

programs. Using funds made available in FY 2003, this RFA solicits GES Program applications for projects that: Improve, through the use of geospatial information, the decision support systems of users at local, county and state levels; improve education in remote sensing and related geospatial technology at the local, county and state levels; and, promote development of a workforce skilled in the use of geospatial technology and integrated with the staffs of user organizations. Examples of activities the GES Program may support are included in Part II, B.

Priority will be given to projects with a documented commitment to initiate or continue a Geospatial Extension Specialist position, that take full advantage of Space Grant, Sea Grant, and Cooperative Extension activities in the state, and that demonstrate links to the user communities within the state (as described in Part II, B.).

There is no commitment by CSREES to fund a particular application or to make a specific number of awards. Beginning with the use of FY 2003 funds in this RFA, the participating agencies anticipate allocating a total of approximately \$1 million over three years to fund the GES Program. CSREES's obligation to make award(s) is contingent upon the availability of appropriated funds from which payment can be made and the receipt of proposals that are deemed acceptable for award under this solicitation.

C. Eligibility

The following entities are eligible to apply for and receive a competitive grant: (1) A Federal research agency; (2) a national laboratory; (3) a college or university or a research foundation maintained by a college or university; (4) a private research organization with an established and demonstrated capacity to perform research or technology transfer; or (5) a State agricultural experiment station. Unsolicited applications will not be considered and applications from scientists at non-United States organizations will not be accepted.

Applications are expected to involve the participation of the applicant state's land-grant institution and Space Grant Consortium (SGC). Participation of the applicant state's Sea Grant institution is encouraged, where appropriate. Award recipients may subcontract to organizations not eligible to apply provided such organizations are necessary for the conduct of the project.

USDA and NASA encourage researchers in other U.S. government agencies with remote sensing applications responsibilities to

participate as members in no-cost or low-cost applications, but civil servants may not request salary reimbursement. Civil servants in other U.S. government research laboratories are eligible to participate, but also may not request salary reimbursement.

D. Indirect Costs

Section 1462 of the National Agricultural Research, Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977 (7 U.S.C. 3310) requires that CSREES limit the recovery of indirect costs on all competitive awards to 19 percent of total Federal funds provided under the award. Therefore, the recovery of indirect costs on awards made by CSREES under the GES Program may not exceed the lesser of the institution's official negotiated indirect cost rate or the equivalent of 19 percent of total Federal funds awarded. Another method of calculating the maximum allowable is 23.456 percent of the total direct costs. (This limitation also applies to the recovery of indirect costs by any subawardee or subcontractor, and should be reflected in the subrecipient budget.) If no rate has been negotiated, a reasonable dollar amount (equivalent to or less than 19 percent of total Federal funds requested) in lieu of indirect costs may be requested, subject to approval by CSREES. This same indirect cost limitation applies to subcontracts.

E. Matching Requirements

The identification of institutional financial support for the GES position and/or project will be considered an indicator of commitment in the evaluation of applications (see Part IV, B. and Part III, B. 5(e)).

If a grant provides a particular benefit to a specific agricultural commodity, the grant recipient is required to match the USDA funds awarded on a dollar-for-dollar basis from non-Federal sources with cash and/or in-kind contributions.

CSREES may waive the matching funds requirement for a grant if CSREES determines that: (a) the results of the project, while of particular benefit to a specific agricultural commodity, are likely to be applicable to agricultural commodities generally; or (b) the project involves a minor commodity, the project deals with scientifically important research, and the grant recipient is unable to satisfy the matching funds requirement.

F. Funding Restrictions

Funds may not be used for the renovation or refurbishment of research spaces; purchase or installation of fixed equipment in such spaces; or planning,

repair, rehabilitation, acquisition, or construction of buildings or facilities.

G. Types of Applications

1. New Position

This is an application from a state where a new Geospatial Extension Specialist position has been created (a state other than the eleven listed in Part II, B.). New Position applications may request a maximum of \$100,000 per year for up to three (3) years.

2. Pre-existing Position

This is an application from a state that already has a Geospatial Extension Specialist. Pre-existing Position applications may request a maximum of \$50,000 for one year, with the possibility of continuation for two (2) additional years at the same level (see Part II, A. for further information).

Part II. Program Description

A. Project Types

New Position applications may request a maximum of \$100,000 per year for up to three (3) years. Pre-existing Position applications may request a maximum of \$50,000 for one year, with the possibility of continuation for two (2) additional years at the same level. A continuation grant is a grant instrument by which CSREES agrees to support a specified level of effort for a predetermined project period with a statement of intention to provide additional support at a future date, provided that performance has been satisfactory, appropriations are available for this purpose, and continued support would be in the best interest of the Federal government and the public.

CSREES anticipates funding three (3) New Position applications and two (2) Pre-existing Position applications. Awards will be made as grants or cooperative agreements as determined at the time of each award. Award amounts will depend on reviewers' recommendations, participating agencies' priorities, and the availability of funds.

Funding sponsored projects beyond the grant period will be the responsibility of the state or another source. Funding from NASA's Earth Science Applications Division for the GES Program will be limited to three years in each state. This limitation does not preclude a state's Geospatial Extension Specialist from applying for additional support for specific applications development projects through USDA or NASA research announcements, unsolicited applications or other mechanisms,