



Questions and Answers

2024 Title II Juvenile Justice Formula Grants

Responses to questions will be posted to this document within 7 calendar days of receipt.

The deadline for receipt of written questions is **December 4, 2024 at 5:00 p.m.**

Please submit your questions to mbcc@mt.gov.

Q1. What is the difference between a Collaboration MOU and a Letter of Support? I noticed that MOUs are "if applicable" and Letters of support are "required". What is needed in the documents to meet the requirements?

A1. Differences Between an MoU and a Letter of Support

When comparing a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) and a Letter of Support, there are several key distinctions to consider:

Nature and Purpose

MoU: An MoU is a formal document that outlines the intentions and expectations of two or more parties regarding a collaborative effort. It serves as a framework for cooperation and can detail specific roles, responsibilities, and objectives. While it is structured like a contract, it is generally non-binding, meaning it does not create legal obligations.

Letter of Support: A Letter of Support is typically a less formal document that expresses endorsement or backing for a project, initiative, or proposal. It is often used to show that an individual or organization supports the efforts of another party, but it does not usually outline specific terms or conditions for collaboration.

Formality and Structure

MoU: An MoU is more structured and formal than a Letter of Support. It often includes numbered paragraphs or bullet points to clearly delineate the terms of the agreement. This structure helps ensure that all parties have a mutual understanding of their commitments.

Letter of Support: In contrast, a Letter of Support is generally more straightforward and less formal. It may simply state the writer's support for a project without delving into detailed terms or conditions.

Legal Implications

MoU: While an MoU is non-binding, it can still carry a sense of commitment among the parties involved. It may be used as a precursor to a more formal agreement in the future.

Letter of Support: A Letter of Support is also non-binding and primarily serves to express goodwill and encouragement rather than to establish a formal relationship or obligations.

The Grant is looking for support from your community that is reason when looking at future sustainability.



Q2. The application requires original signatures of an Official Budget Representative, Project Director, and Financial Officer. There is not a description for the financial officer—would the treasurer of the Board of Directors for my organization meet the requirement for Financial Officer?

A2. The Treasurer of the Board of Directors can likely meet the requirement for the Financial Officer role, assuming they handle the financial responsibilities typically associated with that position. It may be beneficial to confirm this with the organization or the entity requesting the application to ensure compliance with their specific requirements.

In many organizations, the Treasurer of the Board of Directors often fulfills the role of the Financial Officer. This is especially true in non-profit organizations or smaller entities where the Treasurer is responsible for overseeing financial matters, including budgeting, financial reporting, and ensuring compliance with financial regulations.

Considerations

Role Definition: While the application specifies a "Financial Officer," it is important to confirm that the responsibilities of the Treasurer align with those typically expected of a Financial Officer. This includes managing the organization's finances, preparing financial statements, and overseeing financial planning.

Organizational Policies: Check your organization's bylaws or policies to ensure that the Treasurer is recognized as the Financial Officer or has the authority to sign documents on behalf of the organization.

Application Requirements: If the application does not provide a specific definition for the Financial Officer, it may be acceptable for the Treasurer to sign, provided they have the necessary authority and responsibilities.

Q3. Part of our proposal is to support Native youth in Montana with a mentoring app. We do not know yet what Tribes we will be working with. Do we need to complete a Tribal Resolution form before submission?

A3. Tribal Resolution Requirement for Title II Funding Application

For the Title II funding application from the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP), it is generally required to have a Tribal Resolution if your project involves working with specific Tribes. This requirement is in place to ensure that the Tribes are formally supportive of the proposed project and that the project aligns with their needs and priorities.

Key Points to Consider

Engagement with Tribes: If you plan to work with Native youth and are unsure which Tribes you will partner with, it is advisable to begin discussions with potential Tribal partners as soon as possible. Establishing these relationships can facilitate the process of obtaining a resolution.



Application Guidelines: Always refer to the specific guidelines provided in the OJJDP solicitation for the Title II funding. These guidelines will outline any requirements regarding Tribal Resolutions and clarify whether they need to be submitted prior to the application.

Consultation: If the guidelines are unclear, consider reaching out directly to OJJDP or the relevant program contacts for clarification on whether a Tribal Resolution is necessary before submitting your application.