

Questions and Answers for Request for Applications # RFA-FY23-WPD-819

District Meaningful Watershed Educational Experiences: Overnight and Nature Near Schools

UPDATE: RFA Scoring Criterion #5 has been revised from “Addresses potential barriers to school participation; at least two-thirds of participating schools must have Title 1 designation”, to “Addresses potential barriers to student participation”. See the RFA Application Scoring section.

Q1: Do letters of support from participating schools need to be submitted with the application?

A1: No.

Q2: What is the percentage of funding federal vs. local money?

A2: For FY24, \$400k (approx. 67% local) is funded by the Anacostia River Clean Up and Protection Fund, and \$200k (approx. 33% federal) is from the Chesapeake Bay Implementation Grant.

Q3: Considering that some Title 1 schools have low enrollment numbers, how can grantees balance this with the student participation requirements in the RFA?

A3: DOEE will work with the awarded grantee to overcome this challenge. The applicant should budget enough administrative time to work with the number of schools required to accomplish the goals of this grant.

Q4: Do the subs need to provide clean hands for the primary applicant and submit with the application?

A4: No. Only the primary applicant is required to provide a Certificate of Clean Hands with the application.

Q5: Do we need to account for buses for the Anacostia Environmental Youth Summit (AEYS)?

A5: No, DOEE will cover the cost and logistics of buses for AEYS.

Q6: If there's a partnership on the application, how do you apply?

A6: DOEE awards a grant to one entity. If there's a partnership, one of the partners would be the Applicant. The Applicant submits the application. See RFA Section 3.1(c)(4) for more information on partners.

Q7: For the Overnight program, should the budget be a “per student” rate where all costs associated with that program are incorporated into that cost per student? And for the NNS program, should applicants submit a more traditional budget that breaks expenses into multiple budget categories?

A7: Yes, the Overnight MWEE budget must include a “per-student” cost per trip, with an explanation of the expenses that comprise the per-student cost. It should address other detailed expenses such as grant management staff time and indirect costs. Most expenses are expected to be incurred during the three days and two nights portion of the Program, and the proposed budget should reflect this. Meals associated with the overnight portion of the Program for participants are an allowable cost. Applicants should submit an NNS program budget with a breakdown of expenses into multiple budget categories.

Q8. Regarding the Evaluation Plan on page 25 of the RFA, does the process evaluation refer to how the applicant and partners work together to implement both NNS and Overnight components? Alternatively, does it require participant assessment data, and if so, for which component?

A8. The Evaluation Plan should explain how the Grantee evaluates the Project Outcomes listed on page 26 of the RFA for the Overnight program and the Nature Near Schools program. As a part of the deliverables found on page 27 of RFA, we are requesting the Grantee conduct pre and post-student and teacher surveys for both the Overnight and Nature Near Schools programs.

Q9. Does the surveys deliverable apply to both the NNS and Overnight components, or just one of the components?

A9. The survey applies to both the Overnight and Nature Near Schools programs.

Q10. Will alternative evaluation methods (other than surveys) be accepted?

A10. Yes, we will accept an alternative evaluation method for both the Overnight and Nature Near Schools programs.

For additional questions, please email: 2023OvernightNNSMWEE.grant@dc.gov