Q&A for the EPA Gulf of Mexico RESTORE Estuary Program RFP (EPA-GM-2017-RESTORE-Estuary-Program)

Question: Is there a limit to the number of applications you will accept from a single institution? In other words, should we coordinate an internal selection process to ensure that only one application goes forward? *(Received 5/10 at GMP-RFP@epa.gov)*

Answer: The EPA did not set a limit on the number of proposals that can be submitted by one applicant. However, as stated in Item B in Section II Award Information (page 6), the EPA anticipates awarding only one cooperative agreement under this announcement.

In addition, the EPA expects the applicant's proposal to demonstrate a high amount of coordination and planning with local stakeholders. This expectation is stated explicitly in the RFP in the following areas regarding what the narrative should include:

- As stated on page 13 in section 2.a) i., the EPA expects an applicant's narrative to "describe how you have engaged or plan to engage the appropriate organizations (e.g. local elected officials, scientists, citizens, business leaders, commercial fishing, universities, federal and state agency directors, and representatives from agricultural and industry (e.g. timber, ports, etc)".
- As stated On page 14 in section c) the EPA expects the narrative to demonstrate "any narrative or financial (and other) commitments made by organizations involved with your project that supports this long-term funding plan."

Question: Is there a limit to the number of bays or a maximum distance between the bays to be incorporated into one application? To clarify, can one applicant submit a proposal that encompasses five of the bays in Florida's northwest panhandle region: Perdido Bay, Pensacola Bay, Escambia Bay, Choctawhatchee Bay, and St. Andrew's Bay? *(Received 5/16 at GMP-RFP@epa.gov)*

Answer: Based on the funding provided, we anticipated there being funding for the planning of only one estuary program. If, however, an organization is able to leverage funding to stand up and plan an estuary program that encompasses multiple bays, the proposal would be evaluated on the criteria provided in the RFP.

Question: Can one applicant submit multiple proposals? *(Received 5/16 at GMP-RFP@epa.gov)*

Answer: Yes, although only one proposal will be funded.

Question: Can the same agency be named as a partner in multiple proposals? To clarify, if the local government or university submits a proposal for one bay system, can one organization be named a partner in that proposal as well as submit a separate proposal (or be named as a partner) for another bay system? *(Received 5/16 at GMP-RFP@epa.gov)*

Answer: Yes, although again, only one proposal will be funded.

Question: Applicant Past Performance section on page 14: If an organization is the applicant, can we site experience/history from the individual members of the interlocal agreement? *(Received 5/25 at GMP-RFP@epa.gov)*

Answer: You should cite experience/history of members of the organization if it was work they did on behalf of (or as part of) the organization. If it was work they did separately, then it shouldn't be included. Basically it needs to be the history/experience of the organization as an entity, not the individual groups. So if the organization managed a project, then that can be used, but if a grant was to one of the individual groups/organizations that make up members then that shouldn't count.

Question: Can an organization set up by interlocal agreement be listed as the applicant using the one of the member's DUNS and SAM registration or does the organization need to have its own DUNS number and SAM registration? *(Received 5/25 at GMP-RFP@epa.gov)*

Answer: The applicant listed on the application MUST match the DUNS/SAM also listed on the application. This is on page 10 of the RFP:

Applicants need to ensure that the AOR who submits the application through Grants.gov and whose DUNS number is listed on the application is an AOR for the applicant listed on the application. Additionally, the DUNS number listed on the application must be registered to the applicant organization's SAM account. If not, the application may be deemed ineligible.

The authorized organization rep (AOR) has to be registered as an AOR for the applicant listed on the applicant AND the DUNS must match that applicant. So in this situation, the applicant needs their own DUNS and a SAM registration, and then they need to register in Grants.gov as an organization. They need to do this ASAP as it can take a long time!

Question: Page 17, A. Evaluation Criteria, 4. Past Performance: this section references "Section IV.D" on two occasions. However, there appears to be two IV.D sections: one is "D. Content of Proposal Submission" on page 12, and the other is "D. Submission Dates and Times" on page 15. Could you please confirm which IV.D. is being referenced? *(Received 5/25 at GMP-RFP@epa.gov)*

Answer: The RFP has been updated on the GMP website and will be updated on grants.gov soon.

Question: We would like to tailor our proposal to the evaluation criteria, and noticed that there are two number 4's on page 17. One is 4. Past Performance and the other is 4. Budget. Could this please be updated? *(Received 5/25 at GMP-RFP@epa.gov)*

Answer: The RFP has been updated on the GMP website and will be updated on grants.gov soon.