

## Questions from Credible Messenger Presentation

### Session 1 – May 10

- **Question:** Do we still service youth that are at risk for commitment through DYRS?
  - **Answer:** Yes. Pre-commitment youth cases, as designated by the D.C. Superior Court, may be eligible to receive preliminary services. However, other at-risk youth, those that are not considered committed or in the pre or post commitment phases, are not being served at this time.
- **Question:** Do we have any providers that are retired military?
  - **Answer:** Not at this time. However, all applications are welcomed, including those proposing a different approach to personnel and staffing.
- **Question:** Are the contracts directly from us (DYRS) or a partner provider?
  - **Answer:** DYRS has a Capacity Building and Administrative Partner grantee, currently the Progressive Life Center. PLC provides technical support to the service providers and oversees and manages the financial and operational oversight of Credible Messenger service delivery. Thus, PLC will contract directly with the selected grantees for Credible Messenger to administer the awards.
- **Question:** What is the age range of our youth?
  - **Answer:** The age range of participants is 14-21 years old. Most commonly, the program is serving 16-18 year olds.
- **Question:** What is the population ratio of male and females committed to DYRS?
  - **Answer:** The current ratio of committed youth is approximately 78% male and 22% female.
- **Question:** What are the salary templates for part-time and full-time staff?
  - **Answer:** The budget template and an example budget, addressing salaries as well as the other eligible cost categories, are located on the DYRS website at <https://dyrs.dc.gov/page/dyrs-requests-proposals-01>. In addition, the instructions for completion of the budget template and narrative are detailed in the RFP on page 15.
- **Question:** What is the age requirement for peer support worker?
  - **Answer:** There is no minimum age requirement. Currently, the serving peer support workers are about 18-19 years old.
- **Question:** Are provider candidates allowed to come in and ask questions about proposals?
  - **Answer:** No, all questions were to be directed to the help email address, as stated in the NOFA and RFP. That address is [CMRFPquestions@plentu.org](mailto:CMRFPquestions@plentu.org).
- **Question:** Where can providers apply incentive funds on the budget sheet?
  - **Answer:** This is a discretionary. Current providers have been directed to allocate these costs to the activity fund budget line item.
- **Question:** Can providers pick and choose certain neighborhoods they would like to work with?
  - **Answer:** The RFP asks providers to demonstrate what areas/ward/neighborhood in which they can demonstrate community-rootedness. However, DYRS may ask providers to expand their scope and reach to ensure all young people have access to the program.

## Questions from Credible Messenger Presentation

### Session 2 – May 17

- **Question:** Who can come to group?
  - **Answer:** Referred, committed or post committed youth attend the group mentoring sessions. There are certain events and activities that are opened to youth and their families.
- **Question:** What are the profiles of the youth?
  - **Answer:** DYRS serves a diverse population of young people. There are no specific criteria or characteristics that qualify a youth for the program. All DYRS youth are eligible to participate. Additionally, Credible Messenger is aimed at supporting court-involved youth, among which some of the following characteristics are common:
    - Involved in the justice system
    - Disconnected from positive supports
    - Beyond the reach of traditional social services
    - Resistant to Change
    - Crew-involved
    - High-risk
    - Involved in violence
    - In need of additional support
- **Question:** What if the youth is not committed, can they participate?
  - **Answer:** Only pre-commitment, currently committed and post-committed youth are being served by the program at this time. Court-involved young people are currently the target population. However, interagency partnerships throughout the District are being discussed in hopes for expansion of this initiative or to introduce the provision of similar services beyond DYRS.
- **Question:** What is the process for post-committed youth in the program?
  - **Answer:** Once a young person's commitment ends, they are eligible to continue participation in Credible Messenger Mentoring for 90 days. However, DYRS has a system in place to support post-committed youth, and this includes petitioning for extended services when appropriate.
- **Question:** What is the mentor to youth ratio?
  - **Answer:** 12 youth per one mentor
- **Question:** What is the number of face-to-face per week?
  - **Answer:** Full time mentors typically spend 14 hours in group mentoring or administrative activities and 26 hours completing face-to-face interactions on a weekly basis.
- **Question:** Are the current youth in the program newly committed youth, and what is plan if there are new providers?
  - **Answer:** Enrollments occur on a rolling basis. Additionally, if providers do not continue in FY 18 and new grantees are selected through the competitive grant solicitation process, the affected youth will be transitioned according to best fit based on the FY 18 provider pool.
- **Question:** How much start-up time is required?

- **Answer:** DYRS expected that providers will be prepared to start and receive referrals on October 1. In our current expected timeline, grant award announcements will be made at the end of July. This will give providers approximately 2 months to prepare and complete the hiring, training and clearance process for staff, which is required in order to work with DYRS youth.
- **Question:** Do current providers have to reapply?
  - **Answer:** Yes. DYRS is running a competitive grant solicitation, so all current providers must re-apply and be considered amongst the entire pool of potential applicants. DYRS is seeking the best fit amongst all applications to serve our youth and families.
- **Question:** Is there a sample budget?
  - **Answer:** The budget template and an example budget are located on the DYRS website at <https://dyrs.dc.gov/page/dyrs-requests-proposals-01>. In addition, the instructions for completion of the budget template and narrative are detailed in the RFP on page 15. Each applicant must submit their narrative application and budget proposal through the DYRS Online Grant Management System, Philantrack. Please see the website noted above for a link to sign up for Philantrack, as well as additional technical assistance materials in how to use and navigate the Philantrack system, which is provided in the Attachment section at the bottom of the <https://dyrs.dc.gov/page/dyrs-requests-proposals-01> webpage.
- **Question:** What are the “full-time” hours for CM staff?
  - **Answer:** Full - time mentors typically spend 14 hours in group mentoring or administrative activities and 26 hours completing face-to-face interactions on a weekly basis.

**Questions from Credible Messenger Help Email**

- **Question:** Can vendors located outside of the District apply?
  - **Answer:** Yes, but they must demonstrate community rootedness in the District of Columbia in order to be considered a competitive applicant.
- **Question:** Is there a page limit cap for the Credible Messenger Technical Proposal we are not to go over in our submission?
  - **Answer:** Word limits are outlined within each question in the Philantrack system, where all applicants submit their proposals. The below image is a screen shot of Philantrack, and it highlights where the word limit information is located.

