

District of Columbia Government
District Department of the Environment



**NOTICE OF FUNDING AVAILABILITY
AND
REQUEST FOR APPLICATIONS (RFA)**

2013 Solar Sprint and Electric Grand Prix

Office of Community Relations

March 29, 2013

Application deadline: by 4:30 PM April 29, 2013

Government of the District of Columbia
District Department of the Environment
1200 First Street, NE 5th Floor
Washington, DC 20002
(202) 535-2600



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SECTION 1. GENERAL INFORMATION

1.1 Introduction

The District of Columbia District Department of Environment (DDOE), is soliciting grant applications from eligible entities (called “Applicants”). The goals of this Request for Applications (RFA) are to furthering awareness of renewables as a source of generation and proper environmental stewardship. The following programs or offices of DDOE are administering this RFA: Office of Community Relations.

1.2 Purpose of the Grants

The purpose of this grants is to provide youth an opportunity to learn about energy and environmental education. Proposals should focus on electric vehicle education and emergency generation and emergency preparedness.

1.3 Source of Funds

The source of funds for the grants is the District’s grant from the US Department of Energy under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009, P.L. 111-5 (ARRA).

1.4 Competition for a Grant Award

This RFA is competitive. Each grantee must demonstrate its ability to carry out the activities for the grant/s for which it applies (called a “project”). A review panel will evaluate the applications for each advertised grant according to the stated list of criteria in each project’s description. The proposal/s with the highest score/s will be awarded the grant.

Specifically, grant awards will be made based on eligibility (Section 1.6), the extent to which the proposed project fits within the scope and available funding of the grant, strength of the application, and the organization’s capacity to achieve the grant’s goals.

Each applicant may submit an application for more than one project, if applicable.

1.5 Projects and Funds Available

This RFA presents the following number or projects for the stated total amount of grants: One grant for \$35,000. DDOE seeks applications for:

Project 01: 2013 Solar Sprint and Electric Grand Prix \$35,000.

1.6 Eligibility

Nonprofit organizations with IRS 501(c)(3) or 501(c)(4) determinations, faith-based organizations, and educational institutions are eligible to apply.

A continuing condition of eligibility is that the application is truthful and its material conditions are still valid. For instance, if an application rested on the availability of specially skilled staff, and those staff should leave after the application's submittal, or the grant award to the Applicant, the Applicant has the responsibility to advise DDOE in writing. Another example would be the loss of the organization's nonprofit tax status.

1.7 Permissible Use of Grant Funds

Grantees may use grant funds only for allowable grant project expenditures. Grant funds will be provided on a reimbursement basis, except that an advance of funds may be provided in limited circumstances.

1.8 Grant Monitoring

DDOE may use several methods to monitor the grant, including site visits, periodic financial reports and the collection of performance data. Each grant is subject to audit.

1.9 RFA Conditions - Promises, Certifications and Assurances

Please read carefully the attached Appendix 3, "Applicant's Promises, Certifications and Assurances (PCA)." That document is incorporated by reference in this RFA. When an applicant signs the application it is making the listed promises, certifications and assurances and agrees to the other statements in that appendix.

In addition, the RFA requires that an applicant comply with the terms of the ARRA program, which are specified in Appendices 5A through 5D.

1.10 DDOE's Authority to Make Grants

General Authority: DDOE has grant-making authority under: the Water Pollution Control Act of 1984, eff. Mar. 16, 1985, as amended, (D.C. Law 5-188; D.C. Official Code §§ 8-101.01 *et seq.*), including § 8-103.12 (Make water-related research grants to universities and institutions); the DDOE Establishment Act of 2005, §§ 101 *et seq.*, eff. Feb. 15, 2006, as amended, (D.C. Law 16-51, D.C. Official Code §§ 8-151.01-.15), including § 8-151.07(10) (Make awards and grants to improve the environment); and other applicable laws and regulations.

1.11 Conflicts Between RFA and Applicable Law

If there are any conflicts between the terms and conditions of this RFA and a provision of applicable law, including a public law, statute or regulation, the provision of the law shall control.

SECTION 2. SUBMISSION OF APPLICATION

2.1 RFA Release Date

The release date of the RFA is March 29, 2013.

2.2 Obtaining a Copy of the RFA

A person may obtain a copy of this RFA by any of the methods in section 2.6. Please add to any note “Regarding RFA: (name and number)”.

2.3 Applications: When, What, and Where

When: All applications must be received at the address below by 4:30pm on April 29, 2013.

An application will be dated and recorded temporarily as “received” until DDOE staff have reviewed it to see if it is complete. DDOE considers an application to be “filed” only if all the required materials are submitted.

An application is not filed when sent. Late or incomplete applications will not be determined to be “filed.”

What: Copies and formats: Each application must consist of:
Five (5) hard copies; and
One (1) electronic copy.

The Department will not receive fax copies. Do not submit a fax copy. The contents of the Application are specified below, in Section 3.

Where:

The hard copies must be filed with DDOE at the following address:

District of Columbia Department of the Environment

RFA – Grants
1200 First Street, NE
5th Floor
Washington, DC 20002

Attn.: RFA 2013-OCO-07 Solar Sprint & Electric Grand Prix

Email: 2013ElecGPrixRFA.grants@dc.gov

Please note, if an organization is applying for more than one grant, a separate application packet must be submitted for each grant.

2.4 Award Announcement

DDOE expects to notify each Applicant of its award status within six (6) weeks after the application due date, in writing.

2.5 Updates and Q-and-A's

It is the Applicant's responsibility to stay up-to-date on the status and requirements of the grant for which it is applying.

DDOE welcomes questions seeking clarification of matters in this RFA. The questions should be sent to the email address presented below, in DDOE Contacts. DDOE will publish updates and Questions-and-Answers regarding the RFA at the web site indicated below, in "Contact Information". DDOE will also create an email list. A person can be put on the email list by immediately emailing the address below with the subject line "RFA-07 Add me to the email list."

DDOE will provide the same information by email at the same time the information is uploaded to the DDOE web site. Hard copy updates will be available for pickup at DDOE's offices, listed below, by appointment. DDOE will NOT mail out updates or Q&A materials.

2.6 DDOE Contacts

DDOE can be contacted about this RFA (use the RFA's name and number whenever possible) through the following:

- (a) **Download**, by visiting the DDOE's website, www.ddoe.dc.gov. Look for the following title/section, "Resources", click on it, cursor over the pull-down "Grants", click on it, then cursor down to "RFA" and find the announcement for this RFA. Click on it. Then choose this document, and related information, to download in PDF format;
- (b) **Email** a request to 2013ElecGPrixRFA.grants@dc.gov with "Request copy of RFA-07" in the subject line;

- (c) **In person by** making an appointment to pick up a copy from DDOE's offices at the following address, in subsection "(d)" (mention this RFA by name and number); or

- (d) **Write** DDOE at Office of Grants Management, 1200 First Street, N.E., 5th Floor, Washington, DC 20002, "Attention: RFA - Requesting a copy" on the outside of the letter.

SECTION 3. APPLICATION CONTENT

3.1 Format

Proposals should be formatted as follows:

- (a) Use plain, white, 8 ½" x 11" recycled paper with a one-inch margins, headers and footers;
- (b) Applications should be double-sided if possible;
- (c) Limit each project description to 15 double-spaced pages.
- (d) Staple the application in the top left-hand corner. Do not use a plastic cover or other form of binding.

3.2 Cover Sheet

Please fill in the attached cover sheet, Appendix 1, answering the questions on it. The cover sheet must have the requested information. When you have completed filling out the cover sheet, please save it for submittal as a .pdf file.

3.3 Proposal Content

DDOE intends to fund projects that will benefit the environment, and, in particular, the environment of the District of Columbia. The proposal should explain, in increasing levels of detail, how the applicant will accomplish this.

First, present a summary. Then describe the project, starting with objectives, outcomes and outputs, and ending with specific activities and the project budget. Finally, describe the applicant's team and why the applicant can accomplish the proposed project.

(a) Present the summary of the project.

After writing the proposal, and its details, the applicant should summarize the proposal for an introductory section of the document. The summary should be only one or two paragraphs.

(b) Present the project in detail.

After briefly stating what the project is to accomplish, present the quantifiable outputs and how to measure the project's success. This will require identifying

the target audience, explaining how the chosen methods will produce the outputs, and then what resources must be expended to achieve them. In presenting the project team and the budget, insure that expenditures are those that the grant can reimburse.

- (1) Recognize the purpose and objectives.

Because all of the RFA's grants seek to fund projects that will benefit the environment, the proposal should state, first in general terms, how it will benefit the environment and the proposal's stated targets, or objectives.

- (2) Describe the target audience.

If the proposed project is educational, or if a component of it will educate, the proposal must identify the target audience and address how the project will engage the target audience. Of course, the proposal would describe how educating the target audience would benefit the local environment.

- (3) Present the project outcomes, outputs, and activities.

DDOE evaluates grant-funded projects at three additional levels. These are increasingly more specific – the expected outcomes, the project outputs that will produce the outcomes, and, finally, the activities that make the outputs possible.

The proposal must address the outcomes, outputs and activities:

A **project outcome** is a medium- to long-term result that occurs and/or continues after the project ends. Examples: improved health of residents; an adequately-sized riparian buffer; or increased public awareness of the effects of human activities on the health of the Chesapeake Bay. Outcomes tend not to be quantified, because they are typically statements of relative conditions.

An output is a short-term result achieved at the end of the project period. Examples: providing watershed education to 100 students; installation of 200 square feet of green roof and an informational sign; or two acres of land cleaned of invasive plants. Outputs can, and should be, quantified.

Activities are undertaken to achieve the outputs and outcomes. For example, if the project involves teachers, the proposal would explain how the applicant will recruit the teachers, what the teachers will do, and if any experience or research supports the proposed use of teachers.

The proposal should connect the projected outcomes with the outputs, and the outputs, in turn, to the funded activities. That way reviewers will have a good idea of what the proposed project will achieve if funded.

(4) Describe methods.

The proposal should communicate how the applicant will harness people and resources to create the proposed activities.

(5) Explain how project success will be measured.

Provide quantifiable measurements. For example, a trash removal project addresses the pounds of trash removed, a water project measures the amount of stormwater captured. Also, if there are key tasks in the project, the proposal would identify the milestones that the project will achieve in order to produce outputs.

(6) Observe restrictions and be aware of available preference points in the scoring.

Please read the project description very carefully to see if there are restrictions for the DDOE grant. For instance, certain activities might be required to take place in the District, or the scoring might give extra points to labor sourced in the District.

(7) Present the project budget.

The proposal must present a project budget. The budget must come with a narrative.

An example of a project budget table, with categories that DDOE examines, appears in Appendix 2. Your narrative should explain each budget line item. The explanation should be thorough enough to allow a reviewer to understand why expenditure levels were chosen and how the line item amounts were derived. The narrative should list its principal assumptions -- for example, "senior staff are \$xx per hour times xx hours".

The proposal should use the budget format in Appendix 2. But, if your own internal budget format is more detailed and covers each of the indicated line items, you may submit in that budget format. That format presents the total cost of the project, even if the total exceeds the amount of the grant.

Resources other than those from the grant would appear in the column titled "Non-DDOE Match," meaning the applicant intends to provide the indicated

resources, the “match”, and that the resources do not come from DDOE. The applicant would enter in this column both dollars and the value of the in-kind contributions. In-kind contributions can include staff time, volunteer services, already-paid licensing fees, materials, supplies, and the use of equipment or real estate.

Volunteer hours provided to a grantee or sub-grantee by individuals must be valued at rates consistent with those which the applicant’s organization ordinarily pays for similar work, including salary and fringes. If the grantee or sub-grantee does not have employees performing similar work, the rates will be valued according to those ordinarily paid by other employers for similar work in the same labor market.

The applicant must verify that all costs in the budget are allowable and verifiable. See “Allowable Costs” and “Non-Allowable Costs”, listed below. Please keep in mind that DDOE will require documentation for grant payments, and the entire grant will be subject to audit.

- (8) Be aware of allowable costs.

Allowable costs are those typical of operations:

1. Rental of office space, some vehicles, and some equipment;
2. Employee salaries and benefits;
3. Contractor labor, including professional services;
4. Accounting, bookkeeping services;
5. Communications, including telephone and data services;
6. Printing, reproduction, including signage;
7. Materials and supplies;
8. Many computers and printers;
9. Plants and tree-plantings;
10. Small tools;
11. Some field equipment, typically below \$5,000 in value;
12. Postage, shipping;
13. Some travel, meals and lodging; and
14. Insurance.

If the category or size of the expenditure is not obviously connected to the proposed project, the proposal should justify it. For example, a project to install a \$100,000 trash trap should discuss how the particular equipment was identified and why the price is the best for the project.

Non-Allowable Costs include those for lobbying and entertainment, for such long term items as real estate, and for many very large expenditures:

1. Most major equipment, like vehicles;

2. Lobbying, including salaries and overheads and out-of-pocket expenses;
3. Entertainment;
4. Interest payments on loans;
5. Most food; and
6. Land purchases.

(c) Describe the applicant.

(1) Describe the organization.

Describe the organization's history, mission, and current or past projects that demonstrate the organization's capacity to achieve the project's goals. This section should be limited to one page. For further information the applicant can reference a web site or an attached organizational brochure or resume.

(2) Identify key personnel.

The proposal should identify the key team members for the project and provide brief biographies or their resumes. The team members can be staff, volunteers or contractors.

(3) Summarize past performance of DC grants/contracts.

DDOE wants to know if an applicant has worked with the District of Columbia as a contractor, grantee or partner. The proposal must identify District agencies from which the organization has received funding in the past five years, stating the grant or contract title, the agency, the grant number or other identifier, the amount paid, and what was accomplished as a result of the funding. The applicant must also briefly describe disputes, investigations or audits.

(4) Identify partners.

Sometimes partnerships can improve the success of a project. These might be agencies, NGOs, companies or individuals. If a partner is involved in the project, the applicant should describe the partner's involvement and resource commitments. The proposal should identify and attach a letter of support on the partner's letterhead, or email with formal identification, from an authorized official.

SECTION 4. Review Panel and Application Scoring

4.1 Review Panel

This is a competitive grant. The review panel for the RFA will be composed of individuals with knowledge in the areas directly related to the RFA. The review panel will review, score and rank each applicant's proposal.

When the review panel has completed this work, the panel will make recommendations for awards based on the scoring criteria for the particular grant at issue.

Review panels vary in size. Typically three to five people sit on a review panel. The review panel will consist of at least three technical people. At least two of the review panel will be from DDOE staff. Whenever practicable each panel will have at least one person from outside of DDOE.

4.2 Scoring Criteria

The reviewers score each proposal according to a list of criteria, and their available points. The scoring of each application is based on a 100-point scale. The criteria and the points appear in the RFA's description of each grant opportunity. The applicant should read this list carefully, insuring that the proposal addresses each of the criteria.

The review panel will evaluate each proposal using the criteria listed with each project description. The panel will recommend the top scorer for funding (subject, of course, to how much grant funding is available).

Preferences may be awarded for points independent of the 100-point scale. An Applicant with an address in the District at the time of the application will be awarded a residency preference of 10 (ten) points. If the Applicant does not have an address in the District, but the application includes a District-based business or non-profit partner, five (5) points will be awarded. The residency preference will be afforded as follows:

1. The preference points will be added to any points awarded to the applicant on the 100-point scale used to rank qualified applications to each project.
2. Preference candidates will be selected ahead of equally scoring, non-preference candidates.

Some grants require matching funds or other matching resources. Some grants do not require matches, but do allot points for scoring. Matches can be provided

with resources of value to the proposed project, as discussed above in the section on budget. The applicant should read the grant description carefully to determine if a match is required or allot points.

SECTION 5. FILING REQUIREMENTS

5.1 Documents to file as part of the proposal

Each of the following documents must be filed as part of the proposal package. If the document is not in this filing, DDOE may classify the grant application as “received” but not filed. Status as “received” will not meet the application deadline. Exception: If a government agency must issue the document, and the applicant has requested the document, DDOE may accept a copy of the applicant’s request to the agency as proof of the request.

(a) Certificate of Good Standing

Each applicant must submit a Certificate of Good Standing from the DC Department of Consumer and Regulatory Affairs. The Certificate shall be current. DDOE defines “current” as having been issued within 60 days of the date of the application’s submission.

(b) Promises, Certifications and Assurances Document

Each applicant must sign the lengthy document called “Promises, Certifications and Assurances” (“PCA”) in Appendix 3. This document is incorporated by reference in the RFA. This means that it is, and should be read as, part of the RFA. This is an important document.

Signing the PCA as though under oath, is a condition of eligibility for the grant applied for. If the Applicant organization is not prepared to sign the PCA it should not apply for a grant. The signature also constitutes a continuing promise and certification, which is a continuing condition of eligibility for each grant described in the RFA.

The PCA must be signed by an individual grant recipient or, if an organization, by the duly authorized officer of the applicant organization. If the person signing for the Applicant is barred by faith or custom from swearing under oath, s/he may “attest to the truth.”

The applicant is not required to send the entire document back to DDOE. Rather, DDOE requires the table of contents and the signature page. The applicant should print the pages on which the Table of Contents appears and the

last, signature, page of the document, sign the signature page, and submit the pages with the proposal.

The PCA also includes a sworn statement verifying that the Applicant is current on all obligations outstanding to the District, including the District's agencies. DDOE defines "current" to mean as of the date of the application, the date of a grant award, and the period of the grant. DDOE will require, as a condition of continuing eligibility, that a grantee stay current on such obligations.

(c) W-9 tax form

The applicant must submit a current completed W-9 form, prepared for US Internal Revenue Service purposes. DDOE defines "current" to mean that the document was completed within the same calendar year as that of the application date. If the applicant has submitted a current completed W-9 to DDOE for another application, or for another purpose, the applicant may submit a copy of that document.

(d) Tax Exemption Letter

The tax exemption letter is the Internal Revenue Service's determination letter of non-profit status, if one was issued. If not available, then the applicant should provide its most recent IRS Form 990 tax return, if one was submitted. If no return has yet been filed, the organization can submit its IRS tax status application. If the group has a supporting organization with an IRS tax determination, the related documents should be submitted.

If there is no IRS documentation because the organization is a religious organization the applicant may submit the best evidence it can of its status:

(i) a letter from the leader of the organization verifying that the organization is a religious group; (ii) a letter from the group's board chair or similar official, verifying that the organization is a religious group; (iii) the applicant's most recently submitted state sales or other tax exemption form, if it exists (Form 164 in the District of Columbia); or (iv) the state's issued tax exemption certificate or card, if it exists. (See IRS publication no. 1828, *Tax Guide for Churches and Religious Organizations*)

(e) Applicant's current fiscal year budget

The applicant must submit its full budget, including projected income, for the organization's current fiscal year, using a format as least as detailed as that presented in Appendix 2. Also, the applicant should submit a comparison of budgeted versus actual income and expenses to date.

(f) Applicant's financial statements

If the applicant has undergone an audit, it must provide the most recent audited financial statements. If audited financial statements are not available, the applicant must provide its most recent complete year's unaudited financial statements.

(g) Separation of duties policy

Applicant must submit a statement that states how the organization separates financial transactions/duties between people within the organization, for the purposes of preventing fraud and/or waste. This may be a statement that already exists as a formal policy of the organization, or the applicant may create the statement for the application. The applicant should state which is the case.

This statement should describe how financial transactions are handled and recorded. It should include names and titles of personnel involved in handling money, how many signatures the bank/s requires on the organization's checks and withdrawal slips. It should address other limits on staff and board members' handling the organization's money.

(h) If applicable, letters of support

If a project requires a partner, the applicant should attach a letter of support, or equivalent, with the proposal. DDOE has experience with four cases:

1. District of Columbia Public Schools

If the applicant will work with the District of Columbia Public Schools (DCPS), then it must include a letter of support from the principal of each school with which it will work, and, if available, from each participating teacher. Teachers and principals may send a joint letter.

2. Property Owner

If the applicant will work on public land, it must submit a letter of support from the managing agency. Similarly, if the applicant is to work on private land, it must submit a letter of support from each property owner. If the project includes construction or installation, the letter must acknowledge that the property owner will be responsible (either directly or through an agreement with another entity) for project maintenance.

3. Partnering Organization

If the applicant has identified a project partner, it must include a letter of intent from the collaborating organization/s, agreeing to participate in the proposed project. The letter should demonstrate that the partnering organization understands the project presented for funding and the activities and/or services which the partner will provide.

4. National Park Service

Projects that would be carried out on National Park Service (“NPS”) property will require NPS permission. Sometimes the paperwork supporting such permission takes extra time to complete. DDOE will accept more informal statements generated by responsible NPS officials, including emails.

5.2 Documents to file if DDOE notifies that it will make the grant

Each of the following documents must be filed with DDOE before DDOE can pay out funds pursuant to a grant award. Exception: If a government agency must issue the document, and the applicant/grantee has requested the document, DDOE may accept a copy of the applicant’s request to the agency as proof of the request.

(a) Certificate of insurance

The grantee shall be required to submit a Certificate of Insurance giving evidence of the required coverage, either before or after the award, but before work commences. In reviewing the grant proposal, DDOE will presume that the budget covers the cost of this required insurance, and will not later adjust the grant award for this amount.

(b) Assurance of continued truth and accuracy

The grantee will be required to reaffirm upon acceptance of the grant award that the statements it signed in support of its application are still true and correct, or, if not, what has changed. One of the grantee’s promises, as an applicant, is to advise DDOE of material changes since the filing of the application.

(c) SAM registration with federal government

If the project description in this RFA identifies the funding source and it is wholly or partially funded by a federal grant, open a SAM account at <https://www.sam.gov/portal/public/SAM> and fully complete a profile within the system. Please provide a screenshot showing your organization in SAM. No

funding will be distributed if a complete SAM registration has not been performed.

SECTION 6. FILING REQUIREMENTS GENERAL PROVISIONS

6.1 Grant award administration

The following terms and conditions apply after DDOE has made its decision to grant an award.

(a) DDOE's announcement of award

DDOE's objective is to announce grant awards by at least six (6) weeks after the date it publishes the RFA.

(b) Grantee's reports

The Grantee must file reports as one of the continuing conditions for eligibility:

1. Quarterly status reports (template to be provided with the grant award). These reports will be due on each of the following dates. The reports discuss grant activities for the preceding quarter:

1 st Q (Jan-Mar):	April 15
2 nd Q (Apr-Jun):	July 15
3 rd Q (Jul-Sep):	October 15
4 th Q (Oct-Dec):	January 15

If a report's due date falls on a weekend or District holiday, the report will be due the next business day.

The report must detail actions taken in the quarter preceding the report date, highlight outputs achieved, and report unforeseen changes to project timetable, staffing or partnerships, as well as any other changes that may affect project outcomes.

2. A final report (template to be provided with the grant award). This report may include the grantee's quantifying the project's outputs and describing the extent to which project outcomes met or will meet the objectives of the funded proposal. DDOE prefers hard data, and analysis of the data.

(c) Reimbursement of project expenditures

Grantees will not be reimbursed for any work that is undertaken before DDOE awards the grant.

DDOE's standard practice for grant award payments is to reimburse for expenditures related to work performed. In limited cases DDOE may pay start-up funds at the beginning of the grant period. If the applicant seeks start-up payments it should make the request in its proposal, and explain the request.

DDOE operates on the District's fiscal year, which starts October 1 of a calendar year and ends September 30 of the next calendar year. The grantee may submit a reimbursement request, or invoice, at any time during the fiscal year. Each request/invoice must include supporting documentation.

Reimbursements will be mailed to the address on file for the grantee. DDOE may make electronic payments in lieu of mailing checks. DDOE generally pays grant invoices six (6) weeks after DDOE receives them.

DDOE will withhold the final 10 (ten) percent (10%) invoiced under a grant until all activities have been completed, including receipt of the final report.

SECTION 7. PROJECTS PROPOSED FOR GRANT FUNDING

7.1 Summary: Project Titles and Available Funds

Projects for the RFA	Funds
Project No. - Title	Amount available
Project 01: 2013 Solar Sprint and Electric Grand Prix	\$35,000

7.2 Project Descriptions

Project 01: 2013 Solar Sprint and Electric Grand Prix

The District of Columbia District Department of the Environment ("DDOE") is seeking a nonprofit organization, educational institution or government agency to further awareness of renewable energy as a source of generation and proper environmental stewardship by working with a team of high school students to compete in the national electric vehicle grand prix of 2013. Because this is a federal ARRA subgrant there will be additional reporting requirements.

This section of the RFA describes the project to be funded with a grant, who is eligible, the period for carrying out the grant activities, and special requirements for the federal ARRA funding.

1. Scope and description

The grantee will work with schools in the District to organize, coordinate, and prepare for the Junior Solar Sprint and the DC EV Grand Prix. The objective will be to include as many schools as possible so that District area students have competition entrants in either or both of the Junior Solar Sprint and the DC EV Grand Prix.

The target competition is the 2013 event. The competition will be held June 15. Applicant should solicit and involve students from as many schools as feasible.

The DC EV Grand Prix is a competition for high school students in the District, Maryland, and Virginia. The students acquire all the components for the model cars in the form of a kit. The students have to come up with innovative ways to build a highly competitive electric vehicle.

The grantee will work with students from high schools in the District to form a competing design for model cars and race against other competing student teams. Each team will be comprised of eight to 12 students. Funds awarded may be used to cover kit expenses.

It is expected that students will help with fund-raising for their teams to cover the balance of costs needed to compete.

Part of the project is intended to integrate student's technical work with outreach to their community. The successful applicant also will be expected to help coach student teams in social media to record the preparation and activities for the EV Grand Prix, and to help with their fundraising. The students will work over the summer of 2013 to continue to spread news about EVs and the DC competitions.

The applicant should provide resumes or other descriptions of the persons who will work in the project, paid or volunteer.

2. Eligibility

A nonprofit organization, educational institution, or government agency may apply for these grants. A nonprofit includes a 501(c)(3) status charity, a faith-based organization, and many forms of associations. Individuals are not eligible to apply. While a "track record" in such school-related science competitions is not required, evaluation points will be given to organizations with demonstrated experience in developing school competitions pertaining to energy conservation, green operations, renewable education, or other sustainable practices.

3. Period of award

The grant award will be made for a period ending September 30, 2013, depending on the project and assuming continuing funding availability. The grant period will start upon the grantee's signature accepting the award.

4. Available funding

The amount available for this RFA is approximately \$35,000. The amount is subject to continuing availability of funding and approval by the appropriate agencies.

3. Timeline

Applicant must submit a timeline/ work plan. The applicant should be ready to start immediately upon approval.

6. DDOE's review criteria

DDOE's review team will apply the following criteria to each application and award point accordingly. The total is 100 points.

Criterion A: Demonstrated experience in coordinating secondary school science competitions (35%)

Applicant should demonstrate work with school systems, facilitating school-wide discussions surrounding energy/environmental outreach and preparing students for science competitions. Include examples of prior successes. Show how the students' work and education has been communicated to the public.

Criterion B: Detailed proposal describing the project activities that will be funded through this grant (35%)

The applicant must provide a detailed proposal on how the youth will be helped and trained for the competition. Explain the hardware and software to be used. Describe the process to develop the competition vehicle. Show the experience and training of the persons who will work with the youth.

The applicant should include as detailed a work plan as possible. Show a timeline and major deliverables and milestones.

Criterion C: Current and active leadership and organization in place (15%)

Show how the applicant is the right organization to participate in this grant. Identify and describe the experience of relevant employees and volunteers. Describe the structure, membership and funding of the organization, the history of organization, and any anticipated changes over the coming months.

Criterion D: Budget (15%)

Provide a detailed and clear budget, which includes line-item detail and budget narrative information, justifies each item

7. Federal ARRA funding requirements

The federal funding for this grant is from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009, P.L. 111-5 (ARRA), and is subject to the reporting and operational requirements of the Recovery Act. Appendices 5A through 5D (there is no Appendix 4) present the additional promises, certifications, requirements and reporting.

Award of the grant will be conditioned upon the grantee's signing and agreeing to the matters in the Appendix. If the organization cannot sign and agree at the time of DDOE's notification to it of the award, DDOE will award the grant to the next most qualified applicant.

8. More information

For additional information regarding this RFA, please contact DDOE as instructed in the RFA document, or after reviewing the document, at 2013ElecGPrixRFA.grants@dc.gov. DDOE will share questions and responses with the public, so that every potential applicant has the same information. DDOE will post questions and answers on its web site, on the same page as this RFA appears.

APPENDICES

Appendix 1 – COVER SHEET

A cover sheet must be submitted as the first document in the application for an announced grant. If the applicant is applying for more than one grant, each grant should have its own cover sheet. Please use Appendix 1 to prepare the cover sheet.

There is no special design format to this cover sheet, except that the items must stay in their numbered order. This cover sheet may be submitted single-spaced.

From DDOE's website, the applicant can download a pdf version of the cover sheet.

An application submitted without the properly filled-in cover sheet will be considered NOT filed. The result could be that the applicant misses the filing deadline. Please fill in a cover sheet for each grant sought.

Appendix 2 - EXAMPLE OF GRANT BUDGET

Please submit a budget in this format.

Appendix 3 - PROMISES, CERTIFICATIONS AND ASSURANCES (“PCA”)

Please review and sign this document, following the instructions in it.

[There is no Appendix 4.]

The following appendices must be addressed upon the notification of an award, due to federal ARRA funding.

Appendix 5 A – ARRA Grants

Appendix 5 B - ARRA Assurances

Appendix 5 C - ARRA Certifications

Appendix 5 D – ARRA Reporting Schedule

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