

Research to Reduce Consumer Food Waste in the US RFA

Informational Webinar Questions and Answers

January 6, 2022

1. Is there only one \$750k award for this application? Or will multiple smaller awards be given? Can I apply for less money than \$750k?

Answer: The Agency plans to make two awards of up to \$750,000 each. As long as the application request is not more than \$750,000, you can ask for any amount that you justify, but proposed research would dictate the requested amount. Be sure your proposed research covers the areas of interest specified in the RFA, Section I.D. Please note that a smaller proposed budget does not give an advantage to a potential applicant.

2. Do you plan to offer this grant next year as well?

Answer: There is currently no plan to offer this grant solicitation next year. To stay informed of all upcoming grants, visit EPA's Research Grants [webpage](#) and sign up for our [Research Grants Listserv](#).

3. Is this the first funding cycle for this grant program?

Answer: This grant solicitation is not part of a cycle.

4. Are for-profit firms eligible to receive subawards?

Answer: No. Eligible applicants may use a consultant firm, but firms should **not** be listed as key personnel, principal investigator (PI), CO-PI, etc. If applicants use a consulting firm, they would have to comply with competitive procurement procedures for any significant costs. (See Section IV.C.7.b.(6) of the RFA.) If you are not eligible to apply for this grant solicitation, you may want to check out the EPA Small Business Innovation Research (SBIR) program (www.epa.gov/sbir) which has an annual solicitation that will open later this year.

5. Can the project focus on only a few communities in one city? Or is the RFA designed for activities in multiple cities or regions? Is it acceptable to mix nationwide research and local application/implementation?

Answer: Yes, proposed research can be specific to a local community and include how results of that community can be applied to larger areas. In the peer and relevancy criterion, we evaluate how results will produce benefits to the public through generalizability to the national scale.

6. Given the expected environmental outcomes, is food waste diversion from the landfill a potential research focus (methods such as composting)? Or should efforts focus on preventing wasted food from occurring in the first place?

Answer: Research should focus on achieving prevention of household food waste in landfills. Applicants should aim to propose cutting-edge research beyond "simple solutions" such as producing less food to begin with or exporting more excess food.

7. Is there a way the EPA could facilitate me finding collaborators within this group of interested attendees?

Answer: No, EPA cannot provide this type of assistance.

8. Are there any minimum requirements for a peer reviewer?

Answer: Peer reviewers should have a depth of experience in the research areas in section I.D. of the RFA. If you are interested in becoming peer reviewer, please contact Meta Bonner bonner.meta@epa.gov.

9. Can you clarify if small businesses are eligible to apply?

Answer: No, small businesses are not eligible to apply and may not be a sub awardee, but applicants may use small businesses as consultants. Small businesses or consultant firms should **not** be listed as key personnel, principal investigator (PI), CO-PI, etc. Small businesses should consider applying for the Small Business Innovation Research Program (SBIR).

10. The RFA says "Projects should build upon existing research", does the "existing" research have to be the applicants' own previous work?

Answer: It does not have to be your own research. You can also refer to the list of existing research in the reference section of the RFA.