

**Program Evaluation of the Rochester Peace Collective  
Q&A for RFP  
8/29/24**

**Question 1:** The RFP states that there is a \$150,000 budget, but it is not clear if it is \$150,000 total or \$150,000 per year for the two-year period for a total of \$300,000. There is also a place on page 23 that states the amount appropriated is \$454,090, but it seems that may include other work in addition to this scope. Is the maximum budget for this work \$150,000, \$300,000, or \$454,090?

Could you please confirm whether the budget is an annual \$150,000 or a maximum of \$150,000 for this RFP?

**Answer 1:** The total compensation for the full length of this evaluation is \$150,000. If the Respondent wishes to propose a certain set of services for \$150,000 and an optional set of services for an additional cost, that would be considered by the City.

**Question 2:** The RFP states: "Pursuant to Ordinance No. 2018-54, the City has a goal that 30% of the aggregate annual contract awards for professional service contracts over \$10,000 be awarded to minorities (M) (15%) and women (W) (15%). The City has also established minority workforce goals of 20% M and 6.9% W for professional services consulting contracts." Additionally, the RFP mentions different weighting scores based on MWBE utilization. Could you please clarify whether this RFP has a mandatory MWBE utilization requirement? If so, what is the minimum percentage required?

**Answer 2:** There is no mandatory MWBE utilization requirement.

**Question 3:** The RFP states that the project will be funded with ARPA SLFRF. Treasury requires procurements using ARPA funds to conform to Uniform Guidance. We wanted to share a concern regarding the M/WBE preference. Uniform Guidance directs non-federal entities to maximize participation for minority and women owned business and other surplus labor market firms. However, it does not allow any other local preference. (None of the Fingerlakes region counties are identified as surplus labor markets by the Department of Labor for 2023.)

*2 CFR 200.319(c): The non-Federal entity must conduct procurements in a manner that prohibits the use of statutorily or administratively imposed state, local, or tribal **geographical preferences** in the evaluation of bids or proposals, except in those cases where applicable Federal statutes expressly mandate or encourage geographic preference.*

Will the City waive the preference for hiring of local M/WBE firms?

**Answer 3: The City intends to comply with all requirements of the Uniform Guidance including 2 CFR 200.321.**

**Question 4:** What specific weights will be given to the evaluation categories outlined in the RFP on pages 9 and 10?

**Answer 4: Those weights have not yet been determined.**

**Question 5:** Rochester Peace Collective is an ARPA SLRF project under expenditure category 1.11 Community Violence Interventions. This expenditure category requires the recipient (the City) to identify the amount of the total funds that are allocated to evidence-based interventions. Recipients are exempt from reporting on evidence-based interventions in cases where a program evaluation is being conducted.

- a) Can the City share if any or all RCP projects are evidence-based?
- b) Is the selected contractor expected adhere to Treasury's guidance and methods for program evaluation when an evidence-base was not provided?

**Answer 5: a – Some programs are evidence based and others are not, or are not strictly evidence based. b- No.**

**Question 6:** Rochester Peace Collective is an ARPA SLRF project under expenditure category 1.11 Community Violence Interventions. This expenditure category requires the recipient (the City) to report on whether projects are primarily serving disproportionately impacted communities.

- a. Is the selected contractor expected to collect and report on this metric and any others required by Treasury?

**Answer 6: No.**

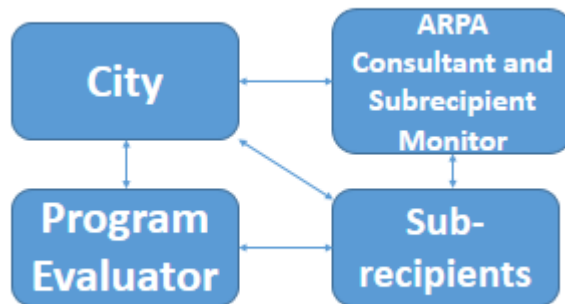
**Question 7:** The RFP states that the ARPA consultant is ensuring that subrecipients are "collecting data on program participants" (p. 3). Can the City elaborate on what unique role the program evaluator is expected to take on to "Ensure Data Collection Systems are in Place," as outlined in the scope of work (p.5)?

**Answer 7: The City has a reporting tool currently in use. However the City would look for guidance on ensuring the information is being captured accurately and for a**

regular review of data to ensure it is being collected. The selected Consultant will also provide recommendations on additional data to be collected going forward.

**Question 8:** Can the City describe what the working relationship is expected to look like between the City, ARPA consultants, subrecipients, and the program evaluator?

**Answer 8:** The City will interact with all three groups. The Program evaluator will work primarily with the city representatives but may directly connect with subrecipients in conjunction with City contracts and site visits. The ARPA consultant and subrecipient monitor will continue to work with the city and the subrecipients, and may or may not work directly with the Program Evaluator.



**Question 9:** Who are the key stakeholders and decision makers for the project? What will review and approval look like for the evaluation design? Who is the audience for the reporting?

**Answer 9:** The Mayor and his administration are the key stakeholders and decision makers. An internal project team will work with the selected consultant to review and approve proposed evaluation design. The final reporting audience will include the Mayor's administration as well as Rochester City Council.

**Question 10:** Is the City opposed to the data collected by members of the project team being used for academic research and published accordingly?

**Answer 10:** The City is not opposed to this, however data collected and published needs to meet usual ethical and legal standards related to personal privacy.

**Question 11:** Would you please share the applications for all Rochester Peace Collective applicants, including those who were not awarded funds? We ask for the applications for unfunded programs to determine whether there are potential violence prevention comparison programs and participants.

**Answer 11: We do not share vendor proposals externally as they are proprietary. However once a contract is awarded we can discuss this information as it relates to the program evaluation tasks.**

**Question 12:** Would you please share logic models that are available for Rochester Peace Collective programs?

**Answer 12: No logic models were submitted.**

**Question 13:** Please describe the data that is already being submitted to the Office of Violence Prevention by Rochester Peace Collective programs and analyzed by the Bronner/Breakthrough team.

**Answer 13: The City of Rochester has been collecting data from all participants since the program's inception, and this effort is still ongoing. Data will include lists of participants and basic demographic data, as well as number/% completing programs or certifications, as examples.**

**Question 14:** Is data available over a period time for Rochester Peace Collective program participants who are assigned unique identifiers?

**Answer 14: Unique identifiers were not required for these programs.**

**Question 15:** What role will the Bronner/Breakthrough team play during the evaluation?

**Answer 15: Bronner/Breakthrough provides direct site visit assistance to all RPC programs, and may be engaged in data collection efforts or other capacity building roles. This would be determined once the project is underway.**

**Question 16:** How many and which Rochester Peace Collective funded programs are completed, ongoing and newly started?

**Answer 16: 8 are completed, 11 are ongoing (year 2-3), and 12 will be starting a new year at the end of 2024.**

**Question 17:** On page 6 (#2) the RFP indicates that "Outcome data, like that from the program sites, should be collected from comparison areas whenever possible." What are comparison areas?

**Answer 17: Comparison areas might be other city neighborhoods or other cities, for example, depending on the outcome data used for analysis.**

**Question 18:** Are Rochester Peace Collective programs operating in specific neighborhoods?

**Answer 18: Some of the programs are citywide, and others operate in a target neighborhood. There are no specific neighborhoods that were single out for this effort.**