

EPA or the Department of Justice may withhold or withdraw consent to the proposed Settlement Agreement if the comments disclose facts or circumstances that indicate the agreement is inappropriate, improper, inadequate, or inconsistent with the requirements of the Act. Unless EPA or the Department of Justice makes such a determination following the comment period, EPA will take the actions set forth in the Settlement Agreement.

Dated: January 29, 2002.

Alan W. Eckert,

Associate General Counsel, Air and Radiation Law Office.

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ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

[FRL-7137-1]

“Mobile Source Outreach Assistance Competition Fiscal Year 2002: Solicitation Notice”

AGENCY: Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: Today’s Notice announces the availability of funding and solicits proposals from state, local, multi-state and tribal air pollution control agencies for mobile source-related public education and outreach projects. The funding will be allocated by EPA’s Office of Transportation and Air Quality (OTAQ) through the competitive process described in this notice.

DATES: The deadline for submitting Final Proposals is Monday, April 15, 2002. To allow for efficient management of the competitive process, OTAQ is requesting agencies to submit an informal Intent to Apply by Friday, February 22, 2002. (Instructions for submitting final proposals and Intents to Apply are found in Section X. below.)

ADDRESSES: This proposal can also be found in two places on the Office of Transportation and Air Quality Web Page: “www.epa.gov/OTAQ/” click on “What’s New” or “www.epa.gov/OTAQ/rfp.htm”. Addresses for submitting final proposals can be found in Section X. below.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Susan Bullard, Director of Outreach, USEPA Office of Transportation and Air Quality (OTAQ), 1200 Pennsylvania Avenue NW., (mail code 6406J), Washington, DC, 20460. Telephone (202) 564-9856; Fax (202) 565-2085. Or email “bullard.susan@epa.gov”.

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Deadline for Informal Intent To Apply—Friday, February 22, 2002

Deadline for Final Proposal—Monday, April 15, 2002

This proposal can also be found on the Office of Transportation and Air Quality Web Page: “www.epa.gov/otaq/” Click on “What’s New” or www.epa.gov/OTAQ/rfp.htm”.

Mobile Source Outreach Assistance Agreements 2002: Request for Proposals Section I. Overview and Deadlines

A. Overview

Over the past five years, EPA’s Office of Transportation and Air Quality (OTAQ) has entered into agreements and established partnerships with a number of organizations to (1) provide national support for community-based mobile source public education efforts supporting implementation of the Clean Air Act and the Transportation Equity Act for the 21st Century, (2) encourage responsible choices for organizational and individual actions through public education. Current OTAQ/Section 105-Funded Outreach Projects are listed on the OTAQ web site “www.epa.gov/otaq/whatsnew” and emphasize transportation choices to reduce vehicle miles traveled; education of vehicle owners and drivers of the future; alternative fuels; car care and the role of the automotive technician; outreach to ethnic populations; environmental justice; and, related projects such as ozone mapping and small engines. EPA’s Office of Transportation and Air Quality receives set-aside funds from the State and Tribal Assistance Grants (STAG) account to provide support to community-based mobile source-related outreach projects. This Notice solicits proposals for public education and outreach projects which directly support state and local air management organizations in their efforts to improve air quality from mobile sources. Proposals will be accepted from state, local, tribal and multi-state air management agencies which are identified as such under section 302(b)

of the Clean Air Act. Interested persons can also obtain copies of this solicitation at no charge by accessing the OTAQ Web site at “www.epa.gov/otaq/” Click on “What’s New” or “www.epa.gov/OTAQ/rfp.htm”.

B. What Are the Deadlines for This Competition?

In order to efficiently manage the selection process, the Office of Transportation and Air Quality requests that an informal “Intent to Apply” be submitted by Friday, February 22, 2002. (Please provide project title or subject and email address for project contact). An “Intent to Apply” simply states in the form of e-mail, phone, or fax that your organization intends to submit a proposal to be received by the deadline. Submitting an “Intent to Apply” does not commit an organization to submit a final proposal. Those not submitting an Intent to Apply may still apply by the deadline. *The deadline for final proposals (original and six copies) is midnight on Monday, April 15, 2002.* The Office of Transportation and Air Quality expects to complete the Evaluation/Selection process in May, 2002.

Section II. Eligible Organizations

C. Who Is Eligible To Submit Proposals?

According to funding policies associated with the State and Tribal Assistance Grants regulations (STAG funds), proposals can be accepted only from air pollution control agencies as defined under section 302(b) of the Clean Air Act, (for projects to be undertaken which will have replicability to other communities nationally), as well as multi-state organizations supporting section 302(b) agencies. OTAQ has no discretion over this requirement.

Interested air management, non-governmental or related organizations which are *not* air pollution control agencies as defined under section 302(b) of the Clean Air Act are encouraged to create partnerships with eligible organizations. In that situation, the eligible organization would be required to submit the final proposal and serve as the funding recipient if selected.

Section III. Funding Issues

D. What Is the Amount of Available Funding?

A minimum of \$550K.

E. How Will Funds Be Allocated?

The competition process will be managed by OTAQ and selected cooperative agreements will be awarded by EPA’s Regional offices and funded

through Section 105 authority (state and local air pollution control agencies), except in the case of *multi-state organizations as defined by law*, which must be funded under Section 103. OTAQ has no discretion over this requirement.

F. How Many Agreements Will Be Awarded?

Approximately eight agreements will be awarded, none to exceed \$100,000 for the entire project.

G. Are Matching Funds Required?

Possibly. Clean Air Act section 105 mandates that eligible agencies provide matching funds of at least 40%. Therefore, an air pollution control agency which submits a proposal must include a statement in their proposal indicating that the match could and would be met if their proposal is selected. Organizations unable to meet a required match must be considered ineligible. (By statute, this requirement does not apply to multi state organizations.) Organizations which are unclear as to their matching status are recommended to contact their EPA Regional Grant Coordinator (see Section XII below).

H. Can Funding Be Used To Acquire Services or Fund Partnerships?

Yes—subgrants and other procurement services are allowed. Because the method used to fund subgrants is not a federal matter, procedures governing your organization's procurement practices must be followed. Please indicate any intent to enter into such agreements in the proposal.

Section IV. Program Emphasis

This program is designed to provide seed money to initiate new projects or advance existing projects that are new in some way (e.g. new audiences, new locations, new approaches) rather than grow ongoing projects.

I. Program Emphasis

- Voluntary Measures
- Commuter Choice initiatives
- Transportation choices
- Environmental Justice
- Car care (testing, repair, maintenance)
- On Board Diagnostics (OBD)
- Alternative fuels
- Involving youth in mobile source issues/environmental education
- Other mobile source issues (including but not limited to: diesel, particulate matter, heavy duty engines; nonroad engines; air quality index; and ozone mapping/forecasting.)

Section V. Selection Criteria

J. Primary Criteria

- Clearly addresses environmental goals of improved air quality from mobile sources
- Demonstrates national or regional applicability/transferability
- Indicates some level of funding for replication and transfer to other communities
- Links actions, air quality and public health
- Demonstrates effectiveness of delivery mechanism to reach targeted audience
- Exhibits clearly-stated and appropriate levels of funding
- Includes effective evaluation methods
- Reflects potential for sustainability

K. Other Factors To Be Considered

- Innovation
- Effectiveness of collaborative activities and partnerships with other stakeholders needed to effectively develop or implement the project
- Integration with existing programs
- Willingness to coordinate with other OTAQ-funded outreach activities
- Demonstrated capability of candidate organization to accomplish the goals presented

L. Presentation Criteria

- Proposal must address each of the components outlined in Section VII (N)
- Action-oriented
- Clearly-stated goals and objectives
- Reasonable time frames and budget

Section VI. Evaluation and Selection

M. The Evaluation Team is chosen to represent a full range of mobile source and EPA program expertise. In addition, each EPA Regional office is given the opportunity to review those proposals generated by eligible organizations within that Region. The Evaluation Team will base its evaluation solely on the criteria referenced in this Notice. Completed evaluations will be forwarded for further consideration to a Selection Committee representing OTAQ senior managers and Regional representatives who are responsible for final selection. To ensure equity and objectivity throughout the process, the OTAQ Program Contact (listed below) and staff who facilitate the process and participate in pre-application assistance, do not serve as members of either the Evaluation Team or the Selection Committee.

Section VII. Proposals

N. What Must Be Included in the Proposal?

Proposals should be approximately 5–7 pages in length (*please do not include*

binders or spiral binding) and must include the following. [It is recommended that the proposal conform to the outline below to ensure that all components are addressed.] *A copy of the cover letter should be attached to each copy to be submitted.*

(1) Project contact(s) (*must provide name, organization, phone, fax, and e-mail*) An email address is essential in order to ensure OTAQ's ability to quickly reach all applicants with important information.

(2) Clear statement of amount being requested. (No project will be funded in an amount to exceed \$100,000 *for the entire project.*)

(3) Brief statement that the candidate organization is defined as an air pollution control agency under section 302(b) of the Clean Air Act.

(4) Statement that any required match will be met.

(5) Statement of project background/objectives highlighting relationship to improving air quality from mobile sources.

(6) Detailed project summary—description of specific actions to be undertaken.

(7) Projected time frame for project from initiation through completion.

(8) Associated deliverables to be developed and funded through the agreement.

(9) Explanation of project benefits.

(10) Detailed explanation of how project outcomes will be designed and funded for replication in other communities.

(11) Description of collaborative activities and partnerships with other stakeholders.

(12) Detailed budget estimate (clearly explain how funds will be used, including estimated cost for each task.) (Note: Budget estimates should include funding for participation in the annual 3-day "Communities in Motion" Outreach and Partnerships Workshop typically held in Washington, DC in late October.)

O. Will 2-Year Proposals Be Considered?

Yes. If a proposal with a 2-year project period is submitted, OTAQ requires that the budget and cost estimate be designed to indicate what will be accomplished in each of the first and second years. The total for the project is not to exceed \$100,000.

P. May an Eligible Organization Submit More Than One Proposal?

An organization may submit more than one proposal *only* if the proposals are for different projects.

Q. May an Eligible Organization Resubmit a Proposal Which Was Previously Submitted to the Mobile Source Outreach Assistance Competition, but Was Not Selected?

Yes. The proposals received by OTAQ in previous competitions were generally of very high quality. Clearly, all proposals of merit could not be selected due to limited resources available.

R. May an Eligible Organization Submit a Proposal for This Fiscal Year, Even if It Were Previously Awarded Funding Under This Program?

Yes. Applicants awarded funding in previous competitions may submit new proposals to fund a different project. This program is intended to provide seed money to initiate new projects or advance existing projects that are new in some way (e.g. new audiences, new locations, new approaches).

S. Does This Funding Expire at the End of FY 02 (September 2002)?

No. The statute states that State and Tribal Assistance Grants (STAG) for environmental programs remain available until expended ("no-year money").

T. Ineligible Proposals.

Proposals will be determined to be ineligible if: (1) The candidate organization is not currently defined as an air pollution control agency under section 302(b) of the Clean Air Act; (2) a required match could not be met; (3) the proposal is incomplete (proposals must address each and every component outlined in Section VII (N)); or (4) the proposal is postmarked after the deadline.

Section VIII. Current OTAQ/Section 105 Funded Outreach Projects

U. Since this program is designed to fund new projects (rather than simply duplicating or growing existing programs), potential candidate organizations are recommended to visit the OTAQ web site to identify representative projects already being funded. The item, entitled "Current OTAQ/Section 105 Funded Outreach Projects," can be found at "www.epa.gov/otaq/" Click on "What's New"—Added November 2001 to find a brief sketch of projects funded to date through the Office of Transportation and Air Quality, either with Section 105 funding (indicated by year of funding) or projects that are intended to be national in scope, supported by OTAQ program funding (indicated by an asterisk "*"). (**Note:** Some web sites listed by funded organizations provide helpful information on a variety of air

quality efforts being undertaken by the funded organization.)

Section IX. Other Items of Interest

V. Is There Other Information I Should Have Before Applying?

- Yes.
- Submission of an Intent to Apply or a final proposal does not guarantee funding.
- Supplementary information, including letters of recommendation, will not be reviewed by the evaluators.
- Only those organizations *selected* will be required to submit a complete "Application for Federal Assistance and Budget Information" (SF 424 and SF 424A) to the appropriate EPA Regional Office.

Section X. How To Apply

W. How Do I Apply?

Informal "Intents to Apply" may take the form of email, fax or phone call to the EPA Program Contact listed below. Include organization, contact, phone, email and project title/subject.

Please submit informal "Intents to Apply" by Friday, February 22, 2002.

To be considered eligible, Completed Proposals must be date stamped (postmarked or dated by overnight express) on or before midnight, Monday, April 15, 2002 (original + 6, including cover letters on copies—no binders, spiral binding or supplemental materials please!)

Please pay special attention to the distinction in addresses for regular mail and in-person delivery.

Via regular mail to: Susan Bullard, Director of Outreach, US EPA Office of Transportation and Air Quality, 1200 Pennsylvania Avenue NW, Mail Code 6406J, Washington, DC 20460.

Express mail which is to be delivered in-person (FedEx, UPS, Airborne, etc) must leave the sender and be dated by no later than midnight on Monday, April 15, 2002 at the following address: Susan Bullard, Director of Outreach, US EPA Office of Transportation and Air Quality, 501 Third Street NW Room 5304D, Washington, DC 20001, (202) 564-9856, (202) 564-8991 (backup number for expressed proposals only).

Note: Proposals e-mailed or faxed will serve only as a placeholder, and must be followed by a hard copy original and 6 copies postmarked no later than the deadline. If no original is received which meets the deadline, the proposal will not be considered.

Deadline for Completed Final Proposals

Date stamped (postmarked or express mail dated) no later than midnight on Monday, April 15, 2002.

Section XI. EPA Regional Section 105 Grant Coordinators

- Region 1 (Boston), Paul Bryan, 617-918-1673.
- Region 2 (New York), Marlon Gonzales, 212-637-3769.
- Region 3 (Philadelphia), Russ Bowen, 215-814-2057.
- Region 4 (Atlanta), Todd Rinck, 404-562-9062.
- Region 5 (Chicago), Robert Miller, 312-353-0396; Pamela Blakley, 312-886-4447.
- Region 6 (Dallas), Rexene Hanes, 214-665-2726; Javier Balli, 214-665-7261.
- Region 7 (Kansas City), Wayne Leidwanger, 913-551-7607.
- Region 8 (Denver), Marisa McPhilliamy, 303-312-6965.
- Region 9 (San Francisco), Jack Colbourn, 415-744-1239; Valerie Cooper, 415-744-1237.
- Region 10 (Seattle), David Debruyne, 206-553-4218.

Section XII. OTAQ Program Contact

Susan Bullard, Director of Outreach, EPA Office of Transportation and Air Quality (OTAQ), 1200 Pennsylvania Avenue NW (Mail Code 6406J), Washington, DC 20460, (Phone) 202/564-9856, (Fax) 202/565-2085, "bullard.susan@epa.gov".

Margo Tsirigotis Oge,

Director, Office of Transportation and Air Quality.

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ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

[FRL-7137-2]

Notice of Request for Proposals for Projects To Be Funded From the Water Quality Cooperative Agreement Allocation

AGENCY: Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: EPA Region 6 is soliciting proposals from State water pollution control agencies, interstate agencies, other public or nonprofit agencies, institutions, organizations, and other entities as defined by the Clean Water Act (CWA) interested in applying for Federal assistance for Water Quality Cooperative Agreements under the CWA Section 104(b)(3) in the states of Arkansas, Louisiana, New Mexico, Oklahoma and Texas. Region 6 EPA will award an estimated \$1 million to eligible applicants through assistance agreements ranging in size from \$50,000