

US EPA ARCHIVE DOCUMENT

AGENCY: ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY (EPA)

TITLE: Integrated Assessment of Greenhouse Gases and Climate Impacts

ACTION: Request for Proposals (RFP)

RFP NUMBER: EPA-OAR-CCD-10-13

CFDA: 66.034

SUMMARY: Formal Agency responses to questions regarding the subject RFP

DATE: December 21, 2010

Q1: We are a non-profit/non-governmental organization in India that works on issues of Health, Environment, Education, Energy, Rehabilitation, Human Rights and Advocacy, Conservation and Women Empowerment. We have seen in the RFP that you fund non-profit organizations. We want to submit a project proposal. If you give permission, we will send the detailed project report to you.

A1: Please see Section III "Eligibility Information" of the RFP. Non-profit organizations and international organizations are eligible entities that may apply for funding under this announcement. All project proposals must address all the requirements in the RFP, including how to submit a proposal package.

Q2: I would like to find out to which specific IPM (Integrated Planning Model) systems the RFP refers to.

A2: We have purposefully not specified a particular tool or model system applicants need to incorporate. As part of the project proposal, applicants must provide in detail their concept of an integrated assessment model addressing the requirements listed in the RFP.

Q3: The RFP states that the total funding available is \$2,000,000 over 5 years, and that the funding cap per year is \$400,000. So hypothetically, if you funded one 3-year cooperative agreement at capacity, that would be \$1,200,000. Could you also then partially fund a second cooperative agreement up to \$800,000 to reach your \$2,000,000 limit?

A3: There is not a minimum funding limit for this RFP. Therefore, the above funding theory could be a possibility. Please keep in mind there are numerous possible project funding/year scenarios that could be awarded. Final decisions are based on funding requests of evaluated proposals that are highly ranked, geographic diversity and other programmatic priorities.

Q4: Can another federal agency be a cooperative partner in a proposal, provided that the agency requests no funding from the award?

A4: In Accordance with this RFP's catalog of federal domestic assistance (CFDA) 66.034, proposals will be accepted from the following eligible entities: State, 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, other public or private non-profit institutions. **If an applicant submits a proposal that includes partnering or collaborating with another federal agency or federal employee, the applicant must consult and comply with the other federal agency's grant and ethics policies.** EPA will only award assistance agreements to a single eligible entity, which will be administratively and fiscally responsible for all grant activities and federal funds.

Q5: Can a federal employee be a co-PI (principal investigator) in a proposal, provided that the employee requests no funding from the award?

A5: A federal employee would be eligible to contribute as a principal investigator providing expertise toward the applicant's proposed project. However, he or she would not be able to act as a principal investigator during his or her official duties as a government employee. Their work as a principal investigator would have to be separate from his or her official governmental duties. **Please have the federal employee consult with their Agency's grant and ethics policies.**

Q6. How do we treat National Laboratories, which are government owned/contractor operated (GOCO) facilities, under this RFP?

A6. Applicants are responsible for determining whether they are an eligible entity for this funding announcement. It is also the responsibility of an applicant to determine what type of organization they plan to partner or collaborate with, not EPA. Once the competition closes and during the threshold criteria evaluation of proposals, EPA will determine whether an applicant is eligible or not, and notify ineligible applicants accordingly. If an applicant proposes to subcontract to a specific entity (laboratory), the applicant must follow the proper procurement provisions in 40 CFR part 30 or 31. Additionally, please refer to section IV parts D and E of the RFP for guidance regarding subcontracts and partnerships.

Q7: Section II.A of the RFP states that the total estimated funding is approximately \$2M. Is this per year?

A7: No, \$2 million is the total cumulative amount of funding available for project(s) that will be awarded under this funding announcement. Applicants may request project periods of up to 5-years. All awards are subject to the availability of funds.

Q8: Section II.C states that the EPA expects to award approximately 1-3 cooperative agreements ranging in value from \$100k-\$400k. I don't quite understand the math; 3 agreements for \$400k would be less than \$2M. Can you explain?

A8: As stated in the RFP in section II parts C and D, multiple awards may be awarded and applicants can propose a project period of up to 5-years. The funding ranges listed in the RFP are designed to provide examples of annual funding that may be awarded in a multi-year grant. Applicants do not necessarily have to request funding for the entire \$2 million or follow the exact dollar and year projections stated in the RFP. Applicants should structure their budget to reflect their project's needs.

Section II. part C. How many agreements will EPA award in this competition?

EPA anticipates award of approximately one to three cooperative agreements resulting from this announcement, **ranging in value from approximately \$100,000 to \$400,000 per year**, subject to the availability of funds and quality of evaluated proposals, and other applicable considerations. In addition, EPA reserves the right to make additional awards under this announcement, consistent with Agency policy, if additional funding becomes available after the original selections. Any additional selections for awards will be made no later than six months from the date of the original selections.

Q9: The RFP states that "international organizations" are eligible entities for this RFP, but what is the definition of an international organization? Does this refer only to international non-profit organizations? Are public or private universities located in countries outside of the United States eligible?

A9: For this funding announcement, international organizations are typically organizations that are not headquartered in the US. If you have a question regarding whether your organization is considered an international organization or of the US, consult your accountant or your organization's US tax identification information. International non-profits, foreign universities and foreign

governments are all considered international organizations and would be an eligible entity to apply for funding under this announcement.

Q10: Can an international university or an employee of an international university be named as a subawardee/subgrantee under this RFP?

A10: It is possible. If a specific subawardee/subgrantee is included in an applicant's proposal, the applicant must be prepared (if selected for award) to follow the federal procurement guidelines listed in section IV, part D and/or E.

Q11: Can you describe what kind of models count as an Integrated Assessment Model (IAM)? We work with various models to develop linkages between global climate change and local-scale, city-level impacts. Does this fit the description of the type of integrated assessment modeling you are looking for?

A11: As stated in the RFP, proposals must utilize an existing IAM that combines both the socio-economic and earth system (atmosphere, land, and ocean) components of climate change at the global and national levels. Applicants are responsible for determining what type of an existing integrated assessment model they plan to use in their proposal. Applicants need to review and address all the components in section I of the RFP which outlines in detail how an applicant must demonstrate and include in their Integrated Assessment Model proposal.

Q12. Would this proposal be an appropriate opportunity for downscaling an IAM to the regional level (i.e. New England)?

A12: EPA will not comment or advise on contents of an applicant's proposal. Please review section IV. Part H. of the RFP below regarding pre-proposal assistance.

H. Pre-Proposal 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 proposal 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 proposals. However, EPA will respond to questions in writing from individual applicants regarding threshold eligibility criterion, administrative issues related to the submission of the proposal, and requests for clarification about the announcement.

Q13. Can this funding be used to help simplify IAM results for use by regional and local entities (i.e. devising methodologies for utilizing model results to build local and regional resilience)?

A13: Yes, this could be a possible scenario as long as the proposal addresses all the requirements in section I. part B and other sections of the RFP.

Updated as of December 21, 2010

Q14: In regards to the following part of the solicitation, "Applicants must also describe the capacity of the proposed IAM to do the following, and how their proposal intends to advance current modeling and assessment capabilities in these areas:" (followed by a list of five areas). Are you looking for a single proposal that will advance capabilities in all five areas, or multiple proposals that may each advance capabilities in a subset of the five areas?

A14: Each individual proposal must address all five areas listed in the Scope of Work, though applicants may choose to focus their proposals on a subset of the five areas. Each proposal should clearly state which areas will be the focus and which will not be emphasized.