

AGENCY: ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY (EPA)

TITLE: “Building the Capacity of Tribes to Address the Health Impacts of Climate Change”

ACTION: Request for Proposals (RFP) Questions and Answers (Q/A)

RFA #: EPA-OAR-OAP-16-05

SUMMARY: Formal Agency responses to questions regarding the subject RFP:
new Q/As are listed below

DATE: July 13, 2016

Q1) We are reviewing the RFP EPA-OAR-OAP-16-05 (Building the Capacity of Tribes to Address the Health Impacts of Climate Change) and have a question regarding the available funding. The RFP states that “total estimated funding for this competitive opportunity is approximately \$600,000” and that one to three agreements will be awarded. However, it also states that the agreements will range “in value from approximately \$50,000 to \$150,000.” Even if three agreements are awarded at the maximum amount, the total is not \$600,000. Can you please clarify the expected award amounts? They seem rather low for a project that may be up to 5 years in length.

A1) The request for proposals (RFP) has been amended to reflect a clarification. The total estimated funding for this competitive opportunity is approximately \$600,000. EPA anticipates awarding one to three cooperative agreement(s) from this announcement, ranging in value from approximately \$50,000 to \$120,000, annually, subject to the availability of funds, quality of evaluated proposals, and other applicable considerations. Proposals should specify the applicant’s planned period of performance, which may be up to 5 years, as described in the RFP.

Q2) My organization is interested in applying for this grant opportunity regarding and climate change resiliency, engagement and capacity-building with tribes. Given the impacts of climate change in South Florida and my organization's credentials linking health, socioeconomic vulnerability and sea-level rise as well as working toward climate resiliency in low-income communities, we would be very interested to expand outreach and resilience work. However, we are interested to know if the EPA has specific tribes that would be prioritized?

A2) No; this is an open, competitive process and, as such, EPA does not have specific tribes that will be prioritized under this funding opportunity. Proposals should specify the applicant’s plan for engaging specific tribes in the pilot trainings as described in the RFP.

- Q3)** I'm wondering if we are allowed to include food and non-alcoholic beverages (breakfast, lunch, snacks, and/or coffee, water, etc.) for the pilot trainings task.
- A3)** In accordance with federal guidelines, EPA follows strict procedures regarding the federal funding of light refreshments. In terms of including light refreshments in their workplans/budgets as a federal cost, it is recommended that applicants do so in a limited and frugal manner, and in conjunction with a workshop or other similar project activity. If an applicant is including in-kind contributions in their proposal, light refreshments would be an ideal opportunity. Once proposal evaluations have been made, further dialogue can take place specific to the proposal's plans.
- Q4)** Can I submit multiple letters of support in order to lend my support to different proposals?
- A4)** We will evaluate each application package individually, so receiving multiple letters of support from the same entity, for different applications is acceptable.
- Q5)** The grant is allowed \$120,000 annually, is this total direct costs plus indirect costs (IDC)?
- A5)** Yes, the total proposed budget must include direct and indirect costs. Applicants must itemize costs related to personnel, fringe benefits, contractual costs, travel, equipment, supplies, other direct costs, indirect costs, and total costs. Selected applicant(s) will need to submit a copy of their current indirect cost rate that has been negotiated with a federal cognizant agency prior to award.
- Q6)** Regarding *Programmatic Capability and Past Performance*: Are prior EPA agreements (within the last 3 years) required, and is it considered a major deficiency if a proposal only has non-EPA federal grants that relate to the proposal topic? Also, are letters of support required or encouraged from Tribal Colleges and Universities interested in our proposal?
- A6)** As indicated in the request for proposals, EPA agreements are preferred but they are not required. Letters of support are optional, and may be submitted at the applicant's discretion.
- Q7)** My question concerns the previous training and feedback received. Is that information available publicly so we can see the feedback and the areas tribal communities still think need to be addressed? There seems to be a great deal of information out there on this topic, but it is fragmented across many websites and I was wondering if the results of the EPA's previous Cooperative Agreement are available online or if we can access them to inform our application?
- A7)** The feedback that a previous awardee provided to EPA at the conclusion of their cooperative agreement was intended for an EPA audience and has not been published

online. This feedback consisted of eight recommendations for further tribal assistance related to climate change and resilience. Recommendations included: additional training and webinar topics; technical assistance for tribes to do climate change assessments; support for outreach material development; networking opportunities, such as hosting a conference; facilitation of research opportunities with tribal and non-tribal partners; creation of a tribal college student internship program; making funding available; and providing support for tribal relocation.

Q8) Do ANCSA Tribal Corporations qualify to apply?

A8) No, for-profit organizations, ANCSA Tribal Corporations are not eligible to apply. However, non-profit organizations (as defined by their tax identification) operating within the corporations, providing services such as health care or cultural and educational opportunities, are eligible to apply. The non-profit organization would be the eligible entity to submit an application on behalf of the ANCSA. And if selected, the non-profit would be the (law-binding) responsible entity to manage the EPA cooperative agreement.

Q9) I had a question about whether there was a maximum yearly amount we need to budget for, for EPA's Building the Capacity of Tribes to Address the Health Impacts of Climate Change. If we do a 4-year proposal and there is a \$600,000 limit, could we budget for \$150,000 per year?

A9) The total estimated funding for this competitive opportunity is approximately \$600,000. The applicant may use their discretion in allocating year to year funds across their proposed project period; however, as stated in the RFP, EPA anticipates awarding one to three cooperative agreement(s) from this announcement, ranging in value from approximately \$50,000 to \$120,000, annually, subject to the availability of funds, quality of evaluated proposals, and other applicable considerations.

***NEW**

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Q10) I am wondering if this RFP allows for one organization to be involved in more than one proposal submission as sub-awardees under different primary applicants? In other words, we have been asked by two different organization who are each applying for this RFP to participate in their proposal; I do not want to unintentionally disqualify one or both applications if us partnering on two different proposals is not allowed. Please advise.

A10) Yes, it is allowed because each proposal will be evaluated entirely on its own individual merit. However, in the event that all or multiple projects that the organization is associated with become selected for award, the organization should be sure they have the administrative and programmatic bandwidth before committing to an eligible entity.

Q11) For this RFA on “Building the Capacity of Tribes to Address the Health Impacts of Climate Change” I am not finding any information regarding font size. We are using

normal margins and 12-point Arial font right now, but we are wondering if tables and/or other font can be a smaller font size than that.

- A11)** The applicant may use their discretion about font size throughout their application, however, standard business practice is Times New Roman or Arial at 12 pt.
- Q12)** Can we use funds to send third parties (a youth ~14-24) to a tribal youth conference? If the youth was under 18, this would also involve sending a chaperone as well.
- A12)** The costs of travel and attendance to a conference for a third party (someone not affiliated with the awardee's organization) would be allowable. However, as outlined in the RFP, applicants will need to ensure their overall proposed project will meet all of the requirements outlined in the RFP.