

EPA

Moderator: Karen Scott
September 26, 2012
4:00 p.m. ET

Operator: Good afternoon. My name is (Bonnie) and I will be your conference operator today. At this time I would like to welcome everyone to the EE Regional Grant Conference Call. All lines have been placed on mute to prevent any background noise. If you should need assistance during the call, please press star then zero and an operator will come online to assist you. Thank you.

Ms. Scott, you may begin your conference.

Karen Scott: Thank you. This is Karen Scott of EPA's Office of Environmental Education. Welcome to the second of two Webinars on the EPA's Environmental Education Grant Program, the 2012 Request for Proposals for Regional Model Grant.

This Webinar provides a general overview of the current RFP and the Environmental Education Grant Application process. Please consult the solicitation or RFP notice the complete details. Note, this will be the only RFP issued by EPA's Office of Environmental Education in fiscal year 2012.

If you have any questions, please send them either in through the Webinar during the course of this Webinar today. Or send your questions to EEGrants@epa.gov. I will attempt to answer as many questions as possible today but most likely we will not get to all of them. The ones we do not get to will be answered probably through EEGrants@epa.gov.

Note that the deadline for proposals to this RFP is November 21, 2012.

The Environmental Education Grants Program is sponsored by EPA's Office of Environmental Education. OEE, the Office of Environmental Education is located in the Office of External Affairs and Environmental Education at EPA.

Note that I'm going to be skipping through some of the slides today or only discuss in very brief parts of them in order to allow more time for questions. Note also that all the information provided in this Webinar and on these slides are also available in the published RFP and on our Website which is epa.gov/education.

The deadline for this RFP, as I said before, is November 21, 2012. That means you can hand deliver by close of business on November 21st. But check with your regional office first to make sure that you know of the close of business time is for that date.

You can also post – have your application post-marked by that date either through the postal service or through a commercial deliver service like UPS or FedEx.

Or you can submit your application electronically through grants.gov but you must do so by 11:59 p.m. Eastern Time on that date, November 21st.

Note that there will only be one award issued in each of EPA's 10 regions. There will be no award issued from headquarters. The approximate amount for each award will be \$216,000. We cannot give out an award for more than \$216,000. But we do expect that the amount for each award will be very close to \$216,000. All proposals must be for models replicable EE programs.

So what are model replicable projects? According EPA, model replicable projects will be ones that advance and strengthened the field of environmental education. There are also projects that are easily replicated in other settings. And this can be other geographic locations, other audience types, and a variety of educational settings, and so forth.

They must be also models of quality, practices, methods, and/or techniques of EE. And they must create a vision for how to inspire behavioral change and promote environmental stewardship.

As far as eligibility to apply, please see section three of the RFP. We also lift all of the (LOs) for organizations on this slide. If you are not sure if you are eligible, please see the frequently asked questions on our Web site at epa.gov/education or send a note to EEGrants@epa.gov.

For those of you who have applied to our grant program before, you will notice that there are fewer educational priorities and fewer environmental priorities than we have listed in the past. So please read the RFP carefully to make sure that the type of program that you are proposing can fit in to one of the educational or environmental priorities. They should fit in to one of both either in – or both in educational priority and in environmental priority. Both of these educational and environmental priorities are defined in the RFP. So please read the RFP to get more detail on this.

What else do you need to know in order to apply? You do need to have a match of at least 25 percent of your total project budget. There will be, as I said before, awards made in the regions only, none from headquarters and only one per region.

Note that you must demonstrate that your project that you're proposing has not been previously funded by EPA or has been significantly changed, expanded, broadened, or enhanced in order to make it a model program. Multiple proposals will be accepted as long as each is for a different project and each is separately submitted.

Please note that we do encourage applications for a funding of project that provide a variety and range of educational and environmental priorities, geographic areas, and audiences as compared to projects we have funded in the past.

We provide the Web site here on this slide of where you can find a description of all the previously projects we have funded. But please note, we have never funded model replicable projects before. We have also never funded projects

for this large an amount, \$216,000. So you are not going to find model replicable projects on that page and you are not going to find projects that are listed for that large of an amount of money.

So what will we fund and not fund? Primarily and the most important thing you must remember is that we are funding environmental education projects. We are not going to be funding simply distribution of information or outreach activities. We can also not fund lobbying or political activities, non-education related research or development, technical training of environmental professionals or construction project. I will be discussing some of these in detail later when I get to the questions.

Budget and cost items. As I said before, you must provide a match of 25 percent of the total budget that you are submitting. You may submit indirect cost in your budget, cost for things such as rent or admin and office support. But you cannot be reimbursed for those indirect costs through the grant project funds unless you have an indirect cost rate agreement with the Federal government. However, there is a new clause in the 2012 RFP that does allow a flat rate of 10 percent for indirect cost for certain non-profits. In order to find out if you are eligible for that, you can send a question to EEGrants@epa.gov.

Regarding contracts and sub-awards, the most important thing to remember is that contractual services must be competed. Sub-grants or sub-awards generally do not have to be competed. But if you do provide sub-grants or sub-awards under this RFP, you may not make any for \$5,000 or less. This is due to a legal technicality that we are dealing with in this office.

Regarding more budget and cost items, we talked about program income in the RFP. Program income is basically the money that a grant recipient earns as a result of a grant-supported activity, for example, workshop fees. Generally, we expect you to use that program income to pay for project costs that are eligible, allowable, and further your project goals. The program income may also help finance your required matching funds.

Regarding food and beverage cost, generally you are allowed to provide refreshment or food at breakfast or lunch if these are working time. You may also provide light refreshments during breaks. You are generally not allowed to provide food or beverages with EPA grant funds for evening receptions, banquets, or when alcohol is served, or entertainment provided.

On your SF-424A which is a budget form and in your detailed budget, make sure that the dollar amounts for those two forms match exactly.

Partnerships are not required I just – on grant program. But we do believe that partnerships can strengthen your project by strengthening your recruitment plans by increasing the potential number and diversity of audiences. And it can increase the variety of and accessibility to expertise needed to create a model project. And sometimes can assist you in meeting the matching funds requirement. Because of all these, you can receive as much as six points for providing Partnership letters of commitment when your application is reviewed. So please read the RFP carefully to see how Partnership letters of commitment fit in with your application.

This year, as we did last year, we are emphasizing the need to expand the conversation on environmentalism through our grant program. Expanding the conversation on environmentalism is an overarching strategy for EPA's current strategic plan. It is also a priority for our current administrator. This office, the Office of Environmental Education, falls under that overarching strategy. And therefore, all grants that are funded in this program must address this in some way.

In this slide, I do define what we mean by expanding the conversation. And I also defined it in the RFP. So please read the RFP carefully to make sure you understand what we mean by this or send a question to EEGrants@epa.gov if you need further clarification.

The content and format for the applications or proposals that you send in is all listed in sections four and five of the RFP. Section four goes into detail about what you should include in your application or proposal. And section five goes into detail about how those parts of your application will be scored by

the reviewer. So note on this slide, I have provided information about the possible total number of points you could receive for each of these sections. By looking at the number of points that are provided in each of the sections, you can get an idea of where we put the most emphasis in your proposals.

Review and selection for funding. Once your application has been ruled eligible, your application will be reviewed by a regional panel of reviewers. You can receive a score of up to 100 points for an application. Again, more detailed information is provided about this in section five of the RFP.

In addition to these Webinars that we have held and in addition to your ability to send questions to EEGrants@epa.gov, we have also provided a page called Frequently Asked Questions. The Frequently Asked Questions page is – or the link is provided to that page on this slide. But basically if you go to epa.gov/education/grants, you should be able to find that page. That page is updated periodically if we do get more questions that come in frequently. So please check back on that page at least several times before you submit your application to make sure you have all of the current information you need.

We did provide the opportunity for people to submit questions prior to this Webinar as we did for the Webinar that we held on September 5th. I'm now going to go through the questions that were submitted for this Webinar and hopefully have time to go through the ones that were submitted for the September 5th Webinar as well and hopefully be able to take a few questions from this Webinar that are submitted during the Webinar itself today.

Note that I have in some cases combined some of the questions or shortened them just in order to make it easier to answer them on this Webinar. So first of all, we got a question that said, is there any limit to the percentage of matching funds that can be in in-kind contributions? And the answer is no. There is no particular limit on that.

Another question was, are there – are salaries allowed as matching funds? Is there any limit to the percentage of the requested grant funds that can be used for salaries? And is there a specific way that salaries need to be stated in the matching fund section? And the answers to those questions are yes, salaries

can be used as match. And there is no set limit. But we do give some advice and the tips for grant applications which can be found on our Web site at the link provided on this page.

But you should be cautious about including what might appear to be excessive personnel or travel cost and high overhead expenses. Your budget must be competitive. Be sure to clearly identify in the detailed budget the sources of all matching funds.

Next question, can office equipment be used as in-kind match? As the RFP says, the match must be for allowable cost and may be provided by the applicant or the partner organization or institution. In addition, this value must be carefully documented. So the answer to the question is yes. You can use office equipment as in-kind match as long as the cost for that equipment would have been allowable in your proposals. In other words, if it was equipment that was absolutely necessary to the project itself that would further the educational goals and so forth.

So be very careful that when you are including something like office equipment as in-kind match, that it is something that would be an allowable cost. And send the question to EEGrants@epa.gov if you're not sure.

Next question, what are the reporting requirements during the award period? So if you should get a grant from us, you will be expected to sending quarterly reports that give brief summaries of your progress, semi-annual reports to give more details and (inaudible) of your progress including your budget and the details final reports that would include your outputs, outcomes, and budget details. And all of those would be required during the award period.

Next question, is there more emphasis on reporting quantitative outputs? For example, the number of workshop given or the number of people educated versus measurable outcomes, for example, project participants becoming environmental stewards. And the answer is that the semi-annual and final reports should include both quantitative and short to mid-term outcomes. In other words, the things that you could accomplish during the period of your project.

Longer term outcomes that could be reasonable projected may also be included. And we do appreciate knowing if you do think that there will be some longer term outcomes and have some reasoning behind that.

Next question, could you give some examples of programs that had been funded in the past? As I said earlier, all the projects we have funded under this grant programs since 1992 are listed with short descriptions on our Web site and I've listed the link there. But you'd basically, again, if you go to epa.gov/education/grants, you will find those projects.

Note again, however, that we have never funded projects such as the one we are soliciting for in this particular RFP.

What's the average level of granted funding for each program? Under this particular RFP, we are funding projects for approximately but no greater than \$216,000. We do not expect to fund projects for much less than that amount, \$216,000. So we do expect the awards to go for pretty close to \$216,000.

Please give more detail on what would be categorized as advocacy promoting a particular point of view or course of action that you list under ineligible activities in section three. Though there's sometimes can appear to be a fine line between advocacy and environmental education, a project advocating for new legislation on a particular environmental education or environmental issue, for example, rather than a project that is educating its audience on how to solve an environmental problem would be ineligible. If you would like more details or more examples about advocacy, please send a question to EEGrants@epa.gov.

Next question, would it strengthen our proposal if we were to do blank rather than blank? We receive a lot of questions like these and we just have to say that we cannot comment on the merits of a particular proposal idea. All we can do is answer questions about things like eligibility or application procedures and so forth.

OK, another question we got was we are an educational 501C3 under Residential Quaker School. Are there eligibility issues regarding our status as an educational institution founded on religious principles? And the answer is

the fact that you are a 501C3 makes you eligible and the religious aspect is irrelevant for eligibility.

Next question that we received for this Webinar, how do you know when something needs to be competitively bid? Generally, sub-grants do not have to be competed but contracts do. If a service is being performed in partnership with the grant recipient, generally a sub-grant is appropriate. But if a service is being performed under complete direction by the grant recipient and is being purchased commercially, generally a competitive bid process must be employed.

And, again, I know this can be confusing so if you have a further question, please don't hesitate to send it to EEGrants@epa.gov.

Next question, is a municipal utility authority eligible to apply for the regional grant opportunity? And from this I'm assuming this was some sort of a city level municipal agency. So the answer to that would be to be eligible, you must have the authority to conduct education programs. You can demonstrate this authority by providing documentation from your State Department of Education or referencing the law or by-laws (of the) establish your agency or quoting your current official mission statement and/or showing us a proof that your authority has been set by practice of education programs in the past.

Next question, would an indoor environmental focus be appropriate under the category of community projects and community focus stewardship activities? And, again, it's sometimes hard to understand exactly what someone is asking but it sounds like that, yes, you could do something that was related to an indoor environmental issue as well as an outdoor environmental issue and still qualify under the community projects in educational priority.

But, again, if you have a more specific question, you can send it to me at EEGrants@epa.gov.

OK, next question, do community focused stewardship activities need to focus on just teachers and/or students or they could include other community members receiving environmental education? And the answer is yes. Community members of any age could qualify as audience members in a

project funded by this grant program and not just teachers and/or current students.

OK, those are all the questions we received for this particular Webinar. We did receive a number of questions for the September 5th Webinar. So I will go through those questions or as many of them as I can get through right now so that we leave time for some more questions from this Webinar itself.

OK, we got a question for the September 5th Webinar that said, we are a part of a collaboration of non-profit environmental education centers. We have camps to which we bring groups of school kids for two to five day residential EE Programs. Can the EPA EE Grant Funds be used to support residential EE Programs conducted for upper elementary and middle school program – and middle school students?

And from what you describe, yes it sounds like this sort of residential program could be eligible. If you apply and intend to conduct your project as a collaboration of partners, be sure to get partnership letters of commitment from the other centers.

Next question was, we are a 501C3 with a school garden grant program. We solicit funds through grants and corporate contributions then redistribute 100% of those funds for learning gardens and workshops at schools in our county. Could we apply for this EPA grant under this condition?

My answer was, it sounds like you intend to redistribute the EPA EE grant funds through sub-grants and that your program has both educational and environmental goals. From what you describe, it does sound like your project would be eligible to apply for a grant. Read the entire RFP carefully to make sure your project adheres to all requirements, especially section 4F on Contracts and Sub-Awards. And note that we cannot allow any sub-grants under this RFP to be awarded for \$5000 or less.

Another question we received was, if our organization does not have an indirect cost rate, should we adjust the budget in our application to allow the addition of indirect cost later, if awarded?

And the answer is that an applicant can begin the negotiations for an Indirect Cost Rate Agreement at the same time that they apply for a grant to this program, or within 90 days of the date of an award of a grant under this solicitation. However, recipients are not allowed to seek reimbursement for indirect costs until an approved indirect cost rate is obtained. If you are a 501C3 non-profit, and if you choose EPA as your cognizant agency, EPA can allow you to charge a flat indirect cost rate of 10 percent of salaries and wages. Note that if you do opt to use this 10 percent flat rate, you're obligated to use it for the life of the grant. Either way, if you don't have an IDC right now and think you will be asking for one, then, yes, factor that into your budget when you submit your application.

Next question, the total allotted to each EPA Region is \$216,000, yet past awards indicate much smaller grants were awarded in our region. Is the regional grant much larger than past years or is it common for the region to award several smaller projects instead of the entire amount in one grant?

And the answer is that this year's RFP is different from past regional EE grant award program RFPs in several ways. And one of them is that we do have a larger amount for the award. And there will be just one award made per region and we do expect that award to be very close to \$216,000.

OK, next question, and this is similar to the one we had for this particular Webinar but this one asked can an EE grant be used for an education program that targets primarily adult?

And, again, the answer is yes. You don't have to be educating K to 12 students. You can educate adult. And I'd quote part of the National Environmental Education Act here that says that we should be reaching all age levels of members of the public.

Next question, can local governments be applicants for EE grants? And, again, this is similar to the question we had about municipal utility authority, I think it was called.

And, again, yes. In the RFP we just referenced local education agencies. But if you can prove that you have some authority to provide educational

programs and you are a local government entity, then, yes, you would be eligible to apply.

Next question, can we apply for a grant in one region to replicate a project that was previously funded by the EPA EE Grants program in another region?

And the answer is that applicants must demonstrate that their proposal is for a project for which they, the applicant have not been previously awarded a grant by EPA's EE Grant Program. Or the applicant must demonstrate that they are expanding, broadening, or otherwise enhancing a project in such a way that it could serve as a replicable model of environmental education practices, methods, or techniques. In addition, we do encourage applications for funding of projects that could provide a variety and range of educational and environmental priorities, geographic areas, and audiences as compared to the pool of previously funded projects in each Region. So please do visit our Web site to see the list and descriptions of proposals previously funded in the region to which you're applying.

Next question, can we apply for funding in one region that would include EE activities in another region? And the answer is, you must apply for funding in the Region in which your project will take place. If you will be conducting a project with activities in multiple regions, apply to the region in which the most activities will take place. Or if all the areas are relatively equal, apply to the region in which you are located.

Next question, can we apply for funding for an outreach project that includes global issues such as the support of sustainable fishing? Would this be considered protecting America's waters?

As we say in the RFP, "Applicant organizations must be located in the United States or territories and the majority of educational activities must take place in the United States, or in the U.S. and Canada and Mexico, or in U.S. Territories." We also do explicitly state, as you say, that water issues should address "Protecting America's Waters". So if you address a global issue in your project, make sure there is a local focus. Also make sure that all of your projects are educational in nature and not just an outreach project. If you want

to know the difference between an educational and an outreach project, please read the RFP carefully where we defined both.

OK, in order to provide time for any questions that may come through the Webinar, I'm going to go through the remainder of these slides fairly quickly. On slide 24, we list some resources that you might find handy for putting together some proposals for what we would consider excellent EE projects. So please look at this slide carefully. All of this information is also provided in the RFP.

On slide 25, we provide a list of tips for success. All of these tips are listed also on our Web site at epa.gov/education/grants. So please do read those carefully in addition to reading the RFP and the frequently asked questions before submitting your application.

Above all, start early. Leave plenty of time to review your application and review it again and edit it and review it again and read the RFP over and over again to make sure that you are addressing everything we have asked you to address in your proposal. Also refer to the online frequently asked questions thoroughly and several times during the time that you are writing your proposal or application.

If you are going to use grants.gov to submit your proposal, have your authorized organization representative register through grants.gov right now. It takes at least two weeks to get through the application process. And there are often some issues that develop. So please do register now in grants.gov if you're going to submit your proposal electronically.

If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to send them to EEGrants@epa.gov. But please do read the RFP and the frequently asked questions thoroughly before sending a question to EEGrants@epa.gov.

On slide 27, we provide our Web address where you can find a lot more information. The frequently asked questions are there. The grant writing tips are there. All the application forms that you need are on that page. And all the past projects that we have funded can be found on that page.

Note that this Webinar is intended to provide a general overview of the Environmental Education Grant Program and the application process. Please review the solicitation or RFP Notice for complete details.

For general information about the EPA's Environmental Education Grant Program, you can contact me at scott.karen@epa.gov. If you have particular questions about this RFP or solicitation notice, though, please send those to EEGrants@epa.gov. Because the questions that come to that e-mail address are going to get priority.

And that ends the formal presentation. At this point, I will take as many as questions as I can get through in the time remaining that have come through our Webinar. So let's...

Female: Well, our first question and there have been several of these, will the slideshow be available on the Web site or can we e-mail it?

Karen Scott: Yes, the PowerPoint presentation that I have used today is going to be provided on our Web site. So, again, go to epa.gov/education/grants and you will find the link to the PowerPoint and a transcript of this presentation today. But it won't be provided until probably next week. It takes a little bit of time to get it up. But the one for the September 5th Webinar is already up on our Web site. So if you'd like to look at that in the meantime, you're welcome to do that.

OK, next question.

Female: How many collaborating partners are recommended?

Karen Scott: No specific number of partners would be recommended by us. We've seen very fine projects with just two partners, you know, the main recipient and a partner. We've also seen fine projects where there were multiple partners. So there's no hard and fast rule on that at all. Just make sure that with any partnerships, you do provide the letter of commitment from your partner or partners because we cannot credit you for having partners if we do not see a letter of commitment from them.

- Female: All right, the next question from the Webinar is, will different regions select the final proposals or will DC?
- Karen Scott: Each of the grants that will be awarded in each of the regions will be reviewed and selected at the regional level. DC or headquarters EPA will not be directly involved in the selection of those grants.
- Female: Previous awards are much less in our region. Is there a benefit or detriment to proposals for less than \$216,000?
- Karen Scott: As I said in the Webinar at the PowerPoint presentation, we do expect to be awarding pretty close to \$216,000 for one project in each of the regions. Not only is there no benefit to providing a proposal for an amount much less than that. It's just not something we would expect to see or expect to award. So I would encourage to you submit proposals for amounts pretty close to that \$216,000. Just make sure that your proposal is not for more than \$216,000 because that will automatically make your proposal ineligible.
- Female: Are there region specific priorities that should be determined or addressed?
- Karen Scott: All of the priorities that we have in this program are listed in the RFP and they're the same for every region across the country. So, no, there are no particular regional priorities for each particular region. The only thing I can say is just make sure that you do look at projects that were previously funded in each region just to see what kind of variety of projects have been funded to make sure that you're not directly duplicating anything or that you're not too far off, I guess, from something that you would normally expect to see in our program.
- Female: Do community colleges qualify for the 10 percent flat rate?
- Karen Scott: Unless the community college is a 501C3 non-profit, I do not believe that you would be able to qualify for that flat 10 percent rate, at least not this year. This year is really being done as kind of an introductory or most a pilot project to see how this works to provide that 10 percent flat rate for just non-profits with your 501C3.

- Female: Can volunteer hours count towards the matching funds?
- Karen Scott: Yes, as long as you can document how you are valuing those volunteer hours, they can count towards match. Generally what you want to do is check with your local region, you know, just to see what kind of wages would be paid for that general type of work that you're asking the volunteers to do. And provide some documentation at how you – as to how you arrived to that figure.
- Female: Do matching funds need to be secured during time of application and submission?
- Karen Scott: You do not have to have the matching funds in hand but you do have to be, you know, 100 percent certain that you're going to be able to get them during the life of the grant. Because if you do not get those matching funds, let's say, from a partner that has committed them to you, you are then obligated to get those matching funds on your own and provide them before the grant can be closed out. Or you could be prosecuted by the Federal government for not providing the matching funds that you obligated yourself to. So be very carefully about listing matching funds on your application. Make sure they are indeed funds that – funds or in-kind services that you can acquire before the end of the grant project period.
- Female: Is there a time period during which grant funds must be expended?
- Karen Scott: As we say in the RFP, we are expecting to get either one- or two-year project proposals. So, yes, you are expected to expend all of the grant funds during either that one- or two-year period. Sometimes we can do a non-cost extension but by virtue of even the name for that, it's obvious that we do expect you to have expended your funds during that project period even if you extend the time to finish up some of your project – your project outputs and so forth. So, yes, whatever you stated as your project period is the time during which we would expect you to expend those funds.
- Female: Can multiple organizations submit an application jointly or must there be a sub-grant arrangement?

Karen Scott: Under this grant program, we can only provide the grant funds to one recipient that we refer to as the prime recipient when there's a partnership type of the situation. And then, you can tell us in your application how you're going to share those funds with your partner. But we can only provide the funds directly to one particular entity.

Female: Can we use letters from partners that were obtained within the past five years?

Karen Scott: We – I think you would have a stronger letter of commitment if you have a letter that was dated fairly recently. I, you know, I can't think of any place where I've seen it – that there are by law has to be a date on the letter that is current. But I would certainly think that if a reviewer was looking at a partnership letter of commitment very carefully and saw that it was dated five years ago, they probably would not give it as many points, possibly no points if they felt that it was not really still appropriate or still relevant for – or even maybe still a possibility for this particular grant proposal.

Female: Please define technical training from environmental personnel.

Karen Scott: We get this question a lot and I know it's not defined in the RFP. But generally, we consider technical training of environmental personnel to be training, let's say, someone like a person who works in a water treatment plant and wants training to get recertified or certified at a higher level or something like that. That would be what we would consider technical training of an environmental professional.

We've gotten a question in the past whether environmental educators were considered to be environmental professionals. And the answer is no. An environmental educator is not considered to be an environmental professional.

Female: Are local and state agencies that are not educational institutions still eligible to apply?

Karen Scott: Yes, I kind of address that before with two different questions we've gotten from both the previous Webinar and for this Webinar. But it comes up so frequently that I will address it again. By law and – I guess I did not mention

this earlier in the Webinar but this whole grant program is governed by the National Environmental Education Act. And in the National Environmental Education Act, they list eligible entities. And we have had to on our own and with the help of our attorney try to figure what the original intent was for those eligible entities.

As far as state agencies go, it does pretty clearly state in the law that State Environmental Education – or Environmental Agencies for State Education Agencies would be eligible to apply. In the law, it says that local education agencies are eligible. Even though it doesn't directly say that a local environmental agency would be eligible to apply, as I said before, if you can show us that in some way either by your regional charter or by by-laws or even by previous practice that you had been given the authority to conduct educational programs, then we will deem you eligible. But please do provide that information when you submit your application if you are a local environmental agency and want to apply under this program.

Female: What is the difference between education and outreach?

Karen Scott: Those two terms are both defined in the RFP. Generally, education would be defined as a program that would be providing critical thinking skills, problem solving skills, and so forth. Whereas outreach program, generally, would be not providing the opportunity to learn those types of skills but more just providing information to people in a community and trying to get them to take action without necessarily providing the educational component. But please do look at the RFP to see how we defined both of those terms. We are, I think, pretty clear in the RFP what we consider the difference between those to be.

And with that, I think, because we're going a little bit over our time, we're going to just take one more question, but I will assure you that all the rest of the questions that have come in through this Webinar will be answered through EEGrants@epa.gov. So do expect to get an e-mail within the next week for that.

And if you have any further questions, please do submit those to
EEGrants@epa.gov.

So with that, we'll go ahead with the last question.

Female: Is the review process different this year compared to past years?

Karen Scott: The review process is fundamentally the same. In past years, we have had a 100-point scoring system. We do have the 100 points again. We have basically the same types of sections that will be reviewed to get those 100 points. The distribution of the points is a little bit different so if you've applied in the past, you want to – you might want to look very carefully at section five of the RFP where you – if you would compare to previous solicitations you'll see there – we're may be putting a little bit more emphasis on some areas and a little less on others and so forth.

But basically your application will be submitted to a review panel. Generally, the review panel is two or three individuals either EPA employees or expert peer reviewers or a combination of the two. And, as I said, they review your applications independently of one another. It gives them a score on that 100 points scoring system. And then those scores are averaged and ranked. And those scores and some other information is provided to the selection official in a briefing. And then the selection official at each regional office makes the final decision, make that final selection. But all of these is described in detail in section five of the Solicitation Notice.

And like I said, fundamentally, no, it's not different from previous RFPs.

And with that, I think, we're going to have to close. But I thank you very much for joining our Webinar today. I do encourage you to submit applications to this grants program. And I do encourage you to read the RFP carefully, read the FAQs, read the tips for grant writing on our Web site. And after reading all of those, if you still have questions, please submit them to EEGrants@epa.gov.

And with that, we will sign off for the day. Thank you very much.

Operator: This concludes today's conference call, you may now disconnect.

END