

2023-28 My Brother's Keeper Teacher Opportunity Corps, II (TOC II) Request for Proposal (RFP)

Questions & Answers

Please also see the Revised 2023-228 MBK TOC II-Attachment IV Budget Narrative and Composite posted with the Q &A. This revised version should be completed and submitted with the application materials due by March 13, 2023.

Q1: Our Community College is interested in applying for funding under this RFP; however, I want to confirm community colleges are eligible. I see we fit the criteria under eligible applicants. Still, I want to confirm a two-year program, whereby a student would not be eligible to teach yet upon graduation, would still be competitive under this RFP.

A1: No, the TOC II RFP states: Only New York State public and independent degree-granting colleges and universities that have a teacher preparation (undergraduate or graduate) program approved by the New York State Education Department (NYSED) may submit applications for this grant opportunity. This means the teacher preparation program has been approved by NYSED to prepare teacher candidates and recommend them for certification. Please see the Inventory of Registered Program at <http://www.nysed.gov/heds/IRPSI1.HTML>.

Q2: Our current grant ends in 2026, but the new RFP runs to 2028. Is there a way to apply to extend the current grant so that it ends at the later date? Or is this an opportunity to apply for an additional program?

A2: Current TOC II projects funded under the 2021-2026 TOC II RFP are eligible to apply for an additional program under this new RFP. This application cannot be used to extend the current end date of the 2021-2026 TOC II RFP. The 2023-28 RFP is a separate funding opportunity from previous TOC II RFPs. TOC II State funds are intended to establish new efforts or to enrich or expand existing ones; they may not be used to supplant funding of other existing efforts. Please review the application guidance, particularly sections that speak to allowable and non-allowable expenses.

Q3a: We have a TOC II program for 2021-26. I see the RFP for a second round, 2023-28... and am wondering if current TOC institutions could submit a proposal for another TOC program that would overlap in time?

A3a: Yes. Please refer to the answer to question two (2)

Q3b: What we're pondering would involve a different academic program – in Early Childhood Education – not served by our current TOC funding.

A3b: Please refer to the answer to Question two (2).

Q4: Are institutions that currently receive TOC II funding eligible for this application cycle? Are there any restrictions, requirements, or considerations to be considered for institutions with current funding?

A4: Please refer to the answer to Question two (2).

Q5: I'm excited to review and perhaps file a new application on behalf of our graduate program. Am I correct that this new RFP doesn't impact our current 2022-2026 award?

A5: Please refer to the answer to question two (2).

Q6: It has been noted that this round of the MBK TOC II has been released during the previous TOC II grant period (2021-26). Given this, can you provide more information regarding the following:

- a. What are the differences in the programs outside of the residency component?
- b. Will current awardees be eligible to apply? If so, would it be for an expansion, or would they need to apply with a completely new application/project? Essentially, can an IHE run a second TOC program with the new provisions of this RFP in addition to a current 2021-26 program?
- c. Will program lead institutions/Districts currently participating in the "Teacher Residency Program" run by the NYSDOL grant be eligible to apply?

A6a: This is a new RFP, please review the application guidance in its entirety. See pages 31-36 for descriptions and requirements for each section of the proposal narrative.

A6b: Yes, current TOC II grantees are eligible to apply. All applicants must submit a new application according to the guidance in the 2023-2028 TOC II RFP.

A6c: Eligible applicants for this RFP are public and independent colleges and universities with teacher preparation programs. School districts may establish an MOA with a college or university but may not apply directly for this grant. Eligible applicants must

meet the requirements of this RFP and understand any limitations on the use of the awarded funds. Partnerships and collaborations are permissible; however, applicants must be careful not to duplicate or supplant existing efforts.

Q7: My college, a CUNY, is planning to submit an application for the TOC II grant. Would a MOA with the NYC Men Teach Program, which is a CUNY (City University of New York), and which serves more than 50% of our teacher education students, meet the grant partnership requirement? We're a start-up institution and eager to bring the TOC II opportunity to our teacher education students on our campus.

A7: The MOA must align with the examples listed in Section VI. Partnership Agreements of the RFP, which indicates the following:

Each institution of higher education (IHE) applicant must establish a formal cooperative agreement in the form of a memorandum of agreement (MOA) with an organization that serves at least 50% of the targeted population (Priority I and /or Priority II) of this RFP. This is to establish a pipeline of future students into TOC II at each institution and is required as part of the application process. Examples of partnerships might include P-12 districts and schools, BOCES, Community Based Organizations, and/or NYS Opportunity Programs (City University of New York Search for Education, Elevation, and Knowledge (SEEK), The State University of New York Educational Opportunity Program (EOP) or Higher Education Opportunity Program (HEOP) programs.)

Q8: Our College is geographically dispersed throughout NYS. However, our campuses do not operate separately- all college programs and operations are centralized. Will we be required to submit separate proposals for each campus/district with which we intend to partner? Are we able to split the student totals throughout each campus/district? For instance, five students at one campus/district and five students at another.

A8: Separate applications should be submitted for each geographic location in which a TOC II grant will be operated.

Q9: Are we able to have MOAs with more than one school district within the same region? In this case, students being recruited or placed at these districts for the teaching residency will be connected to the same college campus location.

A9: A minimum of one MOA signed by all partners is required with the submission of the application. The college can establish additional partnerships as needed.

Q10: We do not have a “School of Education,” however, we have a School of Graduate Studies with graduate degree programs in education (MAT, MEd, and a combined bachelors to MAT.). Can our Office of Opportunity Programs manage this grant with oversight from the School of Graduate Studies?

A10: According to the RFP, TOC II programs must operate under the aegis of departments, schools, or divisions of education. Direct involvement of education faculty is required. (See page 34 of the 2023-28 RFP)

Q11: Applicants can earn 5 bonus points if they offer TOC II candidates a paid residency, where they must describe the institution’s plan to incorporate clinical experiences that includes a paid residency and provide evidence that this experience aligns with the NYS definition of a teacher residency (page 36 of the RFP). What should be included in the description and provided as evidence for these bonus points?

A11: For the application, institutions of higher education that have a residency program registered with the New York State Education Department (NYSED) would provide the program code for the registered residency program and confirm that the residency would be paid.

Institutions that do not have a registered residency program must describe a program model that includes a paid residency for TOC II candidates, including evidence that the residency aligns with the NYS residency definition. For example, they would need to provide or describe a memorandum of understanding between the institution and school district, how the partners would provide candidates with instructional experiences connected to program learning goals and district priorities, and the length of the residency (e.g., at least one academic year in length, at least 1,000 hours of clinical experiences). Additionally, they would need to attest that the institution plans to submit an application to NYSED to register the teacher preparation program as a residency program, or as a residency track within a currently registered program, during the funding cycle of the grant.

Please note that only teacher preparation programs that are registered as residency programs would be able to advertise that their program includes a residency or that they are a residency program. Also, if residents will be employed by the school district

during the residency, they must be matriculated in a registered residency program to be eligible for the Residency certificate.

Q12: The Teacher Residency requirement states, “Candidates must complete pedagogical course work during the residency practice under the direct supervision of the certified school-based teacher.” Our SUNY has a transitional B licensure program which does not include student teaching. Rather, after one year of study and field work, the student obtains a paid teaching position, working with a teacher mentor in their building and a faculty mentor here at SUNY for the remaining two years of study. Does this meet the requirements?

A12: For the RFP, teacher preparation programs can choose to include a residency or not include a residency, using the residency definition on page 9. If candidates in a Transitional B program are not able to complete a residency as described in the definition, the program would not be able to state that a residency is included in the program on the RFP application.

Q13: Clinically Rich Pre-service Model, whereas students must complete a 10-month pre-service internship experience, mentioned on page 10, lists the purpose but not the logistics. Can you discuss whether there are specific requirements, such as minimum or maximum hours, or whether the requirement must take place within a certain amount of time? Do the ten months need to be consecutive? Does the student need to be in a classroom with a certified teacher during the ten-month internship?

A13: The internship is flexible. The number of hours is not specified. The internship can be completed any time during the program; however, it should involve a substantial learning activity related to career aspirations in the teaching field. The internship helps prepare pre-service teachers to observe, reflect upon, and practice culturally responsive and sustaining pedagogy. To accomplish this, the pre-service students should have many opportunities to observe and practice alongside a certified teacher. If the internship is connected to the residency, the program content must align with the residency requirements as defined on page 9 of the RFP.

Q14: We have one NYSED approved teacher certification program with one subject area- visual arts- all grades accredited by AAQEP. Our goal is to increase the participation of historically underrepresented and economically disadvantaged

individuals in teaching careers in the visual arts. We are interested in applying to TOC II RFP. However, we want to clarify some issues:

Q14a: We work in high need schools- i.e., schools will have high ENI scores as defined by NYC Department of Education. The availability of certified visual art teachers (elementary, middle/high) in high need NYC Districts is low, the rate of teachers working outside licensing areas in art disciplines is high and as a result we have to target schools as partners rather than Districts as partners. We are mandated to place students with certified teachers licensed in the discipline area. Does this disqualify us?

A14a: Please refer to the answer to question one (1) for more information on eligible applicants. A signed memorandum of agreement (MOA) is required between at least one partner organization and the IHE as part of the application process. If the partnership is with a school, the MOA should be signed by all partners. The superintendent or the school principal is eligible to sign the MOA.

Q14b: The license is in all-grades and so students need clinical experiences in elementary, middle, and high schools as such we do not have a residency model. Rather clinical experiences/student teaching and fieldwork are supervised by cooperating teachers in schools and interwoven throughout our UG and G programs. We meet the required number of hours as defined by NYSED and students earn college credit. Does this disqualify us?

A14b: For the RFP, teacher preparation programs can choose to include a residency or not include a residency, using the residency definition on page 9. Bonus points are awarded to programs that include a residency, as described on page 36. Please note that programs leading to certification in a special subject area (all grades) could have a residency model. Programs can contact the Office of College and University Evaluation (OCUE) at ocueinfo@nysed.gov if they have questions about residencies.

Q14c: Funding will be provided at a rate not to exceed \$6500 per student; tuition assistance is allowed:

Our request would be for tuition assistance/housing costs to meet student's funding gap (the funding gap for us is what is required in loans after need-based funding and merit awards are applied). We would build around existing programs (such as HEOP, our high school programs etc.) and create strengthening activities and programs for TOC II etc. However, we do not have a Residency program. Assuming we are qualified to apply, can

we propose an alternative to a Residency Model? I see too that an institution match is required, I assume HEOP, merit awards, and work study would qualify as matching funds.

A14c: Please refer to **B 1. Allowable Expenses on page 18** of the RFP, for eligible tuition and room/board expenses. Residencies are a priority, but not a requirement of this RFP. Institutions that show evidence of a clinical model with a paid residency can qualify for bonus points. Please refer to answer to question 11.

The matching requirement may be met through the institution's own resources, private sources, other governmental sources, and/or in-kind services. Other State funds may be used in this match, except for State grant funds from another educational opportunity program, but may not duplicate services provided. All matching contributions must be used for activities related exclusively to the TOC II project, and institutional accounts must be structured to reflect this contribution by the appropriate line item. HEOP is an opportunity program; therefore, funds from this program cannot be included in the institution's match. Additionally, students' financial aid should not be counted as part of the institution's match.

Q15: In page 17, under "X. Funding Limitations" it states that there is a 100-student minimum. Is it supposed to state 100 as a maximum and 10 is the minimum?

A15: The minimum number of students a project can serve is 10. There is no maximum number of students. However, the maximum dollar amount for which any applicant can request is \$650,000 to serve a minimum of 100 students. Applicants can choose to serve more students; however, the maximum grant will still be \$650,000.