**Questions & Answers from ELG Webinar #1 on February 5, 2013**

The following questions were asked during the ELG Webinar on February 5, 2013. Please note that imcomplete questions, questions related to IT issues, or comments such as “thanks!”, were deleted from the list below. Names of participants have also been removed.

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1. Q: So...if you propose to do teacher PD workshops and develop material to go along with PD, that is a capacity building program?

A: Yes, that is correct. The materials developed would need to be in support of Educator PD. The PD should be the main focus of the proposed activities.

2. Q: We are interested in purchasing/installing an SOS in a new branch our museum is opening. Will this FFO support those equipment costs

A: All projects need to have a primary focus on educator capacity buidling, be collaborative and have an impact area in at least two states. You would need to make a case that an SOS installation was supporting and essential to these goals.

4. Q: To what estent should we focus on utilizing exististing data access tools vs developing access tools for existing data sets that currently not easily accessable?

A: Hello Tania - it depends on your need. I wouldn't recommend re-creating something that already exists, but if you have a specific need that no existing tools meet, then creating one is appropriate.

5: Q. Does project impact need to be identical in scope in each target state? Are projects that are systemic in scale in one state but more developmental in another eligible for funding?

A: The impact does not need to be identical in scope in all states. Implementation is some states could be more on the developmental side.

6: Q: Will the majority of reviewers be scientists or educators?

A: The review panel will be selected to represent expertise areas that correspond to the applciations we receive. There will almost certainly be both educators and scientists. I cannot tell you the balance at this time.

7: Q: Does each collaborator submit separately? Or submit together?

A: Each collaborative team must submit an application to NOAA. Project partners and sub-awardees do not.

8. Q: We are thinking of engaging studens in building underwater ROV's to monitor and collect aquatic data, however I am still trying to connect this to use and access to existing NOAA data sets. So, would the ROV project be acceptable provided it also connects to existing NOAA data sets somehow?

A: Please remember that the target audience for this FFO is formal and/or informal educators.

9. Q: can we have other no-cost partners such as NASA, DoE ,NSF?

A: Yes, leveraging other no-cost partnerships, including other Federal Agencies, is acceptable.

10. Q: what is the difference between a collaborator and a subcontract in terms of budget?

A: A collaborator submits a proposal directly and, if selected received a grant award from our office. A subcontractor is written into a collaborators proposal and is managed by that collaborator.

11. Q: For example, is the evaluator considered a collaborator or a subcontract?

A: In this example, the evaluator would be a subcontractor.

12. Q: If a project is not in two states, will the project be disqualfied?

A: This is not a minimim requirement, but rather something the review panel will assess. However, a project that does not have impact in at least two U.S. states will not review well against the relevant review criteria.

13. Q: still not sure if the project partners need to span at least two states?

A: The project must have an impact area involving a minimum of two U.S. states or territories. The collaborative teams can be from the same state.

14. Q: For example, is the evaluator considered a collaborator or a subcontract?

A: In this example, the evaluator would be a subcontractor.

15. Q: Can a non-profit Native American training and technical assistance provider apply with a non-profit tribal museum?

A: Yes, as long as both organizations are non-profit, that is fine.

16. Q: Since Sea Grant educators are employees of their institution, not NOAA, so they still qualify as NOAA partners?

A: Yes, they are considered NOAA partners

17. Q: ok. a real question. Can a federal agency - ie. NPS -- be a collaborator.

A: If you are asking if a Federal Agency can receive funding, the answer is no. They can serve as project partners.

18. Q: Are Federal agencies eligible to apply under Priority 1?

A: Federal agencies cannot submit as collaborative teams. They can serve as partners on a project submitted by collaborative teams of eligible applicants, though.

19. Q: it appears that each member of the collaborative team (not the in-kind partners) must submit individually. Is that correct? Will their be different apps available for lead and collaborative partners?

A: Yes, that is correct. Each collaborative partner needs to submit an individual application. We do provide templates for each that you can use.

20. Q: I'm not really clear on the Collaborative Team application process. If I have more questions after reviewing the FAQ may I contact you?

A: Yes, we are available to answer questions during the application writing process.

21. Q: can we rely on NOAA to publish on their website any resources developed by the project so that we can rely on NOAA to help dessiminate resources?

A: While we do often publish outstanding resources developed by our awardees, we do not guarantee that we will do so for each resource developed. Regardless, this should not be considered for a primary mode of dissemination.

22. Q: Can the resources we develop be published on another government website eg NASA Earth Science?

A: Yes, they certainly can.

23. Q: It says in the FFO --Eligible applicants for Priority 1 are collaborative teams of two or more institutions in the United States.. Also -- The following types of institutions may serve as applicants on a collaborative team for Priority 1: institutions of higher education; other nonprofits. I want to know whether a professional development provider could be one of those institutions.

A: I do not fully understand your question. What type of institution would the professional developer be? If it is one of the types of institutions that may serve as applicant as listed in the FFO, then the answer would be yes.

24. Q: Is NOAA required to fund projects for both Priority applicant categories for this FFO?

A: No

25. Q: Can we extrensively cite Lessons Learned by creating a similar program with another federal agency?

A: Yes, established best practices from projects funded by other agencies can indeed by cited in the justification for your project design.

26. Q: Sorry if I missed this but how do collaborators on a project link their separate applications when submitting?

A: It needs to be included in the tile page (we provide a template that you can, but don't have to, use) and included prominently in the project description.

27. Q: our potential collaborator is a 501c3. The only examples listed in the FFO are zoos and aquariums and other nonprofits - I just want to make sure that this organization would fall under "other nonprofit".

A: Yes, a non-profit institution would indeed qualify as a collaborator.

28. Q: The Wild Center: What is the $ split between priority 1 & 2?

A: There is no pre-determined funding split between the two priorities at this time.

29. Q: If our institution is registered at grants.gov, do we have to register as individuals (or as an institution)?

A: You will need to be registered as an institution. We do not accept applications from individuals.

30. Q: when resources developed by this program appear on other federal websites, can we use the NOAA logo to show the partnership?

Q: Yes.

31. Q: Will there be any differences on the grants.gov applications for the lead institution vs the partner collaborator institutions?

A: Please see the section under the heading "CONTENT" on page 20 of the FFO for the details of the required elements for an application from the lead institution versus the required elements for application from the other collaborating institutions...[Also]

the application package made available in Grants.gov does not differ for lead and other collaborating institutions, though.

32. Q: could you give examples the two state reqruirement? Should partner applicants or impact be in two states? or both?

A: It is the project impact that sould be in two or more states.

33. Q: If we have a rough idea of a proposal at this time, whom should we call to find out whether it's worth developing?

A: You can contact us through oed.grants@noaa.gov or 202-482-0793 to further discuss any questions.

34. Q: Is there a preference for partners based in two states or can all partners be based in one state and impact two states?

A: The impact of the project needs to be in two or more states. The applicants (is this what you mean by partners?) do not have to be.

35. Q: If we develop resources that appear on a for-profit textbook publisher website, can we also use NOAA logo?

A: You can recognize NOAA as the funding source. To clarify my previous answer as well, you can use the logo in attribution to NOAA for funding, but you cannot make it appear as though the resource came from NOAA.

36. Q: Based on recent history, approximately how many proposals do you expect?

A: That is difficult to determine. In general, there is approximately a 10% success rate for ELG applicants.

37. Q: Does each partner on the team have to be an institutional collaborator and submit an application as part of the team or can some be sub contractors and not submit an appliication?

A: No, a project can have partners and sub-awardees that are not collaborators and therefore do not need to submit their own application. The project must have at least two instutions that submit applications, though.

38. Q: Should the individuals from collaborating institutions be listed as PIs or co-PIs on the applications that they submit?

A: Individuals from a collaborating institution should be listed as co-PI's on other institutions submissions.

39. Q: can you partner with an entity in another federal agency on a no-cost basis?

A: Yes, you can.

40. Q: What criteria should we employ to determine if an other institution on our team should get their own budget or a subcontract to us (we would be the prime institute)?

A: We do not provide specific criteria. However, I would say that a collaborator should be substantively involved in the majority of the project conceptualization and implementation. A partner or sub-awardees' level of involvement is typically more specialized and focused on specific elements of the project.

41. Q: I am actually asking about the applications that the collaborating institutions submit for themselves. I assume that the lead institution would list one PI and the collaborators as co-PIs. Do the collaborators list themselves as co-PIs or PIs on their own applications?

A: The PI listed on the title page should be affiliated with the institution submitting the application. I would recomment you look at our recommended title page template at: www.oesd.noaa.gov/grants/elg/application\_templates.html (this website is also listed in the FFO).