

FY25 REMOVAL APPLICANT WEBINAR QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

Q: Is there a checklist for applying?

A: All of the requirements are listed in the Notice of Funding Opportunity. You can also find helpful application resources, along with a step by step guide, on the applicant resources page on our website.

Q: How many years/timeframe do recipients have to spend on awarded funds?

A: As stated in the notice of funding opportunity, applications should cover a project period of two to four years in duration, and successful applicants will have full access to grant funding for the entire duration of the period of performance on the official award. The earliest anticipated start date for awards will be no sooner than October 1, 2025.

Q: There are some locations where marine debris is generated outside the United States. How should those projects address "prevention" in this case?

A: Please identify that the source is outside of locally where removals are occurring. It is encouraged to include general marine debris awareness and specific prevention efforts in cases where projects can't directly point to a clear source or a clear target audience in the area where the removals are occurring.

Q: What is the estimated time to complete the NEPA environmental compliance review and consultation in relation to the project start date?

A: This is project-specific depending on the details of the removal targets, the removal techniques, the locations where the removal is occurring, and the processing time for the agency offices conducting the consultation reviews. It is possible they could be completed within a month or two of an Oct 1st start date, but realistically it could take several months into the following calendar year before removals could begin on the ground.

Q: Will these slides be available? / Will the power point presentation be provided to the participants?

A: Both a recording of this presentation and the slides will be available on our website.

Q: Can some of the contractual work be conducted by individuals that work for an organization in Canada?

A: A U.S. organization must be the primary recipient and should be receiving the majority of funding. We recognize there may be projects where some collaboration with international partners may be needed or beneficial, but please keep in mind that any amount of funding going to a foreign subrecipient must be reasonable to accomplish project objectives, and is not excessive. Additionally, it is important to emphasize the work must take place in U.S. coastal areas, and you must clearly demonstrate the project's benefits to U.S. resources and interests. Only foreign organizations that are NOT foreign public entities (i.e. not foreign governments or organizations funded solely by foreign governments, as defined in 2 CFR 200.46) are eligible subrecipients of this funding. Foreign public entities (such as foreign governments, etc.) are not eligible to be recipients of MDP funding in any capacity, including subrecipients.

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Q: Generally how long between submitting and receiving email back from Grants.gov and eRA Commons?

A: Validation or rejection of an application by Grants.gov and eRA may take up to two business days after submission. So again, this is why we are encouraging you to submit early. If your application is error-free, it will continue to move forward to us for review after that time. We do recommend that you periodically log in to eRA Commons to check the status of your application. Again, we strongly recommend submitting well before the January 31st deadline as you may need to wait for the email, make corrections, and then resubmit in grants.gov before the deadline.

Q: According to slide 31, just to confirm, I need to register my organization in eRA commons AND myself in eRA commons? So I should have 2 registrations in eRA Commons?

A: Correct, your organization needs to be registered with eRA commons and you (or the PI) also need to have a PI/PD account associated with your organization. If you have further questions on eRA, please look at our applicant resources which include some training materials for setting up accounts which includes a video which hopefully will be very helpful.

Q: Following up on slide 32, can you please make sure that the American Samoa zip code 96799 is recognized in eRA Commons?

A: For American Samoa, please enter the zip code in the following format '97699-0000'.

Q: If our proposal includes subawards to pre-selected community partners who will be requesting indirect, do we upload each of their negotiated rate agreements to the application or will we only provide ours when we submit?

A: You don't need to include subaward community partners' rate agreements with your application, but you may be asked to provide that prior to an award being made to verify allowability.

Q: Is it acceptable for the budget or some of the scope of work to have changed since the LOI was submitted?

A: Yes, you are allowed to adjust your project based on the reviewer feedback that you received primarily, and if other changes occurred that don't drastically change the original proposed scope of work, those also may be included.

Q: Is this funding protected from any potential agency budget cuts?

A: As of now, we fully expect FY25 BIL funding to be available for this competition.

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Q: The Notice of Funding Opportunity states the de minimus is 10%, but is it true as of Oct 1st that changed to 15% now that the 2CFR updates are in effect?

A: Yes, that is correct. Given recent updates after the publication of our Notice of Funding Opportunity, 15% is the new de minimus rate.

Q: Does a subawardee need to have an eRA Common account?

A: No, they do not, just the primary recipient does. If you are in a situation where a subrecipient is the PI on the award, they will need an account associated with the primary organization.

Q: How many applicants were invited to apply?

A: Approximately 50 applicants were invited to submit a full proposal for this round.

Q: Am I understanding correctly that the budget will be submitted in a form on a web page? Are we able to save that while it is in-progress?

A: Federal forms are completed via grants.gov. You are able to save your progress on the application.

Q: Can work completed prior to the start of the period of performance count as match funding?

A: No, any work conducted with non-federal funds that is intended to be used as match must take place within the period of performance.