

(d) Centrality of Earth science, remote sensing, and other geospatial technologies to achieving program objectives.

2. Cost-Effectiveness

The demonstrated commitment of cooperative extension (or other university-based extension effort) and/or the Space Grant Consortium to long-term support of the Geospatial Extension Specialist position.

3. Management and Experience

(a) Demonstrated competence and relevant experience of project personnel as an indication of their ability to carry the proposed activity to a successful conclusion as a team;

(b) Feasibility of the management approach as it relates to the methods and concepts demonstrated by the application;

(c) Feasibility of the outreach plan and the soundness of the philosophy and methods by which it is effected;

(d) Degree to which all participants in the application and users are integrated into the proposed activities with well-defined and appropriate roles; and

(e) Adequacy of the facilities and equipment to support the proposed activity.

4. Metrics

The adequacy of metrics and other statistics to be collected that will measure the success of the activity.

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 academic 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

The GES Program will be administered by CSREES but managed as an interagency program involving participating agencies throughout the entire process from the development of the program announcement, to the review, recommendation and monitoring of awards. The interagency program managers will coordinate program administration activities such as review of periodic reporting of project evaluations and annual investigator team meetings.

The amount of each award will be determined jointly by USDA and NASA and their representatives after the panel review process has been completed.

Within the limit of funds available for such purpose, CSREES shall make awards to those responsible, eligible applicants whose applications are judged most meritorious under the procedures set forth in this RFA. It should be noted that the project need not be initiated on the award effective date, but as soon thereafter as practicable so that project goals may be attained within the funded project period. All funds granted by CSREES 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 terms and conditions of the award, the applicable Federal cost principles, and the applicable participating agencies' assistance regulations.

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 under this RFA if such information has not been provided previously under this or another program for which the sponsoring agency is responsible. CSREES will provide copies of forms recommended for use in fulfilling these requirements as part of the pre-award process. Although an applicant may be eligible based on its status as one of these entities, there are factors that may exclude an applicant from receiving Federal financial and non-financial 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 the CSREES Administrator 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 CSREES;

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

6. Total amount of financial assistance approved by the CSREES Administrator during the project period;

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

8. Legal authority(ies) under which the grant is made;

9. Applicable award terms and conditions (see <http://www.reeusda.gov/crgam/oep/awardterms.htm> to view CSREES award terms and conditions);

10. Approved budget plan for categorizing allocable project funds to accomplish the stated purpose of the award; and

11. Other information or provisions deemed necessary by CSREES to carry out its respective awarding activities or to accomplish the purpose of a particular award.

Part VI. Additional Information

A. Access To Review Information

Copies of reviews, not including the identity of reviewers, and a summary of the panel comments will be sent to the applicant PD after the review process has been completed.

B. Use of Funds; Changes

1. Delegation of Fiscal Responsibility

Unless the terms and conditions of the award state otherwise, the awardee may not in whole or in part delegate or transfer to another person, institution, or organization the responsibility for use or expenditure of award funds.

2. Changes in Project Plans

(a) The permissible changes by the awardee, PD(s), or other key project personnel in the approved project shall be limited to changes in methodology, techniques, or other similar aspects of the project to expedite achievement of