

U.S. EPA Radiological Protection Program Request for Applications
EPA-OAR-ORIA-20-04
Questions and Answers
As of May 27, 2020

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is soliciting applications for projects that align with this effort for the benefit of the general public through the development of radiological protection guidance and recommendations, and information exchange with EPA and other federal, state, tribal, territorial, and local entities involved in radiological protection.

The Request for Applications (RFA) and all application forms are available at <https://www.grants.gov>. Search for Funding Opportunity Number EPA-OAR-ORIA-20-04 (or direct link: <https://www.grants.gov/view-opportunity.html?dpp=1&oppld=326338>). The deadline to apply is May 29, 2020.

This Q&A document will be periodically updated to include questions and answers received by the agency contact throughout the open application period, and will be posted at <https://www.epa.gov/grants/development-recommendations-and-guidance-radiological-protection-programs>.

What is the purpose of this grant (see pages 3-4 of RFA)?

This grant is intended to provide funding for activities that advance the body of knowledge that informs radiological protection programs, identify and promote effective approaches to radiological protection, and increase exchange of technical information among organizations working to protect the public from unnecessary radiation exposure.

Who may apply (pages 7-8 of RFA)?

Applications will be accepted from states, local governments, territories, Indian tribes, and possessions of the U.S., including the District of Columbia, international organizations, public and private universities and colleges, hospitals, laboratories, and other public or private non-profit institutions. For-profit organizations are not eligible for this funding opportunity. Further details can be found in Section III.A of the RFA.

How much money is available (page 7 of RFA)?

The maximum award under this grant is \$500,000 to be funded over five years. Please note that the actual amount awarded will depend on agency appropriations, funding availability, and other applicable considerations. Further details on award information can be found in Section II of the RFA.

How many grants will be awarded (page 7 of RFA)?

EPA anticipates awarding one to two grants under this announcement. EPA reserves the right to:

- Fund more than one application under this announcement.
- Partially fund applications by funding discrete portions of proposed projects.
- Make additional awards under this announcement.
- Reject all applications and make no awards under this announcement.

What types of projects will the grant fund (pages 3-4 of RFA)?

Relevant project may provide sound scientific conclusions through a combination of research, investigations, experiments, demonstrations, surveys, and studies related to the causes, effects (including health and welfare effects) of radiation exposure detriment, as well as organize workshops and related events, conduct field studies and compile and disseminate key findings to result in the prevention and control of unnecessary exposure to radiation. Specific activities may include, but are not limited to:

- Development of radiological protection guidance and recommendations for emerging and/or evolving exposure scenarios.
- Activities supporting harmonization of international radiological protection standards.
- Provision of recommendations and guidance to entities involved in radiological protection, such as U.S. federal, state, tribal, territorial and local radiological protection programs.
- Organizing, developing, and providing logistical support for workshops and related events (e.g., technical meetings, webinars, etc.)

How will EPA decide which projects to fund (pages 15-17 of RFA)?

Projects will be evaluated on seven criteria:

- Project summary and approach
- Environmental results
- Programmatic capability and past performance
- Budget
- Expenditure of awarded grant funds
- Leveraging
- Project sustainability

Applications will be rated using a point system. The criteria and associated points are described in Section V of the RFA.

What is the deadline to apply (pages 1 and 14 of RFA)?

The deadline for submitting applications is May 29, 2020 at 11:59 p.m. Eastern Time. Application packages must be submitted electronically to EPA through grants.gov by the closing date and time. EPA asks applicants to submit an informal notice of intent to apply by May 15, 2020. This notification should be sent via email to Jonathan Nagata (nagata.jonathan@epa.gov). Further details are provided on page 1 of the RFA.

Where can I get the application forms (Appendix A of RFA)?

The Request for Applications, along with all application forms and the submission platform, is available at <https://www.grants.gov>. Search using the funding opportunity number EPA-OAR-ORIA-20-04. Additional instructions for submitting your application on grants.gov are available in Appendix A of the RFA (page 20).

Additional Questions and Answers (as of May 27, 2020)

Question 1: Is EPA looking for one-year or five-year proposals? Could applicants re-apply annually with new proposals?

Answer 1: EPA is looking for applications for the five-year period. Projects do not necessarily need to last five years. However, once the application window closes, applicants will not be able to apply again under this announcement. Therefore, the application must include all proposed activities within the five-year period.

Question 2: Can EPA provide feedback on an organization's proposed project(s)?

Answer 2: No. Because this is an open competition, EPA cannot comment on proposals while the RFA is open.

Question 3: Can a U.S. organization include someone from the European Union as a contributor?

Answer 3: Yes. However, the applicant must indicate if there will be any international activities, including international travel, in the application. All proposed foreign travel must be approved by EPA's Office of International and Tribal Affairs (see page 25 of the RFA).

Question 4: Are privately-held companies eligible for this grant?

Answer 4: For-profit organizations are not an eligible entity for this funding opportunity. Additionally, nonprofit organizations described in Section 501(c)(4) of the Internal Revenue Code that engage in lobbying activities as defined in Section 3 of the Lobbying Disclosure Act of 1995 are not eligible to apply.

Question 5: Is an international university eligible to apply for this grant?

Answer 5: Yes, an international university may apply as an international organization. Please note that the applicant must indicate if there will be any international activities, including international travel, in the application. All proposed foreign travel must be approved by EPA's Office of International and Tribal Affairs prior to being taken (see page 25 of the RFA).

Question 6: In the announcement, it is said that "EPA anticipates awarding one to two multi-year grant(s) from this announcement," so does this mean that a total of 1 or 4 submitted projects will be funded from this RFA?

Answer 6: We anticipate that one or two organizations that submit applications will receive an award. The total funding of all projects is not expected to exceed \$500,000. EPA reserves the right to make additional awards under this announcement (i.e., greater than 2 awards in total), and also reserves the right to fund discrete portions of proposed projects (e.g., partial funding of an application).

Question 7: Is there any consideration for the extension of deadline, due to the COVID-19 pandemic?

Answer 7: At this time, EPA is not planning to extend the May 29, 2020 application deadline. Flexibilities available to organizations impacted by COVID-19 are described on our EPA Solicitation Clauses webpage: <https://www.epa.gov/grants/epa-solicitation-clauses#flexibilitiescovid19>.

Question 8: Does the detailed budget narrative table count towards the 10-page project narrative limit?

Answer 8: Yes, the budget narrative is part of the 10-page limit. See Section IV.C.2. starting on page 12 of the RFA, which covers everything that's included in the project narrative and what counts towards the page limit.

Question 9: Does a reference list count in the 10-page limit?

Answer 9: No, a list of references counts as supporting documentation (attachments). See Section IV.C.3. on page 14 of the RFA, which covers everything that's not included in the project narrative and what does not count towards the page limit.

Question 10: Does the total proposed award need to be split evenly over the project period (e.g., if \$500K is proposed, must it be broken into \$100K per year)?

Answer 10: No, the total requested award does not need to be split evenly over the proposed project period. Note that the requested funding cannot exceed \$500,000 in total, and the actual award will depend on availability of funds and other conditions. See Section IV.A.4. on page 10 of the RFA regarding the funding limit.

Question 11: No formatting/font requirements are provided in the announcement. Would 0.5" margins and 11-pt font Arial be permissible for the main project narrative?

Answer 11: Yes, that formatting is acceptable.

Question 12: Is there a template for the Quality Assurance Narrative Statement that is expected to be used?

Answer 12: No, we do not have a template for the quality assurance narrative statement, which is listed as an optional attachment on pages 14 and 21 of the RFA.