

Request For Proposals for an Evaluation of the MA Commission on LGBTQ Youth's Safe Schools Program

Background

The Massachusetts Commission on Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer and Questioning (LGBTQ) Youth (Commission) is established by law as an independent agency of the Commonwealth to recommend and advocate to all branches of state government effective policies, programs, and resources for LGBTQ youth to thrive.

The Commission has a mandate to investigate the use of resources from both the public and private sectors to enhance and improve the ability of state agencies to provide services that protect and support the health and safety of LGBTQ youth in the schools and communities of Massachusetts, with a focus on suicide and violence prevention and intervention policies regarding harassment and discrimination against LGBTQ youth. The Commission is also mandated to make recommendations about policies, programs, and resources supporting LGBTQ youth to the state government and its agencies.

The Safe Schools Program (SSP) for LGBTQ Students is a joint initiative of the Commission and the Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education. The SSP provides training, technical assistance, and student leadership development opportunities to school districts across the state on sexual orientation, gender, and bullying, suicide, and violence prevention related to LGBTQ students.

Scope of Services: Safe Schools Program Evaluation

The Commission seeks a consultant to develop and implement a systematic formal program evaluation to measure the SSP's impact and effectiveness, identify key areas of strength and opportunities for growth, and to provide external partners (including policy makers, researchers, practitioners, and prospective service recipients) with data on the program's effectiveness. The evaluation should measure changes in knowledge, attitudes, and behaviors among schools as a result of trainings and technical assistance conducted by SSP staff. The evaluation should also measure the effectiveness of the GSA Student Leadership Council. In addition, the evaluator will synthesize existing qualitative and quantitative data on the work of SSP in relationship to:

- Research on risks and resiliency for Massachusetts LGBTQ students and
- Reaching priority populations, including students in rural areas, transgender students, and students of color

Deliverables will include:

- a. A report on the impact and effectiveness of the SSP that identifies key areas of strength, opportunities for growth and recommendations to maximize the impact of the Safe Schools Program.
- b. A *one-page info graphic* that showcases the positive impact of the Safe Schools Program on school personnel, student leaders and school climate that can be provided to external stakeholders such as policy makers, researchers, practitioners, and prospective service recipients.

Budget

The Commission will pay up to \$10,000 for an evaluation of the Safe Schools Program through June 30, 2016. Funds are to be used for provider expenses for the development and implementation of the evaluation as specified above.

Required Qualifications

Bidders must have experience and credibility in providing high quality program evaluations in the topic area for which the application is being made.

Inquiries

If you have any questions, please send an email to alexandria.chiu@doe.mass.edu and specify SSP Evaluation in the subject line. No phone calls regarding this RFP will be accepted. Questions must be submitted by April 8 at 11:00 AM/ EST and responses will be provided via email on or around April 12 by 11:00 AM/ EST.

Proposals

Proposals will outline all evaluation activities, a timeline for each activity and a line item budget narrative. Budget(s) should be provided by deliverables with dates specified and inclusive of all costs for:

- (1) Evaluation design / development
- (2) Implementation of Evaluation
- (3) Written report to the Commission
- (4) Info graphic

Proposals should be e-mailed to Alex Chiu alexandria.chiu@doe.mass.edu on or before 4PM on April 18.