

RFA #01-DCDEE-2026
Child Care Resource and Referral Services Program
Questions and Answers

<u>Questions</u>		<u>Answers</u>
1	Can the regions be broken up and awarded to four different agencies or can they all be awarded to one agency.	<p>Yes, applicants may be awarded only one region or may be awarded multiple regions.</p> <p>Eligible agencies can apply to serve one or up to four of the regions listed below in their application. Only one application is required to apply for multiple regions.</p> <p>The RFA has been revised to reflect this note as of 3.26.26. See page 2 under Funding Availability.</p> <p>NOTE: This is a change from the answer provided in the Pre-Application Conference held on 3/17/26.</p>
2	Agencies who would like to apply for more than on region will they need to submit an application for each region?	No, an agency needs to apply only once and indicate the region or regions they are applying to serve.
4	If there is one application which contains application for more than one region, could the Division award one region and not the other region(s)	Yes, the Division may award an applicant who has applied for multiple regions or only one region.
5	Please speak about naming collaborative partners in the RFA and competitive bidding requirements	Collaboration and working with partners are mentioned extensively throughout the RFA. Section VII, Subsection 7 Section X, Subsections 13 and 14. The subgrantee may not further pass through funds to another agency. Awardees must follow their own competitive bidding process.
6	What happens if there is not a viable agency within a region to apply or if there is not an agency in a region that does apply?	The Division will ensure statewide coverage for these services.
7	Is there an assumption from the Division that there would be collaborative work among agencies awarded to ensure state wide consistency of services?	Yes, the Division will provide oversight and direction to ensure services are consistently delivered statewide.
8	Is there a possibility that all four regions could be awarded to one organization that applies even though you hope that you can have four awards?	Yes, eligible agencies can apply to serve one or up to four of the regions listed below in their application. Only one application is required to apply for

		<p>multiple regions. The RFA has been revised to reflect this note as of 3.26.26. See page 2 under Funding Availability.</p> <p>NOTE: This is a change from the answer provided in the Pre-Application Conference held on 3/17/26.</p>
10	<p>Given recent federal and state guidance regarding Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) language and initiatives, can the Division clarify how applicants should address equity-related components within the proposal narrative? Are there any specific expectations or limitations regarding the framing of equity-focused strategies in this application?</p>	<p>This section was removed as of 3.26.26. Please review the revised RFA.</p>
11	<p>How does the Division anticipate the transition period between the current CCR&R systems and the newly awarded systems? Specifically, what is the expected continuity plan for family-facing data systems (e.g., available child care slots, referral databases, and family search tools) beginning July 1?</p>	<p>The Division and current awardees are developing a transition plan to ensure service transitions are seamless.</p>
12	<p>Can the Division clarify the intended purpose of the regional structure and whether applicants should align their implementation model to specific regional boundaries or service areas defined by the Division?</p>	<p>The Division’s intent is for awardees to provide regionalized services to ensure access to services statewide and maximize efficiency. Applicants should follow the guidelines as written in the RFA to develop their implementation model.</p>
13	<p>“% of early care and education directors participating in the Professional Learning Community that are better equipped to manage their program as evidenced by 80% or higher content assessment scores.”</p> <p>Can the Division clarify:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What specific content assessments are being referenced in the [Program Outcome] • Whether a state-approved assessment tool will be provided, or if applicants should propose their own assessment method to measure director knowledge or skill development. 	<p>Content assessments are created at the awardee’s discretion. The outcome is referencing the need for an assessment tool to indicate if the performance target is met. A state-approved assessment tool is not required or provided.</p>

14	Will DCDEE accept a planning and transition period as a component of Year 1 implementation activities? If so, what is the maximum allowable duration for such a planning or transition phase before full service delivery is expected?	Applications should include a detailed timeline for implementation program that includes proposed tasks, due dates, and responsible parties (pg. 6). Applicants that need a planning period should include it in their implementation timeline.
15	Is it permissible for an applicant to release a contingent Request for Proposals (RFP) for a technology platform (e.g., referral systems, provider databases, or data infrastructure) concurrent with the RFA submission, but prior to award notification?	The Division cannot provide legal advice or procurement instruction to applicants. Please consult your legal counsel and procurement office.
16	Can the Division clarify whether applicants are required to complete a competitive procurement process prior to proposal submission, or if it is acceptable to identify intended partners and describe the competitive process that will be used after award?	The RFA requires the applicant to describe the competitive process used to select sub-awardees. The RFA does not indicate that such process is required.
17	If a single application covers multiple regions, will DCDEE evaluate and score it as one application or separately by region?	The application will be scored as one application. Up to 4 agencies will be awarded services in each region.
18	How much weight will the selection committee give to an applicant's ability to provide differentiated technical assistance models that address the specific geographic challenges of rural counties versus the high-capacity needs of urban centers within the same region?	The selection process is outlined in Section VIII of the RFA on pages 14-15.
19	Does the Division require a specific staff-to-participant ratio for Technical Assistance Specialists to ensure the fidelity of the full spectrum of professional development, including the six-month coaching cycle, and are there mandatory certifications or minimum education levels required for the expert personnel leading these cycles?	The requirement for providing technical assistance is provided in Section 3: Scope of Services of the RFA.
20	Will the Division provide standard state-level database for tracking participant outcomes and technical assistance fidelity, or are awardees responsible for securing, developing, and hosting their own comprehensive data systems for all subcontractors?	How the applicant intends to fulfill the requirements listed in the RFA should be included in the application.
21	To ensure that applicants maximize efficiency and avoid duplication of effort, can the Division	The Division is committed to maximizing efficiency with state-funded resources.

	<p>provide a summary of current state-level investments and existing contracts that share the goals of this RFA so applicants can better describe how this new proposal will complement and extend, rather than replicate, current state funded services?</p>	<p>Applicants are required to include the required elements as listed in the RFA.</p>
<p>24</p>	<p>Would DCDEE consider awarding multiple (or all) regions to one agency that demonstrates the capacity to ensure consistent, high-quality service delivery, statewide alignment with North Carolina’s Professional Development Framework and efficient use of resources?</p>	<p>Eligible agencies can apply to serve one or up to four of the regions listed below in their application. Only one application is required to apply for multiple regions.</p> <p>The RFA has been revised to reflect this note as of 3.26.26. See page 2 under Funding Availability.</p> <p>NOTE: This is a change from the answer provided in the Pre-Application Conference held on 3/17/26..</p>