving Health Care for Pregnant and Postpartum Individuals Act (20 ILCS 1305/10-23 new), the Bureau will pilot a comprehensive High Risk Family Case Management Program to vulnerable high-risk family units to improve both maternal and infant outcomes overall and to reduce racial disparities in outcomes and services provided.

While this NOFO covers increased expenses to support high program quality and required nurse to family (dyad) staffing ratios, overall funding to the Bureau has not increased. **Therefore, pilot program caseloads will be limited to medically high-risk family dyads (birthing individual and infant). The HRFCM pilot program will not provide services to low-risk dyads. Low risk families in need of services should be referred to Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women Infants and Children (WIC).** Refer to the HRFCM Policy & Procedure Manual *Appendix 5.1 HRFCM Vulnerability Index* (available to applicants via email upon request) for the list of risk factors used to determine "medically high-risk" for the program described herein. Families not meeting the eligibility criteria may be authorized with Departmental approval.

The General Assembly [\(410 ILCS 212/5\)](#) finds as follows:

- (1) The statewide rate of infant mortality continues to remain at an unacceptable level in regard to the national average.
- (2) Within the State of Illinois, certain areas and populations continue to experience rates of infant mortality far greater than either the statewide or national averages. Prevention activities need to be statewide for maximum benefit.
- (3) Family case management services are proven to be effective in improving the health of women and infants and lowering the incidence of infant morbidity and mortality, particularly those individuals linked to the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants and Children (WIC).
- (4) Family case management improves the health and development of children and families by providing the earliest identification of their needs and promoting linkages to address those needs.
- (5) Data demonstrates significantly lower Medicaid expenditures for pregnant and postpartum women and children who have been enrolled in family case management and WIC services than for Medicaid-eligible persons not receiving case management services.

The Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH) October 2023 Illinois Maternal Morbidity and Mortality Report reports the following key findings:

Chronic Disease During Pregnancy

- From 2010 to 2020, maternal obesity increased 33%, maternal hypertension increased 103%, and maternal diabetes increased 68%.

Mental Health Conditions

- Of all live births, 8% had a maternal mental health condition recorded on the delivery hospital record. However, this was above 25% in some counties.

Substance Use Disorders

- Of all live births, 5% had a maternal substance use disorder recorded on the delivery hospital record. However, this was above 20% in some counties.

Severe Maternal Morbidity

- One out of every 115 deliveries had a severe maternal morbidity, with severe bleeding (hemorrhage) being the most common type of severe complication.
- Black women had a severe maternal morbidity rate more than two times that of White women.

Maternal Mortality

- An average of 88 women died while pregnant or within one year of pregnancy, with the highest number occurring during 2020 (110 deaths).
- 43% of women who died while pregnant or within one year of pregnancy died from a cause related to pregnancy.
- The leading cause of pregnancy-related death was substance use disorder, which comprised 32% of pregnancy-related deaths.
- The other most common causes of pregnancy-related death were cardiac and coronary conditions, pre-existing chronic medical conditions, sepsis, mental health conditions, and embolism.
- Black women were twice as likely to die from any pregnancy-related condition and three times as likely to die from pregnancy-related medical conditions as White women.
- More than half of pregnancy-related deaths occurred more than 60 days postpartum.
- The MMRCs (Maternal Mortality Review Committees) determined 91% of pregnancy-related deaths were potentially preventable due to clinical, system, social, community, or patient factors.

i. Required Information

- A. The general purpose of the funding is to provides nursing assessment, intervention, and service coordination in the pilot areas and it is expected to achieve an improvement in the health, social, educational, and developmental needs of high-risk pregnant & postpartum individuals and/or their high-risk infants throughout pregnancy and the first one year after birth for the public good.
- B. The State agency's funding priorities or focus areas.
 1. IDHS is working to counteract systemic racism and inequity, and to prioritize and maximize diversity throughout its service provision process. This work involves addressing existing institutionalized inequities, aiming to create transformation, and operationalizing equity and racial justice. It also focuses on the creation of a culture of inclusivity for all regardless of race, gender, religion, sexual orientation, or ability.
 2. To eliminate barriers to client transportation and decrease risk of communicable diseases in the high-risk population, nurse visits are expected to occur exclusively in the home setting for the duration of pregnancy and the first three months after birth while enrolled in the pilot.

3. The department has identified anticipated average monthly caseloads of high-risk family units/dyads based on previous years' clients referred and/or served who were determined to be high-risk by identified risk factors in the following geographical areas.

Geographic Area	Anticipated Number of Awards	Anticipated monthly caseload of families/dyads to be served	Anticipated RN FTEs Needed	Anticipated total funding for pilot
Sangamon County	up to 1 award	150	3	\$351,000
St. Clair County	up to 2 awards	450	9	\$1,053,000
Winnebago County	up to 1 award	300	6	\$702,000
Total:	up to 4 awards	1,050	21	\$2,106,000

4. Through a competitive, merit-based review and selection process, the Bureau will grant funds to agencies that will be responsible for overall administration of the program in the entire geographic area awarded, have demonstrated experience and/or capacity to meet staffing and caseload requirements either through employment or sub-contractual relationship, and have demonstrated experience and capacity internally or through partnerships to provide maternal health nursing assessment and/or nurse case management services to high-risk maternal child health populations with fidelity as outlined in section II above.
5. Further, through a competitive merit-based review and selection process, the Bureau expects to fund applicants who demonstrate the following Bureau funding priorities:
 - a. Have a demonstrated history of providing high quality Maternal Child Health (MCH) nursing assessment, intervention and/or nurse case management services in the area they are applying to serve
 - b. Genuine and trusted relationships with community residents, stakeholders, and health care entities
 - c. Plan to have a physical presence serving in the geographic area to which they are applying to serve
 - d. Propose cost-effective and fiscally efficient programming while minimizing administrative burden to their organization
 - e. Prioritize preventing the leading causes of maternal and infant morbidity and mortality
 - f. Promote diversity and inclusion with demonstrated efforts to adapt services to fit the cultural contexts of the individuals, families or communities

C. Goals and objectives of the Program

1. High-risk nurse case management programs funded by this NOFO will provide nursing assessments and interventions, screenings, referrals, service coordination, and diagnosis-specific education to improve the health, social, educational, and developmental needs of high-risk dyads (pregnant & postpartum individuals and their infants) through nurse home visits throughout pregnancy and the first one year after birth to Illinois residents who meet the eligibility criteria for the program as outlined in the HRFM Policy & Procedure Manual

Appendix 5.1 HRFCM Vulnerability Index (available to applicants via email upon request). The program deliverables, performance measures, and performance standards are described in the sections that immediately follow.

2. The Bureau's HRFCM program requires service providers to report data using a collection tool provided by or approved by the Bureau. Required training and technical assistance will be provided to funded programs to support best practices in program delivery, data collection, and reporting.

D. Program Deliverables

1. The award will contribute to achieving the program's goals and objectives by providing funds to support the provision of nursing assessments and interventions, screenings, referrals, service coordination and diagnosis-specific education to improve the health, social, educational, and developmental needs of high-risk dyads (pregnant and postpartum individuals and their infants) throughout pregnancy and the first one year after birth to Illinois residents who meet the eligibility criteria for the program as outlined in the HRFCM Policy & Procedure Manual Appendix 5.1 HRFCM Vulnerability Index (available to applicants via email upon request).
2. Providers will be expected to:
 - a. Provide trauma-informed, culturally responsive high-risk family nurse case management services to eligible families at no cost to the family
 - b. Support the health and well-being of high-risk birthing families to reduce maternal and infant morbidity and mortality by the following methods:
 - i. Provide interventions to promote, destigmatize, and support identification and treatment of maternal mental health concerns
 - ii. Provide interventions to promote, destigmatize, and support identification and treatment of maternal substance use
 - iii. Provide interventions to reduce pregnancy and postpartum complications associated with pre-existing chronic medical conditions
 - iv. Provide interventions to reduce antepartum, intrapartum, and postpartum complications
 - v. Provide interventions to promote a safe infant sleep environment
 - vi. Provide interventions to promote adequate maternal and infant nutrition
 - vii. Promote and support age-appropriate and diagnosis-appropriate growth and development
 - viii. Collaborate with family to identify and mitigate barriers to accessing desired supports and services
 - c. Adhere to all guidelines set forth in:
 - i. The Department's HRFCM Pilot Program Policy and Procedure Manual (available to applicants via email upon request)
 - ii. [410 ILCS 212: Illinois Family Case Management Act](#)
 - iii. [325 ILCS 5: Abused and Neglected Child Reporting Act](#)
 - iv. [405 ILCS 95: Perinatal Mental Health Disorders Prevention and Treatment Act](#)
 - v. [740 ILCS 110 Mental Health and Developmental Disabilities Confidentiality Act](#)
 - vi. [45 CFR 160](#)

vii. [45 CFR 164](#)

viii. [Title II of the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996](#)

3. Staffing:
 - a. Recruit, hire, retain staff who mirror the cultural, ethnic and linguistic characteristics of families served
 - b. Report staff changes to bureau within 14 calendar days of vacancy, leave of absence, or new hire
 - c. Ensure an RN Program Coordinator is assigned to the program and carries out the required duties as noted in the HRFCM Policy and Procedure manual including supervision of direct service staff
 - d. Ensure and maintain that an active, unencumbered Illinois Licensed Registered Nurse (RN) or Illinois Licensed Advanced Practice Registered Nurse (APRN) carries out the required nurse contacts in accordance with the IL Nurse Practice Act as outlined in performance standards
 - e. For agencies using a multi-disciplinary approach for client contacts outside of the core RN components, maintain documentation ensuring active, unencumbered Licenses and/or Certifications when applicable and ensure that all duties are provided within scope and training
 - f. Ensure an RN or APRN Case Manager is assigned to each family within 14 days of program enrollment
4. Ensure maximum RN/APRN to family/dyad ratio is not exceeded. Maximum ratio is 1 RN/APRN per 50 actively enrolled families (dyads)
 - a. Agencies are allowed and encouraged to use a multi-disciplinary approach for client contacts above and beyond the required nurse contacts, including but not limited to Licensed Clinical Professional Counselor, Licensed Professional Counselor, Licensed Practical Nurses, Licensed Clinical Social Workers, Clinical Social Worker, Licensed Dietitians, Certified Nursing Assistants, Nursing Assistant, Medical Assistant, Case Management Assistant, or Community Health Worker. Agencies must ensure duties assigned to staff are appropriate for job title and within the scope of their credentials.
5. Professional Development and Training:
 - a. Ensure the direct service staff and RN Coordinator staff receive program-specific training and ancillary training as required per the HRFCM Policy & Procedure Manual
 - b. Maintain documentation of all training received by each direct service staff and RN Coordinator
 - c. Maintain documentation of supervision, team meetings, observations, training, and other staff development
6. Provide and document appropriate referrals to health-related and public assistance programs for active clients/families
7. Conduct the required contacts using the methods prescribed in the HRFCM Policy and Procedure Manual. Unsuccessful contact attempts should be documented.
8. Refer clients/families who experience loss to professional bereavement services such as mental health therapy referral and/or perinatal bereavement support groups

9. Provide interpreter through qualified staff or contractual relationship with interpreter service for clients with Limited English Proficiency
10. Ensure services and clinics are accessible to clients/families with disabilities or have an alternate system in place to provide services
11. Collect and retain data and records according to HRFCM Policy and Procedure Manual
12. Ensure all clients/families are residents of Illinois at the time service is provided
13. Offer opportunity for visit outside of the standard schedule to accommodate working families and/or urgent/unexpected needs
14. Coordinate client/family care to other culturally responsive service providers in the community including primary care physicians and Medicaid managed care entities
15. Data Collection and Documentation:
 - a. Document services provided timely on provided or approved data collection tool
 - b. Ensure any data collection tool used is fully operational and maintained per state standards
 - c. Ensure adequate level of security and privacy for confidentiality and safety of data using controls per state standards
16. Communicates with assigned DHS Regional Nurse Consultant timely and participates timely in all required technical assistance. Requests additional technical assistance from DHS when needed.
17. Adequately prepares for and participates in scheduled or unscheduled Program Review when requested by DHS
18. Adequately address and remediate any delinquencies or noncompliance identified by DHS at any time. Failure to address or remediate delinquencies or noncompliance may result in grant suspension or termination.

E. Performance Measures and Standards

1. Performance Measures
 - a. RN FTE to family ratio
 - b. Achieved monthly caseload active in the program
 - c. Nurse home visits received during pregnancy and throughout the first three months after birth
 - d. Nurse face to face contacts (in clinic or home setting) received during the fourth to twelfth month after birth, or for duration of time in program
2. Performance Standards
 - a. No more than 50 actively enrolled families/dyads per 1 RN FTE is the goal for RN FTE to family ratio
 - b. 75% of assigned monthly caseload is the goal for achieved monthly caseload
 - c. 75% is the goal for number of families who receive monthly nurse home visits throughout the duration of pregnancy and throughout the first three months after birth
 - d. 75% is the goal for number of families who receive monthly nurse face to face contacts (in clinic or home setting) throughout the fourth to twelfth month after birth, or for duration of time in program

- F. For cooperative agreements, the "substantial involvement" that the State agency expects to have is (or is located): Not applicable
- G. Specific unallowable costs for this program included in Section 1 above.
- H. Program beneficiaries or program participants must meet the following requirements:
 - 1. Receive services in the geographic services listed in Section I.
 - 2. Meet the eligibility requirements as outlined in HRFCM Policy & Procedure Manual Appendix 5.1 HRFCM Vulnerability Index (emailed to applicants upon request). Families not meeting the eligibility criteria may be authorized with Departmental approval.
- I. Authorizing statutes and regulations for the funding opportunity include the following:
 - 1. State Statutes and Regulations
 - a. Family Case Management Act ([410 ILCS 212](#))
 - b. Improving Health Care for Pregnant and Postpartum Individuals Act ([20 ILCS 1305/10-23 new](#))
 - c. Grant Accountability and Transparency Act ([20 ILCS 808](#))
 - d. Grant Accountability and Transparency Act ([JCAR Title 44 Part 7000](#))
 - 2. Federal Regulations
 - a. 45 CFR Part 96.70 - 96.75: Social Services Block Grant
 - b. Uniform Guidance, Grants and Agreements [eCFR:: 2 CFR Chapter II -- Office of Management and Budget Guidance](#)
- ii. Additional Information:
 - A. The first cohort of this pilot was awarded through a Merit Based Review process and Notice of Funding Opportunity in SFY25 to provide HRFCM services in Madison, Peoria, and the West Side of Chicago. Awardees of the first cohort will be renewed at the discretion of the Department and are based on sufficient appropriation. The second cohort is being awarded under the NOFO as described herein.

4. Application Contents and Format

- i. Content and Format Requirements
 - A. Content and Form of Application Submission
 - 1. Pre-applications, letters of intent, or white papers are not required.
 - 2. Required Content of Application
 - a. Applications must include the required documents and demonstrate that the program eligibility requirements have been met. The Department will not contact applicants for missing items listed below. Applicants that do not include all the following documents will be considered substantially incomplete and will not be considered for funding. Refer to Section 5 (iii)B for details.

3. Proposal Narrative Content and Attachments

- a. Program Narrative: IMPORTANT: The program (proposal) narrative makes up the bulk of the application. If the program narrative is missing from your application packet, your application will receive a significantly reduced score and the applicant organization will not meet the criteria to receive a grant under this notice of funding opportunity.
- b. Proposal Narrative Sections (total maximum 12 pages): *Please provide a complete response to the following sections.* If the applicant believes that the subject has been adequately addressed in another part of the application narrative, then provide the cross-reference to the appropriate part of the narrative. If a cross-reference is not included in the section, the reviewer will only consider content contained within that specific section.

i. Executive Summary (1 page maximum-total 5 Points)

1. Purpose: The Executive Summary will serve as a stand-alone document for successful applicants that will be shared with various state-level stakeholders and others requesting a brief overview of each funded project. Therefore, applicants should be concise and direct in their description.
2. Components: Information in this section should include, but not be limited to, the following:
 - a. Applicant information: Provide agency name and agency mailing address along with name, phone number, and email address of the contact person for this application. Include the number and location of sites where services will be provided.
 - b. Community and Population Served: Identify geographic area applicant intends to serve with this program. Briefly describe the local population to be served, including age, income, race, ethnicity, and primary language spoken.
 - c. Budget: Provide total amount of applicant agency's SFY25 budget requested for this program and anticipated monthly caseload of dyads (families) served by this program.
 - d. Experience: Briefly describe agency experience in providing maternal/child health nursing assessment, nurse case management, and/or nurse home visiting services in the geographical area the applicant agency is applying to serve. Include an overview of any additional services or programs the applicant agency offers to assist birthing families including work around advancing equity, racial justice, and birth disparities.

ii. Need (2 pages maximum-total 10 points)

1. Purpose: The purpose of this section is to provide a clear and accurate picture of the need for proposed services within the targeted community and how the applicant will address these needs. It is necessary for the applicant to demonstrate that it has thorough knowledge and understanding of the need.

2. Components

a. Geographic Service Area (5 points)

- i. List the proposed service area(s), as follows:
 - Sangamon County
 - St. Clair County
 - Winnebago County
- ii. Provide data on community needs related to high-risk birthing families in the service area. Include leading causes of maternal and infant morbidity and mortality in the area served. Include any contributing factors specific to the area served, or state as unknown. Include source of data used.
- iii. Include locations of birthing hospitals and/or birthing centers in the area to be served. If none, include the nearest locations outside of the area served.

b. Families to be Served (5 points)

- i. Describe the demographic characteristics of families to be served. Include age, income, race, ethnicity, and primary language spoken.
- ii. Describe the strengths of high-risk birthing families in the community, as well as the barriers that they experience to accessing high quality services.
- iii. Briefly describe how the applicant agency's program will prioritize preventing the leading causes of maternal and infant morbidity and mortality. If the applicant agency is currently a registered DHS Drug Overdose Prevention Program (DOPP), please include this information here for bonus points as described in E1. Include the date the applicant agency was registered. If the applicant agency's registration is in process, include the date the applicant agency requested registration.
- iv. Briefly describe how the applicant agency's program will prioritize racial equity in services provided to reduce disparities in maternal and infant morbidity and mortality.

iii. Readiness (1 page maximum - total 20 points)

1. The purpose of this section is to provide a clear and accurate picture of the physical readiness to provide for proposed services within the targeted community.
2. Components:
 - a. Physical Readiness (10 points)
 - i. Discuss the applicant agency's physical readiness, including but not limited to the presence of existing medical tools, computer and telecommunication technology, fleet/pool vehicles, and comfortable private

clinic/exam/consultation space to carry out program activities. If applicable, describe whether this is space the applicant agency currently occupies (and/or pays for), whether it is under construction, if arrangements to rent/lease/buy or build a physical facility are or are not yet final.

b. Training (10 points)

- i. Describe the training staff have had and will receive to ensure their ongoing ability to successfully perform required duties to meet program goals
- ii. If additional training is needed, describe what those training needs are, as well as the agency's willingness to ensure that all staff in need of training receives it prior to commencement of service delivery. For purposes of the Application, assume that if the applicant agency requires training on the Department's data collection process, the Department will provide that training to appropriate staff within your agency prior to commencement of services.

iv. Capacity (4 pages maximum – total 60 points)

1. The purpose of this section is for the applicant to present an accurate picture of the agency's capacity, qualifications, and ability to successfully implement the proposed program described in this Notice of Funding Opportunity. Include the following:
2. Components
 - a. Mission (5 points) - Describe the alignment between the proposed program and the applicant agency mission, as well as the agency's knowledge of and standing in the community to be served.
 - b. Nursing Staff (25 points)
 - i. List the program's Illinois Licensed Registered Nurses or Licensed Advanced Practice Registered Nurses planned to staff the program along with their highest applicable credentials and any certifications related to maternal child nursing, public health, or case management. Note if they are employed by the applicant organization or obtained through a contractual relationship. If a role is vacant, describe what contributes to the vacancy and how the applicant plans to fill the role within 30 days of the grant agreement start date.
 - ii. Explain applicant agency's nursing recruitment and/or retention efforts and provide at least 1 example of effectiveness.
 - iii. Outline the program's nursing staffing structure, whether by employment or contractual relationship, including if staff FTEs are split across programs or if staff are budgeted 100% of their time to the program. Describe their areas of responsibility and lines of communication, and ensure the description aligns with the organizational chart submitted as Attachment A to the

application. If more than 50% of the nursing staff share the cultural background of the families served, please include this information here for bonus points as described in E1.

iv. Include planned nurse to family (dyad) ratio for the program.

c. Administrative Capacity and Leadership (25 points)

- i. List the applicant agency's Executive Officer, Fiscal Officer, and proposed Program Coordinator(s), along with their highest applicable credentials and note if they are employed by the applicant organization or obtained through a contractual relationship. If a role is vacant, describe what contributes to the vacancy and how the applicant plans to fill the role within 30 days of the grant agreement start date.
- ii. Outline the program's management and staffing structure, whether by employment or contractual relationship, including if staff FTEs are split across programs or if staff are budgeted 100% of their time to the program. Describe their areas of responsibility and lines of communication, and ensure the description aligns with the organizational chart submitted as Attachment A to the application.
- iii. If more than 50% of the administrative staff listed above share the cultural background of the families served, please include this information here for bonus points as described in E1.

d. Governance (5 points)

- i. Briefly describe the applicant agency's governance structure. Include a list of the agency's Board of Directors or other governing body(ies). Identify the chairperson and/or other key positions, submitted as Attachment B to the application.
- ii. Include the role the governing body will play in decision making processes and how they receive key program information to inform these responsibilities.
- iii. If more than 50% of the Board/Governing leaders share the cultural background of the families served, please include this information here for bonus points as described in E1.

v. Quality (4 pages maximum – total 75 points)

1. The purpose of this section is to provide a clear and accurate picture of the applicant agency's experience and ability to successfully implement a quality program.
2. Components

- a. Prior Nurse Home Visiting Experience (25 points) - Briefly describe the applicant agency's experience in providing nurse home visiting services to high-risk birthing families. Include number of years.
- b. Clinical Expertise (25 points) - Briefly describe the applicant agency's clinical expertise and knowledge of maternal and child health.
- c. Care Coordination (10 points)
 - i. Briefly describe how the applicant agency's program will coordinate with inpatient and outpatient maternal/child health care providers in the applicant agency's geographic area to assist the applicant agency's clients in meeting their desired health outcomes.
 - ii. Describe the applicant agency's proposed development of anticipated linkage agreements (informal working agreements or formal Memorandum of Understanding, subawards, or other coordination activities necessary to accomplish program goals and objectives.
 - iii. Describe how the applicant agency participates in local cross-system or cross-sector referrals to support timely access to requested health or social services or supports that are outside of the scope of the program or not otherwise provided at the applicant agency. Provide at least 1 example of a successful, closed-loop referral in the past year related to a birthing family.
- d. Participant Recruitment & Outreach (5 points)
 - i. describe how applicant agency will provide outreach to the community to ensure high-risk birthing families are aware of services available.
 - ii. Describe how the applicant agency partners with community assets in the applicant agency's service area (such as community-based organizations, faith-based institutions, healthcare providers, health departments, daycares, libraries, Family & Community Resource Centers, community collaborations, and local businesses) who serve birthing families to assist with client recruitment and outreach. Provide at least 1 example of this type of partnership.
- e. Quality Assurance and Quality Improvement (10 points)
 - i. Describe the applicant agency's quality assurance process to ensure compliance with stated programmatic design and achievement of NOFO deliverables including clinical and cultural competence.
 - ii. Explain the applicant agency's ability to access physician consultation for development of standing orders and agency policy and procedure to address abnormal findings.
 - iii. For applicant agencies using a multi-disciplinary approach for client contacts outside of the core RN components, describe how the agency will monitor

for active, unencumbered Licenses and/or Certifications, when applicable, and ensure that all duties are provided within the scope and training of the non-RN/non-APRN staff.

- iv. Describe how the program will utilize data collected to support continuous quality improvement. Provide at least 1 specific example of how the applicant agency has used data to drive improvement related to Maternal and Child Health services.
- v. Describe how the applicant agency ensures confidentiality and compliance with Title II of the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996 (HIPAA), including but not limited to proper consent for release of information.

4. Budget and Budget Narrative (not included in page limit – 5 points maximum)

- a. Applicants must enter a budget electronically in the CSA system (Refer to [IDHS: CSA Tracking System](#).) The Budget entered into the CSA system will include a narrative or detailed description/justification for each line in the budget and will describe why each expenditure is necessary for program implementation and how you arrived at the particular amount. Please include cost allocations as necessary. This narrative must also clearly identify indirect costs, direct program costs, direct administrative costs, and match within each line item as appropriate. The Budget (including MTDC base exclusions as appropriate) should clearly describe how the specified resources and personnel have been allocated for the tasks and activities described in your plan.
- b. The Budget must be electronically signed and submitted in the CSA system. The Budget must be signed by the Provider's Chief Executive Officer and/or Chief Financial Officer.
- c. IMPORTANT: Please be sure the budget status in CSA says "GATA Budget signed and submitted to program review." This status will appear after the budget is electronically signed by the agency CEO or CFO and submitted to IDHS. See IDHS CSA Tracking System webpage for additional information on CSA at [IDHS: CSA Tracking System](#)
- d. The budget and narrative must tie fiscal activity to program objectives and deliverables and demonstrate that all proposed costs are:
 - i. Reasonable and necessary
 - ii. Allocable, and
 - iii. Allowable as defined herein and by program regulatory requirements and the Uniform Guidance (2CFR 200), as applicable.
- e. Additional Information
 - i. Budgeted expenses covering no more than an 12-month period (services 7/1/25-6/30/26).
 - ii. Registered Nurse (RN) and/or Advanced Practice Registered Nurse (APRN) in personnel and/or contractual categories in alignment with projected caseload. At least 1 total

FTE for RN, APRN or combination of RN/APRN must be budgeted for every 50 families served.

- iii. Research and Development, Equipment, and Construction categories may not be used.
- iv. Technology including computers and medical tools costing less than \$5000 per item needed to meet program deliverables may be budgeted in supplies category, unless agency does not have a lower threshold outlined in their local capitalization policy.
- v. Client transportation assistance may not be budgeted. Items distributed to clients as an incentive for program completion may not be budgeted. Grant Exclusives Line Item may only be budgeted if indicated in the Program Policy and Procedure Manual and in Deliverables.
- vi. All costs associated with Outreach should be budgeted on Grant Exclusives Line item and total outreach costs may not exceed 10% of total award.
- vii. Direct Administrative costs should not exceed 15% of total award
- viii. All applicants are encouraged to utilize Indirect Cost as other budget categories will not be allowed to capture costs incurred for common or joint objectives and that cannot be readily identified with a particular final cost objective including but not limited to:
 - 1. Costs of operating and maintaining the applicant agency's facilities
 - 2. General Administrative Expenses
 - 3. Property Insurance
 - 4. Administrative Support
 - 5. Clerical Support

5. Required Forms

- a. The [Uniform Application for State Grant Assistance](#) is a three-page document used to formalize organization's request to apply for funding. The document requires the signature and email address of the organization's authorized representative. This email address will be used for official communication between the Department and the applicant organization for matters regarding this application.
- b. The [Grantee Conflict of Interest Disclosure](#) is a required for all grant award programs. The document requires agencies to identify actual or potential conflicts of interest. The form must be signed by a representative of the organization.
- c. [Federal Form W-9](#)
A completed federal form W-9 Request for Taxpayer Identification Number and Certification is required for all applicants.

6. Required Format

- a. The narrative portion must follow the page maximums where prescribed and must be organized in the format outlined or points may be deducted.
- b. All applications must be typed on 8 ½ x 11-inch paper using 12-point type and at 100% magnification. The entire proposal should be typed in black font on white background. The program narrative must be typed single-spaced, with 1-inch margins on all sides. The narrative components must not exceed 12 pages total. Additional pages will not be reviewed or scored. Items included as Attachments are NOT included in the page limitation. The entire application must be sequentially numbered and submitted as a single PDF document.
- c. The department may determine that an applicant is not qualified if they have not complied to requirements and use that determination as a basis to award to another applicant.

5. Submission Requirements and Deadlines

- i. Address to Request Application Package.
 - A. Actions Needed Prior to Applying:
 1. The complete application package (this Notice of Funding Opportunity, including links to required forms) is available through the Illinois Catalog of Financial Assistance and the IDHS Grants Website Page located: [IDHS: Grant Funded Programs](#)
 2. Each Applicant must have access to the internet. The Department's website will contain information regarding the NOFO and materials necessary for submission. Questions and answers will also be posted on the Department's website as described in this announcement (section 1 - Alpha section I) It is the responsibility of each applicant to monitor the website and comply with any instructions or requirements related to the NOFO.
- ii. Unique entity identifier and System for Award Management (SAM.gov). This subsection must state the requirements for unique entity identifiers and registration in SAM.gov. It must include the following:
 - A. Each applicant must:
 1. Be registered in [SAM.gov](#) before submitting its application;
 2. Provide a valid unique entity identifier in its application; and
 3. Continue to maintain an active registration in [SAM.gov](#) with current information at all times during which it has an active award or an application or plan under consideration.
 4. The Department may not make an award until applicant has fully complied to all UEI and SAM requirements
 5. The department may determine that an applicant is not qualified if they have not complied to requirements and use that determination as a basis to award to another applicant.
 - B. If individuals are eligible to apply, they are exempt from this requirement under 2 CFR 25.110(b).

- C. If the agency exempts any applicants from this requirement under 2 CFR 25.110(c) or (d), a statement to that effect.
- iii. Submission Instructions. This subsection addresses how the applicant will submit the application. It must include the following:
 - A. Actions needed prior to applying:

Applicants must be registered with the State of Illinois and Pre-qualified in the GATA portal prior to applying for Illinois awards. Instructions for creating an account and registering are located at the following link: [Illinois GATA Grantee Portal](#). Additionally, detailed instructions for registration and prequalification requirements, including the expected amount of time for completion are located here: [Grant Applicant Pre-Qualification and Pre-Award Requirements](#)
 - B. The methods for submitting the application:
 - 1. Applicants must electronically submit the complete application including all required narratives and attachments in the prescribed order:
 - a. Program Narrative
 - b. [Uniform-Application-for-State-Grant-Assistance.pdf](#)
 - c. [Grantee Conflict of Interest Disclosure](#)
 - d. Budget (entered into the CSA system as described in section (4)(A))
 - 2. Applications must be sent electronically to DHS.OFWNOFO@illinois.gov. The application will be electronically time-stamped upon receipt. The Department will ONLY accept applications submitted by electronic mail sent to DHS.OFWNOFO@illinois.gov. Include the following in the subject line: NOFO number and your agency name. Application submissions or delivery to any other email address or contact, including other IDHS offices or employees, will not be considered for review or funding. Applications will not be accepted if received by fax machine, hard copy, disk, or thumb drive.
 - 3. Documents must include the following password: Not applicable
 - 4. Software or electronic capabilities required are as follows:
 - a. Internet access
 - b. Email capability
 - c. PDF reader software
 - d. Word processing software
 - 5. Applicants are required to notify the Department within 48 hours of the deadline if they did not receive an email notifying them that their application was received. If the applicant does not receive an email and does not notify the Department within 48 hours, their application will be considered a late submission and will NOT be reviewed or scored. The applicant will NOT have the right to protest the submission/receipt of their application to the Department after the 48 hours. In the event of a dispute the applicant bears the burden of proof that the

application was received on time at the email location listed above (and that the budget was submitted into the CSA system on time).

- C. Pre-application materials must be submitted as follows: Not applicable
- D. If you are experiencing system problems or technical difficulties submitting your application, you may contact:
 - 1. Name: *Natalie Bullock*
 - 2. Phone: *(312)415-7369*
 - 3. Email: DHS.OFWNOFO@illinois.gov

iv. Submission Dates and Times:

- A. Full applications are due on May 5, 2025 at 12:00pm CDT.
- B. Any preliminary submissions, such as letters of intent, white papers, or pre- applications are due: Not applicable.
- C. Other submissions required before the award (separate from the full application) include: Not applicable.
- D. This announcement is open for a limited period of time and has specific due dates as outlined herein.
- E. Missed Deadlines:
 - 1. Applications received after the due date and time will not be considered for review or funding. All applicants/applications determined to be non-compliant or otherwise determined to be disqualified from consideration will be separately notified in writing, by email, upon determination. This email will be sent to the email addresses provided in the application and will identify the reason for disqualification.
 - 2. For your records, please keep a copy of your submission with the date and time the application was submitted along with the email address to which it was sent. The deadline will be strictly enforced.
 - 3. IMPORTANT: It is strongly recommended that the applicant not wait until the last minute to submit an application in case they experience technical difficulties with the submission process. Applicants should keep copies of all documentation that that may prove their application was submitted to the correct location and that it was received by IDHS on or before the deadline. Applicants should also maintain all electronic documentation, including screen shots, email correspondence, help desk ticket numbers, etc. that would document any unforeseen difficulties the applicant may have encountered regarding the timely submission of the application. Submission of electronic documentation of unforeseen difficulties does not guarantee that the application will be reviewed.

v. *Intergovernmental Review.*

- A. This funding opportunity is NOT subject to Executive Order 12372, "Intergovernmental Review of Federal Programs"

6. Application Review Information.

i. Eligibility Review

- A. Applications that are received will be reviewed on May 6, 2025 to ensure they meet the criteria for consideration. Applications that do not meet the criteria in paragraph B below will be rejected and will not enter the Merit Review process.
- B. The following are the criteria that must be met for eligibility:
1. Applicant has a current registration with the State of Illinois in the Grantee Portal.
 2. Applicant has an active Sam.gov public account.
 3. Applicant has an active Unique Entity Identifier (UEI) with Sam.gov
 4. Applicant is in "good standing" with the Secretary of State.
 5. Applicant is not on the DHS Stop Payment List Service or the Illinois Stop Payment List.
 6. Applicant is not on the [Sam.gov](#) Exclusion List.
 7. Applicant is not on the Illinois Medicaid Sanctions (DHFS Provider Sanctions) List.
 8. Program specific eligibility restrictions include:
 - a. Not applicable
- C. Restrictions on eligibility for State awards are referenced in 44 Ill Admin Code 7000.70. Program specific eligibility restrictions are referenced in this Notice of Funding Opportunity.
- D. All applicants/applications determined to be non-compliant or otherwise determined to be disqualified from consideration will be notified. This email will be sent to the email addresses provided in the application and will identify the reason for disqualification.

ii. Review Criteria

A. Review Criteria

1. Evaluation criteria is based upon requirements set forth in 44 Ill Admin Code 7000.350 Merit Review of Applications and the IDHS Merit Review Manual. The review criteria and sub-criteria include the following:
 - a. Applications will be evaluated based applicant's response to the program narrative described in Section 4.i.3 Program Narrative and Contents. Each section will be weighted as described below.
2. Criteria and Weighting of each criterion
 - a.

HRFCM Scoring Criteria (Total Maximum 12 pages)	Maximum Points
Executive Summary (maximum 1 page)	5
Need (suggested maximum 2 pages) I. Geographic Service Area (maximum 5 points) II. Families to Be Served (maximum 5 points)	10
Readiness (maximum 1 page) I. Physical Readiness (maximum 10 points) II. Training (maximum 10 points)	20
Capacity (maximum 4 pages) I. Mission (maximum 5 points) II. Nursing Staff (maximum 25 points) III. Administrative Capacity and Leadership (maximum 25 points) IV. Governance (maximum 5 points)	60
Quality (maximum 4 pages) I. Prior Nurse Home Visiting Experience (maximum 25 points) II. Clinical Expertise (maximum 25 points) III. Care Coordination (maximum 10 points) IV. Participant Recruitment and Outreach (maximum 5 points) V. Quality Assurance and Quality Improvement (maximum 10 points)	75
Budget and Budget Narrative – signed and submitted in the CSA	5
MAXIMUM REGULAR POINTS	175
Bonus Points: Applicant attests to: - (15 points) – fully registered as a current DHS DOPP provider including date registered. - (5 points) - submitted an application which is still pending to become a DHS DOPP provider including date application was submitted	15
Bonus Points: Applicant attests to at least 50% of the following teams being comprised by individuals who share the cultural background of the community being served. - (2 points) Board of Directors or governing body - (2 points) Administrative team (CFO, CEO, Coordinator) - (6 points) Nurses	10
MAXIMUM BONUS POINTS	25
TOTAL MAXIMUM POINTS	200

3. Statutory, regulatory, or other preferences:

a. Not applicable

4. Cost Sharing will not be considered in the review process.

5. Information regarding Applicant-nominated reviewers:

a. Not applicable

iii. **Review and Selection Process**

A. The process for evaluation of the application is as follows:

1. One review team comprised of up to three individuals representing IDHS. Conflict of Interest disclosures are required to be submitted by all reviewers. Applications will first be reviewed and scored individually. Then, team members will collectively review the application, their scores, and comments. Individual team members may choose to adjust scores to appropriately capture content that may have been missed initially. Scores will then be sent to the Application Review Coordinator to be compiled and averaged to produce the final application review team score.
- B. The numerical score may not be the sole award criterion. The Department reserves the right to consider any factors such as: geographical distribution, demonstrated need, and agency past performance as a State of Illinois grantee, etc. While the recommendation of the review panel will be a key factor in the funding decision the Department maintains final authority over funding decisions and considers the findings of the reviewers to be non-binding recommendations. Any internal documentation used in scoring or awarding of grants shall not be considered public information.
- C. In the event of a tie, the Department may choose to elect one or more of the following options:
 1. Apply one or more of the additional factors for consideration described above to prioritize the applications
- D. Anticipated Announcement and State Award Dates: May 28, 2025
- E. Merit Based Review Appeal Process
 1. Competitive grant appeals are limited to the evaluation process. Evaluation scores may not be protested. Only the evaluation process is subject to appeal and shall be reviewed by IDHS' Appeal Review Officer (ARO).
 - a. Submission of Appeal
 - i. Appeals submission IDHS contact information:
 1. Contact Name: Natalie Bullock
 2. Email address: DHS.OFWNOFO@illinois.gov
 3. Email Subject Line: 25-444-80-3383 Appeal-Organization Name
 - ii. An appeal must be submitted in writing to appeals submission IDHS contact listed above, who will send to the IDHS Appeal Review Officer (ARO) for consideration.
 - iii. An appeal must be received within 14 calendar days after the date that the grant award notice has been published.
 - iv. The written appeal shall include at a minimum the following:
 1. Name and address of the appealing party
 2. Identification of the grant; and
 3. Statement of the reasons for the appeal
 4. Supporting documentation, if applicable
 - b. Response to appeal
 - i. IDHS will acknowledge receipt of an appeal within 14 calendar days from the date the appeal was received.

1. IDHS will respond to the appeal within 60 days or supply a written explanation to the appealing party as to why additional time is required.
 2. The appealing party must supply any additional information requested by IDHS within the time period set in the request
- c. Resolution
- i. The ARO will make a recommendation to the Agency Head or designee as expeditiously as possible after receiving all relevant, requested information.
 - ii. In determining the appropriate recommendation, the ARO shall consider the integrity of the competitive grant process and the impact of the recommendation on the State Agency.
 - iii. The Agency will resolve the appeal by means of written determination.
 - iv. The determination shall include, but not be limited to:
 - v. Review of the appeal;
 - vi. Appeal determination; and
 - vii. Rationale for the determination.

iv. Risk Review

A. Requirements:

1. IDHS conducts risk assessments for all awardees, prior to the award being issued.
 - a. An agency wide Internal Control Questionnaire (ICQ) to be completed by the awardee within the Grantee Portal. The ICQ evaluates fiscal, administrative, and programmatic risk in the following categories:
 - i. Quality of Management Systems
 - ii. Financial and Programmatic Reporting
 - iii. Ability to Effectively Implement Award Requirements
 - iv. Awardee Audits
 - b. A program specific Programmatic Risk Assessment conducted by the awarding agency to evaluate the following categories:
 - i. Programmatic financial stability
 - ii. Management systems and standards that would affect the program.
 - iii. Programmatic audit and monitoring findings
 - iv. Ability to effectively implement program requirements.
 - v. External partnerships
 - vi. Programmatic reporting
 - c. Risk assessments are not intended to be punitive in nature, rather they are conducted in order to evaluate the support, technical assistance, and training that may be needed for the awardee and the level of monitoring that is needed for the award.
 - d. Risk assessments may result in Specific Conditions being placed on the award to include more frequent monitoring or the implementation of a corrective action plan.
2. Simplified Acquisition Threshold - Federal and State awards
 - a. It is anticipated that some grants under this award may receive award over the Simplified Acquisition Threshold define in 48 CFR part2, subpart 2.1. Potential grantees under this

funding announcement may receive an award in excess of the simplified acquisition threshold. Therefore, the grantee is subject to the simplified acquisition threshold and related requirements.

- i. Prior to making an award with a total amount greater than the simplified acquisition threshold, IDHS is required to review and consider any information about the applicant that is in the designated integrity and performance system accessible through SAM. (Currently FAPIIS) (See 41 U.S.C. 2313)
- ii. That an applicant, at its option, may review information in the designated integrity and performance systems accessible through SAM and comment on any information about itself that a State or Federal awarding agency previously entered and is currently in the designated integrity and performance system accessible through Sam.
- iii. IDHS will consider any comments by the applicant, in addition to the other information in the designated integrity and performance system, in making a judgment about the applicants' integrity, business ethics, and record of performance under State and Federal awards when completing the review of risk posed by applicants as described in 2 CFR 200.206

7. Award Notices

- i. This section addresses what a successful applicant can expect to receive following selection.

A. State Award Notices

1. Applicants recommended for funding under this NOFO following the review and selection process will receive a Notice of State Award (NOSA). The NOSA shall include:
 - a. Grant award amount
 - b. The terms and conditions of the award
 - c. Specific conditions, if any, assigned to the applicant based on the fiscal and administrative risk assessment (ICQ), programmatic risk assessments (PRA), and the Merit Review.
2. The applicant shall receive the NOSA through the Grantee Portal. The NOSA must be signed by the grants officer (or equivalent). This signature effectively accepts the state award amount and all conditions set forth within the notice. The signed NOSA is the document authorizing the department to proceed with issuing an agreement. The Agency signed NOSA must be remitted to the Department as instructed in the notice.
3. The notice is not an authorization to begin performance (to the extent that it allows charging to State awards of pre-award costs; pre-award costs are incurred at the non-State entities own risk unless they have received written prior approval to begin performance).
4. The authorizing document to begin performance is the fully executed Uniform Grant Agreement (UGA) signed by the grants officer, or equivalent. This is the official document that obligates funds. The UGA is sent to the non-State entity via the CSA system. The non-State entity will print and sign the signature page of the UGA and return signature page to

DHS.OCA.SignaturePages@illinois.gov. A final signed copy of the UGA will be provided to the non-State entity via an upload into the CSA Tracking system. Note: The Department cannot issue an Agreement until the successful applicant has an approved budget entered into the CSA system.

5. Applicants who are not eligible due to registration or pre-qualification issues, or late applications will receive a Notice of Ineligibility prior to the Merit-Based Review.
6. Applicants who are not selected to receive an award following the Merit Review process will receive a Notice of Denial/Non-Selection.

8. Post-Award Requirements and Administration

i. Administrative and National Policy Requirements

- A. The agency awarded funds shall provide services as set forth in the IDHS grant agreement and shall act in accordance with all State and Federal statutes and administrative rules applicable to the provision of the services.
- B. [Sample of the current IDHS Uniform Grant Agreement](#)
- C. Payment Terms:
 1. It is the policy of the Illinois Department of Human Services (IDHS) that this policy complies with 2 CFR 200.302, 2 CFR 200.305, 31 CFR 205 (Procedures implementing the Cash Management Improvement Act and Treasury State Agreement (TSA)) and 44 Ill. Admin. Code 7000.120 GOMB Adoption of Supplemental Rules for Grant Payment Methods. Three different award payment methods exist, namely Advance Payment, Reimbursement, and Working Capital Advance.

ii. Reporting

- A. Reporting upon execution of the grant agreement shall be in accordance with the requirements set forth in the UGA and related exhibits which include but is not limited to the following:
 1. Periodic Financial Reports submitted electronically in accordance with instructions in the UGA no more frequent than quarterly and no less frequent than annually, unless unusual circumstances exist.
 2. Periodic Programmatic Reports submitted electronically in accordance with instructions in the UGA no more frequent than quarterly and no less frequent than annually, unless unusual circumstances exist.
 3. Close-out Performance Reports and Financial Reports as instructed in the UGA.
 4. Other Unique Programmatic Reporting Requirements: additional annual performance data may be collected as directed by the Department and in the format prescribed by the Department.
 5. If the State share of any State award may include more than \$500,000 over the period of performance applicants are also subject to the reporting requirements reflected in Appendix

XII to 2 CFR 200. Noncompliance with any of the identified reports may lead to being placed on the Illinois Stop-Payment List

9. Other Information – Optional

i. Additional Information

A. Application Checklist

1. Applicant must meet [pre-qualification requirements](#)
2. Budget and Budget Narrative must be submitted in [CSA](#) (do not attach a copy to application packet) (not included in page limit)
3. Application package must include the following mandatory forms/attachments in a single PDF document, in the following order:
 - a. [Uniform Application for State Grant Assistance \(pdf\)](#) (not included in page limit)
 - b. Proposal Narrative (page limit applies)
 - i. Executive Summary (1 page maximum)
 - ii. Need (2 pages maximum)
 - iii. Readiness (1 page maximum)
 - iv. Capacity (4 pages maximum)
 - v. Quality (4 pages Maximum)
 - vi. Attachment A: Organizational Chart (not included in page limit)
 - vii. Attachment B: Governing Body/Board of Directors (not included in page limit)
 - c. [Grantee Conflict of Interest Disclosure](#) (not included in page limit)
 - d. [Federal W-9 Form \(pdf\)](#) (not included in page limit)