

Tier 3 Benefits Planning RFI Frequently Asked Questions

May 1, 2020

1. If I do not respond to the RFI by the posted due date, will I have another opportunity to respond to the RFI?
 - A. We anticipate the RFI will be posted again. In the future, the RFI may be open continuously, with review timelines to be determined based on need for benefits planning services.
2. I am certified as a Benefits Planner, but I lack the required Continuing Education Units (CEU). Can I contract to provide Tier 3 Benefits Planning services?
 - A. Benefits planners who acquired an initial certification but currently do not meet the CEU requirements will be expected to become re-certified. Upon satisfying the Tier 3 enrollment training requirements, such planners may enter a contract to begin providing Tier 3 services with the written agreement that they will become re-certified by a mutually agreed-upon date. Please see Addendum 1 of the RFI for information.
3. I am certified as a Benefits Planner and I am current with my CEU requirements. Can I immediately begin receiving referrals for Tier 3 Benefits Planning?
 - A. Prior to receiving referrals, all certified Planners are required to first satisfy the Tier 3 enrollment training requirements. Please see Addendum 1 of the RFI for information.
4. I work for a DDA-contracted employment or day program agency. Can I provide DDA-funded Tier 3 Benefits Planning services to the customers my agency serves?
 - A. No. Staff of a DDA-contracted employment or day program agency may be perceived as having a conflict of interest in providing Tier 3 Benefits Planning services to their own customers or the clients of a competing agency.
5. I provide Benefits Planning to participants of the Foundational Community Support (FCS) program. Can I provide Tier 3 Benefits Planning services to DDA-eligible individuals?
 - A. If you or your agency are not contracted with DDA to provide employment or day program services, you may enter contract to provide Tier 3 services, provided you meet the credentialing and Tier 3 enrollment training requirements.

6. If I am selected to be a member of the initial Tier 3 pool, when can I expect the Tier 3 enrollment process to begin?
 - A. We anticipate that the Tier 3 enrollment process will begin in June or July 2020.
7. What is the rate of pay for providing Tier 3 Benefits Planning services?
 - A. We are determining a rate for Tier 3 services, which may include hourly and outcome payments. The RFI includes a Rate Survey to help inform the development of a rate structure.
8. I am not a certified Benefits Planner. How do I become certified?
 - A. Cornell University and Virginia Commonwealth University both offer Benefits Planning certification. We anticipate that Cornell University will offer a certification to WA residents in 2020. More information will be available in the coming months.