

District of Columbia  
Department of Energy and Environment



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

DCA Airplane Noise Assessment  
(Short name: DCA Noise)  
RFA # 2016-1702-AQD

10/7/2016

**Application deadline:** 11/10/2016 by 4:30 PM

Government of the District of Columbia  
Department of Energy and 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 Department of Energy and Environment (“DOEE”) is soliciting grant applications from eligible entities (called “Applicants”). The goals of this Request for Applications (RFA) are to assist the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) in implementing the Next Generation Air Transportation System (NextGen) to optimize airspace and aircraft arrival and departure procedures and routes. As a result, communities in the District of Columbia (District) have expressed concern about increased noise and traffic from airplanes that arrive and depart from the Ronald Reagan Washington National Airport (DCA).

The goal of this RFA is to obtain rigorous independent analysis of aircraft noise due to arriving and departing flights to and from the Ronald Reagan Washington National Airport (DCA). This study will involve noise monitoring data analysis and modeling and will ultimately result in recommendations to reduce noise or mitigate impacts. The Air Quality Division (AQD) (“AQD”) of DOEE is administering this RFA.

### **1.2 Purpose of the Grants**

The purpose of this grant is to help the District better understand the impacts of airplane noise on District communities due to NextGen implementation and identify potential improvements to existing noise abatement programs.

### **1.3 Source of Funds**

The source of funds for the grant is **DOEE FY 2017 Operating Budget**.

### **1.4 Competition for a Grant Award**

This RFA is competitive. Each Applicant must demonstrate its ability to carry out the activities for the grant 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**

DOEE seeks applications for:

Project Number	Project Name	Project Amount
1	DCA Airplane Noise Assessment	\$260,000.00
	Noise Exposures	
	Noise Mitigation and Abatement	

**1.6 Eligibility**

The following are eligible to apply if an “x” appears:

- Nonprofit organizations, including those with IRS 501(c)(3) or 501(c)(4) determinations;
- Faith-based organizations;
- Government agencies
- Universities/educational institutions; and
- Private Enterprises.

Continuing conditions of eligibility are that the information in the application is complete and truthful and that the Applicant at all times is able to meet any material conditions stated in its application. For instance, if an Applicant’s ability to fulfill the terms of the grant is based on the availability of 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 DOEE in writing of this change in material conditions. Another example of change in material conditions that could result in the loss of eligibility would be the loss of the Applicant’s tax-exempt status

**1.7 Definitions**

**District** - The District of Columbia.

**Grantee** - The person provided a grant by the District, including a sub-grantee.

**Person** - A natural person or a legal entity, including a partnership, firm, association, joint venture, public or private corporation, trust, estate, commission, board, public or private institution, cooperative, the District government and its agencies, and the federal government and its agencies.

**Writing** - A tangible or electronic record of a communication or representation, including handwriting, typewriting, printing, photostat, fax, photography, word processing computer output, and e-mail. A "signed" writing includes an electronic symbol or process attached to, or logically associated with a writing, and executed or adopted by a person with the intent to sign the writing.

### **1.8 Permissible Use of Grant Funds**

A Grantee may use grant funds only for allowable grant project expenditures. Grant funds related to work performed will be provided on a reimbursement basis, except that an advance of funds may be provided for grant administration expenses in limited circumstances for good cause approved by DOEE at its sole discretion.

### **1.9 Grant Monitoring**

In its sole discretion, DOEE 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.

### **1.10 General Terms and Conditions**

Appendix 1, "General Terms and Conditions" is incorporated by reference in this RFA. Applicants and Grantees must comply with any and all applicable terms and conditions outlined in Appendix 1.

Title VI, Subtitle J (Competitive Grants Act of 2016), Sec. 6093.

### **1.11 RFA Conditions - Promises, Certifications, and Assurances**

Appendix 2, "Applicant's Promises, Certifications, and Assurances" ("PCA"), is incorporated by reference in this RFA.

### **1.12 DOEE's Authority to Make Grants**

DOEE has grant-making authority under:

- The Renewable Energy Portfolio Standard Act of 2004 (D.C. Law 15-340, D.C. Official Code §§ 34-1431-40), including § 34-1436(b) and (c)
- The Water Pollution Control Act of 1984, effective March 16, 1985, as amended, (D.C. Law 5-188; D.C. Official Code § 8-103.01 *et seq.*);
- The District Department of the Environment Establishment Act of 2005, effective February 15, 2006, as amended, (D.C. Law 16-51, D.C. Official Code § 8-151.01 *et seq.*);

- The Comprehensive Stormwater Management Enhancement Amendment Act of 2008, effective March 25, 2009, (D.C. Law 17-371; D.C. Official Code § 8-152.01 *et seq.*); and
- Other applicable laws and regulations.

### **1.13 Conflicts between RFA and Applicable Law**

If any requirement of this RFA conflicts with a provision of any applicable law, including a District or federal law or regulation, the applicable legal provision shall control.

## **SECTION 2. SUBMISSION OF APPLICATION**

### **2.1 RFA Release Date**

The release date of this RFA is 10/7/2016.

### **2.2 Obtaining a Copy of the RFA**

A person may obtain a copy of this RFA at [doee.dc.gov](http://doee.dc.gov) or by requesting a copy through any of the methods listed in Section 2.6. Please add to any note the heading “RE: RFA 2016-1702-AQD.”

### **2.3 Applications: When, What, and Where**

**When:** All applications must be received at the address below by 4:30 p.m. on 11/10/2016.

Applications will be dated and recorded as “received” pending review by DOEE for completeness. DOEE considers an application to be “filed” only if all the required materials are submitted. Late or incomplete applications will be considered received, not filed.

**What:** The contents of the Application are specified in Section 3. Each applicant must submit:

Five paper copies of the application; and

One electronic copy.

The Department will not receive faxed copies.

**Where:** The paper copies must be filed with DOEE at the following address:

**District of Columbia Department of Energy and Environment**

**RFA – Grants  
1200 First Street NE  
5<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Washington, DC 20002**

**Attn: RFA 2016-1702-AQD**

Email: The electronic copy, formatted as a .pdf file should be sent to [2016dcanoiserfa.grants@dc.gov](mailto:2016dcanoiserfa.grants@dc.gov)

## 2.4 Award Announcement

DOEE expects to notify each Applicant in writing of its award status within six weeks after the application due date.

## 2.5 Updates and Questions and Answers (Q & A)

Additional information may become available before the application is due. It is the Applicant's responsibility to stay up-to-date on the status and requirements of the grant for which it is applying.

DOEE welcomes questions seeking clarification of matters in this RFA. Questions about the RFA should be sent to [2016dcanoiserfa.grants@dc.gov](mailto:2016dcanoiserfa.grants@dc.gov) with "RE: RFA 2016-1702-AQD" in the subject line.

DOEE will publish updates and Questions and Answers (Q&A) regarding the RFA at [doee.dc.gov](http://doee.dc.gov). DOEE will also create an email list to send updates and information regarding the RFA. A person can be put on the email list by immediately emailing [2016dcanoiserfa.grants@dc.gov](mailto:2016dcanoiserfa.grants@dc.gov) with the subject line "RE: RFA 2016-1702-AQD – Add me to the email list."

DOEE will provide the information to those on the email list at the same time the information is uploaded to the DOEE website. Paper copy updates will be available for pickup at DOEE's offices by appointment. DOEE will not mail out updates or Q&A materials.

The cut-off date for receipt of any questions is one week prior to the application deadline.

## 2.6 DOEE Contacts

DOEE can be contacted about this RFA (use the RFA's short name and number whenever possible) by:

- (a) **Emailing** [2016dcanoiserfa.grants@dc.gov](mailto:2016dcanoiserfa.grants@dc.gov) with "RE: RFA 2016-1702-AQD" in the subject line;
- (b) **In person** by making an appointment with (call Jessica Daniels at (202) 741-0862 and mention this RFA by name); or
- (c) **Write** DOEE at 1200 First Street NE, 5th Floor, Washington, DC 20002, Attention: Jessica Daniels RE: RFA 2016-1702-AQD on the envelope.

## SECTION 3. APPLICATION CONTENT

### 3.1 Format

Proposals should be formatted as follows:

- (a) Use plain, white, 8 ½” x 11” recycled paper with one-inch margins.
- (b) Applications should be double-sided to the extent possible;
- (c) Limit each project description to 15 double-spaced pages. Budget tables, flowcharts, photographs, the work plan, and other supporting documentation may be attached in addition to the project description
- (d) Staple the application in the top left-hand corner. Do not use a plastic cover or other form of binding.

### 3.2 Proposal Content

DOEE intends to fund a project that will benefit the environment, and, in particular, the environment of the District. The proposal should use the following format and explain, in increasing levels of detail, how the Applicant will accomplish this.

(Note: Before drafting the proposal, please read the project description very carefully to see if there are restrictions for the DOEE 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.)

#### (a) Cover Sheet

Include a cover sheet in the format specified in Appendix 3.

#### (b) Project Summary

Provide a brief introduction (one or two paragraphs) that summarizes the proposal.

#### (c) Project Description

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 what resources must be expended to achieve the outputs identified. In presenting the project team and the budget, ensure that expenditures identified are those that the grant can reimburse.

(1) Purpose and Objectives

State how the project will benefit the environment and identify its targets or objectives.

(2) Target Audience

Identify the target audience and address how the project will engage the target audience. For instance, if the project has an educational component, describe who the target audience is (e.g., high school students, low-income residents, etc.), how the project will educate the target audience, and how educating this audience will benefit the environment.

(3) Project Outcomes, Outputs, and Activities

**Explain the expected project outcomes, the project outputs that will produce the outcomes, and the activities that make the outputs possible.**

A *project outcome* is a medium- to long-term result that occurs and/or continues after the project ends. Outcomes tend not to be quantified, because they are typically statements of relative conditions. For example, outcomes – not necessarily associated with this project – might include 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.

An *output* is a short-term result achieved at the end of the project period. Outputs can and should be quantified. For example, an output might be described as providing watershed education to 100 students, installing 200 square feet of green roof and an informational sign, or cleaning two acres of land of invasive plants.

*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. This enables reviewers to evaluate what the proposed project will achieve if funded.

(4) Methods

Describe how the Applicant will use people and resources to accomplish the proposed activities.

(5) Measurement of Project Success

Provide quantifiable measurements. For example, a trash removal project might measure the pounds of trash removed, while a stormwater project might measure the amount of stormwater captured. Also, if there are key tasks in the project, the proposal should identify the milestones necessary to produce the stated outputs.

(6) Project Budget.

Present a project budget and budget narrative.

An example of a project budget table, with categories that DOEE examines, appears in Appendix 4. The 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 paid \$xx per hour times xx hours."

The proposal may use the budget format in Appendix 4. If the Applicant's own internal budget format is more detailed and covers each of the indicated line items, the Applicant may use its budget format. The budget must state the total cost of the project, even if the total exceeds the amount of the grant.

If the Applicant seeks an advance payment, it must request advance payment in its proposal and explain why an advance payment is requested. See Section 6.2.

Resources other than those being funded under the grant should appear in the column titled "Non-DOEE Match," meaning the Applicant intends to provide the indicated resources (i.e., the "match," and that the resources do not come from DOEE). Entries in this column would include both dollars and the value of the in-kind contributions. For example, 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 must be valued at rates consistent with those the Applicant's organization ordinarily pays for similar work, including salary and fringes. If the grantee or a sub-grantee does not have employees performing similar work, the rates must be valued the same as rates ordinarily paid by employers in the same labor market for similar work.

The Applicant must verify that all costs in the budget are allowable and verifiable (see the examples of allowable costs and non-allowable costs listed below). DOEE will require documentation for grant payments, and the entire grant will be subject to audit.

Typical allowable costs are:

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

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.

**(a) Applicant.**

(1) 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. To provide further information, the Applicant can reference its website or attach organizational brochure or resume.

(2) Key personnel.

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) Past performance on District Grants/Contracts.

Identify District agencies from which the Applicant has received funding as a contractor, grantee, or partner in the past five years and provide specific information including:

- The grant(s) or contract(s) title;
- The District agency/agencies;
- The grant number(s), contract number(s), or other identifier(s);
- The amount(s) paid; and
- What was accomplished as a result of the funding(s).

Briefly describe any disputes, investigations, or audits related to any of these District grants or contracts, grants, or partnerships in the past five years.

(4) Partners.

Sometimes partnerships can improve the success of a project. These partnerships might be with government agencies, nongovernmental organizations (NGOs), companies, or individuals. If a partner is to be involved in the project, the Applicant must describe the partner's involvement and resource commitments. The proposal must identify and attach a letter of support on the partner's letterhead, signed by an authorized official if the partner is a government agency, NGO, or business entity.

In lieu of a letter, an Applicant may attach an email from the partner (or an authorized official if the partner is a government agency, NGO, or business entity) that states support of the project and identifies the partner's name, address, website, and a contact name, telephone number, and email address.

For the following types of partners, provide the documentation indicated.

i. District of Columbia Public Schools

If the Applicant will work with the District of Columbia Public Schools (DCPS), 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.

ii. 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.

iii. 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 that the partner will provide.

iv. 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. DOEE will accept more informal statements generated by responsible NPS officials, including emails.

### **3.3 Work Plan**

The application must include a proposed work plan that describes the timeline for project implementation.

### **3.4 Required Documents**

Each of the following documents must be filed as part of the proposal package. If the document is not in this filing, DOEE may classify the grant application as “received” but not “filed,” as specified in Section 2.3. However, if a government agency must issue a required document, and the Applicant has requested the document but not received it, DOEE may accept a copy of the Applicant’s request to the agency for the purpose of deeming the Application “filed.”

**(a) Certificate of Good Standing**

Each Applicant must submit a current Certificate of Good Standing from the District Department of Consumer and Regulatory Affairs.

**(b) Promises, Certifications, and Assurances**

Each Applicant must sign and submit the “Promises, Certifications and Assurances” (“PCA”) in Appendix 2.

Signing the PCA is a condition of eligibility for this grant. If the Applicant is not prepared to sign the PCA, it should not apply for a grant. Compliance with the promises, certifications, and assurances in the PCA is a continuing condition of eligibility for this grant.

The PCA must be signed by the Applicant or, if the Applicant is an organization, by a duly authorized officer of the organization.

The PCA also includes a sworn statement verifying that the Applicant is not in arrears (i.e. is “current”) on all obligations outstanding to the District, including all District agencies. The Applicant must be “current” as of the date of the application and the date of a grant award. DOEE requires, as a condition of continuing eligibility, that a grantee stay current on such obligations during the period of the grant.

**(c) IRS W-9 Tax Form**

The Applicant must submit a current completed W-9 form prepared for the U.S. Internal Revenue Service (IRS). DOEE defines “current” to mean that the document was completed within the same calendar year as that of the application date.

**(d) Tax Exemption Affirmation Letter**

The tax exemption affirmation letter is the IRS’s determination letter of non-profit status. If this letter is 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 application for tax-exempt status. If the group has a supporting organization with an IRS tax-exempt status determination, then that organization’s tax exemption affirmation letter should also be submitted.

**If there is no IRS tax exemption affirmation letter because the organization is a religious organization, then the Applicant may submit the best evidence it can of its status.** Examples of potential best evidence for this purpose include, but are not limited to (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 current fiscal year, using a format at least as detailed as that presented in Appendix 4. Also, the Applicant should submit a comparison of budgeted versus actual income and expenses of the fiscal year to date.

**(f) Applicant's Financial Statements**

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

**(g) Separation of Duties Policy**

The Applicant must state how the organization separates financial transactions and duties among people within the organization in order to prevent fraud 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 purposes of the application. The applicant should state which of these situations apply.

This statement should:

- Describe how financial transactions are handled and recorded;
- Provide the names and titles of personnel involved in handling money;
- Identify how many signatures the financial institution(s) require on the organization's checks and withdrawal slips; and,
- Address other limits on staff and board members' handling of the organization's money.

**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.

The panel will recommend the top scorer for award of the grant.

Review panels vary in size, but typically are made up of three to five people. At least two members of the review panel will be from DOEE staff. Whenever practicable, each panel will include at least one person from outside of DOEE.

**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, ensuring that the proposal addresses each of the criteria.

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.

*See section 7 for detailed scoring criteria for this solicitation*

## **SECTION 5. GRANTEE DOCUMENT REQUIREMENTS**

### **5.1 Submissions If Applicant Will Receive the Grant**

Upon acceptance of a grant award, the Grantee must provide the following documents.

#### **(a) Certificate of Insurance**

The Grantee shall submit a certificate of insurance giving evidence of the required coverage outlined in Appendix 1, General Terms and Conditions. DOEE 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 shall 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. See also Section 1.6.

## **SECTION 6. FILING REQUIREMENTS GENERAL PROVISIONS**

### **6.1 Reporting Requirements**

The grantee must submit the following reports as a condition of continuing eligibility for funding.

#### **(a) Quarterly Status Reports**

DOEE will provide a quarterly status report template with the grant award. These reports, which discuss grant activities for the preceding quarter, will be due on each of the following dates.

1 <sup>st</sup> Q (Jan-Mar):	April 15
2 <sup>nd</sup> Q (Apr-Jun):	July 15
3 <sup>rd</sup> Q (Jul-Sep):	October 15
4 <sup>th</sup> 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, provide a financial update, and report unforeseen changes to project timetable, staffing, or partnerships, as well as any other changes that may affect project outcomes.

#### **(b) Final Report**

DOEE will provide a final report template with the grant award. This report includes quantification by the grantee of the project's outputs and describes the extent to which project outcomes met or will meet the objectives of the funded proposal. The template requires submission of data and analysis of the data.

### **6.2 Reimbursement of Project Expenditures and Disbursement of Funds**

DOEE will not reimburse the Grantee for any work undertaken before DOEE notifies the recipient of the final award of the grant.

DOEE will reimburse the Grantee only for expenditures incurred to perform work under the grant. In limited cases, DOEE may advance funds at the beginning of the grant period for good cause approved by DOEE at its sole discretion. If the Applicant seeks an advance payment, it must request such payment in its proposal and explain why an advance payment is being requested.

DOEE 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 an invoice at any time during the fiscal year for work performed within that same fiscal year. Each request/invoice must include supporting documentation.

Reimbursements will be mailed to the address on file for the grantee. DOEE may make electronic payments in lieu of mailing checks. DOEE generally pays grant invoices 30 days after DOEE receives them.

DOEE will withhold the final 10% invoiced under a grant until all required activities have been completed, including receipt of the final report.

## **SECTION 7. PROJECTS PROPOSED FOR GRANT FUNDING**

### **7.1 Summary: Project Title and Available Funds**

#### **Project Name**

DCA Airplane Noise Assessment

#### **Introduction**

The Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) is implementing the Next Generation Air Transportation System (NextGen) to optimize airspace and aircraft arrival and departure procedures and routes. As a result, communities in the District of Columbia (District) have expressed concern about increased noise and traffic from airplanes that arrive and depart from the Ronald Reagan Washington National Airport (DCA). The District is seeking proposals from qualified organizations to: analyze airplane noise monitoring data from the existing noise monitoring network in the District, model current noise exposure in all District communities impacted by NextGen implementation, perform modeling analysis to predict future noise scenarios based on NextGen implementation plans, and recommend solutions to remedy impacts. Applicants are encouraged to propose methods of analysis that comply with FAA guidelines. Ideally, applicants are very familiar with FAA-approved assessment tools, demonstrate expertise with FAA's Aviation Environmental Design Tool (AEDT), and have access to the computing tools necessary to perform the assessment.

#### **Project Period**

The project period is from the date of the grant award through September 30, 2017. This period may be extended and additional funding provided, depending upon the performance of the Grantee and the availability of funds. DOEE expects to make at least one grant award or separate grant awards for separate tasks, depending on the expertise of the applicants. Applicants may apply for individual work plan activities. This period can be extended and additional funding provided, depending upon the performance of the Grantee and the availability of funds.

#### **Available Funding**

DOEE expects to make an award to a single grantee for up to \$260,000

### **7.2 Project Description**

Qualified applicants are asked to describe how they would complete the following technical activities. Data will be provided, though the applicant may suggest methods for supplemental data collection. Costs for gathering supplemental data should be included as a line item in the proposed budget that should not exceed the maximum grant amount.

1. Analyze airplane noise data from the existing ground-based monitoring network in the District.

- a. Evaluate actual noise level trends based on available noise monitoring data. Consider noise classifications and compare results pre- versus post-NextGen implementation based on various metrics: yearly Day-Night Average Sound Levels (DNL) using A-weighted decibels (dBA) as well as supplemental metrics, such as the amount of time that a noise event exceeds a maximum decibel level (L<sub>max</sub>) threshold (“Time Above” or TA”) and the number of noise events above an L<sub>max</sub> threshold during a specified period of time (“Number of Events” or N-level) for events above (L-Max) 50 dB, 55 dB, 60 dB, 65 dB, and 70 dB (e.g., aggregated by different periods such as day, week, and month; and segmented by time of day within a period such as 10:00 pm to 7:00 am), and/or as deemed appropriate. Include an assessment of noise levels that demonstrate the shift from the National 328 departure route to the LAZIR departure route.
  - b. Using available data, track the trend of arrival and departure flights before 7:00 am and after 10:00 pm since 2006.
  - c. Compare noise impact and flight activity trends to available noise complaint data to determine if there are any relationships.
  - d. Verify that a statistically significant sampling of noise data from the existing noise monitoring network is reasonably accurate using noise monitors that are independently certified. If the existing noise monitoring network does not fully represent aircraft noise exposure to impacted District communities, recommend and obtain prior approval from DOEE to conduct supplemental monitoring of representative conditions at suggested locations.
  - e. Assess the extent to which changes in noise exposure levels are caused by changes in traffic counts by time of day and aircraft type and size (fleet mix) as well as operational characteristics such as runway use, flight route location and use, departure and arrival profiles (e.g., altitudes), and other controllable factors.
2. Model current noise exposures in all District communities impacted by NextGen implementation.
    - a. Review prior FAA and Metropolitan Washington Airports Authority (MWAA) DNL calculations and assess previous modeling assumptions. Perform an updated noise impact assessment as deemed appropriate.
    - b. Validate modeled baseline estimates using monitored data and using readily available historic data.
    - c. Produce noise exposure contour maps (NEMs) based on various metrics that reflect current actual DCA operations: yearly DNLs and supplemental metrics

such as the amount of time that a noise event exceeds a maximum decibel level (L<sub>max</sub>) threshold (“Time Above” or TA) and the number of noise events above an L<sub>max</sub> threshold during a specified period of time (“Number of Events” or N-level) for events above (L-Max) 50 dB, 55 dB, 60 dB, 65 dB, and 70 dB (aggregated by different periods such as day, week, and month); and segmented by time of day within a period such as 11:00 pm to 7:00 am), and/or as deemed appropriate. Include an assessment of impacts that are directly attributable to the shift from the National 328 departure route to the LAZIR departure route.

- d. Estimate the number of people affected by changes in airplane noise by land use type due to NextGen implementation.
3. Forecast noise scenarios based on NextGen implementation plans through year 2026.
    - a. Project noise levels based on current actual DCA operations as well as planned NextGen technology penetration phases through 2026.
    - b. Estimate the number of people affected by changes in airplane noise by land use type due to NextGen implementation.
  4. Recommend noise mitigation and abatement measures that are respectful of FAA safety, fuel cost, emissions, and efficiency concerns.
    - a. Evaluate trends in the use of DCA, IAD, and BWI by aircraft since 2006, and identify factors that have led to changes in traffic at DCA.
    - b. Review current noise abatement programs and recommend additional noise mitigation and abatement measures.
    - c. Identify potential routes for north flow and south flow operations that consider interference with flight paths of Washington Dulles International Airport (IAD) and Baltimore/Washington International Thurgood Marshall Airport (BWI), military installations, P56 areas, and other complicating factors as appropriate.

Qualified applicants shall demonstrate how they can leverage existing data and analysis as much as possible. Also, qualified applicants shall demonstrate expertise and experience with DCA circumstances or an otherwise deep understanding of or familiarity with:

1. FAA Order 1050.1f and any updates or Desk References or related National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) noise-related directives and guidance (e.g., Section 4(f) of the Department of Transportation (DOT) Act of 1966);
2. Noise compatibility plan (NCP) requirements as prescribed at 14 C.F.R. Part 150;

3. Published FAA routes, procedures, and related documentation identifying DCA operational changes with relevant impact on route usage and traffic levels over the District;
4. FAA's online portal for submitting Instrument Flight Procedure (IFR) changes;
5. FAA National Offload Program data;
6. National Park Service (NPS) policies and acoustical analysis procedures (e.g., spectrograms data);
7. The District's Department of Consumer and Regulatory Affairs noise regulations (20 DCMR Chapters 27 to 29);
8. DCA Nighttime Noise Rule, High Density "Slot" Rule, Perimeter Rule, and relevant federally restricted airspaces;
9. The Reagan National Community Noise Working Group facilitated by the Metropolitan Washington Airports Authority (MWAA);
10. Terms of Use Agreement signed by MWAA and airlines in 2014;
11. Noise analyses in other jurisdictions throughout the country (e.g., Chicago, Palo Alto) impacted by NextGen implementation;
12. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Finding under the Clean Air Act that greenhouse gas emissions from certain classes of aircraft endanger human health and welfare (prepublication, signed July 25, 2016), in case it may be relevant; and
13. Any additional information that can help the District assess the applicant's qualifications.

The applicant may submit alternative concepts and methods to achieve the purpose of this project.

### **7.3 Project Outcomes, Outputs, and Deliverables**

#### **Project Outcomes**

The intent of the project is to enable the District to effectively argue for important mitigations to reduce aircraft noise impacts on District communities.

The intended project outcome is a rigorous independent assessment of airplane noise exposure and impact on District communities.

#### **Project Outputs and Deliverables**

The following is expected per activity:

1. A project work plan.
2. Monthly, or as often as requested by DOEE, meetings to discuss progress on the project.
3. Quarterly detailed written briefs summarizing progress.
4. A final written report submitted at the end of the grant period, along with a summary presentation of findings to the public.

**Scoring Criteria**

Scoring Criteria	Points
The applicant demonstrates professional expertise and experience with producing NEMs to assess the impacts of airplane noise using both DNLs and supplemental metrics, as outlined in activity <b>2c</b> .	15
The applicant presents an adequate and reasonable methodology for estimating the number of people affected by changes in airplane noise, as outlined in <b>2d</b> .	15
The applicant demonstrates professional expertise and experience with rigorous analysis of noise monitoring data, as outlined in activity <b>1d</b> .	15
The applicant has a proven track record of evaluating FAA and MWAA noise impact assessments, as outlined in activity <b>2a</b> .	10
The applicant demonstrates familiarity with technical tools necessary to validate modeled data with monitored data, as outlined in activity <b>2b</b> .	10
The applicant demonstrates professional expertise and experience with evaluating airplane noise near airports, as outlined in activity <b>1e</b> .	5
The monitoring analysis methodology is clearly outlined and looks reasonable.	5
The modeling analysis methodology is clearly outlined and looks reasonable.	5
The applicant demonstrates a working knowledge of the impacts of NextGen implementation on communities throughout the country.	5
The project schedule is detailed and reasonable.	4
The application presents an adequate budget and reasonable budget justification for the funds requested.	7
The application is well written and demonstrates attention to detail.	4

Preference points will not be added to applications for District-based businesses.

Appendix 1 – General Terms and Conditions

Appendix 2 – Promises, Certifications, and Assurances

Appendix 3 – Cover Sheet

Appendix 4 – Example of Grant Budget