

Can the SAHE require grantees to pay for an evaluator of its choosing?

Query – 2.1.2005

Query:

I am concerned about the quality of the evaluations I have been getting from my grantees, so on the current round of awards, I would like to try something different. Rather than let each grantee pick its own external evaluator, I would like to select an evaluator that all the grantees would be required to use. However, since the State's administrative portion of the funds is too small to pay for the evaluations, I want to know if I can require the grantees to pay for the evaluator that I select. Is this allowable?

From: Mississippi

Responses:

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| USDOE | This question has come up before, and we have answered by saying that the State may require, as a condition of its award, that a grantee use a particular external evaluator identified by the State, and must agree to fully participate in such evaluation, and use the methodology that the State and the contractor determine. |
| Washington | This was a topic at the last meeting the SAHE's held. We heard that several states had a statewide coordinated evaluation approach. Actually, WA is one of those. We have pulled funds out of the grants for the evaluation for projects in years 1 and 2, and we will be looking at the results this year (the funds do not come out of administrative monies). For the next round of grants, we expect to go back to handling evaluation on a project by project basis, for various reasons. |
| Virginia | Virginia encourages the use of an external evaluator but we do not name the evaluator. A limited amount of funds is allowed for this purpose as part of the award. |