

AGENCY: ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY (EPA)

TITLE: National Indoor Environments Program: Reducing Public Exposure to Indoor Pollutants

ACTION: Request for Applications (RFA)

RFA No: EPA-OAR-ORIA-14-03

CFDA No: 66.034

SUMMARY: Formal Agency responses to questions regarding the subject RFA

DATE: April 11, 2014

Q1: Is it permissible for us to submit multiple applications?

A1: Yes, it is permissible to submit multiple applications addressing different program priority areas (e.g., radon, indoor environmental asthma triggers, and indoor air contaminants). Per section 1.B, all applications “must clearly articulate a plan to produce results that have implications and/or benefits on a national scale (this RFA is not designed to fund small-scale local projects).”

Q2: Does national scale impacts mean that proposals must address a multi-state or large region versus one county or municipality?

A2: Yes, per section 1.B, “applications must articulate a plan to produce results that have implications and/or benefits on a national level (in other words, this RFA is not designed to fund small-scale local projects).” A county or municipality program would be considered a small-scale local project. As stated throughout the RFA, the scope of this RFA is national (e.g., it is designed to fund projects which will produce environmental results on a national scale).

Q3: Does the \$200,000 per year for 3 years include direct costs and federally negotiated indirect costs?

A3: The \$200,000 per year of federal funding includes all direct and indirect costs. The total amount an applicant can request for federal funding is \$200,000 per year for up to three years.

Q4: Can you review my proposal and tell me if it is eligible for this RFA?

A4: No, per Section VI.E of the RFA and the additional provisions found at http://www.epa.gov/ogd/competition/solicitation_provisions.htm : **EPA will not provide**

informal comments on draft proposals. If you have specific questions pertaining to the RFA, you may send them to NationalIndoorEnvironmentsRFA2014@epa.gov.

Q5: Has your office funded Spanish language or Hispanic oriented projects in the past? And if so, what did those projects entail?

A5: Yes, EPA’s Indoor Environments Division has funded Spanish language or Hispanic oriented projects in the past. You can learn more about the recipients of the 2009 grants competition at http://www.epa.gov/iaq/cooperative_partners.html. The 2014 competition reflects our current program priorities – radon, indoor environmental asthma triggers, and IAQ in buildings, and Appendix A provides more details on the types of activities, outputs and outcomes we’re aiming to support with these grant funds. As stated in the RFA and on the referenced webpages, reducing environmental health risks of disproportionately impacted populations is an important part of EPA’s mission. You can learn more about the EPA’s efforts to address radon, indoor environmental asthma triggers and multiple indoor air contaminants at <http://www.epa.gov/iaq/>.

Q6: Can a custodial green business qualify for this grant opportunity?

A6: Please refer to Section 3.A of the RFA (excerpted below). For-profit organizations are not eligible to apply for this grant.

A. Eligible Entities

In accordance with CFDA 66.034, 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, other public or private non-profit institutions.

Q7: Can we include References/Works Cited as an appendix under “Optional Project Narrative File” in the SF424 package? If so, will it count against the 13 page limit for the proposal? What other appendices are acceptable and do not count against the 13 page limit?

A7: Applications will be evaluated based on the information provided in the Narrative Proposal (not to exceed 13 pages). The required SF-424 application forms will be used to determine applicant eligibility (see Section III of the RFA) and in the award process (should your application be selected for award). You may submit additional information in appendixes in the SF424 package. However, pages in excess of the 13-page limitation will not be reviewed.

Q8: Are we able to submit multiple applications within the same priority area (e.g., two applications for different types of work under indoor environmental asthma triggers)? The information provided at <http://www.epa.gov/air/grants/rfa-epa-oar-oria-ga-14-03.pdf> notes that “it is permissible to submit multiple applications addressing different program priority areas,” which suggests it may not be permissible to submit multiple applications addressing the same program priority areas but we wanted to confirm.

A8: No, it is not permissible to submit multiple applications addressing the same program priority area. The RFA has been amended (sections I.B and III.C) to clarify this.

Q9: *If it is not permissible to submit multiple applications within the same priority area, would we be able to submit one application as the lead agency and be listed as a sub-contractor on another application if both applications are in the same program priority area?*

A9: Yes, it is permissible to submit one application as the lead agency and be listed as a sub-contractor on another application in the same program priority area.

Q10: *Can state level impact be acceptable? What about regional?*

A10: Section 1.B Scope of Work states "applications must clearly articulate a plan to produce results that have implications and/or benefits on a national scale (this RFA is not designed to fund small-scale local projects)." You can find examples of national scale outcomes and results in the descriptions for radon, indoor environmental asthma triggers and indoor air quality contaminants (on pages 4-6) and in Appendix A.

Q11: *Is it possible to get a list of the 17 awardees from the last cycle of funding?*

A11: Yes, you can find a list of the 2009 grant recipients at http://www.epa.gov/iaq/cooperative_partners.html. The 2014 competition reflects our current program priorities – radon (40%), indoor environmental asthma triggers (40%), and multiple indoor air contaminants (20%). Appendix A provides more details on the types of activities, outputs and outcomes we're aiming to support with these grant funds.

Q12: *Would a project addressing formaldehyde and select other IAQ contaminants be a good fit for this program. It seems that it could fit under the "Multiple indoor air quality contaminants category", however, it also says that EPA will not consider applications "which specifically address indoor asbestos, lead, PCBs or other chemical-specific pollutants."*

A12: This RFA is not intended to "address indoor asbestos, lead, PCBs or other chemical-specific pollutants." Per section I.B, the scope of work for multiple IAQ contaminants (page 6), "Applications should be for projects that achieve outcomes on a national scale such as: Address multiple IAQ contaminants and other relevant issues, such as ventilation and moisture control, to promote comprehensive improvement of IAQ in homes, schools, offices and/or other non-industrial buildings. Increase the number of homes, schools, offices and/or other non-industrial buildings with interventions that prevent or reduce exposure to multiple IAQ contaminants." Please refer to Appendix A (page 24-25) for more information on the types of projects being sought to address multiple indoor air quality contaminants.

Q13: *I missed the March 31, 2014 deadline for submission of a notice of intent to apply. Can I still submit an application by the April 21, 2014 deadline?*

A13: Yes, the submission of a notice of intent is optional for this RFA. Therefore, you are still eligible to submit the complete application by the deadline of April 21, 2014.

Q14: Under the indoor environmental asthma triggers program priority area, who are included as “non-licensed providers”? How are they defined? Can you give examples?

A14: Community health workers are an example of non-licensed providers. Examples of licensed providers include nurses, respiratory therapists and certified asthma educators.

Q15: Can letters of support be included as appendices to an application?

A15: Yes, letters of support can be included as part of the 13-page narrative proposal or as appendices to the SF424 package. Applications will be evaluated based on the information provided in the narrative proposal (not to exceed 13 pages). The SF-424 application forms will be used to determine applicant eligibility (see Section III of the RFA) and in the award process (should your application be selected for award).