

Questions and Responses to Region 2 Request for Applications

Question 1: In the past, we would develop a QAPP for a proposed study after funding was awarded, but before we collected any data. For the current RFA, is the QAPP required as part of the initial application or, in the event that funding is awarded, can it be developed afterwards as we have done in the past?

Response 1: As with in the past, yes, the QAPP development can occur after the award is made and should be a task in the workplan narrative. However, it is required to be stated so in the workplan.

Question 2: A four-year project period would best suit the type of study we desire to propose. The language that describes the project length in the RFA is below. I am a little confused by the second sentence. Could you please confirm whether or not it would be appropriate to propose a four-year study?

From the RFA: It is anticipated that the assistance agreements awarded under this announcement will have one to three (but no more than four) year project periods. The project period for assistance agreements under this announcement should be no more than three (but no more than four) years.

Response 2: While we typically prefer three-year projects and then have a year to finish if something goes wrong, you can submit a four-year project. BUT, it needs to be made very clear that you will need to be finished by then; no wiggle room for errors.

Question 3: On page 1 under the SUMMARY section 2nd paragraph: “All applications submitted under this RFA must be for projects that develop or refine state/tribal/local government wetland programs. **Implementation of wetland protection programs is not an eligible project under this announcement.** An implementation project is one that is accomplished through the performance of routine, traditional, or established practices, or a project that is simply intended to carry out a task rather than transfer information or advance the state of knowledge. All monitoring and mapping projects should transfer information or advance the state of knowledge and therefore are eligible under this grant.” We are unclear about what the sentence in bold means. **Implementation of wetland protection programs is not an eligible project under this announcement.** It’s also stated again on page 4. Is that referring to actual wetlands and shoreline restoration projects or something else?

Response 3: The answer to your question is yes, it does refer to the actual wetlands and shoreline restoration projects and these projects would therefore be ineligible. However, if the restoration or shoreline project is a demonstration of a new or unique methodology then that project would be eligible.

Question 4: Should the letters of support for applications be addressed to the applicant or the USEPA?

Response 4: The letters of support should be addressed to the applicant.