

Children's Healthy Learning Environments Request for Applications

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
Office of Children's Health Protection (OCHP)

Webinar for Potential Applicants and Interested
Stakeholders

May 14, 2020



Webinar Logistics

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Goals of the Webinar

- Provide an overview of the Children's Healthy Learning Environments Grant Initiative Request for Applications (RFA).
- Provide information and answer questions about the application and review process.

Agenda

- **Describe Children's Healthy Learning Environments Grant Initiative**
 - Healthy Learning Environments
 - School Communities
 - Desired Work
 - Examples of Activities
 - Eligibility
 - Funding
- **Performance Measures and Reporting**
- **Break for Questions**
- **Application Submission and Evaluation**
 - Critical Elements of RFA
 - Threshold Eligibility Criteria
 - Evaluation Criteria
 - Grant Application Evaluation
- **Tips & Resources**
- **Break for Questions**

Healthy Learning Environments

- Capacity-building projects in schools and/or childcare centers
 - Help school communities understand and address local environmental and public health issues that affect children
- Children's physical environments play a critical role in their health, development and safety
- Unique exposures in school and childcare-based settings

School Communities

- For the purposes of this solicitation:
 - *Schools* include public, private, charter, parochial and K-12 schools
 - *Childcare settings* include early care and education, such as nurseries, preschools, pre-kindergartens, centers, child development programs, Head Start, Early Head Start and in-home childcare facilities
- Projects can address schools AND/OR childcare settings

Desired Work

- EPA is interested in receiving applications that:
 - Demonstrate, implement or expand innovative methods and approaches to prevent and reduce exposures in schools and childcare settings.
 - Emphasize a “learning” concept – transfer of information, advancing awareness and demonstrating changes in attitudes and behaviors of those participating
- Projects should be:
 - Multi-media – involving multiple environmental health hazards
 - Holistic – involving multiple stakeholders and built on strong partnerships
- Projects should build upon existing work rather than replicating current efforts.

Examples of Eligible Activities

- Develop and deliver guidance, technical assistance, training, or other support to school districts to assist them in implementing school environmental health programs
- Develop training programs to promote awareness and action to address children's environmental health hazards in schools and/or childcare settings
- Establish communication networks with school districts, boards, associations, and related groups to promote environmental health conditions and practices in schools
- Provide training and technical assistance regarding chemical cleanouts and chemical management plans, including pesticides

Examples of Ineligible Activities

- “Fixing” a school building or environmental issue: e.g., completing a school chemical cleanout, installing air conditioning filters, routine recycling services
- Advocacy promoting a particular point of view or course of action
- Childcare center and/or school rent or payroll
- If any of these activities represent more than a small or ancillary part of your project work, EPA will not consider the application for an award.

Eligible Entities

- States or state agencies, territories, city or township governments, federally recognized Tribes
- Public and private universities and colleges, hospitals, laboratories
- Other public or private nonprofit institutions and 501(c)(3) organizations
- Not eligible: 501(c)(4) organizations that engage in lobbying; for-profit organizations

Grant Funding

- EPA expects to award a total of \$290,000, evenly split between 2 organizations.
- Project periods can be up to 2 years.
 - The estimated project period will be November 1, 2020-October 31,2022.
- Funding will be awarded as a cooperative agreement.
 - Involve substantial involvement between the EPA and the selected applicant in performance of supported work. EPA will negotiate precise terms and conditions relating to substantial involvement as part of the award process.
- There is no match or cost-sharing requirement.
- EPA will consider geographic distribution of funds in making final selections of the 2 grantees. Consideration will be given for projects that cover non-overlapping geographic areas.
- EPA reserves the right to reject all applications and make no awards or fewer awards than anticipated, under this announcement.
- EPA reserves the right to partially fund applications by funding discrete portions or phases of proposed projects.

Performance Measures

- Example outputs
 - Educational, training, or outreach materials developed
 - Measures to assess progress established
 - Partnerships/collaborations established
- Example outcomes
 - Reduced environmental health or safety risks affecting children
 - Reduced children's exposure to environmental contaminants
 - Increased awareness among students and staff about the school environment

Grant Reporting

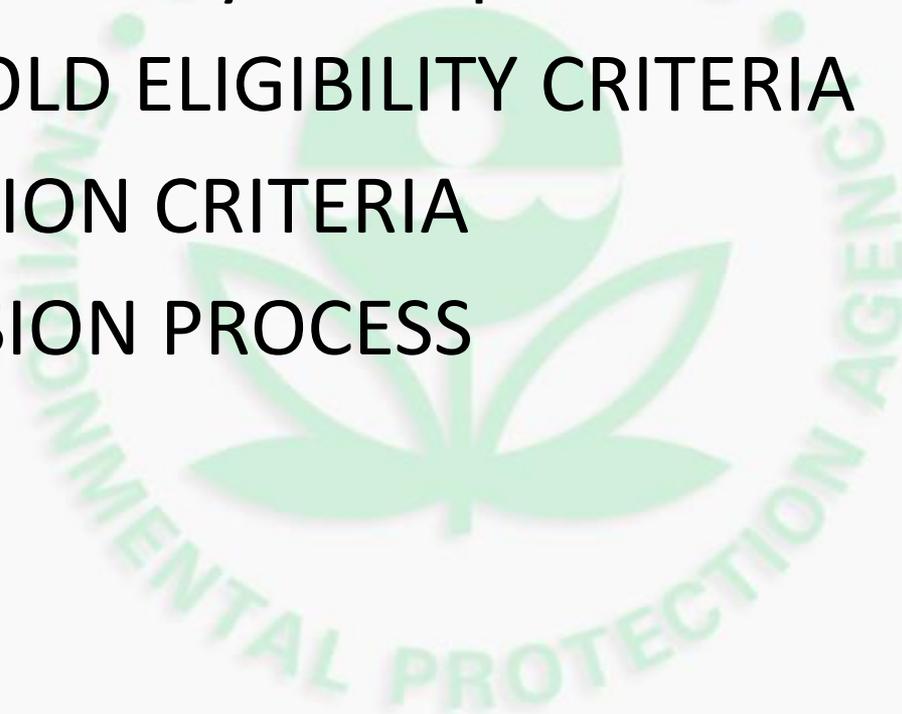
- Periodic formal progress reports
 - Status of all objectives and activities outlined in the project, statement of impacts, incurred project expenses
- Final Technical Report
 - Summary of the project, advances achieved, costs, problems, successes, and lessons learned from the project
- A schedule for reporting will be established by EPA after award.

Questions?



Critical Elements of RFA

- DEADLINE: APPLICATIONS ARE DUE MONDAY, JUNE 1, 2020 by 11:59pm EDT
- THRESHOLD ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA
- EVALUATION CRITERIA
- SUBMISSION PROCESS



Threshold Eligibility Criteria

- Applications must meet the Threshold Eligibility Criteria in order to be considered for funding.
- Only applications that meet all Threshold Eligibility Criteria will be evaluated and ranked against the Evaluation Criteria described in Section V of the RFA.

Threshold Eligibility Criteria (contd.)

1. Applications comply with submission instructions, including page limits where noted.
2. Applications must be submitted through Grants.gov or an accepted alternative method.
3. Applications must be submitted on time. Late submittals will not be considered.
4. Applications must be from an eligible organization.

Threshold Eligibility Criteria (contd.)

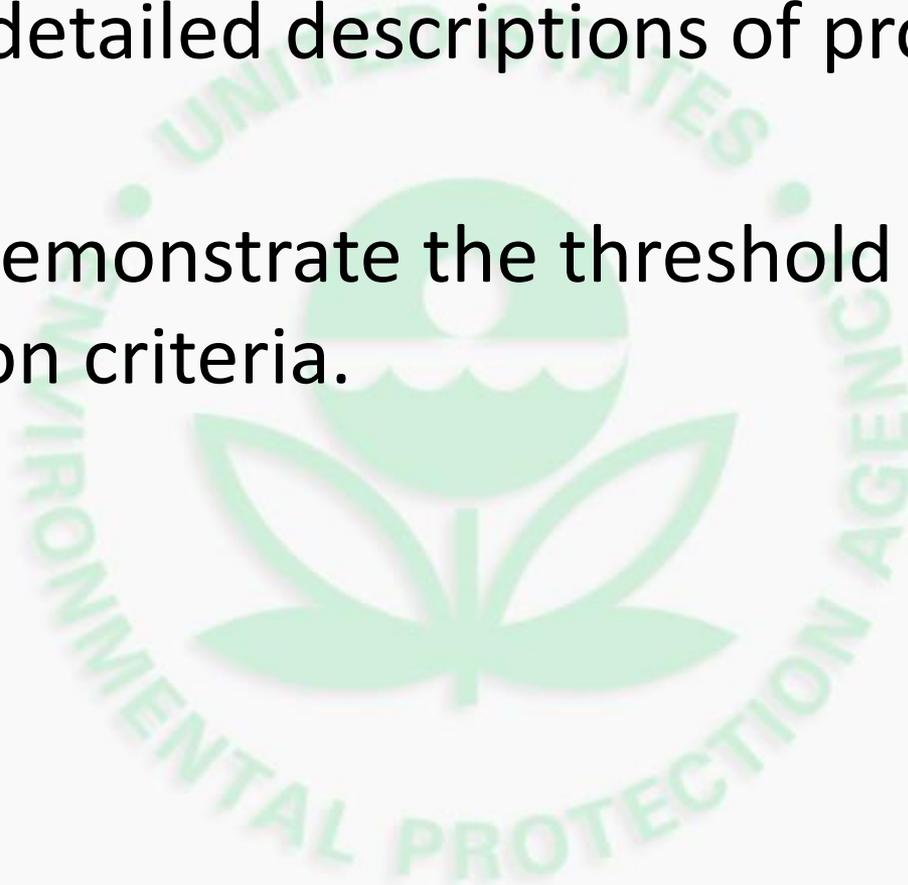
5. Applicants may only submit 1 proposal under this solicitation.
6. Applications must adhere to the funding limits and project period described.
7. Applications must describe how work aligns with EPA's Strategic Goal 2: More Effective Partnerships.
8. Projects must not be routine program implementation or environmental protection, meet any legal mandate, purchase of land or vehicles, or completion of work under a prior grant.

Grant Evaluation

- What will reviewers be looking for in the proposal narrative?
 - Compliance with Threshold Eligibility Criteria and submission requirements.
 - Scope of Work – focus on capacity building and “learning” concepts.
 - Clear responsiveness to Evaluation Criteria.

Tips for Preparing Applications

- Provide detailed descriptions of proposed work.
- Clearly demonstrate the threshold and evaluation criteria.



Resources

- Agency Contact – Section VII of RFA
 - Cook-Shyovitz.Becky@epa.gov
- Refer to EPA's Children's Healthy Learning Environments Grant Page
 - <https://www.epa.gov/children/childrens-healthy-learning-environments-grant-initiative-rfa-june-2020>:
 - FAQs will be posted here after the webinar Grant
- EPA Grants Overview for Applicants and Recipients page: <https://www.epa.gov/grants/epa-grants-overview-applicants-and-recipients>
 - Training, forms, key resources

Questions?

