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| C:\Users\LANGWC\AppData\Local\Temp\1\wz3342\JFS_LogoFinals\JPEG\JFS_Logo_Color_Full_Horizontal.jpg**Office of the Director:**222 East Central Parkway Cincinnati, OH  45202-1225 | **Board of Commissioners:**Alicia Reece, Denise Driehaus, Stephanie Summerow Dumas,**County Administrator:** Jeffrey Aluotto **Interim Director:**  Michael Patton**General Information: (**513) 946-1000**General Information TDD: (**513) 946-1295**Website:** [www.hcjfs.org](http://www.hcjfs.hamilton-co.org)  |

**Addendum 1**

**RFP KB01-23R**

**Peer Mentoring and Supportive Services of the Benefit Bridge Program**

**Questions and Answers**:

1. Is there a maximum amount of supportive service/incentive funder per individual?

A: **No, however TANF rules do place monthly limits on what is allowable. The total amount per individual is often determined on a case-by-case basis.**

1. Is there a % of total budget to be spent on supportive services/incentives?

A: **The budget is dependent on the total funding we receive from ODJFS and should not exceed that amount. I don’t know that we’ll know what that is until the budget is approved. Since HCJFS has approval responsibility for supportive services, we would track our expenditures and let the vendor know if something can’t be approved based on funding.**

1. Is there a total budget figure?

A: **No. The funding is distributed by ODJFS, and we do not yet know the amount of the Hamilton County allocation.**

1. For clarification, each individual is expected to participate for up to 18 months, correct?

A: **Each individual *can* participate for up to 18 months.**

1. For clarification, each individual at the end of the 18-month period should leave the program with a 5-year plan to continue towards self-sufficiency, correct?

A: **Yes. Our desire is to have each participant that successfully exits the Benefit Bridge program will carry with them a 5-year plan to continue towards self-sufficiency.**

1. Would 8 Peer Mentors be sufficient to meet program needs?

A: **HCJFS cannot predict the number of mentors that will be needed. A successful Peer Mentoring program would have a mentor-mentee ratio of 25:1.**

**For childcare, there were payments issued to 53 families for December 2022. This number could go up or down. The selected vendor will need to adjust accordingly.**

1. What is the definition of Self-Sufficiency?  Is it making a living wage ($24+/hour) or reduced dependency on government benefits/supports?

A: **There are many different definitions of self-sufficiency. The Benefit Bridge program aims to set our customers and their families on a path that leads to stable housing, transportation, and childcare; improved well-being; stronger financial literacy and money management as well as enhanced employment and career opportunities.**

1. Page 14, 2.3 B. 2. lists paid work experience services.  Are paid work experiences one of the services offered?  If so, is there a wage amount and certain number of hours or length of work experience service tied to this service?  Is there an expected number of individuals to participate in this service?

A: **No. Paid Work Experience is not a service offered. The Benefit Bridge program offers the following services: Peer Mentoring, Financial Literacy Classes and Coaching, Job and Education Coaching, Readiness activities (resume writing, interviewing), Benefits Coaching, Training Certifications, Incentives for reaching education and employment milestones, wide variety of supportive services, basic needs (housing, food, clothes, diapers), transportation, community referrals for social services, legal, mental health, and follow-up services.**

**Child Care participants will already be employed**.

1. If work experience is a service offered, would the provider be responsible for developing sites, managing site relationships as well as worker's compensation and wage/hour verification?

A:  **Work Experience is not a service offered by the Benefit Bridge program.**