

Questions and Answers

Returning Citizens Stormwater Workforce Development Program Request for Applications #2022-2121-WPD

Q1. Will there be a webinar/conference call for question and answer?

A1. Yes. There will be an informational webinar/conference call and opportunities for question and answers to be held on Tuesday, September 14, 2021 from 12:00 PM – 1:00 PM.

Attendee link:

<https://dcnet.webex.com/dcnet/j.php?MTID=mbd80988488249a8ef3cc00baad39b270>

Meeting number: 2308 300 5803

Password: V3sbJiVYU53

Join by phone

+1-202-860-2110 United States Toll (Washington D.C.)

Access code: 2308 300 5803

Q2. How will the returning citizens that participate in this program be selected (selected by DOEE or the grantee)? If DOEE is selecting the participants, will there be an opportunity for the grantee to request the candidates have landscape experience, aptitude, or interest (if possible) during the selection process?

A2. Returning Citizens will be recruited and selected by the grantee for participation in the program. An applicant could explain whether, and if so, how much, it would leverage available resources at related District agencies, like the Department of Employment Services (DOES), the Office of Neighborhood Safety and Engagement (ONSE), and Mayor's Office on Returning Citizen Affairs (MORCA).

Q3. In the scope of work, the requirement for professional training and certification mentions the CBLP or NGICP as options. Would DOEE consider adding a certificate from the ANSI-accredited Clean Water Certificate training program as a third option?

A3. The RFA requires that the applicant provide certification from The Chesapeake Bay Landscape Professional (CBLP) program or National Green Infrastructure Certification Program (NGICP). No substitutions can be made for this award notice.

Q4. Is there any possibility of the date of the submission being extended?

A4. Unfortunately, the submission date is firm. Please submit applications by 11:59 on September 21 for consideration.

Q5. Are there work hour requirements?

- A5.** No. Applicants should develop a training schedule that completes all the objective of the RFA but there are not work hour requirements or minimums.
- Q6.** Are there wage requirements or does this work require following Davis-Bacon
- A6.** There are no specific wage requirements, and the program is not required to follow Davis-Bacon wage rates. Applicants are encouraged to develop a competitive training compensation plan for trainees.
- Q7.** Is there room for innovation as a component in the scoring criteria?
- A7.** The scoring criteria listed in the RFA will not change before the submission deadline. Applicants are encouraged to review the scoring criteria when developing proposals and incorporate aspects to the program that they believe meet these criteria.
- Q8.** How can the lack of funds for compensation be addressed? 12-15 trainees at \$15 an hour is more than \$230,000 over 12 months?
- A8.** There are no work hour minimums for the grant period and there is no requirement to run the entire year-period of the grant. The RFA requires that the grantee complete hands-on GSI training for **up** to 12 returning citizens. Applicants must develop a competitive proposal that meets the criteria laid out in the RFA as outlined in section 7. Additionally, an applicant could explain whether, and if so, how much, it would leverage available resources at related District agencies, like the Department of Employment Services (DOES), the Office of Neighborhood Safety and Engagement (ONSE), and Mayor's Office on Returning Citizen Affairs (MORCA).
- Q9.** Can the program be designed in cohorts?
- A9.** Yes, there is no prohibition on designing a training program based on cohorts.
- Q10.** Is this RFA asking for the creation of an apprenticeship program?
- A10.** No. This RFA is asking for proposals for a stormwater workforce development training program for returning citizens.
- Q11.** What if trainees filter out of the program due to receiving a job opportunity or other factors?
- A11.** Applicants should consider explaining how trainee retention will be handled in their application.
- Q12.** How many grantees will be awarded this grant? Is there a match requirement?
- A12.** DOEE anticipates awarding one grant for this RFA. There is no match requirement.
- Q13.** Will trainees be maintaining BMPs other than bioretention/rain gardens?

A13. No, applicants must develop a competitive proposal that will include maintenance delivered at a rate of *up* to 40 rain garden/bioretenion projects in the District per quarter. However, the program should provide trainees with the skills and expertise to maintain other types of Best Management Practices commonly found in urban areas.

Q14. Is there a difference in the project summary for the cover sheet and project description in the application?

A14. Yes. The summary of the project included in the cover sheet provides some general background on the proposal. The project description is the full proposal.