

Debarment, Suspension, Ineligibility and Voluntary Exclusion—Lower Tier Covered Transactions, to the grantee organization for retention in their records. This form should not be submitted to USDA.

16. Compliance With the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) (Form CSREES–2006)

As outlined in 7 CFR part 3407 (the CSREES regulations implementing NEPA), the environmental data for any proposed project is to be provided to CSREES so that CSREES may determine whether any further action is needed. In some cases, however, the preparation of environmental data may not be required. Certain categories of actions are excluded from the requirements of NEPA.

In order for CSREES to determine whether any further action is needed with respect to NEPA, pertinent information regarding the possible environmental impacts of a particular project is necessary; therefore, Form CSREES–2006, “NEPA Exclusions Form,” must be included in the application indicating whether the applicant is of the opinion that the project falls within a categorical exclusion and the reasons therefore. If it is the applicant’s opinion that the proposed project falls within the categorical exclusions, the specific exclusion(s) must be identified.

Even though a project may fall within the categorical exclusions, CSREES may determine that an Environmental Assessment or an Environmental Impact Statement is necessary for an activity, if substantial controversy on environmental grounds exists or if other extraordinary conditions or circumstances are present which may cause such activity to have a significant environmental effect.

17. Certification of Compliance to Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986

Any community-based organization, network, or coalition of community-based organizations that is not recognized by the Internal Revenue Service as a section 501(c)(3) organization must include, on a separate sheet of paper, a statement that they have not, and will not engage in any of the prohibited activities contained in section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986.

C. Submission of Applications

1. When To Submit (Deadline Date)

Applications must be received by COB on August 18, 2003 (5 p.m. Eastern Daylight Time). Applications received

after this deadline will not be considered for funding.

2. What To Submit

An original and fourteen (14) copies of the application must be submitted. In addition, submit two (2) copies of the application’s Project Summary, Form CSREES–2003. All copies of the application must be submitted in one package.

3. Where To Submit

Applicants are strongly encouraged to submit completed applications via overnight mail or delivery service to ensure timely receipt by the USDA. The address for hand-delivered applications or applications submitted using an express mail or overnight courier service is:

Native American Outreach Program,
c/o Proposal Services Unit, Cooperative State Research, Education, and Extension Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Room 1420, Waterfront Centre, 800 9th Street, SW, Washington, DC 20024, Telephone: (202) 401–5048.

Applications sent via the U.S. Postal Service must be sent to the following address:

Native American Outreach Program,
c/o Proposal Services Unit, Cooperative State Research, Education, and Extension Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture, STOP 2245, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, DC 20250–2245.

D. Acknowledgment of Applications

The receipt of all applications will be acknowledged by e-mail. Therefore, applicants are strongly encouraged to provide accurate e-mail addresses, where designated, on the Form CSREES–2002. If the applicant’s e-mail address is not indicated, CSREES will acknowledge receipt of the application by letter.

Applicants who do not receive an acknowledgment within 60 days of the submission deadline should contact the program contact. Once the application has been assigned a proposal number, that number should be cited on all future correspondence.

Part IV. Review Process

A. General

Each application will be evaluated in a two-part process. First, each application will be screened to ensure that it meets the administrative requirements as set forth in this RFA. Second, a review panel will technically evaluate applications that meet these requirements.

Reviewers will be selected based upon their training and experience in

relevant scientific, programmatic, or education fields, taking into account the following factors: (a) The level of relevant formal scientific, technical education, or extension experience of the individual, as well as the extent to which an individual is engaged in relevant programmatic activities (*i.e.*, knowledge of programs related to outreach activities in field locations, especially for underserved audiences); (b) the need to include as reviewers experts from various areas of specialization within relevant scientific, education, or extension fields; (c) the need to include as reviewers others who can assess relevance of the applications to targeted audiences and to program needs; (d) the need to include as reviewers experts from a variety of Federal agencies and geographic locations; (e) the need to maintain a balanced composition of reviewers with regard to minority and female representation and an equitable age distribution; and (f) the need to include reviewers who can judge the effective usefulness to producers and the general public of each application.

B. Evaluation Criteria

Priority will be given to applications that address more than one of the objectives in part I, B. and/or serve to cover the broadest geographic representation for Native American communities. The evaluation criteria and weights, below, will be used in reviewing applications submitted in response to this RFA:

1. Degree to which proposed project addresses the objectives of the Native American Outreach Program (Weight—20);

2. Likelihood that goals of project can be achieved through the proposed activities during the project period (Weight—20);

3. Quality of plan to involve stakeholders in identifying needs and evaluating success of proposed project (Weight—15);

4. Soundness of plan for assessing and evaluating the accomplishment of project goals and plan for dissemination of results (Weight—15);

5. Qualifications of proposed project personnel and adequacy of facilities (Weight—10);

6. Adequacy of management plan (Weight—10); and

7. Quality of plan to involve partners/ collaborators and link to other programs/projects (Weight—10). (Applicants proposing to address all four (4) objectives independently will not be penalized.)