Exchange Network Grant Program
FY 2017 Solicitation Notice Webinar
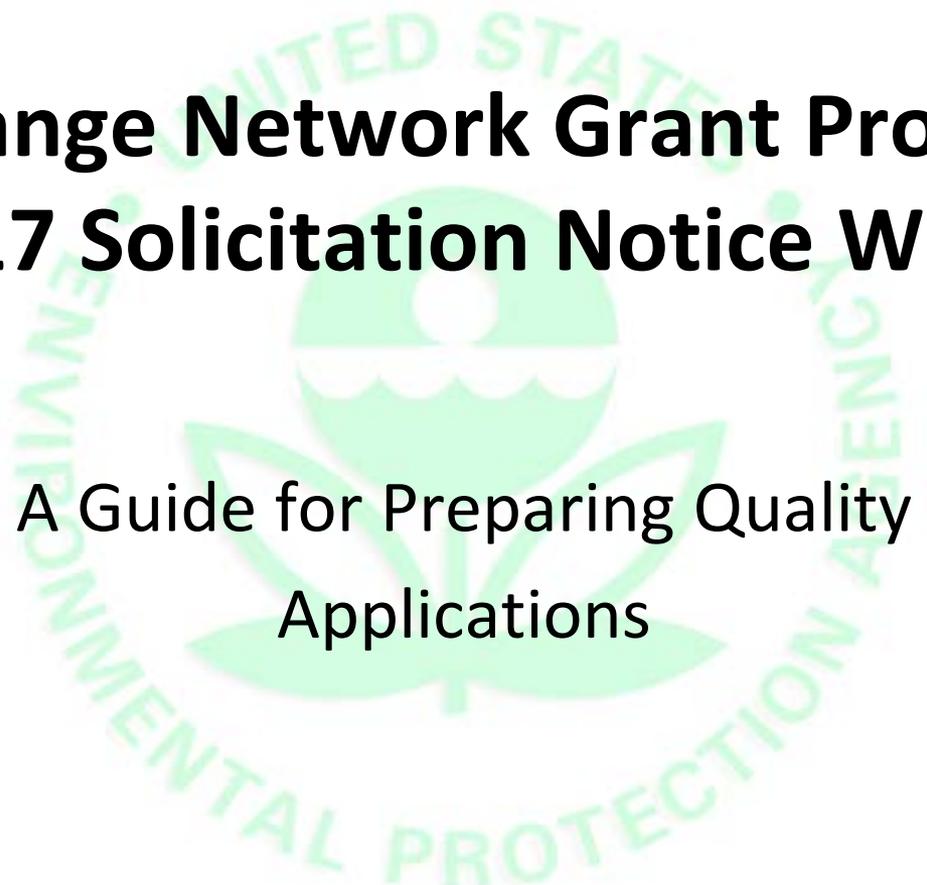
A Guide for Preparing Quality Applications

Overview

- FY 2017 Grant Program Basics

- What's New (or Different) This Year?

- Other Key Elements

- Tips and Tricks

- Application Instructions

- What pitfalls should I avoid?

- Questions

- Contacts

FY 2017 Grant Program Basic Information

- President has requested the same level of funding as past years – $10 million
- Projects must be activities specifically mentioned in the priorities section of the Solicitation Notice or Appendix A
  - Must commit to completion of an activity
  - Completion means fully implementing a data flow, data publishing, deployment of a web service or another project
- States, federally recognized tribes and territories are eligible to apply
- Non-eligible entities can partner with an eligible one; eligible partner must be the lead applicant
- Applications due **November 18, 2016**
- Notification of selection (not official) to go out late March to April 2017
- Awards made May through September 2017
- EPA may partially fund proposals

What's New (or Different This Year)?

Exchange Network Program Priorities (Section I-E)

- Tiers removed – all opportunities listed as individual or partnership
- Exchange Network projects that support e-Enterprise are fundable

Application Submission (Section IV and Appendix E)

- Requirement to submit applications through grants.gov
- Exceptions only available through a waiver process; instructions for alternate submission method included in waiver

Exchange Network Evaluation Criteria (Section V-A)

- Criterion 3, Exchange Network Priorities, increased to 40 points and includes sub-criteria

Other Key Elements

- Activities ineligible for funding
  - Enhancing a data flow (e.g., new parameters, adding historical data)
  - Developing and deploying a node
  - Operations and Maintenance
- Point deduction for excessive unliquidated obligations
- Applications from applicants with more than four active Exchange Network grants are ineligible

Application Instructions

- Submit via grants.gov, use an existing waiver or apply for a waiver (follow waiver instructions)

- If submitting through grants.gov – you must receive the second email

- Required documents (checklist in Appendix H)

- Page limit with font and margin specifications

- Project narrative is the most important element – read guidelines on page E-3

- If you have not received a confirmation that we received your application by the 12/15 , call us – please do not wait

Tips and Tricks for Preparing a Successful Grant Application

- Read Solicitation Notice carefully
  - Note all requirements for a complete application
  - Solicitation Notice includes a checklist in Appendix H
- Note in cover letter the type of assistance agreement being sought
  - Stand alone grant vs. PPG, etc
  - Direct funding vs. in-kind services
  - Traditional grant vs. cooperative agreement
  - Individual vs. partnership
- Write to the evaluation criteria
  - Make this easy for reviewers – take the guess work out
  - Use our language
- Review the application to make sure it is complete

Common Pitfalls

- Applications
  - not related to EN technology
  - not aligned with priorities
  - devoid of a concrete proposal
  - that do not propose to build and deploy a completed product or service
- Goals, outputs and outcomes not well organized or described or terminology is not used correctly
- Budgets not broken down by goal
- Applications that include ineligible activities (e.g., node development, O&M)
- Project narratives that exceed 10 pages
- Partnerships in the same state

Goals, Outputs, Target Dates and Outcomes

Goal	Output	Target Date[1]	Outcome
EIS & GHG Data Flows	1.1 CERS data mapped to XML schema	Jan. 1, 2011	Increased availability of timely, high quality data to other Exchange Network partners will improve environmental decision-making.
	1.2 EIS flow to EPA becomes operational	June 1, 2011	
	1.3 GHG flow to EPA becomes operational[2]	Dec. 31, 2011	
	1.4 Improve GIS locations & geospatial metadata for air release points[3]	Sept. 30, 2012	
	1.5 Add Assessment Module[3] to evaluate air emissions near new construction projects	Mar. 31, 2012	
WQX[4]	2.1 Data mapped to XML schema[2]	Mar. 31, 2011	Increased availability of data to other Exchange Network partners Electronic availability of standardized, timely, high quality data over the Exchange Network will improve the analysis of water quality monitoring data and lead to better decision-making.
	2.2 Implement WQX Flow[3]	Sept. 30, 2011	
	2.3 Written documentation of implementing WQX with multi-state AWQMS database	Jan. 31, 2012	
	2.4 Publish Web Service	Sept. 30, 2012	

Questions?

Contacts

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