

Questions and Answers for Request for Applications #2021-2114-WPD
Nature Near School Meaningful Watershed Educational Experiences Grant

For all content below, the following acronyms and language will be referenced:

- NNS: Nature Near Schools
- MWEE: Meaningful Watershed Educational Experiences
- DOEE: Department of Energy and the Environment (DC)
- NNS MWEE Program: Program (as defined in pp.23-24 in RFA)

Q1: What is preferred – schoolyard site or something that is walkable?

A1: There is no preference. Emphasis is placed on individualized curriculum. Programs that rely solely on bussing are not eligible, though bus trips may be an option as health and safety guidelines and field trip policies allow them.

Q2: Would a school be able to partner with multiple applicants?

A2: Yes, if there is interest from multiple teachers at one school and there is high demand for the Program to be implemented, then a school can partner with multiple applicants. In the application, it would have to be clear why one partner would not be able to deliver the programming at one school.

Q3: If we are interested in doing more than five sessions with each school, would that be allowed?

A3: Yes, the parameter of conducting five sessions and an action project is a minimum requirement.

Q4: Will funding be available after this upcoming funding year?

A4: This pilot is expected to be implemented for one school year, while the overnight MWEE program is paused due to pandemic restrictions. DOEE plans on integrating the best practices, identified through implementing the NNS pilot, into the Overnight MWEE when overnight programs are safe to resume. If DOEE has the funding and a pilot appears successful, DOEE may extend a grant and may fund the extension, at its discretion. Grantees may have the grant period extended and receive additional funding if DOEE deems it appropriate. Extensions may not be available for all grantees and will depend on grantee performance, availability of funds, and DOEE's determination.

Q5: Can we include more than three schools in an application?

A5: Yes.

Q6: What is expected in terms of continuity of the program between the different schools?

A6: The emphasis is on individualized curriculum delivered to each school and its local environment. The grantee will need to tailor programming to fit the natural and built environment near the school.

Q7: Are the five lessons inclusive of the action project or is the action project in addition to the five lesson?

A7: Each NNS MWEE program should have at least five lessons. The culminating action project should be in addition to the five lessons.

Q8: What is the date of the school networking session?

A8: Wednesday, May 26 at 4:00pm EST.

Q9: We would like to provide a stipend for teachers in our proposal. We think that teachers' time should be valued and were wondering whether that would be an "allowable" line item in the budget?

A9: Yes, teacher stipends for professional development is allowable.

Q10: We would like to propose that there will be a "general curriculum" that will be adapted to each of the sites that we will be working with. Will general info be sufficient or would you prefer site specific adaptation of curriculum.

A10: A general curriculum adapted to each site and grade meets the application requirements. A finalized curriculum is not required for the application.

Q11: Within the proposal, the final stage of the MWEE, can it be left to the students as to what their action project is going to be?

A11: The culminating stewardship project must be student-driven and students must be actively engaged, and to the extent possible, drive the decision-making, planning, and implementation of the project. Applicants should indicate how they will support and encourage students to develop their project.

Q12: Can a group of schools apply for the grant on their own or does it need to be with a partner?

A12: Yes, if a group of schools can fulfill the NNS MWEE Program requirements and justify the use of funds..

Q13: In the RFA, section 3.2, part "(c) Project Description", does the application answer have to follow the order of the parts 1-4 listed below (Goals and Objectives, Target Audience, Project Activities, Outputs, Outcomes, and Budget) or does the answer have to follow the order of the scoring criteria components?

A13: The Project Description can be in any order as long as the 10 double spaced pages include parts 1-4 under the Project Description and the content addresses the scoring criteria.

Q14: Can a school qualify if they don't have an outdoor classroom or built garden in their school?

A14: Yes. Built outdoor infrastructure is not needed to qualify for the grant.

Q15: What schools have indicated interest in hosting NNS MWEE Programs?

A 15:

- Capital City Public Charter School
- Washington Yu Ying Academy

- Latin American Montessori Bilingual
- Mundo Verde
- Bridges Public Charter School
- Washington Latin Public Charter School

Q16: What organizations have indicated interest in delivering NNS MWEE Program?

A16:

- Anacostia Watershed Society
- Living Classrooms
- Nature Bridge
- Friends of Kenilworth Aquatic Gardens (seeking partners)
- City Blossoms
- Casey Trees
- The Green Scheme
- Live It, Learn It
- OutTeach