



U.S. ELECTION ASSISTANCE COMMISSION
1201 New York Ave. NW – Suite 300
Washington, DC 20005

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS
2010 Accessible Voting Technology Initiative

Date: November 29, 2010

Eligibility

1. Can state or local governments apply as an intermediary (primary recipient) on this project?

- a. The Notice of Funding Availability (NOFA) does not preclude any particular type of organization from applying as an intermediary. However, the organization should meet the requirements listed in *Section III. A. Eligible Applicants* of the funding announcement.

2. If an organization has only previously received federal funds as a sub-recipient, is it eligible to apply as an intermediary?

- a. Yes. However, organizations applying as the intermediary should demonstrate a track record of successfully managing federal funds on projects of this scope and size. Organizations with specific expertise and research experience may be better suited as sub-recipients on the project.

Funds Awarded for Research

3. Is there flexibility in the percentage of funds that can be awarded to the intermediary (primary recipient) for research? Can the intermediary perform a larger part of the research than the 15% listed in the NOFA?

- a. The amount awarded for the research portion of the project is capped at 15% for the intermediary. This project was originally envisioned with an intermediary that would coordinate and provide leadership, expertise and experience to a number of sub-recipients that would perform the bulk of the research. The intermediary can perform a larger portion of the research; however, any portion of the work in excess of the 15% cap should be considered as an in-kind matching contribution.

Sub-recipient Selection

4. Can I submit an application with pre-selected sub-recipients?

- a. Yes. Submitting an application with pre-selected sub-recipients is encouraged. Priority consideration is given to proposals that can allocate 40% of the designated funds to the sub-recipients within the first six months of the grant.

5. Do sub-recipients have to go through a competitive process?

- a. EAC is interested in a fair, open and transparent sub-awarding process. We encourage a process that values and documents appropriately the competitive

strengths of potential sub-recipients. We also appreciate the specialized expertise that particular organizations can provide. When submitting your application, please briefly describe the method and rationale (if applicable) for selecting the sub-recipients.

Bidders List

- 6. Is there a way for organizations that are interested in being either a sub-recipient or an intermediary to find each other?**
- a. EAC is maintaining a set of “Bidders Lists” for the benefit of prospective applicants. If your organization is interested in being either a sub-recipient or an intermediary, please send an email to Debbie Chen at dchen@eac.gov with the name of your organization, contact, and any other relevant information. These lists will be posted on the EAC website. Please note that EAC does not endorse any of the organizations on the lists and that participation on the lists does not affect the grant review or selection process.

Coordination with Military Heroes Program

- 7. What is expected in the coordination of this project with the Military Heroes Initiative?**
- a. The Accessible Voting Technology and the Military Heroes Initiatives are both funded from the \$8 million congressional appropriation to develop an accessible voting research technology program. Since the two initiatives share similar goals, EAC would expect the recipients to collaborate in meeting their respective research objectives. EAC would expect the recipients 1) to coordinate project plans to resolve any potential overlaps, 2) to leverage each other’s backgrounds, skills and resources so that the projects can progress efficiently and to the maximum fiscal benefit to the federal government, and 3) to communicate any findings that may be relevant to the other party.

While the NOFA requires collaboration with the Military Heroes program, the specific strategies for incorporating the initiative into the broader Accessible Voting Technology program will not be considered during the review or selection process.

Intellectual Property Rights

- 8. What are the intellectual property rights of the grantee under this grant?**
- a. The NOFA Section VI. B. 3. provides the EAC with a royalty-free, nonexclusive, and irrevocable right to use publications and materials, including data, produced under this agreement. The grantee must also make these publications and materials available to the public upon request.

Other grantee intellectual property rights are covered by 35 U.S.C. Sec. 200 *et seq.* These provisions and implementing regulations allow grantees to retain title over and profit from any intellectual property developed under this grant. In order to retain title the grantee must meet certain reporting and other requirements within specific time periods. Generally, Federal agencies are granted a non-exclusive, non-transferable, irrevocable, paid-up license to utilize on behalf of the United States, the intellectual property developed under the grant throughout the world.