

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

Advanced Decentralized Water/Energy Network Design for Sustainable Infrastructure EPA-ORD-NRMRL-CI-08-09

In accordance with RFA Section VIII, the following questions were received. The government's official written responses follow. The official responses shall take precedence over any other responses (answers) written or oral provided relative to this Request For Application (RFA).

QUESTIONS/RESPONSES:

1. In the description of the objectives of the RFA, we note that it seems to be directed at projects related to design and construction of buildings. Our project would not fall into that category, but would deal with operating parameters and techniques appropriate to water systems. Could you tell me if projects not related to building design and construction would be considered, or is this RFA restricted in that sense?

RESPONSE: Please review Section I.B. of the RFA. The RFA's focus is on energy and water efficient approaches to **newly constructed environments**. It seeks innovative processes leading to the development of a total water management approach. A proposal that includes the use of Green building concepts together with energy and water efficient approaches with the goal of providing a more sustainable water infrastructure in the future, could **potentially** fit into the description in Section I. B; however, EPA **cannot** make a pre-application determination of eligibility based on this snapshot of your project. If you feel that your project fits within these stated objectives, you will need to make a determination whether or not it is in your best interest to submit an application for review.

2. We are a 501- C(6) non-profit organization and do a minimal amount of lobbying. Could you tell us if we are eligible to compete for this funding? The RFA description says that 501- C(4) organizations that lobby are not eligible, but it doesn't speak to 501-C(6) types.

RESPONSE: A 501(c)(6) is an eligible recipient as long as it is recognized as a non profit organization under the law of the state of incorporation.

3. Section III of the subject RFA indicates that profit-making firms are not eligible to receive awards. Is this restriction limited to the lead respondent, or all team members?

RESPONSE: EPA makes award to one eligible applicant and it cannot be a profit-making firm." Eligible applicants may award subcontracts to profit-making firms provided the transaction complies with the competitive procurement requirements in 40 CFR Part 30.

4. The same section indicates "laboratories" are eligible applicants. Does this include DOE NNSA national laboratories and FFRDCs, such as Sandia National Laboratories? If it does, is this as lead respondent or team member, or both?

RESPONSE: Federal agencies are not listed as eligible applicants in this RFA. EPA does not have statutory authority to award financial assistance to other Federal agencies. Further, as set forth in Section IV. G. of the RFA, EPA will award funds to one eligible applicant. If a Federal Agency has **statutory authority** to accept funds from a State/Local Government or University, it may collaborate with the eligible applicant on the proposal and accept funding from that applicant if it is successful in the competition. However, EPA will not provide funds directly to another federal agency under this RFA.