

US EPA ARCHIVE DOCUMENT

AGENCY: ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY (EPA)

TITLE: INTEGRATED ASSESSMENT OF TRANSPORTATION-RELATED POLICIES ON GREENHOUSE GASES, LAND USE CHANGE, AND OTHER ECONOMY-WIDE IMPACTS

ACTION: Request for Applications (RFA)

RFA: EPA-OAR-OTAQ-11-06

CFDA: 66.034

SUMMARY: Formal Agency responses to questions regarding the subject RFA

Q1. Is a for-profit organization allowed to subcontract under this grant?

A1. Based on an Applicant's workplan and budget, the Applicant may conduct a competition for a sub-award following the federal procurement regulations in 40 CFR parts 30 or 31, as applicable. For-profit organizations would be eligible to compete under an Applicant's competition for a sub-award funding. For more information concerning partnering with an eligible entity, please refer to **Section IV. Part D** "Can Funding be Used for the Applicant to Make Subawards Acquire Contract Services or Fund Partnerships?" and **Part E** "How will an Applicant's Proposed Subawardees/Subgrantees and Contractors be Considered During the Evaluation Process Described in Section V of the Announcement?". Applicants must compete contracts for services and products, including consultant contracts, and conduct cost and price analyses to the extent required by the procurement provisions of the regulations at 40 CFR Parts 30 or 31, as appropriate. More details can be found on pages 9-14 of part IV- Application and Submission Information.

Q2: Does the EPA anticipate additional monies being made available for the winning cooperative agreement beyond the \$500,000/5 years?

A2. No, the current cooperative agreement is for up to \$500,000 over the next five years, and is subject to the availability of funding.

Q3: On page 11 "Programmatic Capability and Past Performance", applicants are told to provide a list of 5 past agreements, and preferably EPA agreements. On page 14 "Evaluation Criteria" for Programmatic Capability and Past Performance" it is not mentioned how having past EPA agreements will be scored. How important is it to have past EPA agreements?

A3. As described in more detail on page 14 of the Evaluation Criteria, several of the items under "Programmatic Capability and Past Performance" sub-factors I (6 points) and II (5 points) are scored based on past agreements. However, if the applicant has no relevant experience, the applicant should indicate this information on the proposal and the applicant will receive a neutral score for these sub-categories.

Q4. As a private-sector company, would our participation as a subcontractor to an eligible non-profit make that non-profit ineligible? Could it injure their bid?

A4. As stated in the RFA in section IV. parts D and E, applicants/grantees must follow the federal procurement guidelines to issue a sub-award/sub-contract. If selected, a grantee will need to conduct a competition to award a sub-contract, for-profit or private firm would be an eligible entity. EPA would consider the grantee as the prime grantee and would instruct them to follow the federal procurement guidelines 40 CFR Part 30 or 40 CFR Part 31.36 for awarding a sub-award/sub-contract. If the grantee identifies a specific organization in their application, the grantee will have to submit a sole-source justification describing why this organization is the only one that can perform the work and why they can't issue a competition for the sub-contract work. More information on sole-source justifications can be found in the procurement guidelines.

Q5. Would it be possible to set up a time to talk about the proposed grant and how a project that I am putting together might fit in with the grant?

A5. As stated in the RFA in section IV. part H Pre-Application Assistance and Communications (see clause below), EPA is unable to comment on individual proposal ideas. Please be sure to review all the requirements listed in the RFA when preparing your application package.

H. Pre-Application Assistance and Communications

In accordance with EPA's Assistance Agreement Competition Policy (EPA Order 5700.5A1), EPA staff will not meet with individual applicants to discuss draft application packages, provide informal comments on draft narrative proposals, or provide advice and/or guidance to applicants on how to respond to ranking criterion. Applicants are responsible for the contents of their applications. However, EPA will respond to questions in writing from individual applicants regarding threshold eligibility criterion, administrative issues related to the submission of the application, and requests for clarification about the announcement.

Q.6. Will there be only one award of \$500k over five years?

A.6. Yes, EPA anticipates making only one award for this RFA. The total amount of the award is up to \$500,000 over a five year period, depending upon available funds.

Q.7 Are indirect costs (IDCs) allowed?

A.7. Yes, applicants may include indirect costs in their proposed budgets. Only indirect costs that have been calculated with a current federally negotiated indirect cost rate will be accepted. For more information, please see Section IV.C.3 of the RFP.

Q.8. Our IDC agreement is for a 50% IDC covering everything other than equipment, so on the Indirect Line we will enter the rate - 50% and the base All charges including equipment. Correct?

A.8. EPA is unable to comment on the applicant's IDC without seeing a copy of the agreement. However, only a federally negotiated IDC rate will be accepted (see Q.8.)

Q.9. Are you expecting to see each year of the Budget for the total of 5 years, OR the total for 5 years only OR the first year only. Cayuse/Grants.gov does not provide space for 5 years worth of budget. Please advise what you expect to see in the SF-424A, as we want to provide what you are expecting.

A.9. If the SF-424A form does not provide enough columns for a 5-yr budget, then we suggest providing the total budget numbers on the form. However, a clear breakdown of the budget should be provided in an applicant's budget and budget narrative.

Q.10. If we don't have an integrated assessment model to do modeling runs, will our proposal be automatically excluded?

A.10. EPA is unable to comment on individual proposal ideas. Please be sure to review all the requirements listed in the RFA when preparing your application package. (See Q.6).

Q.11. For budgeting and project time-line purposes, what timeframe should we use as the start date for this project? In Section II.D. the RFP states the award will begin in late Spring 2011, but in Section IV.C.1.e. the RFP suggests using a start date of March 2011.

A.11. For budgeting purposes, applicants should use a start date of March 2011. Project start dates should be flexible to coincide with the actual grant award start date (if application is selected).