

**EPA Grants Competition Process Webinar, September 26, 2023**  
**Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)**

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- Q1: Will this video be made available at a later time?
- A1: A recording of today's webinar will be available on the Competition Process Webinar webpage at: <https://www.epa.gov/grants/competition-process-webinar-september-26-2023>.
- Q2: Are applications open to researchers who are not citizens of the United States?
- A2: It depends on the grant program. Check Section III of the Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) for eligibility information.
- Q3: Since these are federal grants, are they subject to Buy America and Davis-Bacon and Related Acts (DBRA) requirements?
- A3: Yes. You can find out more about how EPA is implementing Build America, Buy America (BABA) at <https://www.epa.gov/cwsrf/build-america-buy-america-baba> and information about Davis-Bacon implementation can be found on various program websites.
- Q4: Does the locality organization profile have to be the applicant, or can a professional development community (PDC) organization profile be the applicant on their behalf?
- A4: In general, one organization will be the applicant and take responsibility for meeting eligibility requirements, receiving and accounting for grant funding, if awarded, and fulfilling reporting obligations.
- Q5: Can you double check on Grants.gov or SAM.gov to be sure you've completed the registration process?
- A5: Yes, you should be able to verify after you register that you have completed the process. You can reach out to the [Federal Service Desk](#) with questions about your SAM registration. Note the blue box titled "Check Registration Status." For Grants.gov registration questions, contact the Grants.gov [Support Center](#) and search in the [Frequently Asked Questions](#) section.
- Q6: What if I have already registered for Grants.gov? Do I still need to register for SAM.gov to be a participant in a Grants.gov workspace?
- A6: To submit an application via Grants.gov, you must have a Unique Entity Identifier (UEI), which you obtain by registering in SAM.gov. If you are unsure if your current Grants.gov registration meets this requirement, contact the [Grants.gov Support Center](#) and they should be able to help you.
- Q7: Can you please provide the link to Workspace?
- A7: Here is information on Grants.gov Workspace:  
<https://www.grants.gov/web/grants/applicants/workspace-overview.html>.

- Q8: Can you reuse a form in the Workspace so that it auto populates and then edit it if something has changed? Or is the re-used form not editable?
- A8: Yes, you can reuse a form in Workspace so it auto populates, and then you can edit info as needed. This Grants.gov tutorial takes you through it:  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BHL8REIRyQc>.
- Q9: Do I understand correctly that getting a UEI is necessary for SAM.gov registration? The reason for the UEI question is that SAM.gov would not allow me to apply for SAM.gov registration until we knew our UEI.
- A9: Please contact the [Federal Service Desk](#). The only way to receive a UEI is through SAM.gov registration. Perhaps your organization already has an assigned UEI.
- Q10: Regarding transparency, are the names and titles of deciding officials disclosed anywhere?
- A10: Selection Officials are referred to in Section V of the NOFO. It is not always possible to identify the title or name at the time of the NOFO publishing as it is often many months before selections are made.
- Q11: Does the EPA ever fund environmental education programs for elementary school students? These would not have environmental results but would have pedagogical outcomes.
- A11: The Environmental Education grants program may interest you. Please see <https://www.epa.gov/education> for more information. Please note that Environmental Education funding opportunities are currently available.
- Q12: If a program stipulates a 15-page limit for an application's project narrative and 16 pages were submitted, would the whole application be found ineligible, or would just the additional pages be disallowed?
- A12: It would depend upon the stated requirements in the NOFO; however, typically just the additional pages would be disallowed.
- Q13: What does AOR stand for?
- A13: Authorized Organization Representative.
- Q14: Can an applicant request to see a copy of the evaluation score sheets after a panel review has been conducted?
- A14: Please check with the Program Office contact on whether there are current procedures in place for this.

Q15: Does an organization receiving a subgrant need to be geographically located in the same EPA region as the grantee organization?

A15: Please check with the Program Office contact as the requirements may differ by program.

Q16: Do our sub-consultants also need to do a full UEI registration?

A16: Please check with the Program Office.

Q17: If our organization has never received a federal grant before, is our lack of “past performance” information a disadvantage?

A17: Typically, it is not a disadvantage as many programs instruct panel reviewers to provide a neutral score in this category in these cases. However, be sure to review the evaluation criteria listed in the NOFO carefully for details.

Q18: Is the AOR the primary contact for grant management if one is awarded?

A18: Yes, along with other Key Personnel listed in the application.

Q19: Can only one person from each organization have a SAM.gov account?

A19: Typically, an organization should have only one SAM.gov registration and UEI number. However, it is not unusual for larger organizations with several units or those with varying status (for profit, nonprofit, etc.) to have more than one. If this is the case, the applicant organization needs to be very careful to use only the relevant information for the eligible organization in the application.

Q20: Is a contractor allowed to help create a funding application where they will also be assisting with implementing the grant funds?

A20: Generally, you are allowed to have a contractor help you prepare your funding application, although you and the contractor cannot have any expectation that the contractor is going to assist with implementing the grant funds. In order to do this, you must show that you followed the procurement procedures in accordance with federal regulations.

Q21: Does the EPA support programs that regrant?

A21: EPA does allow recipients to run their own grant program using EPA funds. This is referred to as a pass-through grant. The NOFO would state if this is allowable under the grant competition and include additional information on any requirements.