HHS-CMS-CMCS
Medicaid & CHIP All-State Call
February 6, 2024
3:00 pm ET

Coordinator: Welcome and thank you for standing by. At this time, I'd like to inform all participants that today's call is being recorded. If you have any objections, you may disconnect at this time. All lines are in a listen-only mode for the duration of today's conference.

I would now like to turn the call over to Ms. Jackie Glaze. Thank you, ma'am. You may begin.

Jackie Glaze: Thank you and good afternoon and welcome everyone to today's all state call-in webinar. I'll now turn to Anne Marie Costello, our Deputy Center Director, for opening remarks. Anne Marie?

Anne Costello: Thanks, Jackie. And hi, everyone, and welcome to today's all state call. On today's call, we'll be discussing the recently released Notice of Funding Opportunity for Medicaid School-Based Services Grants. Andrew Badaracco, Lydia Briggs, Chris Thompson, and Richard Kimball. Small Financial Management Group will provide an overview of the Medicaid School-Based Services Grant Program, including the authorizing statute, purpose, and application timeline for the newly released School-Based Services Grant, which can be found on Grants.gov.

Submissions in response to this notice of funding opportunity are due March 25, 2024. Following the presentation, states will have an opportunity to ask

questions about this opportunity. Before we get started, I want to let folks know that we'll be using the webinar platform to share slides today. If you are not already logged in, I suggest you do so now, so you can see the slides for today's presentation.

You can also submit any questions you have into the chat at any time during the presentation.

With that, I'm pleased to turn things over to Andrew Badaracco to kick off our discussion of the recently released Notice of Funding Opportunity for Medicaid School-Based Services Grants. Andrew, turning it to you.

Andrew Badaracco: Thanks, Anne Marie, and welcome, everybody. We're excited today to present to you the state grants for the implementation, enhancement, and expansion of Medicaid and CHIP school-based services. This is an effort that was put forth by our team, and which I'd like to turn over now to Lydia Briggs, who's a staff person in our Division of Reimbursement Policy in the Financial Management Group. So, Lydia, I'll turn it over to you.

Lydia Briggs: Perfect. Thank you, Andrew. Good afternoon, everyone. And my name is Lydia Briggs. I am one of the members of the school-based services grant team. As it was explained, today's presentation will be an overview of the grant, which we hope you will find helpful. So, let's go ahead and get started here.

The key points that we want to cover during this presentation are to discuss the authorizing statute, including statutory language, and the purpose of the grant. Discuss the parameters of the grant, including grant amounts, number of selected participants, and award timelines. Describe the qualification

requirements for submitted applications, including application categories and the selection process.

Provide information related to specific due dates associated with this grant, including application submission and grant fund distribution. And we also want to provide you with the opportunity to ask questions at the end of this presentation.

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So, how did this grant come about? On June 25, 2022, Congress passed the Bipartisan Safer Communities Act, which included Section 1103B, which states there is authorized to be appropriated $50 million for fiscal year 2022 for the Secretary to award grants to states for the purpose of implementing, enhancing, or expanding the provision of assistance to the school-based entities under Medicaid or CHIP.

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So, what does that actually mean? For the purpose of this grant award, in relying upon existing work of the agency, CMS determined that it was necessary to define the following terms for this funding opportunity, implementing, enhancing, and expanding.

As you are applying for this grant, you will actually be applying under one of three categories, implementation, enhancement, or expansion. So, please keep this in mind as I go through the following definitions, as it may help clarify which category best fits your state.

Implementing, implementation states are those who are at the beginning stages of school-based service program development. Implementing states are those that have yet to expand the coverage and billing of Medicaid and CHIP services provided in schools beyond that which is provided pursuant to a student's individualized education program, or IEP.

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Also, again, please note that examples of these categories will be provided on later slides. The enhancing states are those that further develop the coverage and billing of Medicaid and CHIP services provided in schools to include any Medicaid or CHIP covered services provided to Medicaid or CHIP enrolled students, whether that service is provided pursuant to a student's IEP or under the federal free care policy, which means any allowable Medicaid services provided to any Medicaid or CHIP enrolled students that are medically appropriate to be provided in a school by qualified providers under the Medicaid or CHIP state plan.

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Expanding states are those that have expanded the coverage and billing of Medicaid and CHIP services provided in schools beyond that which is provided pursuant to a student's IEP to include at least the expansion of one enrolled provider providing non-IEP services, for example, a school nurse, or states that have expanded coverage in a school setting for at least one additional non-IEP Medicaid service under the Medicaid or CHIP state plan for any IEP or non-IEP, Medicaid, or CHIP-enrolled student.

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So, on to the award information. For this grant, there will be 20 awards given. Each award will total $2.5 million. I will explain the distribution breakdown of this later on in the presentation. As I explained previously, grants will be awarded based on three different categories, Implementation, Expansion, and Enhancement.

Based on those categories, no less than 10 grants will be awarded to the Implementation category, dependent on the number and type of grant applications that we receive. Up to seven grant awards have been designated for the Expansion category, and three awards have been designated for the Enhancement category.

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This grant is a three-year grant with 36 months and three 12-month budget periods. The funds for this grant will be distributed in three different increments. The first distribution will take place on July 1, 2024, and that budget period will be from July 1 to June 30 of 2025 with a distribution amount of $500,000. The second distribution amount will be for a million, and that is for the budget period of July 1, 2025 through June 30 of 2026, and July 1, 2026 through June 20 of 2027 will be the final distribution amount of $1 million.

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Oh, my goodness. In regards to grant eligibility, this grant is eligible to state governments, specifically state Medicaid agencies. This includes the District of Columbia and all U.S. territories. Any state Medicaid agency may apply, and only one application can be submitted for a given state.

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So, for the grant application categories, while all grant recipients will have general activities that will be expected to be completed, additional activities will be required depending on the application category that a state selects. The three grant categories are as followed, the implementation of Medicaid SPS, the expansion of Medicaid SPS, and the enhancement of Medicaid SPS.

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The next six slides will go into more detail regarding each of these categories as well as providing some of those examples. So, category number 1, the implementation of Medicaid SPS, applicants seeking funds to support implementation activities may include states. They have yet to expand the coverage and billing of Medicaid and CHIP services provided in schools beyond that which is provided pursuant to a student's IEP.

Proposals for this category should specifically describe how the funds will be used and describe the issues that the funding will help resolve, including but not limited to the building of out-of-school infrastructure for providing healthcare services, training and assessment of needs to allow the furnishing, billing, and documentation of Medicaid and CHIP SPS.
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Category 2, which is the expansion of Medicaid SPS, applicants seeking funds to support expansion activities may include states that have expanded the coverage and billing of Medicaid and CHIP services provided in schools beyond that which is provided pursuant to a student's IEP, to include at least the expansion of one enrolled provider rendering non-IEP services, such as a school nurse, or states that have expanded coverage in school-based settings

for at least one additional non-IEP Medicaid service under the Medicaid or CHIP state plan for any IEP or non-IEP or CHIP enrolled students.

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So, some examples of Category 2 would be states that have included all Medicaid or CHIP-coverable IEP services in their state plan, plus additional Medicaid coverage of allowable vaccine administration or fluoride varnish treatments provided to Medicaid or CHIP-enrolled students would be included in this definition. Another example would be students that have only expanded billing of Medicaid and CHIP-covered services provided to Medicaid or CHIP-enrolled students pursuant to an IEP or a 504 plan.

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Proposals for this particular category should specifically describe how the funds will be used and describe the issues that the funding will help resolve, including but not limited to the expansion of free care in the state program, expanding provider qualifications for Medicaid or CHIP services provided in schools, and/or the expansion of the availability of services provided via telehealth delivery system.

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For the third and final category, the enhancement of Medicaid SPS, applicants seeking funds to support enhancement activities may include states that have expanded the coverage and billing of Medicaid and CHIP services provided to include any Medicaid or CHIP-covered service provided to a Medicaid or CHIP enrolled student, whether that service is provided pursuant to a student's IEP or under the federal free care policy, which means any allowable

Medicaid or CHIP service provided to any Medicaid or CHIP enrolled students that are medically appropriate to be provided in a school by qualified providers under the Medicaid or CHIP state plan.

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Proposals for this category should specifically describe how the funds will be used and describe the issues that the funding will help resolve, including the increased availability of mental health services, the removal of coordination barriers between schools and providers in the community, and the creation of school-based health clinics.

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Now, I will get into the actual activities that are associated with this grant. As I explained previously, the majority of the activities discussed will be universal regardless of what category your state applies for. I will also be explaining the category-specific activities in later slides. So, as part of this grant, all applications should include plans to complete the following activities. Applicants must conduct and provide a needs assessment of their current Medicaid and CHIP SPS programs.

Applicants must develop a stakeholder input process to help inform the needs assessment grant and gauge the success of planned initiatives. Applicants must identify specific infrastructure needs that would enable more effective and efficient billing of Medicaid and CHIP services in the schools.

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Applicants must submit proposals describing how initiatives funded through the planning grant will be sustained in the immediate post-grant award period. So, we're talking about the first two years after the grant funding has ended. Applicants must participate and engage with the CMS Technical Assistance Center. Applicants must describe in detail information related to delivery of Medicaid and CHIP SPS in large rural and remote areas of the state.

Applicants must include a methodology to keep an ongoing list of successes and challenges, and for the challenges, they must provide action steps taken towards resolution of the issue.

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Applicants must present post-grant sustainability plans for the future of Medicaid and CHIP SPS program, and the ongoing availability of Medicaid and CHIP services in schools within the state by describing a long-term service goal. So, previously we were looking for immediate future, which was the first two years. This is asking for a five-year plan of what you hope to accomplish in the future.

And applicants must present current procedures and proposed process improvements for statewide tracking, documenting, and maintaining Medicaid and CHIP service data. Along with these activities, all recipients will also be required to participate in regular meetings with CMS and our contractors to discuss state strategies in implementation of the state's efforts.

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These next slides are going to be specific to the category that your state will be applying under. For the implementation category, along with the general

activities, there is one additional activities that is associated with this category. Applicants must present plans for the collection of evidence of increased utilization and participation of new and existing local education agencies or LEAs, programs within the state.

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The expansion category has two additional activities that are required. The first activity would be plans for or active submissions of a state plan amendment, or a SPA, to expand the coverage of Medicaid and CHIP services in the schools to the full scope of Medicaid and CHIP services versus single non-individuals with disabilities education act, or IDEA services.

The second activity would be submission must include detail of the current Medicaid and CHIP services that are covered in school.

Details about whether services are IDEA only or if the state covers more than the Medicaid and CHIP services that are required by a child's IEP must be included.

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The enhancement category has three additional activities that are required. The first activity is applicants must provide a description of the current status of their behavioral health/mental health care services within the school setting. Applicants must also provide plans for increasing access to these services in the future. And the third activity is applicants must describe how they intend to increase equity of access to Medicaid services in schools for all children in the state regardless of where that child resides.

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Additional application information. Applicants are encouraged to include information on current activities that relate to or will support the applicant's proposed activities, as well as help to inform CMS's review of the application. The projective narrative should also include information describing the following, staffing, state infrastructure, data sharing, data and claims reporting, and organizational structure.

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All applicants must submit the following standard forms, a cover letter, a project narrative, a budget narrative, business assessments of applicant organizations, federally negotiated indirect cost rate agreement, if applicable, and work plan and timeline.

Please note that any incomplete applications will not be reviewed or scored.

Additionally, while a letter of intent is not required, it is recommended. If you are planning on submitting a letter of intent, all letters of intent should be submitted no later than February 23, 2024.

Next slide, please. A letter of intent is recommended, but again, not required. It's an expression of interest, including the proposed regions of participation, a brief description of the interested organization and contact information, including the organization's street address and contact person's name, position, email, and phone number.

You can submit letters of intent to the SPS program team email, which is Medicaid SPS Planning Grants with an S at the end, at, CMS.HHS.gov. Again, we ask that you submit this no later than February 23.

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All applications must be submitted electronically and be received through the Grants.gov website. Applications are due by March 25, 2024, at 11:59 pm Eastern U.S. time. Applications received after the date and set time will not be reviewed or considered for award.

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Other dates to kind of keep in mind, after all the applications are received, they will be reviewed and the recipients of the grants shall be announced in June of 2024 with the first distribution of grant funds taking place on that July 1, 2024, date.

Next slide, please. If you are looking for resources to kind of help you sort through this, you can find the grant listed on the Grants.gov website. We are also happy to receive questions through the SPS planning grant email, which would be, again, that Medicaid SPS Planning Grants with an S, at, CMS.HHS.gov. And you can also find additional information about Medicaid SPS on the Technical Assistance website, which would be the last website listed on this slide.

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And I think we are open for questions now. So, I'll turn this back over to Ms. Jackie.

Jackie Glaze: Thank you so much, Lydia, for your presentation today. We are ready to take state's questions at this time, so please ask questions about today's presentation or if you have other general questions that you may have. So, we will begin as we have in the past with the chat function, so please submit your questions at this point and then we will follow by taking questions over the phone lines.

So, I do see one question now. It's not related to today's presentation, but it does say, when an individual applies through the state Medicaid agency, and they are denied for over income. Once their case file has been sent to the FFM, does the FFM later respond with an indicator that the member qualifies for Medicaid under the GAAP filing provisions under 42 CFR 435.6035?

Do we have someone from CAT that can answer that question?

Sarah Gilone: I've been feeling, Jackie, there's a couple different pieces to that. I think like what happens after the file is transferred, what can the individual next expect? It sounds like, you know, a question about whether or not, like when do the gap-filling rules apply, and where is that determination made, and how does that work? It feels like to give a complete answer, we probably need to put a couple of teams together. Sorry, this is Sarah Gilone.

Jackie Glaze: Okay. Yes.

Sarah Gilone: And so, why didn't get that back. And if we can get the state, it may be a very particular question. It might be best to just follow up with the particular state.

Jackie Glaze: That's great. So, I'll ask the person asking the question if they could just send me a message on what state you're with, and we'll have someone follow back

up with you. So, thank you for that. So, the next is a long string of questions, so I will go through those slowly.

So, I believe it applies to today's presentation and it says, please tell us more about the data requirements. So, I can go through the questions and then maybe we can just split them up one at a time. So, the first one is, please tell us more about the data requirements. The second being, does the state need to have a spot in place to apply for the grant.

Andrew Badaracco: I can take that one. So...

Jackie Glaze: Okay.

Andrew Badaracco: ...states should have general school-based services state plan amendments, and that would help determine which category they fall under. So as Lydia explained, throughout those implementation states, all we'd ask for would be a submission along with your application of the most recently approved state plan amendment that the state has, you know, currently on file with CMS.

That would indicate which category of grant application that you fall under. And so, we would just ask that the state essentially self-identify which category you fall into, and then we would just affirm that with your state plan amendment. But it really does depend upon the current approved state plan amendment, because as CMS has established, you know, pending state plan amendments are exactly that. They're not official until they're approved. So, we would really go off of that most recently approved state plan amendment.

Jackie Glaze: Thank you, Andrew. So, there's more to the question, so let me go to the next one. So, it says, does CMS want in-kind personnel? It's jumping around. Just a

moment. Does CMS want in-kind personnel in the budget narrative, or just personnel that will be charged to the cooperative agreement?

Andrew Badaracco: I don't know if it's ROA, GMP colleagues that are on the line have a direct response to that or if that's something that we could ask that the questioner send to the mailbox, and we can send a...

Jackie Glaze: Okay.

Andrew Badaracco: ...response directly to that.

Lydia Briggs: Yes. Actually, this is Lydia. I can answer that one. We did end up getting a response back to that from our mailbox. So, the in-kind personnel do not need to be included. We are just asking for staff that is directly related to this, but not the in-kind staff. They do not need to be included, no.

Jackie Glaze: Thanks, Lydia. And there's just a little bit more to that question. And then if the person asking the question, if they have follow-up, if they could just send me their contact information and I will connect them with you.

The next question is, can we use cooperative agreement funds towards data infrastructure for SEA/LEA?

Andrew Badaracco: I would say that if it meets the criteria of the grant, now I will note that the statute specifically says that the funding may not be used to support medical assistance services, children's health assistance services, or other medical activities.

And I think in the grant, we also indicated that we'd like for where these expenditures would not otherwise be available for matching like other using

Medicaid administrative funding, then yes, those kinds of expenditures could be included in a grant proposal, but we would review each proposal until merits.

Jackie Glaze: Thanks, Andrew. So, one more question. So, it says, if a state does not need to submit a SEA to expand school-based services, and this state has LEAs who bill Medicaid for non-IEA, excuse me, non-IEP services. Currently, LEAs are only billing for non-IEP behavioral health services.

Would this state be considered an implementation state or an expansion state? And let me know if you need for me to read that again.

Andrew Badaracco: I might need you to read it again. I would, I'll say just my initial reaction to that would be, we would likely have to consider that, you know, proposal in conjunction with a state plan amendment to see where they fall. But my gut reaction would be, as we indicated in the proposal, if the state has opened up the availability of services that could be billed in a school setting to include anything that is non, outside of that which is included in an IEP, then likely you would be considered in the final category of grantees, which would be the - and I apologize for not knowing this off the top of my head, I just need to make sure I don't say the wrong thing.

You would fall into that final category with the - into the enhancement. But if you're only - if you're providing a limited scope of services, like just behavioral health, for example, then it would, could possibly fall into the expansion category. So, if your schools are providing IEP only plus behavioral health and only behavioral health, then it's possible you'd fall into that expansion category. I hope that helps.

Jackie Glaze: Thank you. Okay. So, we have a few more. So, it says, is there - are there any specific reasons that only 20 states are being considered for this grant?

Andrew Badaracco: Yes. So, as we were talking about the funding, the statute, as cited in the presentation, the statute is very vague on qualifications for this grant award. And you realize that, you know, and how we wanted to design this was to try to focus on what we thought was state need, but also to identify, you know, an amount of funding that could make a difference in terms of funding the expansion. It would be the funding infrastructure investments that would lead to increasing access to Medicaid services. So, that's really where we were trying to land with that, which was to find a way to benefit a number of states while also creating grant awards that were enticing enough to attract states to submit funding opportunity requests.

Jackie Glaze: Thank you, Andrew. So, a lot of questions here. So, there's a state that's trying to determine if they are implementing - if they're an implementation or expansion state. And so, I think they're trying to figure out where they fall under. So, I think I should probably just refer them to you. It's what it sounds like.

Andrew Badaracco: Yes. I think those kinds of requests can certainly come through...

Jackie Glaze: Uh-huh.

Andrew Badaracco: ...our mailbox, and we would gladly entertain those. I think, in some respects, if you look at, and this would be something I think the applicants should do, you know, either before the letter's intent or, you know, in anticipation of that, looking at the criteria that's in the NOFO itself on Page 10. We would advise states to look at that language and look at your state plan and see if there's a clear line.

If there's any uncertainty about which category you fall into, you're welcome to reach out to us through the mailbox, but we'd really encourage states to review the language that's in the NOFO. We're trying to be as explicit as we can to really draw those lines so that the states would understand what they sell.

Jackie Glaze: Thanks. Okay. We'll do one more question, and then we'll transition to the phone lines. So, I'm getting a lot coming through here, just one second. Okay. Do states need to complete a full needs assessment as part of the application, or do they need to leverage needs assessments and other data sources that are available on that event?

Andrew Badaracco: I believe it was, I don't know, Lydia or Chris if you guys have that information more at your disposal. I don't want to speak out of turn, but so could the writer of that question send an email to the mailbox? The needs assessment, you can use the materials at your disposal, but I believe there's a two-step need assessment process if I'm not mistaken.

Yes. There would be an initial needs assessment that could be done if you look at Page 20 of the NOFO that's published online. There is a needs assessment that comes in with your application. But then once you're selected, you do have a time period in which to complete and finalize your plans, and that would include a more final needs assessment that could be done.

Jackie Glaze: Thank you. Okay. So, we'll transition. Does someone else have something to say?

Lydia Briggs: Oh, I was just going to add that for the post-needs assessment, we indicated that we would like that no later than the first six months post-award.

Jackie Glaze: Oh, okay. Thank you. Okay. So, we'll transition now to the phone lines, so, Missy, if you could provide instructions for registering the questions, and if you could open the phone lines, please?

Coordinator: Yes, ma'am. If you would like to ask a question over the phone, please press Star followed by 1. Please make sure that your phone is unmuted and record your name when prompted. If you wish to withdraw your question, you can press Star 2. Please allow a moment for questions to come in. Thank you.

                   I'm not seeing any questions on the phone yet.

Jackie Glaze: Thank you, Missy. We do have questions in the chat, so I will circle back and see if we have questions shortly. So, the next question is unrelated, and it deals with the QMBs and SLMBs. So, it says, will there be written guidance released in regards to the QMB to SLMB transition at review discussion from Friday's NAMD call, specifically regarding how the ex parte determinations can take place until after the individual receives a pre-populated review. Then, ex parte determinations accepted, allowing timely notice, if not responded to.

                   So, I'm not sure if someone from CAP can respond to that or if I need to read it again or bring it back.

Shannon: This is Shannon in CAP. I think...

Jackie Glaze: Okay.

Shannon: ...it would be helpful to repeat that.

Jackie Glaze: Okay.

Shannon: It seems like there's a lot going on there.

Jackie Glaze: That there is, and I'm sorry if it was a little scattered. So, here it goes again.
                So, will there be written guidance released in regards to the QMB to SLMB
                transitions at review? And in parentheses, it says discussion from Friday's
                NAMD call. Specifically regarding how the ex parte determinations cannot
                take place until after the individual receives a pre-populated review. Then ex
                parte determination accepted, allowing timely notice, if not responded to.

Shannon: So, we can take that back. I know we want to work with states in providing
                more guidance and I think we will. It seems like there is a request here for
                written guidance on coverage transitions between some of the MSP groups.
                And so, we can take that back.

Jackie Glaze: Okay. And we'll get that question to you.

                Thank you. Okay. So, the next question is back to the presentation today, and
                it says, it is my understanding any Medicaid member, including those
                receiving HCBS services, may benefit from an enhanced service provided
                through this grant program.

Andrew Badaracco: Yes. I would say to that, the grants aren't specifically designed to fund
                Medicaid services, and the statute was very clear about that, but I don't
                disagree. You know, the reason that we - it generally speaks to Medicaid-
                enrolled and CHIP-enrolled individuals because the final accounting for
                services that are provided in these settings is exactly that, you know, to see the
                expansion and enhancement, implementation, expansion, enhancement of
                services provided in those settings.

So, the questioner is exactly right, but I think the purpose of the grants isn't to fund services themselves.

Jackie Glaze: Thank you. And the next question says, can these funds be utilized to fund a database to house education services plans for data housing and data reporting?

Andrew Badaracco: I think with that question, as specific as it is, I think the state - the commenter should ask, should consider all options and make their best approach in terms of submission. I think we do want to shy away from weighing in on what could potentially be a proposal from the state as part of the grant opportunity.

Jackie Glaze: Thank you. Okay. The next one is does CMS involvement vary by category of recipient? An example would be more involvement with implementation states, less involvement with enhancement states.

Andrew Badaracco: Actually, I would say no, we don't view it as being dependent upon the category. In fact, I think one of the things we hope to learn from this, as you'll note the statute authorizing these grants. The same section of the statute that authorized our school-based services guidance and technical assistance center. Our hope here is to learn from state investments and state infrastructure enhancements to determine, you know, some best practices and figure out what activity states do that lead to enhanced services and really see if there's something we can glean from the experiences of the applicants and the awardees.

So, I would envision that CMS involvement will vary based on the category. And I think we hope to learn as much from this process as you all do, so.

Jackie Glaze: Okay. Thanks. Okay. Next question. It says in Section F, Page 57 of the NOFO, which is required reporting information for consulting hiring. The item listed includes details that would not be known until after procurement process has been completed, particularly items 6 and 7. Does this mean that a state would need to know whether or not this grant opportunity will be approved so that a budget can be determined for the desired work and therefore has not been yet started and actually - and the actual procurement process -- let me say it's more there process -- is ineligible for this grant opportunity.

Let me know if you need for me to read that again, that was a little bit long.

Andrew Badaracco: Yes. Could you, please? I have the mail file open and I was going to look at the language that comes in to record.

Jackie Glaze: Yes. It's Section F Page 57 and it's the required reporting information for consultant hiring. The items listed include details that would not be known until after procurement process has been completed, particularly items 6 and 7.

The question is does this mean that a state would need to know whether or not this grant opportunity will be approved so that the budget can be determined for the desired work and therefore has not yet actually started and has not yet started the actual procurement process is ineligible for this grant opportunity.

Andrew Badaracco: I have to admit I don't know, and I think that would be a good question to submit to the mailbox because we would need to - I think we would need to consult with our colleagues in the Office of Acquisition and Grants Management.

Jackie Glaze: Okay. And then one more question. It says, does this allow states to expand nursing and personal care services in the school setting?

Andrew Badaracco: I think that the goal here is to expand any services the state would like to expand in these settings. So, you know, the state should make, put forth their best proposals and, you know, whatever goals meet the state's needs, both for access to care, for beneficiary needs to serve those students in those schools, we would like to review and consider all of them.

So, I don't think we have a strong preference one way or the other which services it was in this instance.

Jackie Glaze: Thank you, Andrew. We'll transition now back to the phone lines. So, Missy, if you could once again provide instructions for registering the questions, and then if you could open the phone lines?

Coordinator: Yes, ma'am. Again, if you would like to ask a question over the phone, that is Star followed by 1. Please make sure your phone is unmuted and record your name when prompted.

Our next question comes from Leah Van Kirk. Your line is open, ma'am.

Leah Kirk: Thank you. I was just going to ask about the needs assessment, and if our state has done some preliminary work around, for instance, behavioral health needs in the state, can that be used as the basis for a preliminary assessment with maybe some updated information?

Andrew Badaracco: I don't see why not.

Leah Kirk: Okay. Thank you.

Andrew Badaracco: Uh-huh.

Coordinator: Thank you. I'm showing no other questions at this time on the phone.

Jackie Glaze: Thank you, Missy. I'm not seeing any - I see one more. Okay. One came through, it says, it is our understanding that an updated template for the CHIP paper-based (BAS) for CE is forthcoming. Is there an estimate when we can expect? I appreciate that.

Lydia Briggs: I don't think we have our leads on the line, Jackie, for the SPA, so let's take that back.

Jackie Glaze: Okay. Thank you. Okay. The next question is regarding the planning grant, and they're asking, isn't this a planning grant opportunity? If so, how are states to address all stages, phases of this work? For example, result and analysis of the assessment phase will inform decisions about work being prioritized for the next phase of the project.

Andrew Badaracco: Uh-huh. That's a really good question, and I think I'd like to - I believe that question was asked in the mailbox already, and so...

Jackie Glaze: Okay.

Andrew Badaracco: ...if it's okay with the questioner, I'd like to consider that question and we can respond in writing.

Jackie Glaze: Okay. Great. Okay. I'm scrolling through and I think we've covered all of the questions, so we will give it another few minutes to see if we have additional

questions. And then, Missy, if you see questions coming through the phone lines, please alert me.

Coordinator: Yes, ma'am. Okay. I'm seeing no additional questions. Not at this time, ma'am.

Jackie Glaze: Okay. Great. Okay. Well, I'm not seeing any additional questions through the chat function either. So, in closing, I do want to thank our presenters and thank you all for asking the questions and for Andrew and Lydia for responding to the questions.

So, looking forward, we will provide the topics and invitations for the next call. And if you do have questions before we speak again, please feel free to reach out to us, your state leads, or bring the questions to the next meeting. So, we look forward to talking with you again.

We hope everyone has a great afternoon, and thank you for joining us today.

Coordinator: That does conclude today's conference. You may disconnect at this time and thank you for joining.

<p style="text-align:center">END</p>