

Experimental Sites Initiative

Federal Work-Study (FWS) Experiment QUESTIONS & ANSWERS

FWS-Q1. Will there be additional allocations available under the Federal Work-Study (FWS) experiment or will participants have to use existing FWS allocations?

FWS-A1. There will be no additional FWS funds allocated to schools for participation in the FWS experiment. [Guidance Issued: 5/7/15]

FWS-Q2. Does near-peer counseling count as community service?

FWS-A2. Yes, the funds paid to students who are near-peer counselors under the FWS experiment at a public high school counts towards the regulatory 7% community service FWS requirement. [Guidance Issued: 5/7/15]

FWS-Q3. What are the populations that are to be served by near-peer counselors?

FWS-A3. The school must also ensure that the activities, information, and initiatives under the near-peer counseling or mentoring program are targeted to the needs of high school students. [Guidance Issued: 5/7/15]

FWS-Q4. What knowledge must near-peer counselors have to participate in the experiment?

FWS-A4. The school must ensure that its near-peer counselors or mentors are knowledgeable in matters of college readiness, student aid, career counseling, or financial literacy and are either experienced in or trained in relevant counseling or mentoring techniques. [Guidance Issued: 5/7/15]

FWS-Q5. What level of experience or training is expected of near-peer counselors?

FWS-A5. We will not set specific standards for what constitutes “knowledgeable”, “experienced”, or “trained” near-peer counselors under the FWS experiment. The Department believes that postsecondary institutions selected for this experiment will have a sufficient understanding of the populations who would be counseled under this experiment to determine what standards to set for its near-peer counselors. [Guidance Issued: 5/7/15]

FWS-Q6. If a school currently has a near-peer counseling program (or a version of near-peer counseling that is similar) would the program qualify to participate in the FWS experiment, or does the school need to create a near-peer counseling program specific to the experiment?

FWS-A6. If a school currently has a near-peer counseling program (or a version of near-peer counseling that is similar), it may participate in the FWS experiment using the program if the program meets the requirements of the FWS experiments as outlined in the July 31, 2014 [Federal Register](#) notice. [Guidance Issued: 5/7/15]