

FY24 Interception Technology Full Proposal Webinar

Q&A

February 1st, 2024

2pm ET

Question: When are full proposals due?

Answer: Full proposals must be submitted through and validated by Grants.gov on or before 11:59 p.m. Eastern time, March 15th, 2024.

Question: What is the anticipated funding timeline?

Answer: The earliest anticipated start date for awards will be August 1, 2024 – applicants should consider this date when developing plans for initiating proposed project activities. Applicants selected to receive funding may be asked to modify the project start date to accommodate any delays in federal funding or environmental compliance consultations.

Question: Who should support letters of support be addressed to?

Answer: Letters of support should be included as part of your submitted application materials in grants.gov and addressed to the NOAA Marine Debris Program Director, Nancy Wallace. There is some additional guidance on our applicant resource page:

<https://marinedebris.noaa.gov/funding-opportunities/fy24-noaa-marine-debris-removal-under-bip-artisan-infrastructure-law-applicant>

Question: Are the letters of support considered part of the 15 allowable pages?

Answer: No, letters of support are not included in the page limit. Please note that letters of support should be included as part of your submitted application materials in grants.gov. In other words, don't just send letters of support through the mail, in case there are mail delivery issues; include them in your electronic submission. There is some additional guidance on our applicant resource page.

Question: Is there an expectation of how awards will be distributed regionally?

Answer: The balance and distribution of funds geographically is a selection factor for this competition (see page 38 in Notice of Funding Opportunity). NOAA will generally try to maximize geographic equity in award selection, however it will depend on the quality and merit of submitted applications as to what is ultimately supported.

Question: Do you have any resources available to aid in the development of our full proposal and application?

Answer: Yes! Applicant resources can be found here:

<https://marinedebris.noaa.gov/funding-opportunities/fy24-noaa-marine-debris-removal-under-bip-artisan-infrastructure-law-applicant>

Question: Do benefitting tribal governments need to be federally recognized, or are all tribes counted in this criterion?

Answer: All tribes, federally recognized or not, are treated the same in this regard.

Question: This is stated in the invite email: "Please indicate the extent to which your project can be scaled down by stating what work could be done if only a portion of the federal funding request could be granted." Do you expect a complete alternate budget submission or just a narrative?

Answer: We ask that you break down and describe your budget and project activities in a way that describes the scalability as best as possible, but you don't need to provide an alternate budget with your application. This is being asked of applicants in case a project's overall budget needs to be adjusted due to funding availability, and would only occur if your application was selected for an award and you were requested by NOAA to do so.

Question: How do we get rates for something like a marine debris boat?

Answer: Generally, for goods or services that are readily available on the open market, you can provide quotes from commercial entities or businesses to get an idea of how much those goods or services might be valued. If you are trying to determine the value of a vessel for match purposes, you could provide a rate based on a prorated cost of a full vessel being donated by partners, or use a day-rate for vessel services.

Question: Should maps be included in the narrative (project location section) or only included in the "supplemental information" upload?

Answer: If you're including a lot of maps, include them in supplemental information. If they would be helpful in the context of the Project Description, feel free to integrate those in line with the text of your Project Narrative.

Question: Can you discuss overall grant "competitiveness?" Is there only \$4M available total and if yes, then how might a larger application like a \$1M project compete against a \$100K application?

Answer: Yes, \$4M is the total available funding for this competition. Applications will be evaluated based on the evaluation criteria and selection factors provided in the NOFO which includes the availability of funding. A \$1M application would be taking up a quarter of our available funding so the expected benefits of the project would need to be substantial enough and clearly communicated to warrant that. Funding decisions are made in the context of the overall review so it ultimately depends on the merit of all applications.

Question: We have not picked our sites yet or final technologies. We planned to use the first year to finalize those decisions. For what we said, it seems this may not be the funding opportunity for us.

Answer: Projects should be sufficiently developed and scoped out to an extent that would allow us to make an informed decision as to the benefits of the project. To be competitive, as much

detail should be provided as possible in how the site and/or technologies will be selected. If possible, providing at least what types of devices/technologies are being considered would be helpful.

Question: Does NOAA have a preferred/accepted way of predicting the amount of litter to be captured? If this is the first time a device is going into a watershed, city, or region this seems very challenging to accurately predict.

Answer: There are a variety of ways that an estimate could be obtained, and it is up to the applicant to document how they are estimating the amount of litter to be captured by the device. If you are making reasonable assumptions about how much litter is expected to be collected, as long as those assumptions are communicated clearly, that is sufficient for a new project that doesn't have past experience to base that on.

Question: Will a recording of this webinar be available and if so when?

Answer: Yes, a pre-recording of the presentation, the slides, and a Q&A document will be available on our website hopefully within the next couple of weeks.

Question: If permits are not required for your proposed devices according to municipalities, what proof needs to be submitted?

Answer: If you can clarify permit requirements with local authorities or resource agencies, and document the outcomes of those conversations in your application, that would be ideal.

Question: Can you share how many LOIs were asked to submit full proposals?

Answer: We can't share details of the competition publicly at this time, but after our competition is over we are able to share those kinds of metrics publicly.

Question: Do you anticipate future cycles of this grant - for debris interception?

Answer: Please subscribe to our NOAA MDP newsletter for updates on future competitions. We anticipate BIL funding to continue for the next few years, contingent on appropriations.