**DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN RESOURCES/MARYLAND OFFICE OF REFUGEES AND ASYLEES (MORA)**

**REQUEST FOR GRANT PROPOSALS (RFGP)**

**FOR**

**SERVICES TO OLDER REFUGEES**

**SOLICITATION NO. FIA/ORA-17-509-S**

**QUESTIONS AND RESPONSES #2**

24.    What are the average service numbers of the population for the six jurisdictions?

**RESPONSE:** **MORA estimates that the Baltimore Metropolitan Area (6 jurisdictions) and Suburban Washington D.C. (2 jurisdictions) will each resettle 55 Clients per year. However, MORA estimates that 65 Clients per region per pear will be eligible for service provision (due to Clients remaining eligible for services for up to five years after their arrival in the U.S.). Please note that these figures are only estimates and not a guarantee of a Grantee’s caseload.**

25.    Because this grant involves federal funds it would come under the Section 503 of the Rehabilitation Act that says that seven percent of the Grantee’s staff need to be people with disabilities. The RFGP does not specifically address how MORA will monitor this or a Grantees minority subcontracting. Will MORA review Applicants’ proposals to ensure compliance with Section 503 of the Rehabilitation Act or to analyze whether an Applicant is hiring minorities?

**RESPONSE:  No. MORA will ensure that Applicants have completed the Federal Funds Attachment (Attachment F). By completing and signing that Attachment, an Applicant certifies that it will comply with Sections 503 and 504 of the Rehabilitation Act. Section 503 sets a utilization goal of 7% for employment of qualified individuals with disabilities for each job group in a federal grantee/contractor's workforce. MORA will not specifically monitor an Applicant’s or Grantee’s success in meeting the utilization goal. However, the Office of Federal Contract Compliance Programs may. Please note that the RFGP does not have a minority subcontracting goal or requirement.**

26. Does the RFGP require an Applicant to demonstrate language fluency in its Proposal?

**RESPONSE:  Not necessarily. Applicants have to either provide interpretation/translation services directly or through a partner/sub-grantee. In its proposal, an Applicant should address how (directly or through a sub-grantee) it proposes to provide interpretation/translation services.**

27. In this older Refugee population, what are the five (5) languages that most frequently require interpretation or translation services?

**RESPONSE: The languages that most often require interpretation/translation services are listed below, in descending order:**

1. **Arabic;**
2. **Farsi;**
3. **Kinyarwanda/Swahili;**
4. **Tigrinya and Amharic;**
5. **Burmese; and**
6. **French.**

28. If a single Applicant has two offices (one in each service region) and proposes to serve both regions, does that require submission of two Proposals?

**RESPONSE: In this case, an Applicant would submit one Technical Proposal, but two Financial Proposals (one for each region/jurisdiction). See RFGP Section 4.2.2.**

29. If an Applicant is awarded both regions, will it receive one large grant or the two separate grants?

**RESPONSE: If an Applicant is awarded both regions, it will receive one grant.**

30. Are there any minimum number of goals, outputs or number of Clients to be served per year or suggestions from MORA?

**RESPONSE:  No. The RFGP does not specify a minimum number of outputs for any of the service areas because not all Clients will receive the same services. Services provided should be based on Client need. See Question and Response 24 as a reference to approximate number of Clients to be served per year.**

31. Is there a time limitation for the provision of citizenship/naturalization services for this older Refugee population?

**RESPONSE: No. In general, the Grantee may only provide services to refugees who have been in the country for 60 months (5 years) or less. However, referral and interpretation services, as well as citizenship and naturalization preparation services are exceptions (as there are no time limitations associated with these services). Once a Client reaches the 60 month (5 year) limit, he or she remains eligible ONLY for referral and interpreter services, as well as citizenship and naturalization preparation services.**

32. Does the Department permit early submission of Proposals in response to this RFGP?

**RESPONSE:  Yes, Applicants are allowed to submit their proposals before the July 28 deadline. Applicants may mail or hand deliver their proposals.**

33.       In the Proposal, where should the actual program goals/objectives (including concrete numbers) be outlined? In the work plan, or in the performance evaluation plan?

**RESPONSE: Applicants should address program goals/objectives in both sections. Applicants should address the goals generally in the Work Plan (see RFGP Section 4.4.2.6) and in greater detail in the Performance Evaluation Plan (See RFGP Section 3.2.3).**

34.        Have the questions and answers been posted anywhere online yet?

**RESPONSE:  Yes. DHR posted the first set of Questions and Responses for this solicitation on the DHR website and to *eMaryland Marketplace*. All subsequent sets of Questions and Responses will be posted to these two sites.**

35. Can Clients who have been in the U.S. for more than 60 months receive naturalization services?

**RESPONSE: Yes. Please see the Response to Question 31.**