

TRANSCRIPT

Webinar on EPA Urban Waters Small Grants Request for Proposals (RFP)

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Speakers

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Surabhi Shah

Welcome, everyone, this is the Urban Waters Small Grants webinar. And we're going to get started in just a few minutes. While we wait for a few more folks to join us I wanted to invite you to look at that URL that's on your screen, and we're going to be referring to the Request For Proposal, the RFP document, throughout this webinar. So while we're waiting on just a few more people, feel free to go ahead and get that RFP document in front of you, because we'll refer to it throughout this webinar. Again, welcome. We'll be back in just a few minutes. Probably just one and a half minutes and we'll start this webinar and go forward.

Surabhi Shah

Okay. We will get started. Again, welcome everyone, and thanks so much for joining us for this informational session about EPA's urban waters small grants RFP. And, again, RFP, of course, is the Request For Proposals. My name is Surabhi Shah and I'm with the EPA Urban Waters Team in Washington, D.C. and I'll be moderating today's webinar. This is the second and last of the two webinars scheduled during the RFP open period. For a recording of the webinar materials for the session that we had on December 14th, please go to the EPA Urban Waters website at epa.gov/urbanwaters/funding. A copy of the RFP is also available on that website and it may be helpful to you to download that now if you've not already done so. Again, the URL is on your screen now.

We'll be going over important sections of that document in today's session and so having it handy will help you. I also wanted to mention that we're glad to have a chance to tell you about these urban waters small grants because this is the first time that EPA is sponsoring such a competition and we want you to have the knowledge you need to put forward the most competitive and informed proposal possible.

This program, the Urban Waters Program at EPA, aims to protect and restore urban waterways. Through this program, EPA is working to support communities like yours in your efforts to access, improve, and benefit from your local urban waters and the surrounding neighborhoods. This program also recognizes that certain communities, including minority, low income, indigenous

groups, some of those communities in the past have been more burdened and continue to be more burdened by polluted urban waterways than many others. So these communities haven't had a chance to reap the benefits that healthy accessible urban waters can bring. We hope this funding opportunity will be a way for all communities to get support from EPA, to work to protect and restore their urban waters.

In today's webinar, as you see on the next slide up there, we plan to provide an overview of the important sections of the RFP. We'll go over the objectives of the small grants. We'll go over the award amounts, threshold eligibility, evaluation criteria, and so on.

We'll pause after each section to make sure we have a chance to hear from you with the questions that you submit via the questions box in the control panel of your webinar screen. We encourage you to write in your questions throughout the webinar. Now, it may happen that you ask a question in the beginning of the webinar and it may be answered later on. So don't think we're ignoring you. Last time we got over 200 questions. We'll get to as many as we can during the webinar. And the ones that we aren't able to answer during the webinar, we will cover in a Frequently Asked Questions document that will be on our website.

We also learned something else from the December 14th webinar with you, and that is that you have a lot of questions that are very specific about contracts, competition, and subawards. So at this time, the last 30 minutes of this webinar will be focused on addressing questions about contracts and subawards. Again, if you ask questions about those topics, we're not ignoring you. We're just going to make sure to get them and hold them for the last half hour for a special session.

Now, on our next slide we show you how to submit questions. To ask a question, you type it into the "questions" box and click "send." If your control panel is not showing, simply click on the small orange box with the white arrow on it to expand the box. If you want to send us a message about a technical issue you're having related to the webinar, you can ask that same question through the questions box to the right of your screen.

Put in the question and click on the "send" button. We will do our best to respond to your issue by posting an answer in that questions box. Again, last time we got hundreds of questions. So we know you know how to do this, and we're looking forward to your questions.

Now, a little bit about the types of questions we can answer and the types we can't.

EPA is committed to a fair and open competition. In keeping with our competition policy there are certain types questions we can answer and others that we can't. We can answer questions about threshold eligibility criteria. We can answer questions about administrative issues related to the submission of proposals and clarifications about the announcement itself.

Here is what we can't do. We can't provide feedback on draft proposals or provide you with advice on how to respond to the ranking criteria. When you submit questions, we will again -- we'll get to all the questions we can. If time runs out before we answer all of your questions, again, we'll capture every question you send in and we'll try to post all the answers through our Frequently Asked Questions page. And that's why we ask you to listen throughout the webinar for the answer to your question. If it did not get answered -- and this is different from last webinar -- if it didn't get

answered by the end of the webinar, we're asking you to please email it to us at urbanwaters@epa.gov. But, again, that's at the end of the webinar. Right now we really encourage you to send the questions in through the "questions" box as described on the screen.

As we did, with the December 14th webinar, we are recording this webinar. So it will be available for you to access in the next week or so, and you'll have today's live presentation recorded in that way. The recorded webinar, again, for December 14th is up right now, and soon you'll hear the one for today's webinar. We'll be recording and posting all that, again, at that same URL, epa.gov/urbanwaters/funding. That's it for my introductory section and now we're going to move to our presenters.

Our presenters today are Caitlyn Whittle and Ji-Sun or Sun Yi. Caitlyn is an Environmental Scientist with the Office of Ecosystems Protection at EPA Region 1 in our Boston, Massachusetts office. Sun Yi is part of the Urban Waters Team in the Office of Water at EPA headquarters in Washington, D.C. Part of our presentation team today are also Bruce Binder, who is EPA's Grant Competition Advocate, and Jim Drummond from EPA's Office of General Counsel. We'll now start off with an overview of the urban waters small grants presented by Caitlyn Whittle. Caitlyn?

Caitlyn, can you hear us?

We might be having a few technical difficulties. We want to make sure we can get Caitlyn Whittle on the line.

Okay. Caitlyn is not available. We've had some technical difficulties, and I wonder if Sun Yi, if you would like to go through Caitlyn's part and get us started.

Ji-Sun (Sun) Yi

Sure. I would like to start us off with the overview, going over some of the key dates to remember. Moving to page 1 of the RFP. January 23rd is the due date for all applications. Hard copy submittals need to be in by 4:00 p.m. EST on January 23rd. Questions about the RFP can be submitted until January 16th.

Just to note to applicants, I'll go over it a little bit later on when we touch on the contract and subaward section, but please make note of the fact that if you plan to name subawardees, subgrantees and/or contractors in your proposal to assist you with your proposed project, please pay attention to Section II C.

I'd also like to note our overview of the RFP today is focused on highlighting the important sections, but please do read the entire announcement carefully.

Okay. So let's go on to page 3 section I B. As Surabhi mentioned, this funding opportunity is a way for us to support communities as they work to protect and restore their urban waterways. The goal of the urban waters small grants is fund research studies, training, and demonstration projects that will advance the restoration of urban waters by improving water quality through activities that

also support community revitalization and local priorities. This section describes the three key elements that project proposals should address.

The first is the proposed project leads to the environmental restoration of an urban water body. This is broken down into three subcomponents. The first subcomponent is water quality/restoration. In this subcomponent, we're asking you to describe how the project will contribute to the environmental restoration of an urban water body. You should include a description of the project area and what makes it urban using supporting information like population density, venue, et cetera. You should also include a description of the water body being addressed through the proposed project and how the project will address the water quality restoration of that water body.

I'd like to pause for a minute to talk about questions we've received on how we're defining urban under this announcement. We've chosen not to provide a clear-cut definition of urban but instead make it part of the evaluation criteria in reviewing proposals. So essentially we're asking applicants to make the case, if you will, in describing the proposed project area and why it should be considered urban.

Similarly, we have not limited the geographical scale nor defined a population size of the proposed project area. And we have not set a definition for what may be considered an urban water body. These are all things the proposal description will be evaluated on and there's no restrictions in place for them in terms of eligibility.

Surabhi Shah

Okay, thanks, Sun. I want to check to see if our technical difficulties have been overcome. Caitlyn Whittle, are you on the line?

Caitlyn Whittle

Yes, can you hear me, Surabhi?

Surabhi Shah

We can hear you now. I wondered if you wanted to take over at the top of page 5 and just the part that we just finished, the urban piece. If you want to go to the part about clarifying terms, eligibility criteria, and evaluation criteria.

Caitlyn Whittle

Sure. Thank you, Sun. So I'd like to clarify the terms eligibility criteria, and evaluation criteria for everyone. The eligibility criteria are the minimum requirements that the proposal must meet in order to be evaluated during our ranking process. So -- and then the evaluation criteria, which we also refer to in the RFP as selection criteria are the important elements that the proposal will be assessed by. And each element has a certain number of points. I just want to -- we'll go over the evaluation criteria in more detail a bit later on, as well as eligibility criteria, but I just wanted to take a moment now to make that distinction, since we've gotten a number of questions about urban being an eligibility criterion, which we stated early on, it's not. It's an evaluation.

So the next component that we're going to talk about under the first key element is the relevance to community priorities. Here, we're asking you to describe how the proposed project makes water quality restoration of the urban water body relevant to your community's priorities. You can use available community information, like community plans, surveys, polls, et cetera, to demonstrate what the priorities are in your community.

We're also interested in knowing how the project will use these priorities to engage community members and sustain that engagement even long after the project is complete.

The last subcomponent we're going to talk about is success potential and feasibility. And we're here on page 4. Information for this part should include how the proposed project uses a creative or effective approach to restore water quality within the urban area and how ready you are to begin work.

The next key element that the proposal should address is partnerships. Because effective partnerships are integral to the urban waters work, we're interested in the appropriate and necessary partnerships you identify to successfully complete your project. Partners should have the appropriate skills and expertise to contribute to the success of the project and can include communities surrounding the water body, local businesses, educational institutions, non-profits, et cetera. In your proposal, if a working partnership exists or is under development, all parties involved should be clearly described, including the role each will have in the project. Also, letters of commitment should be included in your proposal package. Please don't send letters of endorsement, recommendation, or support. If partnerships do not yet exist, then the proposal should address how you plan to engage partners for your project and, if on the other hand, you don't intend to work with partners, then please submit a description that includes how the work will effectively be done without any partners at all.

The last key element the proposal should address is benefits to community. Here we're interested in how the project will benefit the communities that surround the urban water body, particularly those that have been affected by the water body's water quality issues.

The description should include how these communities have been impacted and how the proposed projects will improve the environmental health and/or economic conditions of these communities.

And we're moving on now to page 5. Our statutory Funding Authority for these cooperative agreements is Section 104(b)(3) of the Clean Water Act. The Clean Water Act restricts the use of these funds to support activities such as conducting or promoting the coordination and acceleration of research, investigation, experiments, training, demonstration, surveys and studies relating to the causes, effects, including health and welfare effects, extend prevention, reduction and elimination of water pollution. This page lists some examples of projects that are eligible for funding under this announcement, as well as some projects that we would not be able to fund under the Clean Water Act 103(b)(3). Please take a look at both sets of examples to get a sense of what kind proposal would be appropriate for this announcement. Please keep in mind that implementation projects are generally not eligible for funding. And what we mean by implementation in this RFP are projects that include construction or installation activities, like, for example, building a rain garden would be considered an implementation project. If you're thinking of implementation as

performing some water quality monitoring, that's not what we would consider implementation. That's considered doing research or an investigation or study that is allowable under the Clean Water Act 104(b)(3).

Another activity that people have been confused about is doing some sort of educational outreach or workshops and whether that would be considered an implementation project. And again, no, we would not consider that implementation. Holding an educational workshop would be considered training. And that is also allowable under the Clean Water Act 104(b)(3).

In addition, there's been some questions on what's considered a demonstration project for this announcement. There's a good frequently asked question on our website, question number 18 under project eligibility on the FAQ page. But essentially what we're considering demonstration project in this RFP are projects that use new technology, method, or approach, that hasn't been tested and applied before and is not widely available commercially. Also, the project should demonstrate how that technology or method can be useful and we expect the result of the project would be shared with others so they can benefit from the knowledge gained from the project. We don't typically consider projects that use routine, traditional, or established practices as demonstration. For example, building a rain garden to demonstrate how green infrastructure can alleviate stormwater is used would not be a demonstration project. Rain gardens are well-known or established green infrastructure practice. If what you propose is a demonstration project you will need to describe in your proposal how it meets the requirements of a demonstration project, which is explained further in Section I D of the RFP on page 8.

We've received a lot of questions asking whether or not their proposed project or activity is eligible and there's two clarifications we would like to make on this. Number one, please do not send us proposal summaries or draft proposals of a project idea you have in mind for this announcement. To be consistent with the competition policy, we are limited to the types of questions we can answer, which Surabhi mentioned earlier and we cannot review draft proposals or summaries nor comment and advise applicants on what they can submit. We ask that you please make your questions as specific as possible and we'll gladly answer any questions about the threshold eligibility criteria, administrative issues, and logistics related to proposal submission and clarifications on the information provided in the RFP.

We received a lot of questions and are doing our best to answer them as quickly as possible and we ask for your patience in hearing back from us. You may want to check our posted online Frequently Asked Questions before submitting a question, since we've already posted many that we received. You may find that your question has already been answered and that it's posted there. I'm going to pause for just one second.

Okay. Number 2. There seems to be a lot of confusion regarding the examples provided in the RFP on projects that are not eligible for funding, and the examples listed describing possible environmental outcomes from proposed projects.

We're moving on to page 7. To help clarify this issue, we would like to point out the definition of

environmental outcomes, which is highlighted here on page 7 of the RFP. Environmental outcomes are the result, effects or consequence that will occur from carrying out the proposed project and used as way to measure a project's performance. Outcomes may be environmental, behavioral, health related, or programmatic in nature.

Outcomes must be quantitative and they may -- and some may be achieved within the funding period. Others may occur afterwards. They may be short-term, like learning a new skill, or longer term, like an improvement in water quality of a water body. The examples provided on pages 7 and 8 of the RFP are examples of environmental outcomes that may happen as a result of the funded project.

Now moving back to page 6 just for a minute, I'd like to point out a few things in the top paragraph that's highlighted. The EPA regional offices will be making the selections and awards and will be evaluating the proposals using criteria outlined in Section V which we will get to in a little while. It's important to note that only one proposal can be submitted per applicant. If an applicant submits more than one proposal, we'll be contacting them before the review period begins to ask which one should be withdrawn.

I also want to point out that for this RFP, EPA considers governmental units to be a single applicant per the definition of grantee in 40 Code of Federal Regulations 31.3 and they submit -- they may submit only one proposal to EPA. So, for example, if you're applying from a state agency, we can accept only one proposal from your state.

We've gotten a number of questions from universities asking if the university as a whole is considered a single applicant. And the answer is yes. The school as a whole is a single applicant and we can only accept one proposal from the entire university. For those schools that have several different campuses throughout a state, the answer depends on if each separate campus is recognized as a separate legal entity. If so, then each separate university campus would be considered an eligible applicant.

Otherwise, only one proposal may be considered from the entire university system.

Also, please note that principal investigators are not eligible applicants since they are considered individuals and individuals are not eligible under this RFP. But do keep in mind that applicants may list other eligible applicants as partners on proposals, even if that partner also submits their own proposal to EPA.

So moving on to page 8. Since we've already discussed the Clean Water Act Funding Authority for this grants competition and the requirements for demonstration projects, but I do recommend that you highlight this section and read it through carefully.

With that, we've reached the end of Section I and I think we're going to take a look at some of the questions that have been submitted. Surabhi, do you want to kick us off?

Surabhi Shah

Sure. Just before I do though I did want to recognize that some folks might have joined us late and we're providing an overview of the RFP in today's webinar. I just wanted to let them know that.

Again, the RFP that we're referring to throughout this webinar you can find it at epa.gov/urbanwaters/funding. So if you want to download it, you can have their copy to make your personal notes and follow along, feel free to do that. Also, just a reminder to type in the questions, you go into the "questions" box on your webinar screen, type in your question and click "send." If you're not seeing a "questions" box it may be because your control panel is not showing. If that's the case, simply click on the small orange box. It has a white arrow on it. And that will expand it. You'll be able to see your control panel and you'll see a "questions" box where you can enter questions. If you're having any kind of technical difficulty, you can use that same "questions" box to submit a question about any technical difficulty and we'll do our best to respond to your question in that same "questions" box. Also, for folks who weren't there at the very beginning of this webinar, note that we had a lot of interest in questions about subcontracts, subawards, and the like. And some of them are very specific questions. So we are holding those questions for the last 30 minutes of the webinar and we're calling that a special session. That will be the last 30 minutes. So, again, if you ask questions about that now, as they come to you, that's fine. We'll be saving them for the last 30 minutes.

We would like to remind everyone, again, that we'll try to get to all the questions you put in here and that you send to us, but if at the end of today's webinar you listen, you didn't hear your question answered, go ahead and send it to urbanwaters@epa.gov. We'll be capturing all your webinar questions and posting the answers on the website on our Frequently Asked Questions page.

But Caitlyn is right; it's time for some questions now. So the first question I'm going to go over is right here. I'd like to start with a question that is: do maps, charts, references and so on count towards the ten-page limit for the submission in response to the RFP?
Sun, would you like to take that one?

Ji-Sun (Sun) Yi

Sure, Surabhi. No, those would be considered supplementary material. So supporting information so you can include that as attachment or appendix to your proposal package.

Surabhi Shah

Very good. Caitlyn, the next question. Can the instillation of green infrastructure practice be included in this program if it is part of a job training course?

Caitlyn, did you hear the question?

Caitlyn Whittle

Yes. Can you hear me?

Surabhi Shah

Yes.

Caitlyn Whittle

Yes, I did. Thank you. The answer to that is in general, yes, they would be allowed as part of a

job training. Of course, to make a final -- that's an initial thought on that. In general, yes, they are. Of course, we would have to see an entire proposal to make an official call.

Surabhi Shah

And a reminder to folks, as Caitlyn mentioned, training is an eligible type of project under this grant. And if something is preliminarily a training and the instillation is sort of an incidental part of that, we would want to see that reflected in the budget to show that it really is a training preliminarily. So we would like to see that in the narrative but also reflected in the budget.

Well, here is another question, Sun. If the materials, labor, and so on are donated for a green infrastructure project, can that donation be used to satisfy the in kind match requirements?

Ji-Sun (Sun) Yi

No, they would not be able to be used to count towards the in kind match requirement. The cost-share match is considered part of -- the requirements for it are same as what ties into the federal funds, so the requested amount that you're asking for -- for the grant.

Surabhi Shah

So I wanted to just ask for a clarification on that. When we are looking -- if an applicant is looking at their match and saying, is this an eligible cost share or a match, should they basically say, if it was paid for under the grant, would it be eligible, as an expense under the grant? Is that a good rule of thumb?

Ji-Sun (Sun) Yi

Yes.

Surabhi Shah

Okay. Very good. Jim, did you have something to add on that?

Jim Drummond

Yeah, just one -- this is Jim Drummond with the General Counsel's Office. Just one slight clarification on the clarification.

If it was the case was mentioned earlier about a training program and there was some green infrastructure that was going to be used as part of the on-the-job training that was partially complete or something like that, if it's tied to an eligible activity, it would be fine. But the reason green infrastructure is not in and of itself eligible is because we can't fund the actual implementation of green infrastructure.

Surabhi Shah

So if it's the installation of green infrastructure and it's in the context of a training, we would have to look at the particular proposal, but in that case it could be, you're saying.

Jim Drummond

Yes, it's possible.

Surabhi Shah

Thank you very much for the nuance answer. Appreciate that. We've got a few more questions here. Someone is asking -- it was a great question. Where can I find more guidance on eligible expenses? For example, is software an eligible expense under this grant if it's necessary for the funded project? Sun, would you like to take that one?

Ji-Sun (Sun) Yi

Sure. Eligible -- expenses that are eligible are for anything that would be -- go towards supporting the project and bringing it to completion. So if the project is eligible under 104(b)(3) of the Clean Water Act, the associated costs to do that project, that eligible project is an eligible expense, but as Jim noted earlier, we would have to see, you know, the complete proposal package and the budget, what the proposed budget is as well, to see if those expenses are, I guess, reasonable.

Surabhi Shah

Very good. Thanks, Sun.

Caitlyn, we have a question for you. We have a question about the limit of the number of awards. Someone is asking, is there a limit to the number of awards that could be given to a particular state or territory?

Caitlyn Whittle

Well, I guess the answer to that goes back to the one applicant rule -- one application rule, and for this RFP, a single applicant can only submit one proposal for funding to EPA nationally. So in a way, yes, there is a limit that an applicant could really only receive one award since they're only permitted to submit a single application.

Surabhi Shah

So if, for example, you are the state government or a local government and you're a university, any entity that might have multiple people within it that are interested in submitting an application, we're asking them to think about putting together one application. We're accepting one proposal per applicant. There's another way to look at this question, it occurs to me, and that is geographically, is there a limit to how many a particular state can get? And right now, maybe we should talk a little bit about how our awards are being split up across the country. Did you want to take that part as well, Caitlyn, the sort of regional distribution across EPA regions?

Caitlyn Whittle

Sure. So right now this RFP has roughly -- has \$1.8 million to fund proposals, and those funds are going to be distributed equally amongst EPA's ten geographical regions. So each region will have about -- will have about \$180,000 to fund proposals, and so we expect each region will award roughly three to four grants out of the FY11 funds that are currently available. As far as if a state could get more than one award, there's no limitation on how we're going to do that, however, under

the other criteria, we do expect that regional selection officials may take geographic diversity into account when making awards. So it is possible that a state or geographic area may get more than one, but it's also possible they may only just receive one.

Surabhi Shah

Thanks so much Caitlyn. We've got a few more questions, but we're going to hold them for the next question break, just to make sure that we cover all the materials we promised to cover. With that I'm going to go back to Sun. And Sun, I think next you're going to go over the highlights of Section II of the RFP.

Ji-Sun (Sun) Yi

Yes, thanks, Surabhi. So we're going to continue on page 8 in Section II, starting with part A. And Caitlyn went over this in the previous answer a little bit, but just to reiterate, the total amount that's currently available for this competition is \$1.8 million. The funding is contingent on several things, including agency funding levels and the quality of proposals received.

As Caitlyn also mentioned earlier, the EPA regional offices will be making the selections and the awards and we expect about three to four awards will be made by each regional office. It's important to note that \$60,000 is the maximum amount you may request for federal funding. Proposals that are requesting more than the 60,000 will -- we won't be able to review those.

Continuing on to page 9. Although there's no minimum of what you can -- of the federal funds you can request, we recommend that applicants request at least \$40,000. There is also a minimum non-federal match of \$2,500 that's required, and Caitlyn will cover that in more detail a little bit later on in the webinar.

Lastly, the project period for these cooperative agreements is expected to be two years.

Moving on to part C. As we noted earlier, if you plan to name subawardees or subgrantees and/or contractors in your proposal, please pay careful attention to this part -- to part C of Section II. The important part to note here is though these funds may be used to make subawards and contracts, if you're going to do so, there's competitive procurement provisions that need to be followed and those provisions are discussed in this section, in this part C, and further described in IV D, Code Of Federal Regulations part 30 or 31.

Moving on to page 10, this page goes into some detail as to what those requirements are, and to summarize, if you intend to use funds to acquire commercial services or projects for a profit entity, those services or products must be competed out. As we noted earlier, the last half hour of this webinar is going to be focused on answering your specific questions on contracts and subawards. So please stick around for that if this section pertains to you.

Also, there are several Frequently Asked Questions up on our website on this topic under the Funding Clarifications category. So that might be helpful for you to look at as well. And we'll move on to the eligibility information in Section III, which Caitlyn is going to cover.

Caitlyn Whittle

Can you guys hear me? Can you hear me?

Surabhi Shah

Yes, now we can.

Caitlyn Whittle

Okay. Thank you, Sun. So the first paragraph in this section highlights the entities that are eligible to apply for this announcement. And like I said before, please note that individuals, for-profit commercial entities, and all federal agencies are not eligible to apply. In part B, as Sun mentioned earlier, we discussed a non -- a minimum non-federal cost share match of \$2,500 for this competition.

On to page 12. The match may be provided in cash or from in kind contributions. The proposal description needs to include how this match will be met. I'd like to clarify that match is not considered part of the federal funding request. So it wouldn't deduct from the amount of federal funds you request for this grant. So if, for example, you request a maximum federal amount of \$60,000, the total project cost, which you would provide a breakdown of in the proposed budget in your project would be \$62,500.

And include the match amount. The match must be spent on activities that are eligibility under Clean Water Act 104(b)(3).

Part C. As we mentioned earlier, part C of this section provides the nine threshold eligibility criteria, or the minimum requirements that the proposal must meet in order to be considered for funding. Proposals that do not meet these nine criteria will be considered ineligible. And I recommend that you highlight this list. In brief, they are one, an applicant must meet the eligibility requirements as described in Section III A. Two, proposals must comply with the proposal submission instructions and requirements described in Section IV, which we'll talk about in a little while. Three, proposals must be within the scope of Clean Water Act 104(b)(3), and for demonstration projects the requirements for demonstration projects must be met. On page 13, number 4, the maximum amount of federal funds that may be requested is \$60,000. Number 5, proposals must meet the minimum non-federal match of \$2,500. Number 6, proposals must be received by EPA or received through grants.gov by the submission deadline.

And just a note here that the deadlines are actually different. If a proposal is submitted by grants.gov, it's 11:59 p.m. on January 23rd and if it is submitted hard copy to EPA it's 4:00 p.m. on January 23rd. For hard copy submittals, it must be done using hand delivery, express delivery, or courier service. Hard copies submittals by regular U.S. Postal Mail will not be considered.

Number 8, as stated in number 6, proposals must be received by the deadlines that I described. And lastly, number 9, only one proposal may be submitted per applicant.

That wraps up eligibility for the RFP. We'll take a couple minutes here to check and see if there's any questions on everything that we've gone over so far. Surabhi, do you want to read?

Surabhi Shah

Sure. Well it looks like the instructions on how to submit questions have been effective because we have a lot of questions.

These are great, excellent questions. The first one I'm going to go over is about green infrastructure. Sun, it says here: we have a green infrastructure project; it's a green roof project. The budget proposed in this grant will not include our capital costs because they understand that this is not about implementing something. The question is: can we submit a grant proposal for the outreach salary and training for this project?

Ji-Sun (Sun) Yi

My -- I think the answer to and if

Surabhi Shah

It looks like Jim is dying to answer this question and we would love him to answer it, wouldn't we?

Ji-Sun (Sun) Yi

I was going to ask him to advise.

Jim Drummond

The answer is you're betting pretty well here, two out of three are okay. The outreach and the training, if the training, obviously, relates to prevention of water pollution would be okay. And I think a green roof would qualify for that. But I need to know more of what you meant by salary. If salary means your construction manager, the answer would be no. If by salary you mean the cost of an instructor, the answer would be yes. So the answer is, for two of them, it looks okay. One of them is in the "it depends" category.

Surabhi Shah

So let's point this out then. The green roof construction, capital costs are non-eligible, expense. Therefore, salary associated with that are not eligible expense. However, education, training, outreach, all of those things are eligible expenses. Salary associated with those eligible activities would be in. Is that right, Jim?

Jim Drummond

That's correct.

Surabhi Shah

Okay. Great. Thank you. Caitlyn, we're going to go to you next. What is the difference between programmatic outcomes and environmental outcomes? I'm trying to think of where that is in the RFP that somebody might have seen it. Any thoughts on that, Caitlyn?

Caitlyn Whittle

Sure. The programmatic outcomes are more like the outputs, like the beams we would count, the number of trainings or outreach activities, something like that. The environmental outcomes are more like what we would see as a result of this grant. The impact on the ground, better water

quality, more educated citizenry, things like that.

Surabhi Shah

Got it. Thank you. The next question we have is: our project goes through Region 5 of EPA in Chicago. Are there any particular priorities for that region?

Ji-Sun (Sun) Yi

I can take that, Surabhi. No, there are no priorities for that region that would -- that is associated with this announcement.

Surabhi Shah

It's a national program, if that kind of helps with that question. And we tried to indicate what the national goals are in the first section of the RFP.

All right. Caitlyn, can these funds be used for the collection of water quality and biological monitoring?

Caitlyn Whittle

Yes.

Surabhi Shah

That's probably the shortest answer that I have heard on this webinar.

Sun, this one is for you. Are there limitations on travel expenses under this grant?

Ji-Sun (Sun) Yi

No, there aren't any specific limitations on travel expenses. They would just, again, have to be reasonable and appropriate and when we see, you know, what the proposed budget is and the complete proposal package.

Surabhi Shah

Okay. We've got a question for you, Caitlyn. If the proposed work includes the generation of water quality data, do those data have to meet the QA/QC criteria for submission to store at or other EPA data quality objectives?

Caitlyn Whittle

Yes, they do, Surabhi. And, in fact, an applicant doesn't necessarily have to submit their QA/QC plan with their application. That can be something that's negotiated, if they don't already have one with EPA. That's something that can be negotiated after the selection process, but it does need to be approved by the agency before they can collect any data.

Surabhi Shah

And, you know, I would add to what Caitlyn said. You are exactly right, Caitlyn, in the very last section of the RFP, it indicates essentially that you don't need to put all of your QA/QC information

together, if you don't already have it, and it's not supplemental information. We will help you, EPA, if you're selected for this grant, we'll work with you. What you need to do is make sure, in your application, that you understand enough about what that's going to entail, that you budget time and resources for doing your QA/QC work. Anyone else want to add to that, or have we pretty much covered QA/QC?

Okay. Caitlyn, I have one more for you on this same topic. And it's sort of a nice fundamental question, which is: what is a QAPP or QA/QC?

Caitlyn Whittle

A QAPP or a QA/QC plan describes how data will be collected and quality assured and quality controlled so that those data are usable for agency purposes and that we know that they were collected in such a way that the data are good quality data and that we can use them going forward.

Surabhi Shah

Very good. Thank you. A couple quick ones. Planting trees, is that considered an implementation activity? Sun?

Ji-Sun (Sun) Yi

Yes. If that's all that the proposed project entails, then that would be considered an implementation project.

Surabhi Shah

And I like the way you answered because it reminds me that if planting trees is just one component a larger picture of watershed forestry and water quality objective is really the end point and maybe it's training or other eligible activity, that would depend on the proposal, but certainly sitting here, looking at that phrase, planting trees, is that an eligible activity? No, that would be considered implementation.

Another similar question. Would a water body clean-up be an eligible expense? Do you want to take that one, Caitlyn?

Caitlyn Whittle

Sure. And I think the answer is very similar to the one you just gave in that pure water clean-up is not an eligible activity, but if it were a part of something larger that were eligible, like a training or educational program or something like that, then, you know, we would have to look at it and make that kind of a call.

Surabhi Shah

Very good. Well, I'm getting really addicted to these Q's & A's, but I'm reminded now to come to the next section, again, to make sure we cover all the material.

So now we're going to move back to Section IV of the RFP and Sun will start off with an overview of the application submission process.

Ji-Sun (Sun) Yi

Thanks, Surabhi. Just as a reminder again, even though Caitlyn and I are skimming through the RFP today on the webinar, please do take the time to read through the entire document carefully.

Okay, so moving on to page 14, Section IV B. Before I begin, I would like to make a note. It's not highlighted up there on your screen in this document, but at the top of this page, on page 14, there's an incorrect phone number listed there for the grants and Interagency Agreements Management Division. And for those that need a hard copy of the grant application form, the language that is up there right now indicates for interested applicants to call that number, but that's an incorrect number. And if this does apply to you, if you would like a hard copy of the grant application form, and you can't access it electronically at that URL listed there, you can send an email to gad_ogdweb@epa.gov with paper application kit in the subject line to request a hard copies of the grant application forms to be mailed to you. A note about this correction has been added to the website. It's underneath the information that email address I just had -- I just said is on our website and it is located under the FAQ link on the urban waters web page.

Okay. So in submitting your application package you can do it in one of two ways. You can submit electronically via grants.gov or you can send it in hard copy form with a CD of the electronic copy of your application package and send it over -- by overnight delivery, hand delivery, or courier service to the EPA regional contact listed on pages 18 through 20 in this section.

If you choose to submit your proposal through grants.gov, it's important to follow the instructions provided on this page, page 14, through page 17 in this section. I'd like to note that the electronic submission of your proposal must be done by an official representative of your organization who is registered with grants.gov and is authorized to sign applications for federal assistance and to register on grants.gov you can go to www.grants.gov and click on "get registered" on the left side of that page. Also, the grants.gov registration process can take a week or longer to complete. So it's important to register as soon as possible if this is the method you plan to use in submitting your proposal package.

Unidentified Speaker

Can you speak louder?

Ji-Sun (Sun) Yi

Your organization will need to designate an Authorized Organization Representative or AOR to complete the registration process.

Going on to page 17. Also, if you experience problems submitting the proposal through grants.gov, please call the grants.gov helpline 800-518-4726 or you can send them an email through the website that is listed there. You may also contact me at 202-566-0730 or send an email to urbanwaters@epa.gov if you're experiencing electronic submission issues. If you don't receive a confirmation of receipt from EPA, it will come from EPA, not grants.gov about -- that your electronic submission has been received within 30 days of the proposal deadline. So that would

be February 23rd. Please contact me at the number that's listed there or by sending an email to the urbanwaters@epa.gov.

For those who choose to send their proposals through hard copy submission, you will need to send two hard copies of all required documents listed in Section IV C, which Caitlyn is going to go over in a minute. And electronic version of it on a CD. And send them by express courier or hand delivery services. They should be delivered to the appropriate EPA regional contact mailing address that is listed on pages 18 through 20.

I'd also like to note that these regional contacts are listed for the sole purpose of where applicants should send hard copies. So please do not contact the regions with questions regarding this announcement. Instead what we ask that email all your questions to urbanwaters@epa.gov.

Proposals should be submitted to the appropriate EPA regional office that serves the project location, and the states and territories that are served by each region are listed in the parentheses next to the offices contact information that's listed on pages 18 through 20. If the project location is served by two or more EPA regions, proposals should be submitted to the appropriate regional office based on where majority of the work will take place.

So, for example, if the project is located in both Pennsylvania, which is served by EPA Region 3, and New Jersey, which is served by EPA Region 2, you'll need to determine where most of the work will take place and submit it to the appropriate regional office.

Again, if you're not sure where -- which region your proposal should be sent to, you can contact me and that number again is 202-566-0730 or you can send an email to urbanwaters@epa.gov.

Next, Caitlyn is going to cover what your proposal package should include and how the proposals will be evaluated.

Caitlyn Whittle

So there's three documents that need to be included in your application package, and the first is a signed Standard Form 424, which is the application for federal assistance. Please note that a Dun & Bradstreet Data Universal Number System, DUNS number must be included on this form. You can obtain a DUNS number at no cost by calling 1-866-705-5711 or going on the website at www.dnb.com.

The second item you need to include in your application package is the Standard Form 424A, which is a budget information for non-construction program.

And the major piece of your package is number 3, your proposal narrative. It's important to note that the proposal narrative, which does include your cover page, must be limited to no more than 10 pages, including the cover page. We will not be able to review any pages beyond the 10-page limit. Supporting materials like resumes, letters of commitment and documentation of community priorities are not considered part of that ten-page limit.

There are two parts to the proposal narrative, and the first is the cover page, which needs to have seven things on that page, and those are all listed on page 21 of the RFP.

Now, on page 21 of the RFP, you also can find the beginning of the most important part of the proposal narrative, and that is your project description. The information provided in the project description is what your proposal will be evaluated on. In short, the description will need to include the three key elements that I talked about at the beginning of this webinar, which is listed as A, B, C, in this list.

Part D is the environmental results and measuring progress where you describe what would be your outputs and outcomes of a successful project.

Now, on page 22, we continue into part E of the project, which is the project schedule, and part F where we're asking you to explain how the results of the project will be shared with others.

In part G, we ask you for the project budget breakdown, including how your match requirement will be met.

I'd like to pause here for a minute to talk about a few questions we've received about whether or not grant funds may be used towards stipends for interns hired to work on the proposed project. The answer is yes. Stipends are an eligible expense provided that the work performed is necessary to carry out the funded project. So grant funds can't be used towards compensating those who are not hired as employees, but work or are part of the project. For example, paying volunteers that help with an educational outreach campaign would not be an allowable expense. But if you pay these volunteers using your own funds, not federal grant funds, this contribution can be used towards your \$2,500 match requirement so long as that activity you're paying them for is eligible under the Clean Water Act 104(b)(3), and also meets the requirements stated in 40 Code Of Federal Regulations 30.23 and 31.24. Those costs would have to be included in your proposed budget.

Now, on page 23, we go into part h where you should provide the information on your organizational experience and the key staff that will work on your project. In part i you should discuss your organization's task performance on similar assisted agreements. And in part j on page 24, we're asking you to provide information on how you plan to meet the QA/QC requirements if they apply to you. This part of the proposal description is not included in your page limit. The QA/QC requirements are discussed in more detail in Section VIII A of the RFP and apply to those who proposed to collect or use environmental data as part of the project. If these requirements apply to you, you don't need to submit a QA plan at this time. If your project is selected, the decision on whether or not a QAPP is needed for the project will be determined at that time. And EPA can work with you on which requirements need to be met. But if you plan to use grant funds to develop a QAUCK, those costs should be included in your proposed budget and the time to develop the QAPP should be reflected in your proposed timeline.

Now, on page 25, we're going to move into criteria, which is Section V A. Here we talk about how the proposals will be evaluated and how each criteria is weighted based on the 100-point scale.

We touched on all these criteria just now, but I would like to highlight for you the point breakdown for each. Technical approach is worth a total of 30 points. Subcriterion A, Water Quality Restoration is 15 of those points and subcriterion B, Relevance to Community Priorities is worth 5 points. Subcriterion C, Selection Potential and Project Feasibility is worth 10.

On page 26, criteria number 2, Partnerships is worth a total of 8 points and is discussed in Section I B of the RFP. And number 3, the Benefits to Community criterion is worth 7 points, also discussed in Section I B of the RFP. Number 4, the Proposed Project Schedule and Project Budget in Transfer of Results are worth a total of 15 points, each being worth an individual 5, and those are discussed in Section IV of the RFP.

On page 27, the total points for Environmental Results is 20 points, and each of those subcriterion are each worth 10 of those 20. Programmatic Capability is worth a total of 10 with each subcriterion being worth 5. That's in Section IV -- described in Section IV in more detail. And Past Performance Criterion, total number of points is 10 with subcriterion A being worth 4 points, subcriterion B being worth 3 and subcriterion C being worth 3 as well.

For this test performance criterion, it's important to note that if you don't have relevant past performance information to include in your proposal, that you will receive a neutral score. A neutral score is half the amount of each subcriterion. So 2 for subcriterion A, 1 and a half for B and one and a half for C. Please make sure that if you don't have any past performance information, a statement that says that you have no relevant past performance information, it should be included. If you don't include any type of statement like that, it could result in getting a zero for this criterion. So it's a good idea to make sure you add some kind of statement about past performance, at least to make sure you get the neutral score here.

That wraps up this section of the RFP. Are we ready for some questions?

Surabhi Shah

We are. Thanks, Caitlyn. We've had great questions submitted and I'm just going to start going through them. Sun, maybe take the first one. When will grants be awarded and when will the awarded grant need to be spent by? The awarded grant need to be spent by?

Ji-Sun (Sun) Yi

Sure. We expect to make awards by summer of 2012. The cooperative agreements are two-year project performance periods. So when they need to be spent by would be within those two years of the project period.

Surabhi Shah

Great. Thanks, Sun. And Jim, you had something to add?

Jim Drummond

Yes, the -- depending on the regulations and the terms and conditions, the agency may be willing to extend those periods under the regulations it's contemplated a one-year project extension provided

its complete the project, not just to spend down money unnecessarily. But that would be in the terms and conditions, whether the program office decides to allow that one-year extension.

Surabhi Shah

Okay. So from the grantee's perspective, when they are providing us with a time line for the project, it's a two-year project, we do understand that the unexpected can happen and we will work with you within the limits of what Jim described, the extra year. Great.

Caitlyn, got a question here. If someone is putting in an electronic proposal and they are just worried if it's going through or not and they also put through a hard copy proposal, will we disqualify them? That's the question.

Caitlyn Whittle

No, they wouldn't be disqualified.

Surabhi Shah

Great. Another piece here. We currently have a contract with a water quality lab, and they will be analyzing our samples as part of the grant proposal. Would we need to competitively bid this analysis associated with the grant? We just want to let you know that our current contract with this lab was competitively bid out. Caitlyn?

Caitlyn Whittle

Sure, I can take that one. No, because it's already been competitively bided out. The competitive procurement provisions have already met in this case, so they wouldn't -- you would not have to compete that out for that lab.

Surabhi Shah

Great. Thank you. Caitlyn, the next one for you. Can grant funds be used for administration of this grant? And if so, is there sort of a maximum amount on that?

Caitlyn Whittle

Grant funds can be used for the administrative side of managing the grants. I would say -- I don't think we have a specific percentage. It just would have to be reasonable, you know, in relation to the project and the amount of funding and that sort of thing.

Surabhi Shah

So we want to see something that seems reasonable with respect to the project, and when we are analyzing and assessing and evaluating the budget, that's where we take that into account, but there is no particular maximum percentage for the grant administration. Is that right?

Caitlyn Whittle

Right. Thank you, Surabhi.

Surabhi Shah

Very good. Sun, next question. Somebody is asking here about if they don't know who they're going to use for a particular service, can they leave the service provider blank and just give an estimate?

Go ahead, Jim, you want to talk about that?

Jim Drummond

Is this the question where they say that they sort of know who they're going to give it to anyway?

Surabhi Shah

That is right.

Jim Drummond

Based on that, I think the question indicates maybe you don't understand the competitive procurement procedures and refer you to the provision in the RFP on that point. You're to compete your contracts fully and openly. If you've got someone in mind, leaving it blank is not going to relieve you of that obligation. Putting their name is not going to relieve you of that obligation. You have to conduct a fair procurement.

Surabhi Shah

Great, thanks. Again, to folks, some of these questions, if they're very specific questions about subgrants and competitive process, we'll be handling that in the last half hour of the webinar.

Here is a question. If part of our project is meeting the eligibility, so, community participation, education, training, and part of our project is not eligible under your grant, implementation, how does that affect the grant? How does that affect your view and evaluation of this grant? Caitlyn, do you want to speak to that?

Caitlyn Whittle

Sure. So it sounds like part of what they're planning to do would be eligible and part of what they would like to do is not eligible, is that the case?

Surabhi Shah

That's right.

Caitlyn Whittle

So it would seem to me that they would have to -- you know, they could obviously only apply to EPA for funds to support the activities that were eligible under our Funding Authority, and I guess to make those activities relevant, it probably would be worthwhile to tell us about the other parts of their activity, but they -- you know, obviously we could not use EPA funds to pay for those types of things. And in fact, it might be worth mentioning again that max dollars also cannot be used to pay for activities that are ineligible under Clean Water Act 104(b)(3).

Surabhi Shah

So one way for folks to think about what Caitlyn is saying, I think, is think about an eligible project. You may be doing other things, but think about the eligible project as the project that you're putting in for this proposal and make sure that everything that you're asking for funds for and your match are all eligible expenses under this grant. You may be doing lots of other things and you want to tell us about them to make sure we understand the background and context of your project, but you want the proposal you send to us to be all eligible activities.

Okay. We have more questions. Somebody is asking, they have a stormwater best management practice that they want to design, not implement. Sun, they're asking would that be an eligible expense. Again, this is best management practice or BMP for stormwater.

Ji-Sun (Sun) Yi

Yes, that would be an eligible activity under 104(b)(3)

Surabhi Shah

Great, well I see the clock is a ticking, and I wanted to make sure again, that we do cover the rest of our content for the webinar. So we'll come back for a final round of Q&A in a bit, but on to the home stretch now. Sun, you're going to go over the final key sections of the RFP that we really wanted to make sure to highlight today, starting with review and selection process. Go ahead.

Ji-Sun (Sun) Yi

Sure, thanks Surabhi. As we mentioned before, each regional office will be making the selections and awards for these grants, and this section, we are in Section V, part B, this section provides some information on how that process will work. So each regional office is going to review the proposal submitted for their region, and they'll be -- they'll first screen the proposals that come in and the review will happen with regional staff, and they'll review it against the threshold criteria, and those that don't meet those minimum requirements won't be further evaluated. The eligible proposals will be evaluated using the selection criteria that Caitlyn just went over, and the evaluations will be done, again, by regional staff and the review panel may also include representatives from other federal agencies that are part of the Urban Waters Federal Partnership. The proposal will be ranked based on the reviewers' scores and the scores and rankings will be provided to the EPA regional selection official for final selections. And then making the final selections, the selection official can also consider geographic diversity, project diversity, and funding availability in making the final decision.

Going on to page 29, Section VI. When all of the proposals have been evaluated, all applicants will be notified about their status and we expect to notify applicants about their status by the spring of 2012 and make the awards, as I mentioned earlier, by the summer of 2012.

Skipping to pages -- to page 31. I'd like to talk a little bit about part K in this section, which discusses the national training workshop. So the details of it go -- are on page 32. Those who are awarded an urban waters small grant will be required to attend an EPA sponsored national training workshop, and the workshop will likely take place over two days during the first year of the

cooperative agreement, and we ask that at least one representative from the recipient organization plan to attend this workshop. This training will hopefully provide an opportunity to learn about strategic planning and grants management, as well as give recipients a chance to network with others who are doing urban waters work. We haven't decided yet where the workshop is going to take place and the exact dates for it, but grantees are allowed to -- will be allowed to use grant funds to pay for one person's travel and lodging to attend the workshop. So if you plan on doing that, you should include those costs in the proposed budget. Since the exact location and the dates aren't known yet, if you are budgeting for the travel and the lodging costs, you can make the best guess for now, and if your project is selected, the budgeted cost can be finalized after the award is made.

Moving on to Section VII. I would just like to remind you of my contact information for additional questions that may come up after today's webinar. My phone number is listed there. 202-566-0730 and questions can be emailed to urbanwaters@epa.gov.

As Caitlyn mentioned earlier, we've received a lot of questions since RFP was announced, and we're doing our best to answer those questions as promptly as possible. You might find that your question has already been answered on our FAQ page on the website, so please take a look at that, and there might be additional information on there that might be helpful for you.

And Surabhi mentioned earlier, today's webinar is being recorded, and it will be posted on our website in the next week or so, hopefully the materials and recording of the December 14th webinar is also available on our website.

I think we've covered everything that we wanted to cover with you today during this webinar. So -- and I think we're in for another round of questions, so, Surabhi, do you want to start us off?

Surabhi Shah

Will do. Sun, a question we have here: is placement of signage to increase awareness of local watersheds considered an eligible activity?

Ji-Sun (Sun) Yi

Yes, that is eligible under 104(b)(3).

Surabhi Shah

Great. Caitlyn, if we put the objective output outcomes and time line in a table, will we still have to include that in the narrative or will that suffice?

Caitlyn Whittle

Yeah, I --

Surabhi Shah

Caitlyn, did you hear the question?

Caitlyn Whittle

I did. Sorry, I was just thinking.

Surabhi Shah

That's always good.

Caitlyn Whittle

If it's in a table, it would still count as part of your ten pages since that is part of the proposal narrative that we need to have submitted for evaluation. So whatever format it's in, it would count as part of your page limit.

Surabhi Shah

So folks can present it in table format, in a narrative format, however they like, but that will be part of the ten pages because it's something that's part of the main proposal. Is that right?

Caitlyn Whittle

Yes.

Surabhi Shah

Okay, great. Sun, here is a good one, too. How do we know if another entity within our university has submitted a proposal for this grant?

Ji-Sun (Sun) Yi

Yeah, that is a great question.

Surabhi Shah

We've been thinking about that, haven't we?

Ji-Sun (Sun) Yi

Yeah, we have been. So basically, on our end, when these proposals come in, we will be keeping track of that ourselves, and if we do find that there are more than one entity that -- or more than one proposal by the same entity, then we'll be contacting that applicant to determine which proposal they want to submit for the grants.

Surabhi Shah

Great. Sun -- sorry, Caitlyn, we have got a question for you. If a non-profit organization is applying for this grant and they haven't had a cooperative agreement with EPA previously, does it put this organization or applicant at a disadvantage or below others with respect to their score on that criterion of past performance?

Caitlyn Whittle

If it's a non-profit organization or any organization has no experience with EPA grants in the past, they would receive a neutral score on the past performance criteria, and they would get half points

so long as they tell us that. If they make no mention of it and it's just not addressed whatsoever in the proposal, they would, in fact, get a zero score. So I would like to urge anybody with no past performance with EPA to make sure that you acknowledge that in the proposal and let us know, that way you would get a half score or a neutral score for past performance.

Bruce Binder

Yeah, this is Bruce Binder with the grant. Just one thing to clarify with that. Under the RFP, they don't have to provide information on EPA. It's federally or non-federally funded assistance agreements. So it doesn't have to be an EPA grant. If you have a prior -- any prior grants, you could provide that information and we would evaluate it. It's just that if you have no prior grants with either the federal government or anybody else, you would get the half points.

Surabhi Shah

So it's good to remind people -- I know this particular question is about EPA grants, but as Bruce points out, the RFP gives you credit if you have past performance with other federal or non-federal grants. So please be sure to mention that. Again, as Caitlyn mentioned, if you don't have experience with any kind of grant or cooperative agreement in the past, be sure to mention that and we'll give you a neutral score.

Okay. Another question here. It says, if there is -- let's see here. If I am applying and there is a partner on my application -- so somebody who is a non-profit partner, for instance. Can that entity submit their own application even though they're a partner on mine?

That's a great question that comes up all the time. Sun, you want to take that.

Ji-Sun (Sun) Yi

Sure. Yes, they can -- that partner can be a lead applicant on their own proposal that they submit for this grant. So the limit is just on how many proposals can be -- one proposal can only be submitted per applicant

Surabhi Shah

Great, thank you. Caitlyn, here is one for you. If a non-profit has no paid staff currently, can this funding be used to hire a staff person to implement this project?

Caitlyn Whittle

Yes, that would be an eligible cost so long as their activities were under the grant and that they were allowable under our Funding Authority.

Surabhi Shah

Great. Similarly, just a follow-up to that. We've got another one, same kind of question, slightly different twist. Can staff time be written into the grant budget, and if so, is there a limit to how much staff time can be written into the budget?

Caitlyn, you want to take that too?

Caitlyn Whittle

Sure. And, yes, staff time can be written into the budget. There is no actual percentage limit. Again, it would just have to be reasonable and allowable under -- you know, reasonable with regard to the project cost and proposal and the activities would have to be allowable under our Funding Authority.

Surabhi Shah

Great, thank you very much. Here it says, could you expand on the concept of principal investigators being ineligible? If our organization applies and the principle investigator is an employee of our organization, is that okay?

Ji-Sun (Sun) Yi

Yeah, this is Sun. Yeah, that's fine. The idea of principal investigator, if it is an individual -- the idea behind that is, if it's the individual themselves that is applying for the proposal, because individuals are ineligible applicants for this funding opportunity. If that principal investigator is part of the organization and the organization itself is the applicant, then that is -- that's acceptable.

Surabhi Shah

Great. Thank you. Caitlyn, can these funds be used to collect water quality and biological monitoring data?

Caitlyn Whittle

Yes, that's an allowable project activity under Clean Water Act 104(b)(3).

Surabhi Shah

Very good. Question for you, Sun. Who will the reviewers of these proposals be? Are they EPA staff or other people?

Ji-Sun (Sun) Yi

Yeah. The reviewers will be EPA staff and they may also include representatives from other federal agencies that are part of the Urban Waters Federal Partnership.

Surabhi Shah

Great. Caitlyn, there is a question here about, can you provide me with additional information regarding reporting requirements following an award?

Caitlyn Whittle

That would come under the programmatic terms and conditions, which I think are outlined toward the end of the RFP. They're in section something J.
[laughing]

Surabhi Shah

You sure know your RFP. You've been looking at it a lot haven't you?

Caitlyn Whittle

Section VI J on page 31. And I think we say that performance reports and financial reports must be submitted semi-annually and are due 30 days after the reporting period. And the final report would be due 90 days after the expiration of the grant agreement. So I would just recommend that this question just review this section for more detailed information

Surabhi Shah

Okay, if the questioner would like more information about this very specifically, what would you like them to do?

Caitlyn Whittle

Go to Section VI J of the RFP on page 31 under "reporting."

Surabhi Shah

Okay. Very good. Thank you.

Here is a question. Might need some team work on this one. Well-established technology that they want to do, but it's be used in a new analytical approach. Would that be a demonstration? Thoughts on that, folks? Jim, we have a question here where somebody is saying they have a well-established technology that they would like to propose to work on under a grant and they want to propose that it's used in a new analytical approach. Would that be enough to make it a demonstration?

Jim Drummond

I think that would be, as I put in there in the category of a yellow light. We're not going to rule that out. It depends on how innovative the new application is, how widespread it could be applied, and the applicant's plan for disseminating information on that technology broadly as opposed to simply improving their existing system to maybe operate a facility or that type of thing. So if you think of the traffic light with red, green and yellow, it's often demonstration projects questions that come up, and that would be in the yellow category.

Surabhi Shah

Thank you. Thanks so much, Jim. You know, we have a few other people asking a question that we sort of addressed earlier, but I want to make sure to repeat it. Folks are asking, how do I know if I'm a state agency and there's another person in a state agency also applying? How will I know?

Well, certainly, as Sun said earlier, just to recap, you can certainly do some outreach and try to find out who else is interested and see if you can come together on a proposal, but let's say that just doesn't happen, because there may not be a mechanism for you to easily find that out. What we're going to do is check here at EPA to see if we have multiple applications from one applicant, from our perspective, and if that's the case, we're going to try to check with you and find out, as your entity, whether it is a state or a university, we'd like to find out from you which application you would like us to put forward. Now we'll need a timely response on that. If we don't hear back, we'll probably make the call to make the first one that came in. But we would really rather hear

from you. So if you think that might be the case and we get in touch with you after January 23rd, please be ready to respond quickly so we can take your decision into account on that.

Looking at some of our questions, we have more of them coming in, and some of them are starting to get into the area that we will handle now in our special session.

Remember last webinar, for those who were there, and even those who weren't, what happened is we had a lot of very specific questions about subawards, about procurement, competition, contracts, and subcontracts, and so shortly we're going to go to that section. Before we do that, though, I know some of you may be signing off, if you don't have questions about that, so I would like to make sure to give you a little concluding information.

First of all, please do visit our website to find out more about the urban waters small grants, as Sun and Caitlyn noted, they've highlighted a few really important parts of this RFP, but we urge you to read the entire RFP to really make sure that your response to the RFP and your proposal is competitive and puts your best foot forward. With that said, you probably do maybe have some questions or maybe the Frequently Asked Questions document can be a place for you to go and get questions to -- answers to questions you didn't even realize you had. It is the quickest way to get a question answered is to look at the FAQ document. Again, it's at epa.gov/urbanwaters/funding.

You'll also find, shortly, in about a week or so, a recording of today's webinar posted on that website. Please check back frequently.

And finally, we actually got to most of your questions today that were not about the special session, and so if you didn't get your question answered, please go ahead and email -- sorry -- at the end of this webinar, if you didn't get your question answered, then definitely email your question to urbanwaters@epa.gov. We'll be accepting questions until January 16th. So we really urge you to get your questions in on time so we can answer them. And the proposal deadline, of course, again, is Monday, January 23rd.

For those of you signing off, thanks so much for joining us today. And we look forward to your proposal.

Now, for those of you who are staying on with us for the contracts and subawards questions, we would like to have some introductory remarks from Jim Drummond of our Office of General Counsel. Jim?

Jim Drummond

Okay, thank you, Surabhi. I'm going to try and give some opening remarks based on what I've seen, the questions coming over the screen. There are a lot of questions in this area and we'll try and give you some very direct answers. But first of all, as an overview, there's a difference between a subaward of financial assistance and a procurement contract. And the difference is very critical in a number of ways. First of all, a subaward of financial assistance will generally be, in this particular grant program, will invariably be to a non-profit organization or university to support that organization's program that is part of an application. That's a very important aspect of a subaward. If, for example, an organization is subawarding accounting services to another

non-profit organization, that in our view is not a proper subaward. That's simply a commercial service you happen to be obtaining from a non-profit organization. On the other hand, if two watershed groups, two non-profit watershed groups, are working together -- I'll even use the word I'll use later and say it doesn't matter that you use this word, "partnering" to work on a training project -- community education project to cover both of their areas. That's fine. That's a subaward. A research project in which a non-profit organization makes a subaward to a university for part of the research because the university has a whizbang professor who is really good in the area, that's a proper subaward as well. Finally, a training program, a non-profit organization providing a subaward to local community college, to the local university for part of its program, that's fine.

A procurement is any acquisition of services that are available commercially and do not involve a situation where the money is transferred to further another organization's program. For example, there was a question up here about partnering with an engineering firm, and can the grant funds be used to pay engineering fees? In that case, the word "partners" to me, kind of so what. You have to hire an engineering firm competitively. I want to repeat that. You have to hire your engineering firm competitively. You don't have to hire your engineering firm based on price. That's part of the grant regulations. But you have to compete on quality, and price is one of the factors. Same with consultants, individual consultants. Naming individual consultants, as your, "partner", is not going to relieve you the obligation to complete that contract. We basically put this information in the RFP in considerable detail. And I urge you to review it. That's why, Sun, at the very beginning, we put it at the beginning of the proposal for folks to read that information. Yet, some of the questions I'm seeing indicate that there's maybe a misunderstanding about that, about partnering. We had a great question earlier about the lab, about having competitively bid its contract earlier. Yes, we accept that. That's competitively awarded contract. One slight proviso, though the work has to be within the scope of the contract. You can't add additional work noncompetitively. But many lab type contracts are very general contracts, so that's okay.

In a subaward situation, understand that the organization that is seeing the subaward cannot make a profit. It's a cost base transaction. The subawardee is accountable to you, the grantee, for incurring eligible and allowable costs. If something goes wrong, that there's an audit, a program that is big and visible is liable to draw the attention of Inspector General's auditors, and it's determined that the cost that the subgrantee incurs are ineligible, we will be looking to the grantee to reimburse us for those non-allowable costs. That's kind of the general idea. Please keep in mind, although we urge partnerships in this program, the rules are different when it comes to a financial transaction. There's no partnering in the grant regulations. If you have a proper subaward, along the lines I mentioned before, with the training project or the community education project, that's fine. But if you're trying to, "partner" with a consultant, an engineering firm, and you are going to put them in your application and give it to us and afterwards say, well, we named them in the application, so we didn't have to award this competitively, that's simply not going to work. Okay?

Surabhi Shah

Great. Thanks, Jim, for starting us off with those. I want to make sure that it's clear. Let me try

to summarize. If I am -- because we do encourage partnerships in this program. We think some of the strongest work comes from partnerships. If I'm an applicant and I would like to work with a non-profit organization, I can work with them, but I have to understand that the money I give them is a subaward.

Jim Drummond

A proper subaward.

Surabhi Shah

And if it's a proper subaward, that means that I'm not asking a watershed organization to do something that's a commercially available service like typing, editing, document preparation, design work, accounting. I'm asking them to do things that are in line with their mission.

Jim Drummond

I would say one caveat. The design work could possibly be a proper subaward if it's an organization. For example, you have non-profit organizations of architects and engineers that provide community services on a non-profit basis for design.

Surabhi Shah

Got it.

Jim Drummond

Or innovative design non-profit, I think that may be, again, in the yellow light category.

Surabhi Shah

Okay.

Jim Drummond

But simply, you have a specification and you want somebody to do the design work to fill it out, you're right, that would be a commercial service.

Surabhi Shah

Okay. So if it's something you can't just get an off the shelf, yellow pages person to competitively do a service that is commercially available, if it's something that is really in line with the mission of my non-profit partner, that's fine. I can do a proper subaward. What does it mean for it to be a proper subaward?

Jim Drummond

It has to be, as I mentioned, on a cost basis, on a cost reimbursement basis. EPA doesn't pay management fees or other increments above cost. So with only -- and again only for eligible and allowable costs under the cost principals. And the other thing, I'd like when an organization contracts with an organization, let's say they are contracting on a fixed fee basis, if the service provides in the scope of work, we don't care how that contractor spends the money on a fixed price basis. On a cost reimbursement basis there may be some issues on cost allowability, and it's

perfectly reasonable for a contractor, a commercial organization, to make a reasonable profit.

Surabhi Shah

Okay. So, again, if it's a contractor, it's business. We compete it. We want to make sure you competed it. The evidence of competition can just be very common sense that you've gotten some bids, that based on cost and quality, you're picking the best person or the best organization, the commercial entity. If it's a non-profit organization or a university and they're acting in keeping with their mission, you can reimburse them for the cost that they incur in doing the work on this project. They don't make a profit, they're not a commercial entity. Those are the two options that we're really looking at.

I want to go ahead and take some questions now and I thank you for the clarification.

We're going to start taking some questions that Jim covered somewhat, but I would really like to make sure we answer them in the language that people asked it. So let's go ahead with the first one. Are partnerships the same as subgrantees or can they be? Jim?

Jim Drummond

The answer is yes. Just as Surabhi and I had the dialogue that went back and forth. A subgrantee can be a partner provided that that the subgrant is a proper one or an activity within the other organization's mission. Two non-profits, a university, community college. Those types of organizations, where they work together on a joint project, both of them playing a substantive role, that's a proper subgrant, again, on a cost reimbursement basis.

Surabhi Shah

Great. Are we using the term "subaward" and "subgrant" pretty much interchangeably in this conversation?

Jim Drummond

Yes, we are.

Surabhi Shah

Okay, I just want to make sure that's clear for everyone on the phone. All right, I have got a great question here. Do I understand correctly, based on what Jim said, that I am partnering -- if I'm partnering with a non-profit and a department within a university, that I don't need to satisfy the competitive procurement policies? Is that true?

Jim Drummond

Yes. Again, subject to the caveats we mentioned, which you're not getting accounting services or document review services from the non-profit, and the university is performing its research or teaching mission, that's fine. No need to compete those.

Surabhi Shah

Okay. We've got a question here. So would students at a university who are offering engineering or architectural services as a learning opportunity, would that be a subaward?

Jim Drummond

If the subaward was with the university, the answer would be yes. That would be part of its mission to train them. If you're talking about individual making subawards to individuals, that issue is still under consideration by the agency, and we'll have to get back with you on that if that's part of an educational program. If the university students are simply coming in and performing basically consulting work, drafting design work, you're hiring them just like anybody else as an employee, that's obvious, they're an employee, otherwise you would have a procurement contract with them if they're providing commercial type services and you have to compete that. Again, it's not hard to compete in that situation, and, in fact, when I went to school, a long, long, time ago, when the people would put up on the student union we need so and so, that's competition. Now days I'm sure it's done through Twitter and social networking and all sorts of things.

Surabhi Shah

Okay. I'm just going to take three cases. We have a student who is really just out there gun for hire, needs to make extra money, because I need to make some extra money, they're just like any other contractor. So they might have a particular competitive bid, maybe not. But they need to be thought about as a contractor in that case. If a student is really an employee of the university and the university is a partner, we can have the applicant can give a subaward to the university for the services that the university is providing on a cost reimbursement basis, is that right, Jim?

Jim Drummond

Not quite. The university is interesting. And the way the circulars work is such that the cost principals for universities are very complex. One thing I know about them is a university can give, as part of its compensation for students, tuition remission, and stipends. So that's part of what we need to consider on the overall -- we're still developing program policy in the area of certain forms of stipends, but under that circular, they probably -- the university would not hire the student. They would either engage in tuition remission or some type of other compensation for the students, which is allowable under the circular.

Surabhi Shah

Very good. What we're going to do is this. We would like people that are working, you are on this webinar and listening to it, go ahead and develop your proposal and as you do so, when you get into the details of your budget, check back on the EPA website on that funding page that we mentioned, and you'll see a Frequently Asked Questions, probably within the week, that will get into some of the details of some of the questions you're uncovering.

Jim, should partnerships commitment letters be included from subcontractors?

Jim Drummond

If the subcontractor was competitively selected, yes. If it's somebody that you've approached without competition and put a commitment letter in there, we're not going to consider them unless you can demonstrate -- because you haven't demonstrated that they were competitively selected.

Surabhi Shah

Very good. I've got another question here. If an applicant is partnered with an engineering firm, can grant funds be used to pay engineering fees? I'm going to give that a shot and I want to see, Jim, if I got this right. In this case, the term "partner" is very broad. But in this case it seems like the engineering firm is being hired by the applicant and the applicant would like to use grant fees to pay the engineering firm. And essentially they're contracting. It's not a subaward. It's not a subgrant. We would call that a contract. And as long as they have a competitive process to hire the most cost effective and quality based response to their needs, they can pay through these grant funds an engineering firm's fees.

Jim Drummond

That's correct. As I mentioned earlier for engineering firms, the regulations do not require that you compete solely on the basis of cost.

Surabhi Shah

Okay. Quality counts.

Jim Drummond

Quality counts.

Surabhi Shah

Very good. Let's see.

Oh, this is another one, very good. Sun, you may want to take this one. Is previous performance related to a particular principal investigator also relevant or are you just looking for past performance for the whole institution? So say you have a university applying for this grant, when we talk about past performance, should it only be about the university or can it also be about specific principle investigators on this project?

Ji-Sun (Sun) Yi

Sure, Surabhi, this is Sun. I can take a stab at that question. My initial thought, and I welcome others' feedback on this, is that the past performance of -- it would be -- I would guess would be the principle investigator's past performance, if they are the primary lead in putting together that proposed project, but I don't know if that's --

Surabhi Shah

Do you have thoughts, Caitlyn?

Caitlyn Whittle

Hi, Surabhi, can you hear me?

Surabhi Shah

So for an applicant this gets a little complex so let me just try to hash it out a little bit and get other people to weigh in. If your applicant is a university, we certainly, in the RFP selection criteria, are

looking for the past performance of the applicant. And if you look over -- maybe someone can look up in the RFP for me the section, we've got someone looking, but you do have a section that talks about past performance and there are a number of points associated with that. The question here is does it have to be for the applicant as an organization or can it also be for the individuals who are part of that organization. And I guess one thing I would like to point out is it's difficult for us to guess what your situation is, but I'll try to give one example. If I'm an engineering professor and I'm a principle investigator on a particular project, but the applicant is really the university of -- well, the university. The point is that if I have been an employee of that university at a time when the university had certain past performance experiences that you want to take credit for here, then that's perfectly acceptable. If the university has experience with grants with EPA but has nothing to do with this department, this project, that would be taken into account, as we do our evaluation process with the information you give us. So obviously the more relevant it is to this project, to this field, to the people involved, that's going to affect your score. If you, again, if your university in a completely different department, completely different line of work, had a previous EPA or federal or non-federal grant, then that's a different experience that you would be able to claim here. But if anyone has any further clarifications, I would welcome them. But I would like people to do --

Caitlyn Whittle

Hi, Surabhi, It's Caitlyn. Can you hear us now?

Surabhi Shah

Now we can, uh-huh.

Caitlyn Whittle

I just wanted to add that it's the prime applicant's past performance that we want to look at because we want to see their ability to manage funds and also to complete -- successfully complete projects and submit reports and things like that. So, I mean, it would be the applicant as a whole, not necessarily that individual investigator because, you know, they wouldn't be the ones -- I would assume that one person wouldn't necessarily be managing the funds or they would be involved, I guess, in the reporting, but it would be that we would want to look at the applicants and their success in managing similar size grants in the past.

Surabhi Shah

And so I think there's a flip side point that you're making which is what if a principle investigator has experience with an EPA grant but the university doesn't? Any thoughts on that, Caitlyn or Lynn?

Caitlyn Whittle

My thought would be that their performance -- it's the applicant really, and if they're not the applicant, then I don't -- I guess I would look to Bruce and Jim to clarify, but my impression would be if they're not -- we want to look at the applicant's past performance. Who is listed on the Standard Form 424 as the applicant. That's whose past performance we will be considering.

Surabhi Shah

So we have a couple different situations that could be what the questioner is asking about, and we're trying to cover a few of them. I think Caitlyn's point is that when we are asking for past performance in this case, we're looking at your ability to manage a grant, your ability to have done this in the past. That this is an ability that you have. And when we say "you," we're talking about the applicant here. Jim, could you provide some additional clarification?

Jim Drummond

Yes, a PI experience, if they have managed a grant before and will be the individual managing this grant, as Surabhi said, that's relevant to this particular proposal, would be important. If the -- you have a PI, though, sometimes the PI's capabilities as -- technical capabilities is relevant in terms of the university's programmatic capacity as opposed to past performance. Don't we have programmatic capacity in here as well?

Surabhi Shah

Uh-huh.

Jim Drummond

So in a situation which you have got a PI, doesn't matter where they were, they were in university X and university Y is applying, while it might not be relevant for past performance because when we have while university Y manages the grant, the PI's experience in water quality monitoring would be relevant in terms of programmatic capabilities. So there's a difference particularly when you talk about PI's, between their technical role and their grants management role.

Surabhi Shah

Very good. So what I would like to do is point people, for final clarity, to page 27. And I think Jim's point is to remind us that while past performance, number 7, we're looking at the ability and past experience of the applicant organization to have managed federal or non-federal assistance agreements and grants in the past. What we're also asking for in number 6 is programmatic capability and specialized experience. And that's where you can take credit for what your principle investigator has done in the past. We hope that has been helpful.

We have a question here we would like to make sure to cover. And I think this may be one of our last questions. We may have time for one more after this. Someone is saying, you know, I'm new to EPA grant writing, where is the firewall between EPA staff and the applicant, that they might be working with in other capacities? In other words, can EPA staff be allowed to work with a partner with an applicant who is working on their proposal? What about state agencies that are working on environmental issues? Can they work with an applicant? Did you want to speak to that a little bit, Sun?

Ji-Sun (Sun) Yi

Sure, I can take a stab at that. I don't think that there can be a relationship there between someone who is interested in applying to the funding opportunity and EPA staff. The -- our competition policy is pretty strict on this, and to ensure an open and fair competition, we don't want

to give unfair advantage to one party over another. So I think that there isn't any -- there shouldn't be any consultation that happens between EPA staff and interested applicants.

Surabhi Shah

And we have got a note in the RFP that we really can't assist people. And Jim, did you want to add to that?

Jim Drummond

Yeah but state agencies can work with you, local government agencies. Many state agencies do have an outreach function where they will help applicants apply for EPA funding and that's perfectly fine. That's up to the state.

Surabhi Shah

So in other words, not only can your state agency apply for a grant and partner with you, but if you're applying, they can assist you in the application. And state programs, local government programs, other non-profits, they can all be a great resource to you as you're putting your application together. I'm trying to see if there's a final question that we can pick up before we close the RFP. And go ahead, Jim, which one do you see?

Yeah, go ahead. We see a question here that says: do design costs need to be competitively bid?

Jim Drummond

The answer is in most cases yes. Surabhi and I had a little dialogue, again, about the potential for a non-profit design center which may exist to provide assistance and to subgrant with them because that's part of their mission, to provide community design, but I would say 95% of the cases your design must be competitively bid. There's also one other.

Surabhi Shah

We have another couple minutes here so I would like to squeeze in as many as we can. One question we have here is about -- which one are you looking at here, Jim?

Yeah, I think this is a really interesting question that we had. Thanks for pointing this one out. If you are planning an educational campaign, the question says, if you are planning an educational campaign, do you have to bid out vendors such as radio stations, or online ad providers in advance as well?

Jim Drummond

Yes.

Surabhi Shah

You do? Now, what would you do if really there are only three radio stations in town? Would you get quotes from each of them?

Jim Drummond

All three of them.

Surabhi Shah

And Jim, what if I wanted to consider who listens to those different things and try to make a case for, well this one is slightly more but they're really the group most of our audience listens to, the people we reach out to, could you consider that as a quality criterion?

Jim Drummond

Yes, you could, but you have to conduct a cost of price analysis. For example, if you decide to select the vendor that costs more but maybe it hits your audience better, maybe just thought they had a better presentation, that's fine, but you have to make sure that you're getting charged the same as other similar situated customers do. We have had situations where companies will say, oh, you've got a federal grant. It doesn't come out of your pocket. We'll just increase the price a bit for you since it doesn't come out of your pocket and you want to hire us.

That is not an acceptable practice. You have to do cost of price analysis to make sure -- particularly if selecting a higher cost vendor, that the price you're being charged is the same as anyone else.

Surabhi Shah

Great. Thanks, Jim. We have a question here about priority in the program. It's less about the special session topic, but I want to make sure we get to it. Is there a stronger priority for proposals that engage a community that's affected by water quality issues or communities that may be affected by the need to improve downstream water quality? And Caitlyn, did you want to take that one?

Caitlyn Whittle

Sure.

Surabhi Shah

Just talking about the community need maybe, that piece, the community need piece of our criteria.

Caitlyn Whittle

Yeah, I would suggest that the question asker review the evaluation criteria where we do talk about community need and also relevance to community priority, which I believe is under the -- under the criteria number one, or maybe it's under number three. But those two criteria do speak to this question specifically and how points will be assigned for how the applicant can respond there, and I think it will -- it is, you know, in the RFP that we're ranking on these two things so clearly they are important to this grant program.

Surabhi Shah

I would add to what Caitlyn said, when I am looking at the RFP, folks, if you can look at the bottom of page 2, you'll see in the background where we talk about the goals and objectives of EPA's

urban waters program. We have got some bullets there that describe that we are trying to work with communities that have been adversely impacted by polluted urban waters. And again, the next bullet talks about involving these communities and others in performance of the project. So I would like folks to take a look at both of those, if they are wondering about the priority on involving communities that have been impacted by water quality or communities that have an interest in improving downstream water quality.

And with that, I'm going to close out our Q&A session. We've just had excellent questions from all of you and so I'm looking forward with all my colleagues at EPA to seeing some great proposals that will really advance the cause of our nation's urban waters and the communities that can really benefit from them and rely on them.

And since you'll be signing off now, again, I would like to make sure that you hear a few final words. Please go to our website for more information on this announcement. Remember our website is epa.gov/urbanwaters/funding. And please remember January 16th is the last day to submit questions. And the following week, January 23rd, on the Monday, is the deadline for submitting proposals.

Again, before I close I would really like to thank Caitlyn Whittle and Sun Yi for their presentations today and I would like to very much thank Bruce Binder and Jim Drummond of EPA for helping us field questions that you've asked. Most of all, thanks to all of you who joined us online today. We hope you found the session informative and we hope you'll use what you learned here today to give us the best proposals you can for the urban waters small grants. Thank you very much.