

## **Sustainable Materials Management FY21 RFA Questions and Answers**

**April 26<sup>th</sup>, 2021**

*Question: What is the timeline for projects?*

Answer: Successful applicants will be notified in early July 2021 and unsuccessful projects will be notified by mid-July 2021. Projects under this RFA are to begin October 1<sup>st</sup>, 2021 and will be for one year.

*Question: Can you provide examples of past projects?*

Answer: We have some past projects that we can share, however, priorities and funding changes from year to year. This is an new release of projects winners from 2020:

<https://www.epa.gov/newsreleases/epa-awards-over-170000-recycling-and-food-waste-projects-great-lakes-region>. These projects are still in progress.

This is a final report and some additional materials as a result of our 2017 grant competition. Please note, some elements of this project are still in progress and 2017 priority was different those included in the 2021 competition: <https://www.epa.gov/large-scale-residential-demolition/reuse-and-recycling-opportunities-and-demolition#Markets>

*Question: What does “real change” mean under the “Responsiveness to Priority” criterion?*

Answer: The criteria will be judged by a panel of reviewers using these elements to guide their scores. While I am unable to answer this directly, please refer to the entire set of Evaluation Criteria consider if your project will have the overall effect of achieving this goal.

*Question: If we have grants past performance that are not federal agreements, will those be considered under the past performance criterion?*

Answer: Please include any relevant experience. In evaluating applicants under the past performance this criterion, the Agency will consider the information provided by the applicant and may also consider relevant information from other sources including Agency files and prior/current grantors (e.g., to verify and/or supplement the information supplied by the applicant). If you do not have any relevant or available past performance or reporting information, please indicate this in the application and you will receive a neutral score for these sub-factors. If you do not provide any response for these items, you may receive a score of 0 for these factors

*Question: Will grants for multistate or regional efforts be viewed more favorably?*

Answer: Please refer to the FY21 SMM priorities as part of this RFA. Depending on how your project responds to the RFA it may or may not be an element.

*Question: How should the food recovery rescue and source reduction elements in Priority #2 Strategies for Preventing Food Loss and Waste Through Source Reduction and/or Food Rescue in Region 5 be addressed as other organizations do similar work in food loss and waste?*

Answer: EPA is requesting applications for projects that use the top two strategies, of the Food Waste Hierarchy (Source Reduction and Feeding Hungry People) either individually or in a combination, to prevent food loss and waste. Projects submitted under this RFA will work with a network of stakeholders to achieve this goal and demonstrate progress to reaching EPA’s 2030

Food Loss and Waste Reduction goal. As part of the project, applicants must also ultimately submit projects that achieve these goals and the goals of the EPA Strategic Plan and the Solid Waste Disposal Act Statutory Authority referred to in the RFA. This information is found under Section C.) Linkage to EPA Strategic Plan Linkage & Anticipated Outcomes, Outputs & Performance Measures and Section D.) Statutory Authority.

**May 7<sup>th</sup>, 2021**

*Question: The RFA specifies that this is a cooperative agreement and not a grant. In this case, should the budget include Indirect Costs?*

The differences between cooperative agreement and grants are described here:

<https://www.epa.gov/grants/epa-funding-instruments-and-authorities>

The difference generally refers to programmatic involvement in the project and response to the RFA. Information on EPA's indirect cost policy and how to document this in the submission are found here:

<https://www.epa.gov/sites/production/files/2019-05/documents/applicant-budget-development-guidance.pdf>