

Live Captioning by Ai-Media

JAMIE KOENIG:

I think we will give it a few more minutes. A lot of people are still coming into the waiting room. Then we can get started.

Hello, and welcome to the Admin Essentials series. My name is Jamie Koenig, and I am a program specialist at AUCD. Thank you for joining us today. This event is a roundtable discussion on matching funds, and how different institutions meet the 10 or 25% cost share compartments. We will explore creative strategies and practices across the AUCD network.

We will be joined today by Doctor Carol Salas, and Mitze Jones, business manager. To share their expertise, and support this roundtable conversation.

Unfortunately, Doctor Phil Wilson was unable to join us due to a family emergency. We hope Carol and Mitze can help inform this conversation, and that collectively, we can all problem solve challenges, share promising practices, and collect resources.

Based on this roundtable, a tip sheet will be created and disseminated to the network. A few logistical items, this is being recorded and will be available on AUCD's website following this event. If you can, please turn on your camera to encourage discussion. Please get yourself when you are not talking to prevent background noise.

This is meant to be a conversation, rather than a presentation. So please jump in and ask questions, but also feel free to use the chat box if that is more comfortable. There will be a short survey at the close of the event. We invite you to provide feedback on the roundtable, and invite suggestions for future topics for our Admin Essentials series.

To get us topic -- started, Mitze will go over the basics to make sure we are on the same page. Then we will open up for conversation around strategies that had worked, and for challenges. With that, I will pass it to Mitze, thank you for coming.

MITZE JONES:

Thank you, Jamie. Good afternoon everyone. Happy to be here. And speak about cost sharing, and matching in-kind. With that said, let's go ahead and jump in. We often times, we hear the word cost-sharing, we hear in-kind, and we hear matching.

All of those terms, basically they mean the same. A lot of times, in a university setting, you will hear the word cost share. Which basically means, a portion of the project is being paid by the nonfederal Institute. Which is basically, your university. One of the easiest ways to do that, is they will pay a percent of effort, for staff salary, for their duties, and activities that they provide to the grant.

You can also have in-kind. That is a non-cash contribution of a good or service, from either you, or from a third-party that you are working with. That can also be provided.

Last, but not least, Non-Federal Match. It is basically the same. It can be a combination of cost-sharing, in cash, together. Cost-sharing, and in-kind, together. Either from you, or from a third-party that you are working with.

I think the biggest thing to remember is that all of those terms, they mean the same, but they can be used interchangeably.

Matching funds as relates to cost, cash match, we have to remember that it is counted when it is spent, and not when it is received. If somebody wanted to give you a donation, of funds, to help you with your project -- project specific on goals, it can be matched. If you took that cash, and you used it to purchase a good or service, that was relevant to your actual program objectives, that is when you can count the match. Funds.

Labour is another way – is another thing that can be used to count matching funds. That is basically time and effort. That is usually the simplest way that universities capture matching funds.

Is to provide time and effort for a employee, staff, or staff member. Third, is in-kind. That is not used as often, and can be somewhat difficult to value. But it is also a good resource, when you need to meet a match, and you do not have the cash or the labour to use, to meet the matching funds.

In-kind, can be a good or service provided, once again by you. Or by 1/3 party. In-kind is a gift, of a good or service, donated to you from 1/3 party.

As it relates to regulations, the same applies for Non-Federal Match. As for the federal dollars to receive. We have to use the same regulations.

Will determine whether something is allowable, or unallowable. It all goes back to the cost principles. And the cost principles are incorporated into the Uniform Guidance.

When you think about and Allowable Costs, there are three things to always remember. That the cost must be reasonable, allocable, and adequately documented. Those are the three major things.

If you receive a match, a donated item, or cash, those are the three things that you always ask yourself. How would I know if this is an allowable expense? You ask yourself, does it appear to be reasonable, for the goal and objectives of the grant? Is it allocable? Is there a way that I can consistently value this good or service?

And is there a way that I can adequately documented, where it makes sense. That if an auditor came, that they could verify that these funds are nonfederal funds.

There are a few examples of cost sharing, in-kind, and matching. That can be noted. Once again, a portion of the federal project paid for by the organization, which is time and effort.

Salary or (Inaudible) for an employee or staff member. Secondly, the value of a third-party donation of property. That can be office supplies, laboratory supplies, it could be equipment. Books, education supplies, it could be a gambit of things. The most important thing to remember is to go back to those three things, is it reasonable? Is it allocable? And is it able to be documented?

The one thing I would want to reiterate, as relates to donated goods, is the cost factor. You can only use current, fair market value. That can sometimes be a little difficult. To determine. But the IRS has a publication, 561, that gives a very good information on how to value in-kind donations.

That can often times, help you. Other in-kind donations is not used as much as cost sharing, with a university. Or volunteering, it is still can be used.

Thirdly, volunteer services. Is another example of cost sharing, in-kind, and matching funds. And last but not least, you can always use the difference of your negotiated indirect cost rate, based on the lower predetermined cost rate. Whatever that difference is. That can also be used to help you cover the cost sharing match.

I think the biggest, overarching thing as relates to matching is being able to documented. Being able to show that it was justifiable. And that it came from a nonfederal source of funds.

That goes for any variable that you use for the match. Whether it is time and effort, whether it is in-kind, a donated good, whether it is volunteer hours. Or what have you. That is very important.

One thing I would like to just reiterate, cost share is something that has to be approved by your sponsor. So, when you submit a budget, very early on, for the federal dollars. You also have to submit the funds for the match, and in-kind dollars as well.

Both have to be approved at the same time. You cannot say that you are going to offer one type of match, say for instance, your university says to you that yes, we will play X amount of dollars for time and effort. For X, Y, Z, to assist on this project.

Then perhaps something happens, funds are cut, and they can no longer assist you. So then, you have to figure out a way of how to come up with your match. You do have to get approval from the sponsoring agency. To ask if what you are thinking, is allowable.

Because, all funding agencies do not accept the same type of match. Some may accept in-kind, others may not. Some may accept volunteer hours, some may not. So you have to check, just to make sure that what you are intending on providing is acceptable.

Then, on the very back, I will not read them, I just have a few questions as it relates to fiscal integrity.

It is important to ask yourself, as it relates to the cost. To tell you whether it is reasonable, allowable, whether it can be easily documented. Whether or not an auditor would look at it and have questions.

I think that is pretty much as the match relates to the overall. I am more than sure that you will have overall questions, that we can have a discussion about. Carol, of course, please chime in at any time.

JAMIE KOENIG:

I see we have a question in the chat. About, "how can you document when you are submitting a budget? Because the contribute funds have not yet been spent?"

How can you document when you are submitting a budget? Because the contributed time has not yet been spent?

MITZE JONES:

Say for instance, you know you will have some volunteer hours for a specific type of something. I will just use, for an example, if you were running a program and you were allowed to have parent volunteer hours. During the time you are doing your budget, you have to come up with the evaluation then.

You have to determine, based on your university's history, what salary you are using, what fringe you are using. How many hours the person will be volunteering, for what length of time? And what exactly they will be doing.

That is how you come up with the dollar amount. If you have parents volunteering, and you have asked all parents perhaps, to volunteer 10 hours per month. You know you will have X amount of parents participating in your program for the duration of 12 months, that is the way you get the value, or dollar amount.

You just have to make sure you are consistent. You cannot change it throughout the budget period. Whatever you decide, you must stick with that evaluation throughout the budget period.

CAROL SALAS:

I would like to throw into what Mitze just said. You should visualize it like an objective. And you will make an estimate based on what Mitze just said. After you submit the budget, and you get that approved, you have to achieve that objective of having at least that minimum of hours, and volunteers in your program.

So, if you calculated as an estimate, considering all the information Mitze just gave, and you get that into your budget, and it gets approved, right? By your officer, or institution. You have to make whatever your objectives, and you will need to work hard to achieve at least the minimum of what you got approved for. That is very important. To keep that in mind.

MITZE JONES:

Thank you, Carol, that is great.

SPEAKER:

I am curious to hear how people in the room how your universities have met the cost share requirements up to this point? I know there are a variety of strategies. That range significantly in the ways that people feel about them, but, you know, you are all here for a reason. I would be interested to hear what you are currently doing and what you would like to do and any changes or questions you would like to have.

SPEAKER:

And currently we are doing the difference of the indirect cost rates and that difference has been large enough and successful so far. I did have a question related to the origin of the funds, and I know we cannot use federal funds, is there any restriction in statements or clinical revenue?

MITZE JONES:

You can usually use state funds, especially if you are a state university like we are. The Dean's Office in my school give us X amount of state dollars every budget period to help us with the matched -- match and I usually use a portion for staff, salary and fringe to help the match.

CAROL SALAS:

In the case of Puerto Rico we are also a state university, so the agreement we have with the University as they provide us with salary and fringe benefits for the accounting person and is started 13 years ago and he is paid by the state dollars of the funds of the state University, so that helps us a lot to achieve our matching funds.

SPEAKER:

That is helpful in the last year we started receiving some money for our faculty, so that is good to know.

CAROL SALAS:

We also have an employee assigned to our offices, and he is not full-time but also the University provides his salary and fringe benefits so right there we do pretty good matching the funds. We still have other spaces that we use for our community-based projects that are also provided by the University, and the agreement is they give us the space that it is our responsibility to pay for the light, phone, Internet and maintenance of the area.

SPEAKER:

I'm from Indiana and I'm happy to share we have the 25% and caused match and utilize the undercover -- unrecovered state cause along with state appropriations we use also to meet that match, but we have not had a problem yet.

SPEAKER:

At the University of South Florida we use salaries dollars and we have several faculty and a full-time research administrator and our university (inaudible) the indirect cost difference because we have a policy if we aren't getting full recovery at our approved rate they won't allow other commitments on the

FNA. -- FA.

SPEAKER:

This is Michigan and we don't receive funding from universities so it is a lot of hunger covered and indirect. -- Undercover.

SPEAKER:

Hi, this is Lucy from the University of Minnesota. I do have a question on the in-kind. In the past most of our cost share are coming from salary, fringe and supply, but lately I have been having a consultant doing some in-kind. My question is how do we document that? Can the PI just write a letter saying that this certain person doing the project for whatever hours and how much, and how do I document that into our FFR reports? Because they run the report according to salary, dollar and everything so it is not in the system, do we just automatically have them put that dollar amount in the FFR Reports or do we have to have some kind of document to go with it? Do you know what I'm saying?

MITZE JONES:

Yeah, I think I'm following Parikh Carol, please chime in if I miss something. Usually, if you buy a consultants time and they tell you instead of you pain if they are willing to give you the service as in-kind, if it is a service they typically do all the time, they may have a cost sheet to say they charge X amount of dollars per hour for this service, so if they have that it is fantastic because that is your documentation there and they would under normal circumstances charge \$100 an hour, but they are giving you the service for free.

I would probably do an MOU at no cost. Showing the hours they will provide and for free and then signing the MOU, the University sign agreeing that they are going to allow that person to donate their time Parikh as it relates to the 425 as you are getting ready to submit there is a box at the bottom where you can specify you had X amount of dollars of in-kind to help you with your cash match. I cannot remember on the lines that pursue that box, if there is a line specific for in-kind or not, but if there is a line for in-kind you or your department can drop that dollar amount in to ensure the sponsoring agency knows you did provide X amount of dollars of in-kind.

SPEAKER:

Can I have none of the portion? Is there a reason why that we can't counter over the requirements? When we submit a proposal, for example, this year, fourth year, we had to match 25%, but for managing 200, but that is what we are matching, if we miss more than 200 is that okay for us to record it into our FFR or only would be budgeted for?

MITZE JONES:

The general rule is you never want to provide more match than is required. It is not necessary Parikh suppose he told the federal government you will provide X amount of match and you could not provided you would be out of luck, so really only provide the amount of match required for that particular funding agency.

CAROL SALAS:

Yes, I would agree on that in Puerto Rico some agencies get creative when they think you can provide more resources and that can sometimes be considered detrimental for other opportunities, so I would just report what you say where you're going to provide as a match and just give the other information – just in the organization or achievement in case you needed, but I would stick to what Mitze said is just stick to reporting what you matched.

SPEAKER:

This is Karen in Arkansas and we've been able to use unrecovered and directs and our university has a policy prohibiting voluntary match, they don't want any part of it because of documentation required an audit required, so they won't let us do more than what is required. I am wondering if you can use returned in directs? We don't get state money but we get a portion of the in directs on all of our projects and does anybody you said or is it possible to use that? Do we need it if the match goes up?

MITZE JONES:

I'm not really sure. Our university does the same thing and collects indirect at the end of the fiscal year, the formula they have come up with to give monies back to the different schools and departments, but I have never used that as a match. I am not saying it could be but I am not sure how.

SPEAKER:

And obviously some in directs are generated federal funds and some are generated against state contracts.

MITZE JONES:

It would be pretty hard to try.

CAROL SALAS:

Same in Puerto Rico we have never done that because we don't have the needs to do it. I don't have a recommendation in that area.

SPEAKER:

I have heard of one other and I'm sure they utilize return on indirect in North Dakota for part of their match.

SPEAKER:

Thanks, Sarah.

JAMIE KOENIG:

There is a question in the chat about clarifying what indirect is and as -- and is at the NIH or something else?

MITZE JONES:

Doesn't have to be NIH, whatever the University – I think everybody is different and we get hours from HHS. I'm not really sure, but usually your accounting department would have that information for you.

SPEAKER:

Any agency that has that federally negotiated rate and it applies to all. Could be someone else. I see some more in the chat. Jamie, do you want to read? You are muted.

JAMIE KOENIG:

I noticed it right before you said it. There is also a question like backing things up and providing examples of justification that is optimal versus not optimal. I don't know who ever asked that question.

SPEAKER:

That was me, and I sent them to you because I thought you were moderating. I thought it was helpful because you said so long as you can document it but as long as you can provide an example decently documented versus something that is not, so that is what I was getting at. Also, are the size going to be available?

JAMIE KOENIG:

Yes, I will add them.

MITZE JONES:

Are you to share of time and effort?

SPEAKER:

Yes, I was also the person who asked the question about like how would you document something that hasn't happened yet? We are working with an organization we subcontracted to an already spending more time, but that was in the first month or whatever, and we can say for the next 11 months. We estimate that. How much do you trust versus not trust, and what is considered good justification and what is not? Examples would be really helpful.

MITZE JONES:

I'm not sure I'm following, but it is all an estimate and the University will provide state funds for what you know is a fact. You keep your fingers crossed I think you hope that the people that you are working with actually come through for you, that is why I think it's a good idea, and a little extra work to do an MOU to get everybody on the same page into a green. Don't go overboard. If you don't think they can provide \$200 every month and make it \$100. Go under and get a different variety of people as opposed to putting something in and at the end of the day the person you work with they are not able to put it in, so I think good communication early on when drafting your budget is really important.

JAMIE KOENIG:

Does anyone else have any examples?

CAROL SALAS:

I would like to add, when you are submitting your budget, it is just an estimate. So, you should cross your fingers, and be conservative about it. If you get approved, I would definitely, as Mitze says, have a contract, with no cost. Make that very clear.

So you could support after, and report your match. And then, after that first year, you should reevaluate, if you did achieve what you said you were going to achieve in your match. With that area. And make adjustments. After the first time, it should be easier, right? Because you will have the experience on what you thought you were going to achieve, how was it?

And could you count on that as a regular matching fund? Or is that amount, a regular amount that you will be reporting? So, I think, it is a process. And if it is the first time, I would be very conservative. Because, depending on other people.

And I would make sure, that I have a very clear estimate. And documentation, that afterwards, I will be using to report on that.

SARAH DEMAIO:

I see another question in the chat, about the poverty rate match. The reduced rate.

SPEAKER:

That was me again, I think I have accounted for 95% of your questions. (Laughs)

SARAH DEMAIO:

Would you like to clarify?

SPEAKER:

Yes, so let's just say, states are quite diverse. States have higher incomes, and lower incomes. What do you do if you live in a part of a state, like, your city is very, very high poverty. But, how does that work? When the state as a whole is high poverty? By the way, does ACL, and how do you justify... I have a lot of questions.

My city, let's say, The Bronx, is one of the poorest incomes in the country. New York State, is a relatively wealthy state. I know this happens in other states as well.

Then, what is considered adequate justification for that? What data do you need? And then the third part is, is there a list somewhere, at ACL, like, uses that have gotten... And should this be public information? Those that are 10%, 20%, 34% match rate, so people can see what is comparable? How does that work?

SARAH DEMAIO:

I can take... Unless someone else wants to. I can share on this one. I will share my screen, so everyone can see. What I am looking at.

So, on the URC website, first of all, I want to make sure everyone is aware that the list of the states who are eligible for the match, it is based on when you do your five year grant cycle, application. There is a list in the app OA, of all states that are eligible that year, and it depends whether or not your state is in that list, that year. And that list changes year by year.

So, if you want to look at the states that are eligible, statewide, you have to look at the list that was in your year. And you can find a record of all of the past FOA's on the URC website, right here.

We have going back to 2006, and then we have the last five or six years here.

There is also, on the grants page, if you go to management grants, and then go to guidance and support documents. There is guidance on requesting a reduced match. This document, gives the whole process for making the request. For the 10% match, instead of the 25% match.

And that is based on the service delivery that you offer. Who is participating, in your programs and services.

So, there are a whole set of instructions.

SPEAKER:

Could you drop some of those links in the chat? So I could look at that.

SARAH DEMAIO:

Yes, I have asked about whether there is a list, because if you are a new director, you might not know right away if you are at the 25% or the 10%? So, there is not a list of who has been approved for the reduced match, based on what is called "tier 2", eligibility. Tier 1 is if you get that, because of your state, on the year of your grant application.

Tier 2, is when you apply for the 10%, based on your services. There is not a list of who has tier 2 reduced match. I will send the links right now.

SPEAKER:

Sarah, are you saying that this is a statewide decision? Because, that does not seem to make sense. For example, The Bronx, I think is one of the poorest counties there is in the whole country. But, New York State is not. So, are you saying it is only at the state level? Or again, I am trying to sort through some of this... Is there a way to make the argument that your locality is in poverty? Even if your state does not come out like that?

SARAH DEMAIO:

Reduced match...

JAMIE KOENIG:

In the document Sarah was just showing, it does give criteria for urban and rural poverty areas. It states that, you said that would demonstrate at least 25% of these projects target individuals who live in these areas.

SARAH DEMAIO:

So, it is not exclusively based on a state. The way it is set up, is everyone who is in a, what is called a

state that falls into tier 1, which is the states that are below the federal poverty line. The official, national poverty rate, if your state... Is below that, then your whole state is in tier 1.

And you are eligible for the reduced match. If it is not, then you have to apply, and make a case that your program should be eligible based on your service delivery.

And so, it is both, and. Yes, if you are in a state that falls below the national poverty rate, then you would be eligible, based on just the state demographics. And if not, if you are not eligible based on the state demographics, then you have to make a case. And apply for the reduced match, separately from that. Does that make sense?

SPEAKER:

Yes.

SPEAKER:

I had a question, sort of following up on that. That is, so, ACL, we have our grants, and there is either a 10%, or a 25% match that we have to have. We then apply for a grant, through our state, that happens to have funding that is funnelled from, let's say, the CDC.

All of these grants then, we still have to do a match? The reason why I am asking, it is getting more and more difficult to match. OK? Economic times are making it such, I know there was another speaker on this call, that indicated the same thing. It is becoming much more difficult to do a match.

We used to be able to do a match, more readily, based upon others staff that were hired, let's say Morris clinicians, and they would be allowed their time to do all their work.

However, because agencies are facing severe financial problems, that is no longer the case. So, how do you get a match – in other words, it is becoming more and more difficult to beget -- to get the match. Therefore, more and more difficult to apply for grants, because you know upfront, you cannot do the match. That is why this is very important.

Because, it does impact an organization's ability to apply for grants. You started the conversation saying that, our use of grants were either 10 or 25% match. 34% is something different. I would assume, that is a negotiated rate. An NIH negotiated rate.

But basically, we are talking about either 10% or 25% when it comes to the use and grants. That is my question. So, if we are applying for other federal funding, that is not coming directly to us, basically it is a subcontract to another group, another organization within your state. That then wants people to apply for a grant.

How does that work with the match? We still then have to provide another match? Not using people that are matched on some other grants... You understand the logic to this?

Each group is asking now for a match, and you cannot use the same people. OK? How then, can you

basically fulfil the match, ultimately? When the rubber hits the road, OK? You are heading toward a cliff... How can you continue to apply for federal funding, if every group is asking for a match? Do I make sense? (Laughs)

So, let's say the CDC funding coming down, right? And there is a match to that. Then there is a match to the UCID, how many matches can you make? Theoretically, at some point, you cannot make matters anymore. This is why this conversation is important. It does not only affect one state, it affects all of us. OK?

So, I think that the discussion really needs to be, OK, tell us the rules now. We will follow those rules, but we need to think further. We need to think for the future. How is this going to work? Is it making it so onerous that no one will apply for a grant, particularly small grants?

But, no one will be able to apply for grants, because they already have, they are already doing a match somewhere else. That is a question, I would like to get more input on that, and see if I am on the right target. If I am coming off, misspeaking, or is this what some people are feeling?

I had one person respond, and she brought up the point that in her state, it is becoming much more of a problem.

MITZE JONES:

I can talk a little bit about that. I will share what I do know. So yes, it is not just you. It is probably everyone on this call, and many more of us. We have had to turn down several grant applications based on the fact that, we went to the Dean, and he said absolutely not. I have given you all all I can give you for this year.

Circle back in one year or two, and I will see what I can do. One time, we were not awarded the grant, but it was very innovative. Our strategy, I think. It was a very large grant. So, we decided is not to keep all of the money in-house. We did little, mini grants. Two other organizations. And we made them responsible for the majority of the match.

And that is how we were able to come up with the dollars that we needed to meet the match. So, you do have to have lots of discussions. In-house, and with your partners, in your community. To try to come together, if the federal side of the money is good, and the services that you know you can provide is good, to come up with a way to provide the match.

I think it is very daunting as well. I think it is horrible. You have to come up with so many dollars on the nonfederal side, when you have such good plans, and hopes for the services that you can provide. With the federal dollars. So, it is very discouraging. But, just try to have good dialogue, and good conversations.

With your university, and see if you can all come up with strategies, to help.

SPEAKER:

I appreciate all that information. It is not a coincidence there are three people on here and this is a very, very hot topic and I am a clinician. The way it gets explained to me it is evidence coming up, is that we have to describe where the in-kind effort is coming from in advance and get it okayed. We are a major clinical provider and it makes sense for these really expert clinicians to be involved in the USID, but the hospital applies kind of every minute of every hour of every day, must be accounted for, and if you do not have grant dollars to pay for your time, you are expected to see patients, so there is no free time to give.

They can only go on the grant, that is in-kind, but on the grant, and it is kind of putting everything on its head because we have the resources, we have the expertise. People want to do it, but in the end hospitals are businesses, and they are hurting and they won't give anything of. This is been so clearly articulated and is so impacting on all the grants we are trying to write we wonder if there is some role for advocacy because one is impacting the other and it is the domino effect to make sure the system understands that one thing impacts another, and hospitals hurting is impacting our ability to do things that we have always done, and have happily done for our community of the very needy.

CAROL SALAS:

This is Carol from Puerto Rico. I don't know if you are aware Puerto Rico is the poorest jurisdiction of the US. We have been in a fiscal crisis for a few years. We have of fiscal (unknown term) that was imposed on the state government by Congress. We had earthquakes in 2019, and the pandemic, okay, so believe me, I have magic to me, and I really feel your pain, and I share it, because it has been a struggle. Being a territory, excluded for a lot of opportunities just for being a territory, and having a 50% poverty level as of this date and Puerto Rico. So that we share what I have been doing to share some light.

First of all, I don't know if it works in your state like this. For example, we do have a child development center and we have had it for 25 years now. It is provided for funds from child care but we don't apply directly for child care directly to the agency, and the state receives the funds in Puerto Rico and the state who founded the department opens request for proposal and we have to apply yearly. We could report that is state funds because the state receives the funds and we are not required to provide a match. So we have that in the back door in case we need it. I don't use it for a match but if we need to we can use it.

One thing goes back to a question that Lucy did earlier, if somehow by some miracle you could get more matching that you do, say you were supposed to provide 25%, but you have a little bit more. Don't report it and have it saved for another grant you may need it for, so you have a double reporting, and those sort of things that I have been dealing with make this available and able to provide match with different funds.

The other thing I did is usually for the USID we have the employee, a person from the University we get paid for, and maintenance guide I don't ask for a match for the USID fund. For example, I did a funding opportunity and I did apply and made my case because of the territory situation, so those are things I have been doing for the past three or four years that have kept us alive. And I really do feel the same thing as you feel. For us, it is a real challenge to have funds available. And we can count that

anymore in the states because of the crisis situation in the universities at the states.

SPEAKER:

In terms of advocacy, is there a way to change this requirement? It is clearly problematic and is hindering good work that can be done, so whose offices would be to change this? Is it above the pay grade of everyone here? I imagine it is pretty high-level. Who makes that decision?

SARAH DEMAIO:

I think the match rates are in each funding opportunity. It is not the same for each, even within the same agency each funding opportunity may have different matching requirements.

SPEAKER:

In terms of the website and how to justify that is on the website for the USID right? Presumably that could be change. It could be eight and 12%. Who made the decision it is 10 and 25 and that is how you justify it and how might it be change?

SARAH DEMAIO:

That is actually written into the legislation that authorizes the US ID and there's a federal portion of the USID funding and it will not exceed 75% of total cost, so it is written into the legislation, so that would change a lot for the USID but for other grants I cannot speak for those.

SPEAKER:

I think it is different from what the (unknown term) is and I'm hopeful we are seen a little shift because the new grants we have applied for is some version of COVID funding and they applied no match. Last April we got a decent side grant targeting in the states because our a DRC did not apply for it and that required no match. Then there is a new vaccine money that has come out directly from ACL, requires no match. The coordinated effort with the CDD for funding to the USID there is no match so I'm a little hopeful this administration – and maybe is because it is COVID funding, but that is the first thing we look at when we see a grand opportunity, is what is the deadline, how are we going to get funded? You look to see what is required because at least we don't have a lot of state money to use for that, but I don't think agency specific because the last CDC one does not require a match. Some CDC grants to but it just depends on the grant.

MITZE JONES:

Thank you, but I also think all agencies like Sarah said all have different rules and regulations as it relates to the match. Somewhere in that information, sometimes they talk about a waiver. And so some sponsors if you are not able to meet the match. So you go halfway through your current and you know -- grant and you know you can't beat it they offer a waiver and make sure you document as to why you were not able to meet the match, but that is something to also be aware of and consider.

SPEAKER:

We had waivers on the front and because of funding resources required a match, but there was a particular project they wanted us to do and they waived the requirement when we applied.

JAMIE KOENIG:

I see we just have five minutes left. Are there any other burning questions were last-minute thoughts? Questions?

SARAH DEMAIO:

I see a couple other people have echoed the frustration. Angela and Jennifer and it looks like there is a consensus this is a networkwide issue. I will be sure to share this with our policy shop. As I said I'm not sure there is much that can be done for the core grants because is written into legislation, but where there are other opportunities we will encourage them to flag this as an issue for the federal partners and the administration and also on Capitol Hill.

A lot of thanks showing up in the chat box. Thank you Mitze and Carol for sharing your expertise and your experience.

SPEAKER:

I appreciate people have been able to pull this together so quickly. It is really important so I really appreciate all your efforts.

SARAH DEMAIO:

Thank you for bringing up such a hot topic, Joanne, and thank you for the questions and, Karen, you cannot ask too many questions. Feel free to ask as many questions as you have. We are going to put together a tip sheet of strategies, and ideas that people share, so that will be available after the call as well. It may take us a month or two to draft that to make sure that everything is correct and all the eyes are dotted.

JAMIE KOENIG:

Thank you all for coming today. It was really great turn all your thoughts and questions around the topic. This was recorded and will be posted on the website in a couple days. If you could take a moment to take our survey that would be great. It is available in the chat box.

SARAH DEMAIO:

Good to see you all. Have a good morning or evening, depending upon where you are.