

geographic locations; (c) the need to maintain a balanced composition of reviewers with regard to minority and female representation and an equitable age distribution; and (d) the need to include reviewers who can judge the effective usefulness to producers and the general public of each application.

CSREES will compile application reviews by the individual reviewers and recommend awards to OEPNU. OEPNU will make final award decisions.

B. Evaluation Criteria

The evaluation criteria below will be used in reviewing applications submitted in response to this RFA:

1. Relevance of proposed project to current and future issues related to the production, use, distribution, fuel quality, and fuel properties of biodiesel, including:

(a) Demonstrated knowledge about markets, state initiatives, impacts on local economies, regulatory issues, standards, and technical issues;

(b) Demonstrated knowledge about issues associated with developing a biodiesel infrastructure; and

(c) Quality and extent of stakeholder involvement in planning and accomplishment of program objectives.

2. Reasonableness of project proposal, including:

(a) Sufficiency of scope and strategies to provide a consistent message in keeping with existing standards and regulations;

(b) Adequacy of Project Description (see Part III, B. 5.) , suitability and feasibility of methodology to develop and implement program;

(c) Clarity of objectives, milestones, and indicators of progress;

(d) Adequacy of plans for reporting, assessing and monitoring results over project's duration; and

(e) Demonstration of feasibility, and probability of success.

1. Technical quality of proposed project, including:

(a) Suitability and qualifications of key project personnel;

(b) Institutional experience and competence in providing alternative fuel education, including:

(1) Demonstrated knowledge about programs involved in alternative fuel research and education;

(2) Demonstrated knowledge about other fuels, fuel additives, engine performance, fuel quality and fuel emissions;

(3) Demonstrated knowledge about Federal, State and local programs aimed at encouraging alternative fuel use;

(4) Demonstrated ability in providing educational programs and developing technical programs; and

(5) Demonstrated ability to analyze technical information relevant to the biodiesel industry.

(a) Adequacy of available or obtainable resources; and

(b) Quality of plans to administer and maintain the project, including collaborative efforts, evaluation and monitoring efforts.

C. Conflicts of Interest and Confidentiality

During the peer evaluation process, extreme care will be taken to prevent any actual or perceived conflicts of interest that may impact review or evaluation. For the purpose of determining conflicts of interest, the academic and administrative autonomy of an institution shall be determined by reference to the current version of the Higher Education Directory, published by Higher Education Publications, Inc., 6400 Arlington Boulevard, Suite 648, Falls Church, VA 22042. Phone: (703) 532-2300. Web site: <http://www.hepinc.com>.

Names of submitting institutions and individuals, as well as application content and peer evaluations, will be kept confidential, except to those involved in the review process, to the extent permitted by law. In addition, the identities of peer reviewers will remain confidential throughout the entire review process. Therefore, the names of the reviewers will not be released to applicants. At the end of the fiscal year, names of reviewers will be made available in such a way that the reviewers cannot be identified with the review of any particular application.

Part V. Award Administration

A. General

Awards made pursuant to this RFA will be made in accordance with the final rule published for the Biodiesel Fuel Education Program, including any changes that may be made to the Proposed Rule published elsewhere in this issue of the **Federal Register** as necessary to address public comments submitted in response to the Proposed Rule.

Within the limit of funds available for such purpose, the Authorized Departmental Officer (ADO) shall make grants to those responsible, eligible applicants whose applications are judged most meritorious under the procedures set forth in this RFA. The date specified by the ADO as the effective date of the grant shall be no later than September 30 of the Federal fiscal year in which the project is approved for support and funds are appropriated for such purpose, unless

otherwise permitted by law. It should be noted that the project need not be initiated on the grant effective date, but as soon thereafter as practical so that project goals may be attained within the funded project period. All funds granted by OEPNU under this RFA shall be expended solely for the purpose for which the funds are granted in accordance with the approved application and budget, the regulations, the terms and conditions of the award, the applicable Federal cost principles, and the Department's assistance regulations (Parts 3015 and 3019 of 7 CFR).

B. Organizational Management Information

Specific management information relating to an applicant shall be submitted on a one-time basis as part of the responsibility determination prior to the award of a grant identified under this RFA, if such information has not been provided previously under a CSREES program. CSREES will provide copies of forms recommended for use in fulfilling these requirements as part of the preaward process. Although an applicant may be eligible based on its status as one of these entities, there are factors which may exclude an applicant from receiving Federal financial and nonfinancial assistance and benefits under this program (e.g., debarment or suspension of an individual involved or a determination that an applicant is not responsible based on submitted organizational management information).

C. Award Document and Notice of Award

The award document will provide pertinent instructions and information including, at a minimum, the following:

1. Legal name and address of performing organization or institution to whom OEPNU has issued an award under the terms of this request for applications;

2. Title of project;

3. Name(s) and institution(s) of PDs chosen to direct and control approved activities;

4. Identifying award number assigned by the Department;

5. Project period, specifying the amount of time the Department intends to support the project without requiring recompetition for funds;

6. Total amount of Departmental financial assistance approved by OEPNU during the project period;

7. Legal authority(ies) under which the award is issued;

8. Appropriate Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance (CFDA) number;