

Questions and Answers from the 19th Annual People, Prosperity, and the Planet (P3) Phase I Request for Applications (RFA) Informational Webinar - September 15, 2021

1. Do you fund the same number of projects under each research area?

We do not fund the same number of projects for all four Funding Opportunity Numbers (FONs). Additionally, we do not receive a proportionate number of applications for all four FONs.

2. Does the final product of the research have to be a technology? If so, what scale does the technology have to be (lab scale, industrial scale, ready to be deployed in real world)?

The final product does not necessarily have to be a technology. Outputs of P3 projects include methodologies, testing criteria, software, analyses, as well as technologies. For the P3 program, we expect technologies to be bench-level scale, such as household drinking water filtration technologies produced for end-users.

3. Can a postdoc serve as a PI but not be waged? If a postdoc wants to participate as a student, is that allowed?

Principal investigators should be faculty at the granted institution. The Request for Application says regarding students that they “must be enrolled in the college, university, or post-secondary educational institution they will be representing at the time the application is submitted.” Therefore, postdocs can be students on the project.

4. What is the page count for the abstract and research plan? What are some of the specific headers that need to be included? Are figures and tables included in the page count?

Refer to Section IV.C.5 and Section IV.C.6.a for information on the page counts, headers and other requirements for the abstract and research plan respectively. Figures and tables are included in the page limit.

5. Is there any specific format for the Science Data Management Plan and Human Subjects Research Statement?

Refer to Section IV.C.6.a for information regarding the Human Subjects Research Statement (page 26) and the Science Data Management Plan (page 28).

6. If your organization is a university based in the United States, but your research is going to benefit people in another country would we be eligible for this grant?

Refer to Section V.A.3 for relevancy review criteria. Criterion b evaluates “the degree to which the research is primarily performed in the U.S. and the benefits of the research primarily accrue to the U.S.” If the research does not accrue and benefit communities within the U.S., it is likely this proposal will score low in the relevancy review.

7. Can you elaborate on the budget categories? Can we pay students under this award?

Some student support is provided by Phase I funding (e.g., participant support costs such as stipends or travel assistance). If students are considered employees of the university, those expenses would be indicated under the Personnel category. If not, these costs are considered participant support costs. For more information, refer to Section IV.C.7 of the RFA for specific information on each budget category.

8. Comparing with last year's RFA, what are the changes in the specific areas of interest?

For this cycle’s RFA, the amount of specific topics and areas of research were condensed from the previous year’s Request for Application (RFA) to give teams more flexibility in their projects. Regional priorities were also incorporated into some of the topics. Additionally, some of the topic areas were modified with an environmental justice component in conjunction with Executive Order 13985, Advancing Racial Equity and Support for Underserved Communities Through the Federal Government, issued on January 20, 2021.