



**ILLINOIS  
CRIMINAL JUSTICE  
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Adult Redeploy Illinois Implementation Grants  
NOFO #2115-0326

RESPONSE TO APPLICANT QUESTIONS

**Day posted: April 10, 2026**

Question

I am working on completing all of the ARI application documents. I watched the Youtube video, downloaded the zip file, and went onto the ARI website and I cannot seem to find the Uniform Application for Grant Assistance. I maybe overlooking something but can you direct me on where to find it?

Response

The Uniform Application for Grant Assistance has been added to the zip file; you can download it from there now. The Uniform Application for Grant Assistance is also available as a download in AmpliFund/Euna Grants.

Question

We currently operate our drug court with funds from two grants: an ARI grant, and a federal BJA grant. The federal grant is a multi-year grant that ends 9/30/27. Most of our services are funded through our ARI grant. The federal grant covers items such as our two peer recovery support specialists and two transitional living apartments. We are considering hiring another program officer out of the federal grant as we have extra funds that need to be used prior to the end of the federal grant term. When the federal grant ends, we would like to roll these items covered by the federal grant into our ARI grant.

The question is, can this be done? I know we cannot request ARI funding for these positions that the BJA grant is currently covering because it is a supplanting issue, but can we request ARI funding for these items that the federal grant is currently funding beginning 10/1/27? We are looking for guidance in transitioning this BJA grant into our anticipated ARI grant when the BJA grant is over so that there is no lapse in funding for the services we provide to our participants.

Response

ARI funds can be used to maintain program enhancements that are the result of federal funding that is expiring.

Regarding timing, the grant period for the SFY27 Notice of Funding Opportunity is July 1, 2026, through June 30, 2027 for Year 1 of the three-year grant cycle. The potential

program changes you describe start in October 2027; therefore, they would not be addressed as part of the SFY27 application and would be part of considerations for Year 2 continuation funding in SFY28. Generally, Year 2 and Year 3 funding levels are based on the Year 1 award; however, requests for additional resources for proposed structural program changes can be considered on a case-by-case basis depending on funding availability. Sites should be on track to spend at least 75% of their current year award if requesting additional resources in subsequent years.

Question

I am currently working on the “Number of IDOC Commitments-Probation-Eligible chart” and wanted a little clarification if possible. When it says “CSA and related” what charge is that alluding to?

Response

“CSA” stands for Controlled Substance Act which includes a controlled substance violation or possession of drug paraphernalia.

Question

The other question I have is we have a “weapons” column on the excel document but not on the “Program Narrative” form, should we add that category?

Response

Yes, please add the Weapons category to the “IDOC commitment table” document and include the corresponding numbers from the ARI 2023-2025 Eligibility Tables prior to uploading it into AmpliFund as part of your application.

Question:

Am I able to extend the number of line items in the budget by editing the excel budget template

Response:

You should not be able to add new lines to Section A, or other portions of the budget other than for Personnel through Training and Education. You should be able to insert new lines in the excel budget by right-clicking on the row and selecting "insert." Here is a screenshot:



Illinois Department of Security. If you don't have an assigned rate, you can assume 3.5%. This tax rate should be entered into cell I7. To calculate the SUTA amount, the budget template applies the SUTA rate to first \$13,916 of each employees grant-funded salary amount in the "Calculated Salary" column. In 2026, the actual base will be \$14,250, but the difference should be negligible.

Question

How should the SUTA fringe benefit be described in the budget narrative?

Response

You should state your assigned (or assumed) rate, the employee's calculated salary up to \$13,916, and the amount arrived at after multiplying these figures. For example, if an employee's calculated salary is \$9,000, and your SUTA rate is .16%, your narrative should be:

Probation Officer 1: \$9,000 calculated salary x .16% SUTA rate = \$14.

Question

Where do I find responses to questions regarding the ARI FY27 NOFO?

Response

On our page, <https://icjia.illinois.gov/grants/funding/ari-implementation-nofo-2115-0326/>, there is a Questions section. There you will find the Questions section. In that section it states "View them on our [website](#)..." Clicking the 'website' link will not direct you to another page, it downloads a PDF of the most up-to-date copy of questions we have received and the corresponding responses.

Question

How do I ask questions regarding the ARI FY27 NOFO?

Response

You should direct your questions to [CJA.AdultRedeployNOFO@Illinois.gov](mailto:CJA.AdultRedeployNOFO@Illinois.gov). Our staff will respond to them throughout the week, and will post all questions/responses on Fridays here: [website](#).

Question

If this is allowable, how can we complete the budget template to allocate grant funding to a staff member's fringe benefits, without allocating grant funds to their salary?

Response

This is allowable so long as you are requesting fringe benefits in proportion to the amount of time that the staff is working on the grant. In other words, personnel who attribute 50% of their time to the grant program cannot have 100% of their fringe benefits funded by the grant. In order to request this funding in the budget template, you should use the Match (column N) of the Personnel page. Complete the Personnel page with the staff's information as you would to request funding for their salary, but add an equivalent amount to the Match column. The Fringe Benefits page will include this in their

Calculated Salary (column E), allowing you to submit a budget that funds their benefits without funding their salary.

Question

May a county that is not on the Stop Pay List apply for a grant and deliver funds to another county, which is in the Stop Pay list, as a subgrantee?

Response

An eligible, qualified applicant county may apply for the ARI grant. Being qualified includes not being on the State Stop Pay List. However, a subgrantee county may not receive grant funds indirectly/as a subgrantee if they are on the State Stop Pay List. At the time of applying for the grant, only the applicant's Stop Pay status is relevant. After receiving the award, the Stop Pay status of their subgrantees will be checked at the time of submitting the subgrantee's documents for review to add them to the grant. If the subgrantee is expected to complete the steps necessary to, and have their Stop Pay status removed before then, it will be acceptable for the agency that is on Stop Pay to act as a subgrantee of the agency applying for the ARI award.

Question

When I edit the supplies page of the budget to add additional rows for new line items, the added line does not include the necessary formula to calculate the total cost of that line item into columns I or K. I am also not able to edit the formula because the page is password protected from editing.

Response

Be sure to include the total cost calculation for all line items in the narrative for each line item. Because the budget page for supplies will not calculate the total cost for the added rows of line items, Section A and the Summary Pages of the budget will also not correctly calculate the total expenses of your budget. Be sure to include the correct total cost you are requesting in other portions of your application, including the expenses not calculated for you in the excel budget.

Question

May an applicant who is not on stop pay apply for this funding opportunity on behalf of a Judicial Circuit, if the Judicial Circuit includes another county that is on stop pay?

Response

Yes, an eligible qualified county may apply on behalf of the Judicial Circuit within which they reside. However, if another county within that Judicial Circuit is on the Stop Pay list, that county must be excluded from receiving grant funds.

### Question

We want to remove social security tax from the Fringe Benefit page, but are concerned about adding this using the suggested workaround of adding the expense to be removed to the Match column. Can we remove social security without adding it to Match?

### Response

No, you will not be able to edit this without entering the amount to be reduced in the Match column. You will not be required to fund a match contribution, but the suggested workaround will allow us to review your budget more accurately. We will be able to edit this for you after your application is received, but cannot give permissions to change the protected portions of the budget template at this time.

### Question

The Fringe benefit page of the budget template restricts how we calculate our benefits for workman's comp, health insurance, etc. Our benefits are calculated a different way. How can I enter these calculations in the budget?

### Response

There are two workarounds using the budget's restrictions on editing the fringe benefits. There is one column for a flat rate benefit. You are able to change the name of this column in cell L6 to "miscellaneous" and you may use this column to enter the value for all of fringe benefits for each staff person. In the narrative portion, provide a breakdown of the miscellaneous total, including each benefit, the calculation for that benefit, and a calculation demonstrating how the total was arrived at.

Alternatively, you can enter a percentage of calculated salary in cells G7-K7 that will arrive at the value equal to the amount arrived at by your proprietary calculation. You should then explain in the narrative the actual calculation used to arrive at the benefit amount for health insurance, workman's comp, etc.

### Question

Are we required to have a competitive selection process for our sub-contracted parties and sub-award parties for this coming year of the ARI award?

### Response

The NOFO distinguishes the requirements in Year One of opportunity #2115-0326 for subcontracts and subawards. *Subcontracts* will need to be made through competitive selection processes for Year 1, and extended subcontract agreements made for later years will not need a competitive selection process. *Subawards*, not to be confused with subcontracts, will not need to be selected competitively if the sub-awardee is named in your application to this NOFO, provided the grantee documents and justifies the selection and maintains sufficient procurement records to demonstrate compliance for monitoring and audit purposes. Subcontracts are made with a vendor to provide a routine service or good, are not accountable for program outcomes. Subawards are made with a party that makes programmatic decisions, carry out the program, and are far more highly involved in the program.

The NOFO also distinguishes between subcontracted vendors in Year 1 and in continuations of the award in following years. A "continuation grant" is a term that refers specifically to grant agreements created after the initial funding under a funding opportunity. As this coming year of funding is Year 1, even if you have been awarded ARI funds in the past, you are not applying for a continuation grant.

Therefore, all sub-contracted vendors must be made following your internal procedures for competitive selection for this coming year of funding. Subawardees that are named in your application for Year 1 of this funding opportunity will not need to be competitively selected, provided that you have documented and justify the selection and maintains sufficient procurement records to demonstrate compliance for monitoring and audit purposes.

Question

How do I add space to the narrative?

Response

While the box for the narratives cannot be extended, using ALT+Enter keys will allow you to create an unlimited number of new lines in the narrative text box.

Question

I am unable to remove FICA and other fringe benefits from the Fringe Benefits page of the budget template. How can I edit the excel budget template to reflect this?

Response

The budget presumes that FICA is included as a fringe benefit and that grant funds will be used to cover this for the calculated salary of your staff. You may edit the cell in Column N to remove the FICA amount from the calculated budget. Then, explain in the narrative how your agency covers this cost, why it is not covered, or why it is otherwise being removed from the budget.

For other fringe benefits, where some staff receive a fringe benefit to be funded by the grant and others do not, you may apply the same workaround as above. Enter the amount of fringe to be removed for a specific staff member into the Match column. Explain in the narrative what has been added or removed from the line items.

Question

We want to remove automatically calculated amounts from the Fringe Benefit page, but are concerned about using the suggested workaround using the Match column. We do not provide a Match contribution for these amounts. Can we remove social security without adding it to Match?

Response

No, you will not be able to edit this without entering the amount to be reduced in the Match column. You will not be required to fund a match contribution, but the

suggested workaround will allow us to review your budget more accurately. We will be able to edit this for you after your application is received, but cannot give permissions to change the protected portions of the budget template at this time.

Question

The budget automatically calculates Indirect Costs. We do not wish to use grant funds for indirect costs. How can we remove these automatically calculated costs?

Response

The budget will only calculate indirect costs if you have entered an indirect cost rate above 0% in cell G7 of the Indirect Costs page. Leave the indirect cost rate to 0% if you do not wish to allocate grant funds to indirect costs. Be sure to complete cell C7 of Section A - ICJIA Funds, so that the 0% indirect cost rate is correctly applied.

Question

We are aware there have been some adjustments in the last few years as to how the ARI eligibility numbers are determined, both in terms of process and a recognition numbers post COVID were inflated as persons who did not arrive at IDOC immediately after sentencing may have been counted twice. We thought those numbers had been adjusted in the eligibility table provided for the SFY 26 continuation request. Is that accurate?

Response

Yes, that is accurate. The numbers in the ARI 2023-2025 eligibility tables were generated with the updated methodology.

Question

We are trying to determine how to reflect, otherwise explain, in our current NOFO request (2115-0326) the eligibility numbers for 2023 and 2024 provided differ from the numbers provided by ICJIA for the SFY 26 continuation request. Any suggestions?

Response

We suggest using the most up-to-date numbers provided for the SFY27 application. It is not necessary to explain variations in the numbers provided in the eligibility tables; it is more informative to focus on the trends you are seeing in your program data.

Question

We understand a sentence could be vacated or changed on appeal which could explain some fluctuation in the eligibility numbers from one year to the next. Are you aware of anything else which might explain the difference?

Response

Variations are due to continued refinement of the methodology and updates to input files from sources such as the Illinois Department of Corrections. The most recent tables are the ones that you should use.