

AGENCY: Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)

TITLE: “State Policy-Based Approaches to Reducing Emissions Through Improved Greenhouse Gas Management and Clean Energy Programs”

ACTION: Request for Proposals (RFP)

RFP NO.: EPA-OAR-CPPD-06-02

CATALOG OF FEDERAL DOMESTIC ASSISTANCE (CFDA) NO.: 66.034

SUMMARY: Formal Agency response to questions/comments regarding the subject RFP

DATE: June 14, 2006

Question 1: Are individuals able to apply for EPA-OAR-CPPD-06-02? Also, are for profit organizations eligible as well?

Answer 1: No. As stated in the RFP, Section III, Eligibility Information, proposals will be accepted from states, local governments, territories, Indian Tribes, and possessions of the U.S., including the District of Columbia, international organizations, public and private universities and colleges, hospitals, laboratories, and other public or private nonprofit institutions. Individuals and for profit organizations are not eligible entities under this grant solicitation.

Question 2: Some of my colleagues here have expressed an interest in a potential NREL role in response to the RFP “State Policy-Based Approaches through Improved Greenhouse Energy Programs,” EPA OAR-CPPD-06-02, that lists Edgar as point of contact. Is there any kind of conflict between NREL’s existing IAG and a potential NREL role in a proposal under this RFP?

Answer 2: There is no conflict between NREL’s existing IAG and a potential NREL role in a proposal under this RFP.

Question 3: I couldn’t tell conclusively from the solicitation whether or not the University of Vermont (UVM) would be eligible to submit a proposal for the State Policy-based Approaches to Reducing Emissions through improved Greenhouse Gas Management and Clean Energy Programs (EPA). Under the eligibility section, it says that public and private universities and colleges are included but then below that under Nonprofit organizations it says the term “excludes” colleges and universities.

Answer 3: Public and private universities, as well as colleges, are considered nonprofit organizations and are eligible to apply.

Question 4: Under Section II, Funding Opportunity Description, part E, Funding to Acquire Services or Fund Partnerships, in the first paragraph it discusses contractors and consultants as partners yet in the second paragraph it discusses we may only sub-contract non-profit organizations and government entities. May we work with a consultant firm on our proposal?

Answer 4: No. As stated in the RFP, Section III, Eligibility Information, proposals will be accepted from states, local governments, territories, Indian Tribes, and possessions of the U.S., including the District of Columbia, international organizations, public and private universities and colleges, hospitals, laboratories, and other public or private nonprofit institutions. For profit organizations are not eligible sub-grant recipients under this announcement.

Question 5: The RFP refers to individual states, including those that are participating in the Clean Energy State Partnership Program. Are all states eligible, or only states participating in CESPP? Can we work with states outside of that group too? Partnerships: Would the Western Governors' Association be an acceptable partner for this project?

Answer 5: All states are eligible to participate. Partners in EPA's Clean Energy Environment State Partnership are listed on the following web site: <http://epa.gov/cleanenergy/stateandlocal/ourpartners.htm>

Question 6: Should we have a commitment from a potential partner as we respond to this RFP?

Answer 6: Grant applicants may submit a letter of support to indicate participation from eligible sub-grantees, including non-profit organizations and governmental entities.

Question 7: Is the intention of this project to focus on the electricity sector only, or can others be included, for example the transportation sector?

Answer 7: This solicitation is to support proposals that encourage voluntary efforts to reduce energy-related emissions from stationary sources only.

Question 8: For those states that already have a stakeholder process and/or form of clean energy action plan (e.g., climate change action plan, state energy plan), may proposed activities include assisting states and stakeholders to move to implementation the recommended energy efficiency policies and programs included in these plans? Such assistance may include for example, research and recommend policy options (e.g., draft guidelines or criteria), research and provide information in support of policy and program implementation (energy savings, cost, etc.), develop presentation materials and provide briefings for policymakers and stakeholders, or provide public comment on proposed policies and programs.

Answer 8: Yes. For states that already have a stakeholder process and/or clean energy action plan (e.g., climate change action plan, state energy plan), proposed activities may include assisting states and stakeholders to move to implementation of the recommended energy efficiency policies and programs included in these plans.

Question 9: We have two concepts which we believe are both good projects under RFP 06-02. If our agency submitted two proposals, is it likely that they would be competing with each other (i.e., is it EPA's intent to award not more than 1 grant to an applicant?)

Answer 9: Yes. We will accept more than one proposal from a single applicant, but they will be competing against one another.

Question 10: Does the SF 424A form need to be submitted with our application package?

Answer 10: Standard Form 424A, "Budget Information-Non Construction Programs," does not need to be submitted in application packages. Nevertheless, much of the same information found on that form must be included as required by the solicitation (Section IV.C.3, "Detailed Budget"). See:
<http://epa.gov/ogd/forms/adobe/SF424%20Page%201.pdf>