

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Is an organization eligible to apply to the Institute if its budget is over \$2 million?

No. In order for any group or organization to be eligible to apply, the total operating budget must be under \$2 million. We also consider your program budget as it relates to providing services to at-risk youth or persons who are homeless. In the Application (Section II d), we ask for the amount of money your organization spends to run each service or program.

My organization provides food, clothing and shelter to people who are homeless. People who use our services are required to attend a religious activity (worship, prayer). Is my organization eligible to apply?

No. An organization may be affiliated with a faith-based group or it may provide direct services at a faith-based site, such as a church. However, an organization is not eligible to apply if it requires clients to participate in a religious service or activity in order to receive services. Please refer to 45 CFR 87.1(c).

My organization has an after-school program in a local church, and a bible study is offered next door. Is my organization eligible to apply?

Yes. Your organization is eligible to apply as long as the bible study is voluntary and is separate in time or location from the after-school program. Please refer to 45 CFR 87.1(c).

My group is solely staffed by unpaid volunteers. Is my organization eligible to apply?

No. In order for your organization to be able to take advantage of the training and technical assistance components of the Institute, you need to have at least one paid Full Time Equivalent (FTE). This means that you can have two half-time paid staff or one paid staff that works full-time, or some other combination of paid staff that is equal to one paid full-time employee.

My group works with at-risk youth at a church, and our mission has religious references. Is my group eligible to apply?

Yes. An organization may retain religious terms in its name, select its board members on a religious basis, and include religious references in its organization's mission statements and other governing documents. Please refer to 45 CFR 87.1(d).

My group does not have 501(c)(3) status. Can we still apply?

Yes. Eligible organizations do not have to have tax-exempt or 501(c)(3) status. However, eligible organizations must be non-profit organizations. Please see 45 CFR 87.1(h).

My organization is a United Way of the Midlands partner agency. Can we still apply?

Yes. As long as the other eligibility criteria are met, groups or organizations may apply for acceptance into the Institute regardless of their prior work or affiliation with the United Way of the Midlands.

Additional Questions? Contact:

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