

AGENCY: ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY (EPA)

TITLE: “UNDERGROUND STORAGE TANK COMPLIANCE ASSISTANCE AND TRAINING SUPPORT IN INDIAN COUNTRY”

ACTION: Request for Proposals (RFP) - Questions and Answers.

RFP NO: EPA-OLEM- OUST-16-03

CATALOG OF FEDERAL DOMESTIC ASSISTANCE (CFDA) NO: 66.804

SUMMARY: The following are formal Agency responses to questions/comments received regarding the subject solicitation.

1. We are a state university under the jurisdiction and control of the Board of Regents and as such, is an instrumentality of the State. Based on this information, are we eligible to apply for RFP No. EPA-OLEM-OUST-16-03?

No. Under the amended RFP, the field of eligibility is limited to any Indian tribe, band, nation, or other organized group or community, including any Alaska Native village or regional or village corporation as defined in or established pursuant to the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act (43 U.S.C. Chapter 33), which is recognized as eligible for the special programs and services provided by the United States to Indians because of their status as Indians (25 U.S.C. 450b(e)), and inter-tribal consortia. See annually published Bureau of Indian Affairs list of Indian Entities Recognized and Eligible to Receive Services.

2. Do we have to have a certain amount of active sites to qualify?

No. The RFP makes no reference to “amount of active sites” as a condition of qualification. The proposed grant is open to any eligible entity that is qualified to provide compliance assistance training (and the other services described within the RFP) to all of the tribal governments and tank owners within Indian country across the United States.

3. Please clarify whether this grant is different from the EPA LUST funds that we already receive?

This is not a leaking underground storage tank (LUST) Trust Fund grant. The proposed grant will promote the prevention of releases from federally-regulated underground storage tanks (USTs) in Indian country across the United States and the compliance of UST facilities in Indian country across the United States with federal regulations.

4. We are a state university for sure and have been included in many grant opportunities as an “institute of higher learning.” Can you advise whether or not we would be eligible to apply for this grant opportunity?

No. Under the amended RFP, the field of eligibility is limited to any Indian tribe, band, nation, or other organized group or community, including any Alaska Native village or regional or village corporation as defined in or established pursuant to the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act (43 U.S.C. Chapter 33), which is recognized as eligible for the special programs and services provided by the United States to Indians because of their status as Indians (25 U.S.C. 450b(e)), and inter-tribal consortia. See annually published Bureau of Indian Affairs list of Indian Entities Recognized and Eligible to Receive Services.

5. Are the grant funds under this opportunity like “train the trainer” grant money? May grant funds be used to start a tribal program development for UST compliance on Indian lands?

The goal of the proposed project is to provide Tribes and UST owners and operators in Indian country with compliance assistance and engaging, interactive training opportunities provided by an entity with extensive UST field knowledge and training expertise, including activities such as communication, technical information exchange, and programmatic support.

Funding under this announcement will be used for activities that support compliance assistance (such as providing interactive training) for UST owners and operators in Indian country; engaging, interactive training for Tribal government and non-government personnel involved with Tribal environmental programs (Tribal personnel); Tribal UST compliance program development; collaborative efforts among Tribes and other government and non-government entities; and, information exchange.

6. If we submitted a proposal on our own, how would this affect the Eight Northern Pueblos Office of Environmental Technical Assistance (OETA) program? Because OETA has this program, is Ohkay Owingeh eligible?

Any non-profit tribal government or tribal consortia is eligible to submit a proposal for this grant. This opportunity is separate from any other grant a tribal entity may now have.

7. Is this grant completely different grant than the one from EPA that we initially apply for annually or, is this a separate grant which allows for an opportunity for more funding?

This is a competitive grant for which any eligible entity can submit a proposal. All proposals will be evaluated based upon the criteria listed in Section 5 (page 21) in the RFP. The proposal with the highest score will be recommended to the EPA Headquarters Selection Official for award.

8. Regarding submission of proposals through grants.gov, does the whole grant package need to be filled out as well, or should we submit just the proposal?

Refer to *Section 4.B, Submission Instructions* (Page 12) for a list of “Mandatory Documents.”

- 9. In our application we will submit a one year budget for \$200K along with the budget narrative and a breakdown of the tasks and their costs per the grant requirements. Do we need to submit a budget narrative for the full 5 years or will a comprehensive budget totaling the \$1M suffice?**

Refer to *Section 4.E(3)(b)(iv), Detailed Budget Narrative and Table* (Page 17) for a complete description of Budget Narrative requirements.

- 10. I am unable to find exactly where the answer would be posted. Would it be possible to provide more direction for finding answers when they become available?**

All questions or comments must be communicated in writing via postal mail or electronic mail to the Agency Contact listed in Section 7 of the RFP. Answers will be posted to the OLEM Grants & Funding webpage located at <http://www.epa.gov/grants/office-land-and-emergency-management-grants-and-funding#oust-fy16-16-03>, bi-weekly, until the closing date for this announcement.