

**Questions and Answers Posted to the FedConnect Website on Recovery Act - Enhancing State Government Energy Assurance Capabilities and Planning for Smart Grid Resiliency OE FOA (DE-FOA-000091) as of July 27, 2009.**

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7/02/09 Question:

The FOA states that we can subgrant to "other State agencies, entities, or functions having the responsibility, as recognized within the State, for energy assurance planning." My question is, what is "recognized within the state?" We would like to contract with someone to organize this, but there is nothing in our state saying who is recognized for energy assurance planning. The state's emergency management agency even recommended we hire someone. Can we use this money to hire a private company to organize this?

Answer:

Each State Energy Office (SEO) is required to have an energy assurance component as part of their annual State Energy Plan. Although, in some states the energy assurance function is delegated to Public Utility Commissions (PUCs) or other such entities. It is up to each SEO to determine which is the most appropriate entity to perform the work. States can hire contractors to perform portions of the work (e.g., help prepare the EA Plan, assist with exercises, etc.). However, with part of the purpose of this initiative being to develop in-house expertise in energy assurance planning, States should keep some of the core work in-house. Whether the State uses a contractor or does the work in-house, the workforce development plan needs to capture all of the jobs retained or created, people trained, etc. per the requirements outlined in the Funding Opportunity Announcement (FOA).

7/02/09 Question:

Are we supposed to include a Statement of Project Objectives in the Project Narrative, or as a separate document? 3 pages seems tight for a summary and SOPO, but there isn't a separate document listed. Do you want a budget? The solicitation looks like it only asks for the SF424 (application) and not SF424 A which would be the budget.

Answer:

The Statement of Project Objectives (SOPO) is provided in the Funding Opportunity Announcement (FOA) to be included in the award and is separate from the Project Narrative. The Project Narrative does not include the SOPO. The budget or SF424 A is not to be included as part of the application package, it will be requested as part of the Project Management Plan, due 60 days after award.

7/20/09 Question

On the SF-424 Item #17, recipient is requested to enter Start and End date of Proposed Project. FOA anticipated awards to be issued between 9/15/09 and 10/30/09. The start and end dates are somewhat dependent on actual award date. How can dates be set at this point before award? Can default dates of 10/30/09 to 10/30/12 be used?

Answer:

Enter the dates that you plan to start the project. These dates are just an estimate and can/will be changed upon award.

7/20/09 Question:

We were confused about the Statement of Objectives and Project Narrative File which was clarified in a previous e-mail, however, the ARRA Wage documentation is not clear whether a form should be

completed or a memo stating compliance. Can you provide a sample? The website only provides documents to review and no form or format. Secondly, I visited the EERE website for NEPA and upload our current Project file. We will update it because it is not attached as a pdf. Again better instructions on what should be provided would be helpful. I complete grant applications often, however, this is my first Recovery Act grant. How will the information from NEPA be attached to the grant?

Answer:

Concerning the ARRA Wage documentation, a statement of compliance is all that is necessary for purposes of the application. Your advisement on increasing the clarity of the instructions is under consideration for future opportunities. The NEPA information will be reviewed as part of the application and taken under consideration before award is made. It will then be attached to the file as a Supporting Document in our electronic system.

7/21/09 Question:

On the NEPA EF-1 Form who should be shown as the DOE Project Officer?

Answer:

When completing the NEPA EF-1 Form on the EERE - PMC website in response, and only in response, to the Funding Opportunity Announcement entitled: "Recovery Act- Enhancing State Government Energy Assurance Capabilities and Planning for Smart Grid Resiliency" (number DE-FOA-0000091), please select Joseph Hanna as the DOE Project Officer. For all other State Energy Program actions, select the assigned Project Officer. For any further questions, concerning completion (submission) of this form, please contact Kellyn Cassell, Contract Specialist, at [kellyn.cassell@netl.doe.gov](mailto:kellyn.cassell@netl.doe.gov) .

7/22/09 Question:

On the .pdf application form instructions it says to "Add Mandatory Other Attachment" and upload the Project.pdf file. Then it says to click "Add Mandatory Other Attachment" again to upload the Summary.pdf. However, after adding the first Project.pdf file, the form will not allow upload of a second file. The button is grayed out. Can only "Add other optional attachment". Is there something wrong with the form or the instructions? Where should the Summary go? Can it go as a other optional attachment if the form will not accept a second "mandatory" document? We've tried redoing everything and "Other Attachment File(s)" page doesn't work as instructions indicate.

Answer:

The instructions state to "Submit the following files with your application and attach them to the Other Attachments Form. Click on "Add Mandatory Other Attachment" to attach the Project Narrative. Click on "Add Optional Other Attachment" to attach the other files." Therefore the Project Narrative File is the only file that will be attached as "Mandatory" all other files will be attached as "Optional."

7/24/09 Question:

The response is unclear with regard to whether any portion of the funds must be expended on state staff salaries. We may need to satisfy the jobs creation and retention requirements through hiring of consultants, due to state hiring restrictions. Funds would be expended on state staff training costs but not salaries.

No, there is no requirement that funds MUST be expended on state staff salaries.

7/24/09 Question:

The FOA states that we can subgrant to "other State agencies, entities, or functions having the responsibility, as recognized within the State, for energy assurance planning." My question is, what is "recognized within the state?" We would like to contract with someone to organize this, but there is nothing in our state saying who is recognized for energy assurance planning. The state's emergency management agency even recommended we hire someone. Can we use this money to hire a private company to organize this?

Answer:

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7/24/09 Question:

On the prevailing wage validation do you have any guidance on who should sign it?

Answer:

We do not have guidance on who should sign the prevailing wage validation, but it must be an individual with the authority to make that level of commitment for your agency.