

Statewide and Regional Planning Assistance Grant Program (SRPAGP)

Questions and Answers **Updated: 11/17/15**

Questions	Answers
Will the slides in this information session be made available later? Is the webinar being recorded to make it available later for people who couldn't be on the webinar today?	1. The webinar was not recorded. The slides will be made available at http://www.nj.gov/dca/services/lps/SRPAGP.html
How are you defining research? Can it be technical assistance directly to municipalities with science-based risk and vulnerability backbone?	2. The Program is not intended to fund technical assistance.
We still don't understand what is meant by research project "ready to implement" - can you please give an example?	3. We are looking for notable, interesting and ultimately, research that is applicable to advancing long term community resiliency and/or research that addresses unmet recovery-related planning needs on a regional or statewide scale. The Program is intended to provide funding to applied research activities, which have been fully developed and are ready to be tested or implemented in a real world situation. By way of an example: post-Sandy there has been a proliferation of flood mapping and storm surge models and other tools/models to look at impacts of various flooding impacts. If an eligible applicant had previously developed a model which provided this type of data, but it had not been implemented to analyze and provide actionable data on planning related recovery and resiliency issues (be they infrastructure, social economic, etc.) on a regional level, this grant could be leveraged to fund the implementation and testing of the model to provide actionable data to inform regional or statewide decision making. This should specifically address a particular problem or set of challenges that are shared regionally or research that can be applied across the state. Ultimately, it is incumbent upon the applicant to depict how their respective research project is applicable, can be tested and provide actionable data or solutions to "on the ground" challenges.
Can you say more about what you mean by ""not funding research from the ground up"?	
Do the participating communities or counties have to be in the Sandy 9 affected counties?	4. No. The project can be anywhere in the state so long as it is regional in nature. "Region" is defined in the SRPAGP guidelines.
If you are only interviewing three project teams, does that mean that only three projects will be funded?	5. If we have enough funding, we will interview more than the top three candidates for funding requests up to the maximum \$1.2 million.
Could you clarify the 3 interview process again? If it's possible that there may be more than 3 awards, how does the 3 interview process work?	
So if you are meeting with the applicants with the 3 highest scores, doesn't that mean that you will give no more than 3 awards? thank you!	
What is the typical dollar value of a project that would be funded....	6. We won't know until we receive proposals
Is there a maximum or minimum award amount?	7. The maximum is \$1.2 million. There is no minimum.
How many proposals will be funded for this program of 1.2 M So at most 3 awards will be given?	8. The awards are not limited to three. The number depends on the proposals selected and the amounts requested for the projects.
Will the amount requested affect the decision? Will you negotiate the amount to be funded, if the project is selected?	9. The amount requested will not affect the decision. We have no intention of negotiating the amount of funding requested if the project is selected. However, we will review the budget and scope of work carefully and we may ask the applicant to justify the costs.
Is our ability to demonstrate matching funds a consideration or an advantage in our proposal?	10. You can get accumulate points for identifying additional sources of funding. Refer to the Grant Submittal Requirements 1. h.
Is there any page limit of the proposal?	11. No. However, please be concise and efficient in presenting the proposal.
What is the structure of the proposal? How many pages?	12. Please refer to the SRPAGP guidelines found at http://www.nj.gov/dca/services/lps/SRPAGP.html .
What is the start date for awarded projects?	13. On or about the end of December 2015 through the second week in January; after the subrecipient agreement(s) have been executed between the NJ Department of Community Affairs and the selected candidate(s);
When will you expect to announce awards?	14. The selected candidate(s) will be notified on or about December 11, 2015.
Can one PI submit multiple proposals if the proposals contain different contents? Can the project be from multiple departments of the same institution? can an investigator be on more than one proposal? Can a university submit more than one proposal?	15. Yes
So are you saying the DEPARTMENT Submits the proposal? Faculty can be jointly appointed, you can have faculty from the same dept with different areas of expertise. This seems like a problematic restriction.	16. The proposal(s) will be submitted under the umbrella of the research institution, college or university, NOT by department. So it is likely that we will receive multiple proposals from NJIT, for example, but from various departments, Principal Investigator, or faculty within the Institute.
How can a PI be on more than one proposal if you are saying that you can only submit one proposal per dept? does not make sense.	
The best projects are integrated across disciplines so how are you defining departments? What if faculty from the same dept are part of different teams? this seems difficult So the department should submit the proposal or the faculty should submit the proposal	
For the proposal budget, you will get back to us on whether we must use our Federally approved indirect cost recovery rate? Or will the rate be restricted in some way by DCA? This could significantly impact the total budget required to accomplish a specific scope of work. Thanks.	17. The response to this question was revised on 11/13/15. NJDCA Local Planning Services will permit indirect costs to be included in grant proposal budgets, not to exceed 10% of the total fund request. The use of this maximum rate (10%) is consistent with provisions adopted by other New Jersey State agencies for grant programs. The original response no longer applies.
Is it mandatory to use the Federal Indirect Cost rate?	
Will you be accepting a university's full federally negotiated indirect rate?	
Is there a limit on the overhead rate?	18. Overhead would be included in indirect costs. If there are costs related to direct costs such as rent or utilities, then they would be charged as direct costs and will need source documentation as backup to any payment or grant draw request. It terms of what is permitted, it must be included in the grant budget, they must be "reasonable, allowable and allocable" (cost principles)
Do state institutions (e.g. state colleges and universities) have preference over private institutions?	19. No
Are there any specific priorities as far as the research topics.	20. No but they must address disaster recovery and long term resilience. Please refer to the guidelines document for details. Available at http://www.nj.gov/dca/services/lps/SRPAGP.htm
Which universities are present on the call? Is anyone/department from Rutgers University on this webinar? How many person are attending the webinar?	21. This information will be posted on the website - http://www.nj.gov/dca/services/lps/SRPAGP.htm
Who is going to be reviewing these, just DCA or will there be other State govt Agencies involved?	22. NJDCA staff from the Office of Local Planning Services and the Sandy Recovery Division will be reviewing the proposals. There will be no other state agencies involved. (Please disregard the response given during the webinar. The decision was made after further discussion by LPS staff.)

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Will DCA be serving in a role for awarded projects of coordinating other state agency participation as appropriate (e.g. OEM, DEP, etc.)?	23. NJDCA is the sole administrator of the SRPAGP and is not coordinating with other state agencies in this endeavor. The applicants are free to partner or consult with any agency/entity. However, the relationship with the agency/entity must have been established by the time the proposal is submitted with roles clearly indicated and identified in the budget, if applicable.
Do you need letters of support from participating counties or municipalities as part of our proposal?	24. Yes
Is the demonstration thru multimedia visualized potential outcomes something you want to see in the proposal or DEscribed in the proposal? I.e., does the proposal need to be multimedia?	25. The proposal does not have to be in a multimedia format and/or include multimedia content. If the proposed project includes an outcome that can be visually depicted in images or video or any other format, then the applicant is encouraged to enclose a sample of said visual depictions. To that end, any multimedia or other forms of presentations can and are encouraged to be included in your proposal as practicable and/or applicable.
Can the project be interdisciplinary?	26. Yes
Can one university collaborate with another university?	27. Yes
At our institution, our proposals are submitted by our Research Foundation on behalf of our faculty (principal investigators). Is there an issue with this method of submission?	28. No
If traveling from out of state, can travel costs be reimbursed?	29. Yes
The DCA letter announcing the opportunity dated 10/5/2015 indicated that the application period would end 10/25/2015, but now you are indicating a deadline of 11/20/2015. Which is correct?	30. The proposals are due on November 20, 2015.
Why would we submit a 2014 audit report if the grant does not begin until 2015 or 2016?	31. We are requiring the Year 2014 Audit to be submitted along with the proposal to make sure there are no findings. We will require the Year 2015 Audit as well when it is completed in mid-2016.
Any citizenship requirement for the applicant?	32. Eligible applicants are non-profits, universities and colleges. This grant program is not providing funding to individuals therefore the question of citizenship does not apply.
Are there any budgetary restrictions that prohibit the purchase of equipment?	33. If equipment is purchased with grant funds, it is subject to being inventoried, tracked and upon completion of the grant, disposed of based on its current value. We recommend that if any equipment is needed, it be leased, which still needs to be inventoried, but will be returned at the conclusion of the grant.
If the proposal is an application of proprietary technology, does that present any issues?	34. No this is not an issue. If the proprietary technology is utilized to provide a project outcome/deliverable, which provides for solutions or necessary information for community decision-making, it is the deliverable that we are interested in. It should be noted however, if the proprietary technology needs to be utilized for each application of the research beyond the selected test region/community, then the Applicant should underwrite that cost in their proposal. The Applicant should consider -- if there is cost involved with applying this research beyond the test area(s) -- how this cost would be covered and how practical that cost would be to communities which sought to utilize the research it for their respective decision-making.
Are we allowed to discuss climate change and sea level rise?	35. The content of the proposal is the sole responsibility of the applicant.
I understand a letter of interest from a governmental unit is required. Can you provide examples of governmental units. Can the University Transportation Research Center (UTRC) be considered as a governmental unit?	36. The governmental units referred to in the guidelines are the 565 municipalities and 21 counties in New Jersey. Examples of municipalities are Union Beach Borough, Point Pleasant Beach Borough, and Perth Amboy City; County examples are Atlantic, Cape May, and Monmouth. The UTRC is not a governmental unit. However, it is eligible to apply for the grant and submit a proposal or partner with Binghamton.
If proprietary technology is used by the applicant to complete the project, will the technology become property of the state along with data, maps, reports, etc. that was paid for by the grant?	37. If the subrecipient owns the technology, but produces a "deliverable" or work product, that material becomes "public" and is now property of the State of New Jersey for its intended purposes. Data analysis, maps and/or reports will benefit a larger audience and therefore will become available as public record. The technology that produces the work product, if neither paid for nor purchased with Federal funds, will become the property of whoever funded it. As such, since this grant funding opportunity will fund the implementation and testing of research that is already completed, the underlying intellectual property/proprietary information (data), etc., is not subject to ownership by the State. The resultant end product (deliverable) that is provided per the applicant's proposed project and scope of work to satisfy the grant however, is. It should be further noted, that if the applicant anticipates bringing pre-existing intellectual property into the project or for the use of said property to complete the defined deliverable, the intellectual property must be identified in the submitted proposal. If the applicant identifies such intellectual property in its proposal response, then the intellectual property owned by the applicant on the date of the contract, as well as any modifications or adaptations thereto, remain the property of the applicant.
Can you clarify a couple of questions about the Financial Management Plan that we need to submit for the SRPAGP program? The reference in the RFP refers, I believe, to the form I have attached to this email. Just to confirm, is this the correct form?	38. The correct form is the one posted on the Local Planning Services website at http://www.nj.gov/dca/services/lps/SRPAGP.html
If so, where do we account for travel? I see a Project Materials category, but not a place where we can put estimated travel costs. Also, do you need separate versions of this form for subcontractors? I see the section where their costs can be summarized, but it's unclear whether they need to fill out a detailed labor cost form like this one as well.	39. You can insert additional categories as needed to include travel costs and other expenses. Note that meals are not eligible costs. Use the same form to account for subcontractor work and budget.
I'm planning to submit a proposal teamed up with several faculty members from another university (University A). Since I'm the only one in the team who attended the required webinar, I'm wondering whether it's appropriate to let the other university submit the proposal (lead institution/University A)? Or does it have to be my university (University B) submitting the proposal?	40. If you and your colleagues will be part of the overall team that is submitting a proposal, your attendance at the webinar fulfills the eligibility requirement for the whole team. The lead institution (University A) should submit the proposal and make sure you, your colleagues and your university (University B) are clearly identified in the scope of work and budget document.

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What is the indirect cost (overhead, or facilities and administrative) rate that NJDCA would allow University X to use in the calculation of total budget ? Can you please tell me if the RFA (NOFA) will be updated and re-released, since it does state that those Institutions with a negotiated rate should use that rate? "The use of an indirect cost rate is permitted under Federal and HUD rules, however, if a sub-recipient, i.e., the non-profit, university or college, has a Federally approved indirect cost rate, it must use the rate that is approved. It will be required to submit the Federal agency rate approval documentation. If there is no Federal indirect cost rate approved, the new 2 CFR Part 200 regulations permits a default rate of 10%."

41. There is no need to update and publish a new NOFA. The original response to the indirect cost rate question is no longer valid. (Refer to Answer #17.) The policy regarding indirect cost rate is: NJDCA Local Planning Services will permit indirect costs to be included in grant proposal budgets, not to exceed 10% of the total fund request. The use of this maximum rate (10%) is consistent with provisions adopted by other New Jersey State agencies for grant programs.

Under the application requirements, are local legislators considered representatives of participating governmental units?

42. No.
