

## Questions and Answers for Region 5 FY20 Sustainable Materials Management RFA

### **Questions and Answers for March 20, 2020**

*Were there additional grants awarded after 2015? Are there examples/products of these grants available?*

Region 5 awarded one other grant in 2017 at approximately \$54k. However, please refer to the funding ranges in the current RFA because they reflect the estimated funds for 2020.

In 2015 the RFA priority opportunity was on reducing/preventing food waste in schools and in 2017 the RFA priority was either to reduce/prevent food waste in a tribal community or identify and improve the understanding of recycling end markets for packaging or C&D materials. Some of the results from the 2017 grant project are discussed in this SMM academy webinar:

<https://www.epa.gov/smm/sustainable-materials-management-smm-web-academy-webinar-construction-and-demolition-materials>.

Once again, the 2020 RFA has different priorities and funding amounts so please refer to the full RFA for information.

*Can I apply in an EPA region other than Region 5?*

The RFA is open to applicants nationwide. However, as is stated in the RFA, the projects must benefit Region 5. Region 5 includes Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, Minnesota, Ohio and Wisconsin.

*Do the RFA priorities only pertain to the topics of Recycled Plastics and/or Paper Markets in Region 5 or Strategies for Preventing Food Loss and Waste and/or Diverting Wasted Food from Landfills in Region 5?*

Projects must address at least one of these priorities to be eligible. Please refer to the complete RFA for more information.

### **Questions and Answers for April 9th, 2020**

*Are hospitals eligible to apply?*

Yes, as is stated in the Eligibility Information section of the RFA:

“Consistent with the Applicant Eligibility Section of CFDA No. 66.808, applications will be accepted from State (including the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, Virgin Islands, Guam, American Samoa, and Northern Mariana Islands), local, Tribal, interstate, and intrastate government agencies and instrumentalities, and non-profit organizations that are not 501(c)(4) organizations that lobby, including non-profit educational institutions and non-profit hospitals.”

*Has funding for this RFA been allocated and will awards still be given out as federal money is being diverted to respond to Covid-19? Will the grant submission deadline still be April 30th in light of the Covid-19 emergency?*

EPA R5 still plans on making an award in 2020 under this RFA. The specific amount of funding and the planned number of awards has not been determined but as is stated in the RFA "EPA Region 5 anticipates funding up to three to four grants and/or cooperative agreements from this announcement, ranging in value from \$30,000 to \$60,000, contingent upon funding availability, the quality of applications received, and other applicable considerations. EPA expressly reserves the right to make no awards under a particular Funding Opportunity or to adjust the number of awards originally anticipated under a specific Funding Opportunity."

While EPA R5 is aware of the difficult situation SMM stakeholders are facing during the Covid-19 emergency, currently there are no plans to change the submission date. Please check back regularly for updates at: <https://www.epa.gov/grants/region-5-fy-20-sustainable-materials-management-grants>

*Are there limits to the amount of money that can be spent on staff or subcontracts under this grant?*

There are no limits on how funds are distributed for these two expenses within a project under this RFA. However, "if no personnel costs are identified in the budget, the applicant is responsible to EPA for reporting, overseeing any contracts (including consultant contracts), or subawards entered into under the assistance agreement and for managing any acquired or leased equipment and supplies. Unless the work plan provides an adequate explanation, EPA may ask for a written explanation of how the award will be managed in the absence of charges for personnel costs."

Please refer to the "Interim General Budget Development Guidance for Applicants and Recipients of EPA Financial Assistance" for more information.

<https://www.epa.gov/sites/production/files/2019-05/documents/applicant-budget-development-guidance.pdf>

Also, for more details on making subawards visit the EPA subaward policy website:

<https://www.epa.gov/grants/grants-policy-issuance-gpi-16-01-epa-subaward-policy-epa-assistance-agreement-recipients>

For more questions on subawards please refer to: Q&As regarding EPA subaward policy:

[https://www.epa.gov/sites/production/files/2017-11/documents/epa\\_subaward\\_policy\\_frequent\\_questions\\_updated\\_11\\_30\\_2017.pdf](https://www.epa.gov/sites/production/files/2017-11/documents/epa_subaward_policy_frequent_questions_updated_11_30_2017.pdf)

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*Do applicants use the indirect rate when creating a budget under this RFA?*

EPA assistance agreement recipients are not required to have an IDC rate, however prior to drawing down EPA funds for IDCs, and/or using unrecovered IDCs as cost-share, all EPA assistance agreement recipients must:

- Have an approved rate (see link below for more information)

- Have an EPA-approved budget that includes IDCs.

Recipients must not claim IDCs above their approved rate. Recipients may only claim IDCs that are supported by an approved IDC rate that is concurrent with the period during which such costs were incurred, with the exception of Institutions of Higher Education (IHEs).

For the purposes of the regulations and this policy, recipients can draw down IDCs if they have one of the following approved IDC rates in place at the time of award:

- Provisional;
- Final;
- Fixed rate with carry-forward;
- Predetermined;
- 10% de minimis;
- Extension of current or expired IDC rate by cognizant agency;
- Approved continued use of current or expired IDC rate by the EPA; or
- (For exempt governmental agencies only) have an IDC rate proposal developed in accordance with [2 CFR 200 Appendix VII](#), with support maintained and available for audit. Provisional rates used at the time of the award must be adjusted once a final rate is negotiated and approved by the cognizant agency for IDCs.

To learn more about the Indirect Cost Policy for EPA Assistance Agreements visit:

<https://www.epa.gov/sites/production/files/2018-08/documents/indirect-cost-policy-for-recipients-of-epa-assistance-agreements.pdf>