

Questions and Answers for Request for Applications #2020-2021-RRD

Increase Participation in Alternative Compliance Programs for Stormwater Management

- Q1.** Are private enterprises required to have tax-exempt status to apply?
A1. No.
- Q2.** Have spending restrictions associated with the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic affected DOEE's decision to award a grant under this RFA?
A2. DOEE still intends to award a grant. For updates on the District's response to coronavirus (COVID-19), visit coronavirus.dc.gov.
- Q3.** Are SRC aggregators eligible to apply for this grant?
A3. SRC aggregators may apply. However, DOEE anticipates that SRC aggregators are not likely the best applicants for this RFA because the application would need to demonstrate:
- The SRC aggregator has the expertise to conduct market research and develop communication recommendations;
 - The SRC aggregator's work under this grant would not present a conflict of interest related to their plans to sell SRCs to the target community of this RFA; and
 - The SRC aggregator has expertise in both the SRC and SISR programs.
- Q4.** Could DOEE please clarify if funds can be used for technical and background studies related to the SRC program? For instance, gathering and analyzing existing data to ensure current needs and realities.
A4. Funds must be used to support increasing participation in the SRC program and SISR program. If additional background studies related to the program would assist the applicant in fulfilling the objectives of the RFA, the applicant may include this as a step of their proposed project.
- Q5.** On Page #20, project outcomes #1-6; how does DOEE define the improvement? Should it be numeric, percentage or based on any available and acceptable baseline value?
A5. The increase is relative to a baseline at the beginning of the project.
- Q6.** Can DOEE please provide the anticipated start date of the project for offerors' planning purposes and cost estimating?
A6. DOEE anticipates making an award approximately 4-6 weeks after the application deadline in late June or early July 2020. The actual award date may be later depending on the length of DOEE review.
- Q7.** Does DOEE have a list of potential developers for the purpose of this grant?
A7. A list of potential developers could be included in the list of program stakeholders described in the deliverables for the project (page 20), which must incorporate DOEE input. Although DOEE has not prepared a list of potential developers

specifically for this grant, DOEE expects that DOEE could make recommendations as to developers who could be included in such a list.

Q8 Can you clarify the Sunday deadline?

A8 The application deadline is Sunday, May 31st, 2020, at 4:30 pm.

Q9 The RFA requests a paper copy of the application. Can you clarify?

A9 Submissions will not require a physical copy for this RFA, given the public health emergency currently underway. Electronic pdf submissions will be accepted and can be emailed to swm.complianceoutreach@dc.gov. Any reference in the RFA to a physical application submittal is in error.

Q10 This RFA show eligible institutions listed as: non-profits, faith-based organizations, government agencies, universities/educational institutions, and private enterprises. Are partnerships across sectors encouraged?

A10 DOEE determined that all entity categories are eligible to apply. Applicants may propose partnerships, although it is not a requirement. DOEE evaluates based on the scoring criteria. If applicants believe it will influence the scoring criteria, applicants may include a partnership.

Q11 Is this the first time that DOEE has sought to award a grant to build awareness for these programs, or is it built on past grants?

A11 This is the first time DOEE has published an RFA to help with outreach on these programs. DOEE has previously conducted outreach itself.

Q12 Could you provide further clarification on the project timeline and potential impacts given the current public health emergency situation? There may be difficulty in convening people.

A12 As stated in Section 7.1 of the RFA, the project period will last for one year beginning with the date of the grant award. Given that the application deadline is the end of May, an award could be made by the end of June or early July. The grant period can be extended, and additional funding provided, depending upon the performance of the Grantee and the availability of funds. DOEE is willing to discuss the schedule with the selected grantee and may consider an extension if the public health emergency prevents work during the intended 1-year grant period. Some aspects of the project may be able to proceed even during a public health emergency.

Q13 Referring to Section 4.d in Deliverables, is DOEE looking for outward-facing, polished documents?

A13 DOEE is not seeking polished documents. Rather, DOEE seeks an analysis of what kinds of documents would be most effective and recommendations of messages, forms of outreach, verbiage, etc. For example, this may include providing DOEE with examples of outreach documents for other programs of similar scope. The output of this grant would be polished through the agency's communication office before DOEE uses the material.

- Q14** Can DOEE provide contact information for credit buyers/sellers who have participated in the past? And how many are there? Do you have a master list for our recruitment efforts? If yes, can DOEE provide a list or numbers of buyers/sellers for budgeting purposes?
- A14** DOEE can provide contact information to the selected grantee (see Q/A 7). There are roughly 10 SRC individuals and organizations who have sold SRCs and roughly 50 individuals and organizations who have purchased SRCs. Approximately 150 – 200 development projects trigger the regulations each year. An individual property owner may submit multiple projects. DOEE has contact list for SRC-generating sites/organizations and sites that have triggered the regulations and had the option to purchase SRCs.
- Q15** Under: DC Grant Promises, Certifications, Assertions, and Assurances (Rev. 2-12-2019): D. Obligations to the District/good standing -- We are a registered business in good standing with the State of Maryland. Can we apply for a DC business license and provide that paperwork now along with our Maryland paperwork?
- A15** Each Applicant must submit a current Certificate of Good Standing from the District Department of Consumer and Regulatory Affairs (DCRA). DOEE requires that the submitted Certificate of Good Standing reflect a date within a six-month period immediately preceding the application's submission. If applicants do not yet have a current Certificate of Good Standing, they should apply now and submit their proof of filing/application from DCRA as part of their application package.
- Q16** As a follow-up to question 14, can we obtain email and/or phone numbers to survey developers?
- A16** DOEE anticipates being able to provide this information to the selected grantee if a survey is part of the grantee's proposed project.
- Q17** Can fringe be included in indirect costs?
- A17** Yes. If fringe benefits is a part of the salary paid to an employee for work "directly related" to a grant or project, it is part of the direct cost. If the fringe benefit is paid to an employee whose work duties are mainly for a generally administrative function that can't be associated with something specific (e.g., services or benefits provided to employees, such as Health Insurance, Payroll Taxes, Pension Contribution, Paid Absences, etc.) then it is already included in the indirect cost rate if your organization has one established. An applicant that proposes to use federal grant funds to pay for indirect cost but has never received a federally negotiated indirect cost rate may elect to charge a de minimis rate of up to 10% of its modified total direct costs (MTDC) which may be used indefinitely (2 CFR 200.414 f).
- Q18** The RFA documents indicate that applicants should use federally approved indirect rates when building their budgets. We do not have any current federal

contracts, and therefore we do not have a current federally approved indirect rate. How would you suggest applicants in this situation proceed?

A18 Section 3.4.i of the RFA (Required Documents, Federally Negotiated Indirect Cost Rate Agreement) states:

If this solicitation is funded in any part by federal funds and the applicant elects to include their Federally Negotiated Indirect Cost Rate in the application budget, the federal approval must accompany the application.

Therefore, applicants are not required to have a Federally Negotiated Indirect Cost Rate, nor to include it in their application if they have one. However, if they have one and elect to include it in their application budget, they should necessarily also include a copy of their federal approval in their application.

Q19 How does DOEE anticipate the grantee will estimate costs for deliverable 4.g, given that DOEE is going to do the work in house?

A19 The grantee's estimate could be based on labor hours to finalize communication materials, printing or advertising costs, etc, based on the grantee's recommended engagement, outreach, and communication strategies.