Questions and Answers

1. Eligible Lead Applicants
   Can a non-tribal nonprofit organization serve as the lead applicant if partnered with a tribal entity, or must the tribal organization be the primary fiscal agent?

   Yes, a nonprofit organization can serve as the lead applicant so long as the outcomes required by the RFP are met.

2. Fiscal Sponsorship
   If a tribal partner does not currently hold 501(c)(3) status, is a fiscal sponsor arrangement permissible for meeting administrative requirements?

   Yes. Use of a fiscal agent would be permissible.

3. Indirect Cost Rate
   What is the maximum allowable indirect cost rate? May tribal partners apply their federally negotiated rate?

   The department has not implemented a maximum allowable indirect cost rate for this proposal, however it is the intent of the department to have most of the funding go towards the program and not for overhead costs. Yes, tribal partners may apply their federally negotiated rate.

4. Cost Share or Match
   Is there a required or recommended cost share/in-kind match component for this grant?

   No

5. Number of Awards
   Will this RFP fund a single statewide Technical Assistance Center, or are multiple awards anticipated?

   The legislation requires that two statewide technical assistance centers be created in two distinct geographic areas of the state.

   This is a multiple award. Refer to the RFP Page 2.

6. Deliverables Timeline
   Are there specific expectations for what should be delivered in Year 1 (e.g., foundational planning, curriculum development) versus later years?

Funding for this program is only available for one year. The department expects that the program be developed and established in a way that allows for full curriculum implementation and as outlined in the detailed scope of work on page 23 of the RFP.

7. Tribal Sovereignty & Advisory Input
   Are there any required mechanisms for ensuring tribal sovereignty in project design and implementation (e.g., advisory councils, formal tribal consultation)?

   As outlined on page 3 of the RFP, required mechanisms to ensure support for Indian education from early childhood to higher education, the **institution, organization, or program** must determine the following via Tribal consultation and genuine engagement with Tribal communities throughout New Mexico:

   1.Types of technical assistance provided to institutions serving American Indian students; and

   2.Partnerships the **institution, organization or program** shall develop.

8. Budget Format
   Will a budget template be provided, or may we submit our own line-item budget format?

   Page 45 of the RFP provides Appendix D, which is to be used as the cost response form for the proposal.

9. Innovative Roles/Tools
   Can roles like youth interns, cultural advisors, or AI-supported digital platforms be included in the proposed staffing or technical assistance plan?

   Yes

10. Are "life skills" courses and coding (computer programming) courses an approved curriculum?

    Yes