

5-5-17

For the "Demystifying Markets" priority, can applicants use or build on previously collected data, including the resources referenced in the priority?

Yes. The "Demystifying Markets" priority states that applications "should consider using and/or building" on the listed resources and data. How applicants choose to use or build on existing resources and data to create an effective and well-conceived strategy will be at the discretion of the applicant.

4-7-17

1.) Would you be able to tell us how many applications you generally get for this grant program?

R5's last competition in 2014 only addressed one priority. This competition was a "simplified competition" and, while open to all applicants, it was not made public on grants.gov. We had a total of 6 eligible applications and were able to award 2 grants. The 2017 competition is an open competition which is similar to competitions held between 2007 and 2011.

The number of applicants, grants awarded, and priorities changed each year. This is an example of the last five open competitions and their variability.

Year	Number of applicants	Number of projects funded	Success rate
2007	18	5	28%
2008	22	5	23%
2009	45	4	9%
2010	13	2	15%
2011	13	2	15%

2.) Do Tribally Owned Enterprises, such as a Community's casino, qualify for this grant opportunity?

Consistent with the Applicant Eligibility Section of CFDA No. 66.808, applications will be accepted from State (including the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, Virgin Islands, Guam, American Samoa, and Northern Mariana Islands), local, Tribal, interstate, and intrastate government agencies and instrumentalities, and non-profit organizations that are not 501(c)(4) organizations that lobby, including non-profit educational institutions and non-profit hospitals.

Under this RFA, a Tribal Government Agency may be the applicant while a Tribally Owned Enterprise may oversee the work contained in work plan. Remember, only one entity must be responsible for the grant. Please refer to the Coalitions section (on page 7) for additional explanation regarding roles of multiple entities.

3.) Region 5 previously attempted to complete a Market Study in the Region. Can applicants with knowledge of this data build off this previous work?

Data from this previous effort was never finalized or published due to quality assurance concerns. However, if a project is selected for funding that addresses the “Demystifying Market” priority area, Region 5 can assist successful awardees in evaluating the appropriate use of this data.

4.) Would job estimates be considered an outcome measure under the “Demystifying Markets” priority?

Yes, as is noted in the RFA, “Projects addressing this priority must: Create an information resource to identify end markets as well as the economic opportunity afforded by these potential markets using economic indicators such as jobs, wages and/or tax revenues.”

5.) When addressing the “Demystify Potential Midwestern Recycling End Markets through Collaboration” priority, what sort of “information resource” is Region 5 expecting this resource to be static or interactive?

This RFA is not prescriptive of the methods taken by applicants in creating this “information resource.” Region 5 will be evaluating projects for innovative approaches to addressing this priority.

6.) Is there a threshold financial amount that triggers Federal Procurement Standards when contracting?

Under the Procurement Standards of 2 CFR Part 200 recipients other than states must select contractors (including consultants who provide goods or services) competitively if the amount of the contract exceeds \$3,500 but is under \$150,000, and conduct cost and price analyses if required.

States should follow their own procurement guidelines with respect to the competition.

Methods of procurement to be followed include:

(a) Procurement by micro-purchases (\$3500). Procurement by micro-purchase is the acquisition of supplies or services, the aggregate dollar amount of which does not exceed the micro-purchase threshold (\$200.67 Micro-purchase). To the extent practicable, the non-Federal entity must distribute micro-purchases equitably among qualified suppliers. Micro-purchases may be awarded without soliciting competitive quotations if the non-Federal entity considers the price to be reasonable.

(b) Procurement by small purchase procedures. Small purchase procedures are those relatively simple and informal procurement methods for securing services, supplies, or other property that do not cost more than the Simplified Acquisition Threshold (\$150,000). If small purchase procedures are used, price or rate quotations must be obtained from an adequate number of qualified sources.