

**ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY, REGION 7
EPA-R7WWPD-03-005**

IMPORTANT NOTE: This Request for Proposals was published in the Federal Register, Volume 67, No. 165, on Monday, August 26, 2002. The Full Text of the Federal Register Notice is available by accessing the link provided at the end of this supplementary solicitation information and should be read in conjunction with the supplementary information provided below.

This time frame for submission of initial proposals under this solicitation has been extended until April 30, 2003. The Supplementary Information also provides clarification regarding certain requirements which apply to this solicitation (matching contributions, etc).

Supplementary Information

Notice of Request for Initial Proposals for Projects to be Funded From the Wetland Program Development Grants allocation (CFDA 66.461 - Wetland Program Development Grants). Wetland Program Development Grants (WPDGs) provide eligible applicants an opportunity to conduct projects that promote the coordination and acceleration of research, investigations, experiments, training, demonstrations, surveys, and studies relating to the causes, effects, extent, prevention, reduction, and elimination of water pollution.

1. Amount of Funding Available

EPA Region 7 plans to award a varied number of grants or cooperative agreements. Funding available to the Region is based on the allocation provided by EPA, Headquarters.

The number of awards will depend on individual proposal cost; the final aggregate amount of federal funding for all Initial Proposals; and the total amount of federal funding available.

Should additional funding become available for award the Agency may award additional grants based on this solicitation and in accordance with the final selection process, without further notice or competition.

2. Right to Reject all Initial Proposals

The Agency reserves the right to reject all initial proposals and make no awards.

3. Matching/Cost Share Requirements

A minimum match of 25% of the total project cost is required. **All applicant proposals must meet the 25 percent cost share requirement to be responsive to this solicitation.** The final match requirement may be reduced for successful Tribal applicants if, upon selection, the proposal is placed in a performance partnership agreement.

4. Project Period Time frame

Project duration should not exceed three years.

5. Eligible Applicants

Assistance under this program is generally available to States, Tribes, local government agencies, interstate agencies, and intertribal consortia, and national, nonprofit, non-governmental organizations. Typical wetland or wetland related agencies include, but are not limited to wetland regulatory agencies, water quality agencies (Section 401 water quality certification), planning offices, wild and scenic rivers agencies, departments of transportation, fish and wildlife or natural

resources agencies, agriculture departments, forestry agencies, coastal zone management agencies, park and recreation agencies, non-point source or storm water agencies, city or county and other S/T/LG governmental agencies that conduct wetland-related activities. In order to be eligible for WPDG funds, Tribes must be Federally recognized, although "Treatment as a State" status is not a requirement. Intertribal consortia that meet the requirements of 40 CFR part 35.504 are eligible for direct funding. Interstate agency and intertribal consortia projects must be broad in scope and encompass more than one State, Tribe, or local government. In order to provide greater assistance to S/T/LGs, non-profit, non-governmental organizations which undertake activities that advance wetland programs on a national basis are eligible. Activities must help S/T/LGs develop and refine wetland programs. For example, projects and tasks can involve advancing science or collecting and making available through publications and other appropriate means, such as training on how information about how various wetland programs across the nation protect, manage and restore their wetland resources and about initiatives to improve S/T/LG wetland programs. Implementation of all projects must occur within the four states of EPA Region 7: Iowa, Kansas, Missouri, or Nebraska.

Applicants who have an existing agreement under this program are eligible to compete with proposals for new awards.

6. Proposal Submittal - Due Dates

All initial proposals should be e-mailed, mailed or delivered to:

Environmental Protection Agency
Attention: Raju Kakarlapudi, WWPD
901 N. 5th Street
Kansas City, Kansas 66101

E-mail kakarlapudi.raju@epa.gov

EPA will consider all initial proposals which are post-marked by the U.S. Postal Service, hand-delivered, or electronically delivered to the Agency, or include official delivery service documentation indicating EPA acceptance from a delivery service, **to arrive at EPA** on or before the deadline 5 p.m., Central Time, April 30, 2003. Hardcopy submittals are preferred. Initial proposals received after the due date will not be considered for funding.

7. Statutory Authority and Applicable Regulations

Wetland Program Development projects are authorized under the Clean Water Act, Section 104.

These projects are subject to EPA's General Grant Regulations: 40 CFR Part 30 "Grants and Agreements with Institutions of Higher Education, Hospitals, and other Nonprofit Organizations"; 40 CFR Part 31 "Uniform Administrative Requirements for Grants and Cooperative Agreements to State and Local Governments"; and 40 CFR Part 35 "State and Local Assistance".

8. Allowable Costs

EPA grant funds may only be used for the purposes set forth in the grant agreement, and must be consistent with the statutory authority for the award. Grant funds may not be used for matching funds for other Federal grants, lobbying, or intervention in Federal regulatory or adjudicatory proceedings. In addition, Federal funds may not be used to sue the Federal government or any other government entity. All costs identified in the budget must conform to applicable Federal Cost Principles contained in OMB Circular A-87 "Cost Principles for State, Local, and Tribal Governments"; A-122 "Cost Principles for Nonprofit Organizations"; and A-21 "Cost Principles for Educational Institutions". Ineligible costs will be reduced from final grant award.

9. Federal Requirements

An applicant whose proposal is selected for federal funding must complete additional forms prior to award (see 40 CFR 30.12 and 31.10). **EPA reserves the right to negotiate and/or adjust the final grant amount and work plan content prior to award.** In addition, successful applicants will be required to certify that they have not been Debarred or Suspended from participation in federal assistance awards in accordance with 40 CFR Part 32.

10. Intergovernmental Review

Applicants must comply with the Intergovernmental Review Process and/or consultation provisions of Section 204, Demonstration Cities and Metropolitan Development Act, if applicable, which are contained in 40 CFR Part 29. This program is eligible for coverage under E.O. 12372, "Intergovernmental Review of Federal Programs." An applicant should consult the office or official designated as the single point of contact in his or her State for more information on the process the State requires to be followed in applying for assistance if the State has selected the program for review. Further information regarding this requirement will be provided if your proposal is selected for funding.

11. Pre-application Assistance

None planned.

12. Preliminary Eligibility Screening Requirements

To be eligible for consideration, applicants **must meet** all of the following criteria. Failure to meet the following criteria will result in the automatic disqualification of the proposal for funding consideration:

1. Be an applicant who is eligible to receive funding under this announcement;
2. The proposal must address one or more of the areas of emphasis outlined in the Federal Register Notice;
3. The proposal must meet all format and content requirements contained in the Federal Register Notice; and
4. The proposal must comply with the directions for submittal contained in this Supplementary Information Notice.

13. Proposal Evaluation Criteria

All initial proposals will be evaluated based on the criteria contained in the Federal Register Notice.

14. Evaluation Process

All proposals will be reviewed, evaluated and ranked by a selected panel of EPA reviewers based on the above evaluation criteria contained in the Federal Register Notice. **Applicants will be screened to ensure that they meet all eligibility criteria and will be disqualified if they do not meet the criteria.**

15. Selection Official

Final selection of initial proposals will be made by the Region 7 Water, Wetlands, and Pesticides Division Director.

16. Notification

The Region 7 EPA office will mail acknowledgments to applicants upon receipt of the proposal. Once initial proposals have been reviewed, evaluated, and ranked, applicants will be notified regarding the outcome of the competition.

A listing of successful proposals will be posted on the Region 7 EPA website address www.epa.gov/region07/economics at the conclusion of the competition. This website may also contain information about this announcement including information concerning deadline extensions or other modifications.

17. Dispute Resolution Process

Procedures at 40 CFR 30.63 and 40 CFR 31.70 apply.

18. Confidential Business Information

Applicants should clearly mark information contained in their proposal which they consider confidential business information. EPA reserves the right to make final confidentiality decisions in accordance with Agency regulations at 40 CFR, Subpart B. If no such claim accompanies the proposal when it is received by the EPA, it may be made available to the public by EPA without further notice to the applicant.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

- Raju Kakarlapudi Telephone 913-551-7320; kakarlapudi.raju@epa.gov
- Karen Sherrill, Region 7 Competition Advocate at sherrill.karen@epa.gov Telephone (913)551-7461; Fax (913)551-9461

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<http://www.epa.gov/fedrgstr/EPA-WATER/2002/August/Day-26/w21670.htm>