

Deadline for informal "Intent to Apply"—Monday, May 26, 2003.
Deadline for Receipt of Final Proposal—Monday, July 7, 2003.

Mobile Source Outreach Assistance: Competition 2003/2004: Request for Proposals

Section I. Overview and Deadlines

A. Overview: Over the past six years, EPA's Office of Transportation and Air Quality (OTAQ) and EPA's Regional offices have entered into agreements and established partnerships with a number of organizations to (1) provide national support for community-based mobile source public education efforts supporting implementation of the Clean Air Act and the Transportation Equity Act for the 21st Century, (2) encourage responsible choices for organizational and individual actions through public education. OTAQ/Section 105-Funded Outreach Projects are listed on the OTAQ Web site www.epa.gov/otaq/rfp.htm and emphasize transportation choices to reduce vehicle miles traveled; education of vehicle owners and drivers of the future; particulate matter related to mobile sources; alternative fuels; car care and the role of the automotive technician; outreach to ethnic populations; environmental justice; and related projects such as ozone mapping and small engines. EPA's Office of Transportation and Air Quality receives set-aside funds from the State and Tribal Assistance Grants (STAG) account to provide support to community-based mobile source-related outreach projects. This notice solicits proposals for public education and outreach projects which directly support State, local and tribal air management organizations in their efforts to improve air quality from mobile sources. Proposals will be accepted from State, local, and tribal air management agencies which are identified as such under section 302(b) of the Clean Air Act. (See definition in section II below.) Interested persons can also obtain copies of this solicitation at no charge by accessing the OTAQ Web site at www.epa.gov/OTAQ/rfp.htm or www.epa.gov/air/grants_funding.html.

B. What are the deadlines for this competition? In order to efficiently manage the selection process, the Office of Transportation and Air Quality requests that an informal "Intent to Apply" be submitted by Monday, May 26, 2003. (Please provide project title or subject and e-mail address for project contact.) An "Intent to Apply" simply states in the form of e-mail, phone, or fax that your organization intends to submit a proposal to be received by the deadline. Submitting an "Intent to

Apply" does not commit an organization to submit a final proposal. Those not submitting an "Intent to Apply" may still apply by the deadline. *The deadline for final proposals (original and six copies) is midnight on Monday, July 7, 2003.* The Office of Transportation and Air Quality intends to complete the Evaluation/Selection process in September 2003.

Section II. Eligible Organizations

Who is eligible to submit proposals?

According to funding policies associated with the State and Tribal Assistance Grants regulations (STAG funds), proposals can be accepted only from air pollution control agencies as defined under section 302(b) of the Clean Air Act, (for projects to be undertaken which will have replicability to other communities nationally). OTAQ has no discretion over this requirement. Section 302(b) of the Clean Air Act defines "air pollution control agencies" as any of the following:

- (1) A single State agency designated by the Governor of that State as the single air pollution control agency for purposes of the Act.
- (2) An agency established by two or more States and having substantial powers or duties pertaining to the prevention and control of air pollution.
- (3) A city, county, or other local government health authority, or, in the case of any city, county or other local government in which there is an agency other than the health authority charged with responsibility for enforcing ordinances or laws relating to the prevention and control of air pollution.
- (4) An agency of two or more municipalities located in the same State or in different States and having substantial powers or duties pertaining to the prevention and control of air pollution.

(5) An agency of an Indian tribe.
As Project Managers for these cooperative agreements, EPA's Regional Offices are responsible for confirming that a submitting agency is eligible under the legal definition. Interested air management, non-governmental or related organizations which are *not* air pollution control agencies as defined under section 302(b) of the Clean Air Act are encouraged to create partnerships with eligible organizations. In that situation, the eligible organization would be required to submit the final proposal and serve as the funding recipient if selected.

Section III. Funding Issues

A. What is the amount of available funding? A minimum of \$550K. Total

funding available will reflect STAG set-aside funds for both FY03 (\$550K) and FY 04 (amount to be determined prior to competition selection).

B. How will funds be allocated? The competition process will be managed by OTAQ and selected cooperative agreements will be awarded and managed by EPA's Regional offices and funded through section 105 authority (State and local air pollution control agencies). OTAQ has no discretion over this requirement.

C. Is there a maximum amount for award? Funding from this competition may not exceed \$100,000 for the entire project period of the selected proposal. (This amount does *not* include any match which may be required or generated by the eligible organization.)

D. Are matching funds required? Possibly. The Clean Air Act's section 105 grant program contains a cost-sharing requirement for a minimum 40 percent match for the recipient's overall approved section 105 work program costs. If an applicant to this competition is selected to receive an outreach grant, the Federal funds to be awarded should be added to the Federal share of the applicant's existing section 105 grant. If addition of these funds increases the Federal percentage of the new overall section 105 grant amount to greater than 60 percent, then the applicant, in order to receive the outreach assistance, must increase its non-Federal contribution in order to restore the required 40 percent non-Federal minimum contribution. If addition of the outreach funds does not increase the Federal share above 60 percent, then an additional non-Federal match is not required. An air pollution control agency which submits a proposal must include a statement in their proposal indicating that the match could and would be met if their proposal is selected and such a match is required. Organizations unable to meet a required match must be considered ineligible. Organizations unclear as to their matching status are recommended to contact their EPA Regional Grant Coordinator (see section XII below).

E. Can funding be used to acquire services or fund partnerships? Yes—subgrants and other procurement services are allowed, provided the recipient follows applicable procurement and sub-grant procedures. Please note that EPA will not be a party to these transactions. Approval of a funding proposal does not relieve recipients of their obligations to compete service contracts, conduct cost and price analyses, and use subgrants only for financial assistance purposes in accordance with subpart B, section .210