

Q&A for the RESTORE Gulf of Mexico Conservation Enhancement Grants Program RFP
(EPA-GM-2017-RESTORE-GMCEGP)

(Version 3 Posted February 6th 2018)

IMPORTANT!!! Question: Is there a deadline extension for the proposal due date?

Answer: Yes, we have extended the deadline until Friday, February 23rd.

Question: We are looking to apply for funding through the RESTORE program, and I would like to know, per question #19 in SF 424, if our Application is "Subject to Review by State Under Executive Order 12372 Process"? (Received 2/4/2018)

Answer: Yes, proposals for this RFP are subject to an intergovernmental review, but only certain states require an intergovernmental review. Please see the EPA link (<https://www.epa.gov/grants/fact-sheet-applicants-intergovernmental-review-process>) for more information about intergovernmental review as well as the archived OMB list of State Point of Contacts for the Intergovernmental Review (https://obamawhitehouse.archives.gov/omb/grants_spoc). There has been no update to the list since 2015 so you may need to google the SPOC for the state you are submitting under.

Question: Will the RFP EPA-GM-2017-RESTORE-GMCEGP allow for an indirect amount? If the applicant does not have a government approved indirect rate, what amount can the applicant charge? (Received 1/30 at GMP-RFP@epa.gov)

Answer: Please see the following section in our grant regulations for more information, <https://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/CFR-2014-title2-vol1/pdf/CFR-2014-title2-vol1-sec200-414.pdf> but of most relevance to you is this portion in italics: *(f) In addition to the procedures outlined in the appendices in paragraph (e) of this section, any non-Federal entity that has never received a negotiated indirect cost rate, except for those non-Federal entities described in Appendix VII to Part 200—States and Local Government and Indian Tribe Indirect Cost Proposals, paragraph (d)(1)(B) may elect to charge a de minimis rate of) 10% of modified total direct costs (MTDC) which may be used indefinitely. As described in §200.403 Factors affecting allowability of costs, costs must be consistently charged as either indirect or direct costs, but may not be double charged or inconsistently charged as both. If chosen, this methodology once elected must be used consistently for all Federal awards until such time as a non-Federal entity chooses to negotiate for a rate, which the non-Federal entity may apply to do at any time.*

Question: Are Gulf Environmental Benefit Funds administered by National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (private funds not federal) eligible as part of the 50% match requirement for the RESTORE GOM Conservation Enhancement Grants Program RFP? Here is a link to NFWF's GEBF page: <http://www.nfwf.org/gulf/Pages/home.aspx> (Received 1/19 at GMP-RFP@epa.gov)

Answer: We recommend getting confirmation from the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation that the Gulf Environmental Benefit Funds would qualify as “non-federal” and could be used as match for the RESTORE GOM Conservation Enhancement Grants. Pursuant to Section III.C.6. of the Funding Opportunity, applicants must demonstrate in their proposal how they will provide a 50% match of the total project cost as described in Section III. B. To demonstrate how the applicant will provide the match

must be described in the proposal AND the proposal must include a letter from the non-federal entity confirming the match commitment and that the matching funds are non-Federal funds that may be used for this grant and are not also being used as match on other grants and agreements.

Question: If there is a government shut down this January would that effect the deadlines and other anticipated scheduling in this RFP? Specifically, the deadline for submission, notification of awards, and anticipated date projects could begin? *(Received 1/19 at GMP-RFP@epa.gov)*

Answer: At this point, there are no plans to change the deadline nor any of the dates listed in the RFP.

Question: Would the construction of a boardwalk area for student access to the habitat be an allowable expense under this grant? *(Received 1/18 at GMP-RFP@epa.gov)*

Answer: Yes, boardwalk construction would be allowable with a few caveats:

- 1) There would be NEPA and other environmental compliance requirements associated with the proposed construction.
- 2) Construction of the boardwalk would need to be tied into and justified by discussing the importance of it for education and outreach.

Question: Can the value of donated land be used for match? *(Received 1/17 at GMP-RFP@epa.gov)*

Answer: Yes. Please see the linked section of [2 CFR Part 200](#) for details regarding use of property for a match.

Question: Will you accept more than one proposal from a qualified applicant organization ? *(Received 12/20 at GMP-RFP@epa.gov)*

Answer: There is no limit to the number of proposals an organization can submit. We do, however, receive a high volume of proposals and are only able to fund a small percentage.

Question: Are federal agencies (USGS) eligible to apply, and can funds be used for salaries? The associated document does not include federal agencies and requires a 50% non-federal match, which would require that we team with a non-federal agency. *(Received 12/12 at GMP-RFP@epa.gov)*

Answer: Unfortunately, under our CFDA, Federal agencies are excluded from the eligible entities which can apply.