**Questions & Answers from ELG Webinar #2 on February 6, 2013**

The following questions were asked during the ELG Webinar on February 6, 2013. Please note that imcomplete questions or comments such as “thanks!”, were deleted from the list below. Names of participants have also been removed.

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1. Q: With grants in the range of $500K to 1,000K and a total of 3,000K available, does this mean that NOAA will make between 3 and 6 ELG awards?

A: Under Funding Availability section, the FFO states: "Approximately 3-5 collaborative projects, each comprising 2 or more individual awards in the form of cooperative agreements, will be awarded in FY 2013".

2. Q: so ALL projects must engage students in 2 or more states?

A: Each project should have an impact in two or more U.S. states. Please note the target audience for projects are: informal educators (including interpreters and docents), formal educators (pre- or in-service), or some combination of those audience types.

3. Q: Yes, I am asking if a NOAA entity would qualify as the required collaborator (listed as US institution in the funding opportunity). We've discussed some projects that might open possibilities with a NMS or NMFS, for example.

A: We are not able to give funds to any Federal institution...we do strongly encourage you to work with NOAA as partner, but NOAA offices are not able to apply as a collaborator.

4. Q: Partnerships with NOAA entities are encouraged...could such a NOAA entity be one of the required partner institutions?

A: Please clarify, are you asking of a NOAA entity can apply as a collaborator? Also, what NOAA entity are you thinking of?

5. Q: Can you please explain a little more what is involved in the "existing needs assessment?" Is this a formal assessment that we need to do and if so, where do we find it?

A: My apologies, I do not understand the component of your question asking where you find the needs assessment. Basically, we are looking for projects look to fill a known gap or need that they can demonstrate exists to the review panel in the application.

6.Q: Do territories qualify as states, i.e. would a partnership of one state and a territory qualify?

A: Yes, project impact area should involving a minimum of two U.S. states or territories

7. Q: What format does the front end evaluation/needs assessment need to be in? or another way, what sort of rubric should it follow?

A: There is no required format. It is up to you/your evaluator to determine the most appropriate format for your project and justify that in your application.

8. Q: Does NOAA have the $3mil total funding OR is the $ conditional on Fed budget?

A: Our funding is always contingent on the Federal budget and the same is true this year. Carrie will talk about that in a moment.

9. Q: Should a specific dollar amount be assigned to the evaluator?

A: Yes. Under the description of the budget section on page 23, the FFO states: "Applicants should include funding for project evaluation in their budgets".

10. Q: What percentage of the budget should be given to the evaluation?

A: Under the description of the Budget section on page 23, the FFO states: "While the costs for project evaluation may vary considerably, 10 to 20 percent of the total budget is a reasonable estimate of costs associated with a comprehensive project evaluation".

11. Q: How many applications to this FFO have you received in the past?

A: While this number varies for specific funding opportunities, the ELG Program has an overall fund rate of approximately 10% for applications that are sent for review.

12. Q: For priority 2 of eligible applicants: Does "exclusively composed of aquariums" mean that collaborative teams cannot include any non-Aquarium entities?

A: Correct, for Priority 2 the collaborative applicants can only be aquariums. However, Aquariums working with other, eligible, applicants can submit through Priority 1.

13. Q: but the cost for the front end evaluation/needs assessment cannot be included since it is supposed to already exist?

A: Yes, that's correct. The justification for your particular project should be done before you seek funding from this Funding Opportunity.

14. Q: is it appropriate to contact the appropriate NOAA personnel during the writing process?

A: Applicants are strongly encouraged to develop partnerships with appropriate NOAA personnel and programs. The NOAA assets page linked to in the FFO (http://www.oesd.noaa.gov/grants/NOAA\_assets.html) can be of assitance in identfiying potential NOAA entitities to contact....Also, you can contact the Program Officers for the ELG Program with questions regarding the FFO at oed.grants@noaa.gov or 202-482-0793.

15. Q: Is it OK for an institution to be a lead PI on one project and consultant/subaward on another within the same ELG cycle?

A: Yes, this is allowable. Please note that the individual must include each project application for which they would be receiving funding in the Current and Pending section.

16. Q: If we plan a collaborative partnership of two or three universities, could a school district receive a subcontract without being a collaborative partner

A:Yes.

17. Q: Would GLISA and RISA offices count as a NOAA program/office that can only recieve a small amount of support? In other words, they cannot receive a sgnificant subaward of the grant?

A: If RISA/GLISA employees are not NOAA federal employees, they would count as a NOAA partner but not fall under the 10% rule.

19. Q: And is it okay for an institution to be a lead PI on one collaborative project, and a co-PI collaborator on another project?

A: Yes, the Eligible Applicants section of the FFO states that: "...institutions may submit more than one distinct application and individuals may serve as co-PIs or key personnel on more than one application".

20. Q: We heard that NOAA grants do not support teacher stipends for professional development. Is this the case/true?

A: For the ELG program, there is no such restriction as long as you appropriatly justify the need/cost.

21.Q: How about limitations on letters of support?

A: There is no limit on the number of letters of commitment than can be submitted in conjuction with a project.

22. Q: Do more institutions involved in a project make the application more competitive?

A: Not necessarily. However, there should be a justifiable and adequate number of institutions involved to successfully implement the project model proposed.

23. Q Is there a target number of participants that you are expecting each year of the project? Dianne Robinson Hampton University

A: We do not provide specific guidance on the number of participants/educators that you need to directly impact. That is determined by your project scope. You do need to provide an explanation/justification for the numbers you determine to be appropriate.

24. Q: Is there an ideal number of NOAA partners that we should be working with?

A: NOAA partners are stongly encouraged. However, there is not a given target number for NOAA partners.

25. Q: How many proposals can an institution can either submit or participate in? if we submit our own proposal, can we be a participant on a proposal submitted by another museum?

A: There is no specific limit on the number of applications an instutition can submit.

26. Q: For K-12 school systems, is there a minimum number of grade levels that participating teachers are teaching?

A: No, there is not.

27. Q: Could a subgrant be awarded to the public communities that the project is impacting? For example, my project would be to educate underserved communities about the impacts of climate change using NOAA science, tools, and resources.

A: My apologies, I do not understand your question. What do you mean by "public communities? Please remember that the target audience must be formal and/or informal educators.