

2018 EPA Environmental Education Grant Program:

EE Local Grants Requests for Proposals (RFPs)

March 2018 Teleconferences

This teleconference provides a general overview of the 2018 EE Local Grants RFPs and their amendment. Please consult the RFPs for complete details.

2018 EPA Environmental Education Grant Program:

EE Local Grants Requests for Proposals

March 2018 Teleconference regarding the amendment to the RFP

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Note

Disclaimer: This teleconference provides a general overview of the EE Local Grants RFPs and the amendment implemented in March 2018. Please consult the RFPs (also known as the Solicitation Notices) for complete details.

The EE Local Grants RFPs have been issued by EPA's 10 Regional Offices using Fiscal Year 2018 funds.

NEW! The deadline for proposals to the EE Local Grants RFPs is now [April 11, 2018](#).

Teleconference Logistics

- ❖ A limited number of phone lines are available for each teleconference. Please go to our website or contact eeegrants@epa.gov for the phone number and conference ID for each separate teleconference.

How to Submit Questions

- ❖ Please submit questions for the teleconference to education@epa.gov.
- ❖ A limited number of **questions of universal interest** will be addressed during the designated Q&A sessions.
- ❖ Please send questions unique to your situation or that we do not have time to address during the teleconference to eegrants@epa.gov.
- ❖ The EE Grants program has a **Frequently Asked Questions page online**. Some questions posed in each webinar/teleconference may be subsequently posted to the FAQs page with appropriate responses.

What We Will Cover in the Teleconference

- ❖ The basics of the Environmental Education Local Grants Request for Proposals (RFPs)
- ❖ The new deadline for application and amended text
- ❖ Definitions you need to know
- ❖ Who and what we can and cannot fund
- ❖ Helpful reminders
- ❖ Where to find more information and how to ask questions after the teleconference

The EE Local Grants RFPs: Basics

- ❖ **NEW!** Deadline **April 11, 2018**: Must be submitted to <https://www.grants.gov/> by 11:59 pm eastern time.
- ❖ **3 or 4 awards** anticipated from each of EPA's 10 Regions under each of 10 RFPs. **30 - 35 awards total** across the country.
- ❖ Approximate amount of each award: **no less than \$50,000 and no more than \$100,000**.
- ❖ Proposals must be for **locally focused** EE programs.
- ❖ Proposals must include **both educational and environmental** priorities.
- ❖ Required: **matching funds and a sub-grant** program.

Locally Focused Projects

Help develop informed, knowledgeable and responsible citizens in the community(ies) in which the project is located.



Definitions

▶ **Environmental Education (EE)**

- ▶ Teaches how to weigh various sides of an issue through **critical thinking, problem solving and decision making skills** on environmental and conservation topics... with an ultimate goal of environmental and conservation stewardship.
- ▶ **Environmental or conservation information** is a component
 - ▶ But only addresses **awareness** and **knowledge**, usually about a particular environmental or conservation issue.
- ▶ **Outreach** can also be part of EE
 - ▶ Involves **information dissemination** and requests or **suggestions for action** on a particular issue (often without the critical thinking, problem solving and decision making steps in between).

▶ **Conservation**

- ▶ **Preservation, protection, or restoration of the natural environment**, natural ecosystems, vegetation, and wildlife in order to achieve maximum environmental and human health benefits.

Educational Priorities: One Amendment

❖ Agricultural Education

- ❖ Environmental issues affecting agriculture in urban, suburban and rural communities.
- ❖ Formal and non-formal settings.
- ❖ Finding creative solutions to air, soil and water quality issues.



❖ Community Projects

- ❖ Environmental & conservation stewardship through community collaboration.
- ❖ Rural, suburban and urban settings.
- ❖ Formal or non-formal education: outdoor, place-based, experiential, service learning and/or community-focused activities on **environmental topics relevant to local area**. (Amended: “...**on such issues as** water and soil quality issues, food waste management, increase of locally sourced food in farm to table systems, management of ecosystem health and/or local fire or flood prevention and fire, flood or hurricane preparedness as related to human health and environmental protection.”)

❖ Career Development

- ❖ Encouraging interest in careers in environmental and conservation fields.

Environmental Priorities: Amended!

Proposals must address at least one of the Administrator's Environmental Priorities to be considered eligible. From the list (in the RFP), select at least one numbered priority. Then specify a topic under the priority that the proposal will address. **Note that for illustrative purposes only, samples of topics are listed under each priority below.**

You may choose one of the sample topics or propose another topic relevant to your local area and consistent with the Administrator's priorities and the Agency's Strategic Plan.

Environmental Priorities: Amended!

- ▶ **Improving air quality** to ensure Americans are living and working in areas that meet high air quality standards. **Sample only:**
 - ▶ Work collaboratively to prevent future air quality issues by making appropriate preparations for the prevention of wild fires.
- ▶ **Ensuring clean and safe water by supporting clean drinking water, aquatic ecosystems, and recreational, economic and subsistence activities.** **Samples only:**
 - ▶ Work collaboratively to prevent future water quality and human health issues through appropriate management for flood and hurricane preparedness.
 - ▶ **Work collaboratively to participate in the conservation of quality water resources.**
 - ▶ Work collaboratively to manage nutrients in water systems by reducing the use of pesticides and/or nutrient run-off from soil, while maintaining both quality agricultural yields and minimal environmental harm.
 - ▶ Work collaboratively to manage the health of aquatic ecosystems to achieve the maximum in environmental and human health benefits and support recreational, economic, and subsistence activities.
- ▶ **Ensuring the safety of chemicals. Samples only:**
 - ▶ Work collaboratively on Integrated Pest Management to achieve the most environmentally effective management of pests in the agricultural setting.
 - ▶ Work collaboratively on Integrated Vegetation Management issues for the maximum in environmental benefits; for example, for maintaining native species within public rights-of-way.
- ▶ **Increasing transparency, public participation, and collaboration with communities. Samples only:**
 - ▶ Work collaboratively to educate school-aged children, their parents, and the community on food issues as related to environmental health issues; e.g., maintaining school gardens to teach about pesticide management and water conservation, or using farmers' markets and farm to table systems to teach about the environmental benefits of local food supplies.
 - ▶ Work collaboratively to manage food waste for environmental benefits; e.g., the benefits of composting, reduction of waste going to landfills, etc.

Who is Eligible to Apply?

- ❖ Any local education agency, college or university, state education or environmental agency, or a tribal education agency*.
- ❖ A nonprofit organization as described in Section 501(C)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code.
- ❖ A noncommercial educational broadcasting entity as defined and licensed by Federal Communications Commission.
- ❖ Applicant organizations must be located in the United States or Territories and the majority of the educational activities must take place in the United States; or in the United States and Canada or Mexico; or in U.S. Territories.

*“Tribal education agencies” that are eligible to apply include a school or community college which is controlled by an Indian tribe, band, or nation, which is recognized as eligible for special programs and services provided by the United States to Indians because of their status as Indians and which is not administered by the Bureau of Indian Education.

What the EE Grants Program Can & Cannot Fund:

Funded:

- ❖ Environmental education projects based on sound science that teach or enhance critical-thinking, problem-solving, and decision-making skills that lead to responsible actions to protect human health and the environment.

Not funded:

- ❖ Projects that advocate a particular viewpoint or course of action about environmental issues or simply disseminate information.
- ❖ Lobbying or political activities.
- ❖ Non-education-related research or development.
- ❖ Technical training of environmental professionals.
- ❖ Construction projects.



Helpful Reminders

- ❖ Start early – Leave time to review and edit your proposal.
- ❖ Read the RFP (solicitation) and online FAQs thoroughly before beginning your proposal/application – and as many times as you need during the writing process.
- ❖ You must use grants.gov to submit your proposal, so have your Authorized Organization Representative register now, and make sure you are current in SAM and DUNS.
- ❖ Send questions to EEGrants@epa.gov – after you read the RFP and FAQs thoroughly!

Where Do I Find More Information?

<http://www.epa.gov/education/environmental-education-ee-grants>

At the EPA Environmental Education Grant website you will find:

- ❖ Frequently Asked Questions
- ❖ Helpful Resources
- ❖ Past Grants Awarded by the EE Grants Program



This teleconference is intended to provide a general overview of the 2018 Environmental Education Local Grants RFPs and their recent amendment. A PDF of the presentation is posted to our website. Nothing in the presentation is meant to supersede anything in the RFP/Solicitation Notice.

- For general information about the Environmental Education Grant Program please contact Karen Scott at scott.karen@epa.gov
- For questions about the current Environmental Education Grant Solicitation/RFP please contact: eegrants@epa.gov

Thank You!