

Questions and Answers Resilient Coastal Communities Planning Project, RFP 2018-004

Question: The Coastal Community Resilience, Coastal Adaptation Planning project specific requirements mimic a typical project to be built. Many of these do not fit specifics for a plan. Is there other information about developing the action plan that the IRL Council would like to see in the response?

Answer: Please refer to the following link to EPA's "Being Prepared for Climate Change A Workbook for Developing Risk-Based Adaptation Plans." https://www.epa.gov/sites/production/files/2014-09/documents/being_prepared_workbook_508.pdf

Question: Please clarify in-kind money types. For example, does unpaid project work by principal and/or volunteers count towards 25% in-kind. Also, if principal is NOT paid for essential on-going essential information does the money paid to others count for matching funds?

Answer: Yes, unpaid project work by principal and/or volunteers counts toward the 25% in-kind. Those efforts must be documented pursuant to the agreement executed between the IRL Council and proposer, if the project is approved for funding. Money expended by the proposer on project tasks identified in the proposal and budget may count for matching funds.

Question: Can you receive matching funds from various sources? like 20% from University, 20% a private person, etc.?

Answer: Yes.

Question: Is there a mechanism to allow use of equipment (already in possession) as match? Is there a way to incorporate at least a depreciated value of a key piece of equipment?

Answer: The Depreciated value of an item donated by a non-Federal entity may be claimed as cost share if the item has not already been claimed as cost share. Such item may be claimed as depreciation or as cost share but not both.

Question: Is there a specified maximum indirect cost rate?

Answer: No.

Question: Is there a point preference available for REDI communities?

Answer: No.

Question: Can you please go over the number of proposals received again in each category?

Answer: Restoration-36, Science-32, Engagement-20, Resiliency-2. Total of 90 notices. (One of the notices included two projects, so the number given during the webinar was one short.)

Question: Are overhead and G&A costs allowable?

Answer: Yes.

Question: Recommendations for budget? looking at funding few large projects, or more smaller projects?

Answer: We accept all budgets. Please identify if the project is flexible to lesser funding, and what effect reduced funding may have on project deliverables/outcomes.

Question: Do you have a total dollar amount for the 34 projects submitted for restoration?

Answer: \$3.6M, although actual "asks" may be different once proposals are fully developed/submitted.

Question: Are we able to propose and operate a project without divulging trade secrets?

Answer: Yes. Trade secret concerns would be addressed during contract negotiations.

Question: If you have not submitted an NOI can you respond to the RFP? (submit a proposal)

Answer: No, at this time we do not intend to allow responses to the RFP if a notice of intent has not been submitted. However, pursuant to the RFPs, "The IRL Council reserves the right to accept or reject any or all proposals, in whole or in part, with or without cause, to waive any irregularities and/or technicalities, and to award the contracts on such coverage and terms it deems will best serve the interests of the Board."

Question: If the indirect rate is federal - can we charge a reduced rate and use the difference as a match?

Answer: No.

Question: When will the RFI be posted to the RFP site?

Answer: 1/30/2018.

Question: If a proposal can fit into more than one category, may a principal change category at this time?

Answer: Yes. Additionally, the IRL Council reserves the right to assign the proposal to the category which most closely aligns with the project outputs and outcomes.

Question: Are there review points taken off if the budget is "too big" according to the reviewers?

Answer: No.

Question: Does the EPA Quality Assurance Plan have to be completed before IRLNEP funding decisions are made?

Answer: No.

Question: Are you recording who is in the mandatory meeting?

Answer: Yes, via GoToMeeting, and by requesting phone participants follow up with an email to sakuma@irlcouncil.org to affirm attendance.

Question: Can I use as matching costs the services from a company which performs for my project for free, but for this service they would normally charge a certain amount? Like for example, a local company performs research or measurements for/towards the goals of my research projects after October 1, 2018. Suppose they would normally charge for this \$ 10,000, and they write this as a quotation for me. And they may even bill me \$ 10,000 invoice, but also they write \$10,000 as donation, totaling 0.00 for me to pay, would this qualify for a match fund?

Answer: Yes. We recommend this type of cost share be clearly articulated in the proposal budget narrative and budget chart.

Follow-Up Question: The (entity's) annual expenditure for analysis and personnel is about \$350,000. I receive none of this money but their data collection is an essential continuance of some of the data set that I need for my proposal. Part of my proposal's costs are to collect and analyze other components of the (entity) that they do not investigate. The question then is does this expenditure by the (entity) count as in-kind contribution?

Answer: In this example, if the collected data is available to you without expense, then the \$350,000 would not be eligible for cost share. However, if the data is for sale by the entity, then the cost of the data may be considered cost share if the entity provides the data at no-cost for use in your project.

Question: From the RPP: "Restoration projects (Category 1) are required to have a minimum 50% match." and "Applicants are encouraged to match requested funds at the highest possible level. Projects with higher cost-share ratios will receive higher scores within the applicable rating criteria." On the score sheet, there are 10 points allocated. Is 50% = 10, or is 50% some other number? In other words, if one can match at a higher level, is that worth more points?

Answer: Yes. Review team members will be asked to score "5" for projects meeting minimum cost share. Points above "5" would be added based on the ratio above required match, at 5% intervals, up to a maximum score of "10". For example, a Restoration proposal with 60% match, would receive a score of "7".

Question: Are there limits in potential applicants that can apply, e.g., organizations, non-profits, governments, etc. Can any group propose a project to apply for this funding?

Answer: Yes. Any government, agency, non-profit, company, or other entity is eligible to apply for funding.

Question: We would like to clarify whether members of the Indian River Lagoon Council are precluded from submitting projects for funding.

Answer: IRL Council Members are not precluded from submitting projects for funding under the RFP packages.

