

Questions and Answers

“Sustainable DC 2.0 Community Actions” RFA

Q1. Are you planning to award one grant of \$90,000 or to award multiple smaller grants?

A1. There will be one award for the full \$90,000. However, teams with one fiduciary agent, may apply to cover the varied aspects and diverse skills required for this grant.

Q2. Can more than one entity be part of an application?

A2. Yes! We encourage groups to collaborate and apply for the grant together.

Q3. Who can apply?

A3. See section 1.6 of the RFA

Q4. Is the requirement for 50 people reached at meetings in the outcomes section referring to one 50 person meeting or 50 people at multiple meetings?

A4. The requirement is for 50 people total whether at one meeting or multiple meetings. You may have good reason to talk to more people, but 50 is the minimum.

Q5. Can groups that are already established and have already done engagement work to identify priority actions use that as the engagement aspect of the grant?

A5. We want the final actions to be broadly applicable to residents so we would prefer it to be original research. If there is already a group of 50 people that want to take action, that might be a great start, but we would want to see something additional to make the actions broadly applicable to more residents in priority communities.

Q6. The RFA states that at least one of the actions must be related to green buildings. What are examples of actions related to green buildings?

A6. Examples, listed in the U.S. Green Building Council’s LEED rating system include, Energy efficiency, efficient appliances and lighting, renewable energy, water efficiency, recycling, and composting.

Q7. Are you looking for actions for residential homes? What about community buildings or spaces?

A7. Part of your implementation plan can involve community spaces, but these actions are designed to be focused on residents whether at work or home.

Q8. Thinking about priority communities, Wards 7 and 8, some of these green building actions don’t seem to apply. Many residents in 7 and 8 may not live in a single-family home or own their home. How do you see that connecting?

A8. Our priority communities are people of color and residents of Wards 7 and 8. These residents have not been well served by sustainability nor feel connected. Through this grant, the focus is to move forward the sustainability goals and the needs of our priority communities. Many residents in Wards 7 and 8 are interested in sustainability, but aren’t sure what that looks like for them or what they should do. For other residents, it might be more about actions that aren’t labeled as “sustainable.” Maybe they’re framed as meeting other

goals—reliable transits, food access, affordability—but have the side benefit of sustainability goals. The actions are to be implementable by residents without major structural changes or major capital projects like new bus lines (maybe creative carpooling solutions instead) or new grocery stores (maybe better access to existing stores coming online East of the Anacostia River).

Q9. The timeline is tight and 6 to 12 weeks to award the grant really cuts into time available for implementation. What is the likely grant award timeline?

A9. While the standard timeline for grant awarding is 6 to 12 weeks, we are planning to prioritize the grant to hopefully award it closer to 6 to 8 weeks.

Q10. Do I need to have something implemented by September 30, 2020?

A10. Yes, there needs to be some kind of pilot of at least one of your implementation plans. A pilot may be just an aspect of a broader implementation plan (such as a behavior change campaign for a smaller audience with a plan to scale or a creative program that could prove the impact with a plan to replicate with more people later. We recognize that this is a short amount of time to implement a whole project, but there may be additional opportunities for funding in the next fiscal year.

Q11. Will DOEE provide support to measure and assess the success of the project towards Sustainable DC quantitative targets? Does the grantee need to provide quantitative data and measurements?

A11. The grantee should be able to analyze the impact of their pilot and analyze the potential impact of their implementation plan. An example is measuring carpooling or bike to work campaign with X% of people doing a different behavior after the competition or program. However, we are not expecting grantees to track their project's impact on the overall Sustainable DC 2.0 target for the city.

Q12. Do the actions need to go in hand with the goals of Sustainable DC 2.0 Plan?

A12. YES! The actions are to be reflective of the goals of the Sustainable DC 2.0 Plan

Q13. Are the results of the community meetings and surveys available in a fact sheet?

A13. The raw data from resident surveys and community engagement meetings to finalize Sustainable DC 2.0 will be available to the selected grantee.

Q14. Would you please share a participant list from the first information session?

A14. The following people attended the first information session on Wednesday, March 4, 2020:

- Carolyn Rudd and Edward Wofford, CRP Corporation
- Beth Gingold, Recycle Leaders

Q15. Can you clarify the distinction being drawn between "action plans" and "implementation plans"?

A15. We use the terms “action plans” and “implementation plans” interchangeably.

Q16. To what extent will City staff support the engagement activities (i.e. deploying of staff to community-based activities)?

A16. Grantees are not to rely on DOEE staff to support engagement activities. DOEE will be engaged in broader sustainability engagement work during this time. This grant will be additive to that work.

Q17. What is the relationship of the community actions identified in this grant and the actions identified in Sustainable DC 2.0?

A17. The community actions identified and piloted in this grant should support the goals and targets of the Sustainable DC 2.0 Plan, but don't need to directly align with a specific Sustainable DC 2.0 action.

Q18. Should the results of the pilot be included in the final report or in a separate document?

A18. The results of the pilot should be included in the final report.

Q19. How would you define success for the pilot projects?

A19. We would define success as a pilot project that informs the larger action implementation plan. The pilot does not need to fully implement the action implementation plan, but should demonstrate that the action is feasible and worthwhile in undertaking.

Q20. How do we budget for a pilot when we are not sure what kind of action we will be piloting (because it will be based on the community conversations as part of the grant)?

A20. We recognize this is a challenge and acknowledge there will need to be some flexibility in the budget after the input from the community meetings is analyzed. We would also ask you to think about the scope and scale of actions you are considering to inform your budget.

Q21. Are there specific sections in the Sustainable DC 2.0 Plan you would like to focus on?

A21. No, as long as one of the actions focuses on green building, we do not have a preference in any goal or targets of the plan.

Q22. Are you looking for us to talk to the same people that were polled as part of the Sustainable DC Plan 2.0 or to convene a new set of people?

A22. We are looking for the grantee to convene a new set of residents focusing on Wards 7 and 8, and people of color.

Q23. Do businesses need to provide a current budget, or is it just for non-profits organizations?

A23. Every applicant needs to provide a budget.

Q24. Do you have a template for the budget?

A24. Please use the budget template provided in Appendix 4 of the RFA, which is also available at <https://doee.dc.gov/node/1463701>.

Q25. Is this project funded by federal funding sources, making the System for Award Management (SAM) requirement relevant?

A25. DOEE requires all entities to be registered in SAM regardless of the funding source.

Q26. Is it the case that food is an unacceptable item to include in the budget? Is it acceptable if it is being used for discussion purposes relevant to the meeting topic?

A26. District funds are not to be used to purchase food. There may be exceptions, but for the purposes of this application do not include food in your budget.

Q27. In the Grant Promises, Certifications, Assertions, and Assurances, should I include the final two pages, signed, or just the signed last page?

A27. You should submit the first and last page of the PCA, with the last page signed.

Q28. Due to the current impact of COVID-19 on IRS, I am still awaiting my business tax documentation required for submission with my response. Will I still be able to submit my response and not be rejected due to my missing my business tax-exemption documentation?

A28. Yes, we recognize the impact COVID-19 is having on the ability to receive required tax documentation. Given the circumstances, you are still able to submit your application with an explanation for why required documentation is missing. We will require documentation later for our files when you do receive it.

Q29. What does “targeted subwatershed” refer to?

A29. This application does not have a targeted subwatershed. Please leave #13 on the application cover page blank.

Q30. What does “Applicant’s title for the proposed project” mean?

A30. How the Applicant will refer to the project if it gets funded.