

any action by the Recipient. All training will be paid by the Recipient out of funds included in the individual intern's amendment to the original agreement.

E. Maximum EPA Financial Participation in Stipends (Per Week) and General Background Requirements of Internships

1. \$450 (\$11.25/hr): 1–4 full years of academic study.
2. \$550 (\$13.75/hr): Undergraduate degree and acceptance in graduate school
3. \$650 (\$16.25/hr): Undergraduate Degree and superior academic standard (top 1/3, 2.9/4 GPA overall, & 3.5/4 GPA in Major) and accepted into graduate school.
4. \$750 (\$18.75/hr): Completed 60 hrs Graduate level or completed Masters or law degree and accepted into PhD or L.L.M. program.

Overtime pay is not allowed. In the event that overtime is required, the duration of the internship will be reduced or additional funds will be obligated or compensatory time will be given in lieu of overtime pay to compensate for it.

In the event that an intern voluntarily terminates or is terminated by the recipient for cause (e.g., failing to carry out his or her training plan or engaging in disruptive behavior), the Recipient will make every effort to select another intern and, if not practicable, advises the EPA to de-obligate the remaining funds committed for the internship.

F. Funding Availability

The EPA funding for this Program will be a minimum of \$500,000 during the first year. The amount of funding for the second and third years is indefinite but can be as much as \$2 million each year. Each internship or group of internships, beyond the first, will be funded as a separate amendment to the master agreement. There is no set timetable for announcement of internships and they may occur throughout the year, depending on the EPA's programmatic decisions.

Matching Requirements—Cost sharing is not required for the internship program.

Type of Funding Instrument—The Environmental Protection Intern Program will be awarded as a Cooperative Agreement since the EPA anticipates that there will be substantial involvement between the EPA, the Recipient, and the Interns (after their selection).

G. Statements of Substantial Involvement Between U.S. EPA and the Recipient

In carrying out the work program set forth in the project description, EPA and the Recipient agree to meet the programmatic objective of this agreement: The programmatic objective of this intern program is to provide unique research training opportunities in cooperative study, applied research, research techniques, and developmental activities that would be of major benefit in advancing the number and diversity of environmental professionals. EPA involvement will consist of the following activities:

1. The EPA will provide descriptions of available student intern opportunities including academic background and prior work experience that would make the internship experience meaningful to the student.

2. EPA personnel will discuss internship opportunities with prospective interns and provide advice to the recipient relating to the "fit" between a prospective intern's academic background and work experience and the project available under the internship opportunity. However, EPA personnel will not select or make offers to prospective interns.

3. After considering the EPA's advice, and making its own assessment of the fit between a prospective intern's qualifications and interests and the internship opportunity, the Recipient is responsible for selecting the intern, making the offer of the internship, and arranging an orientation program and start date.

4. The recipient and the EPA will collaboratively develop the student intern's training plan. The EPA will provide a technical advisor to interact with each student intern as the intern carries out his or her training plan. The technical advisor shall provide technical guidance and support to the intern in developing the skills necessary to perform the work in the chosen environmental area and monitor the intern's progress towards completing his or her training plan. However, the EPA's technical advisor will not supervise the intern.

5. The EPA will provide liaison to interact with the Recipient and Senior Management on the progress of meeting the programmatic objectives of this Cooperative Agreement.

H. Eligibility Criteria

Any nonprofit organization as described in OMB Circular A-122 may submit a proposal. Please note that there are restrictions on the extent to which

the EPA can award financial assistance to organizations described by section 501(c)(4) of the Internal Revenue Code who engage in lobbying.

I. Award Period

The initial Master Agreement will be for a period of up to three (3) years. The EPA will consider continued funding for the project beyond the first year upon: (a) Satisfactory progress toward the stated agreement goals, and the determination by the EPA that the continuation of the program would be in the best interest of the Government; and (b) availability of funds. This submission in no way obligates the EPA to extend this agreement, nor is this paragraph to be interpreted as a promise that future funds will be available. Stipend levels, and benefits may be adjusted for Cost of Living Allowances for each continuation year.

Multiple awards may be made from this announcement.

J. Administrative Costs

Funds to support the environmental professional intern program will be given directly to the Recipient. Administrative costs will be negotiated as part of the Master Agreement award and will be based on and paid on a per internship basis. These costs may be fixed, time dependent, intern stipend dependent, or a combination as proposed by the Recipient.

K. Indirect Costs

The total dollar amount of the indirect costs proposed in an application under this program must not exceed the indirect cost rate negotiated and approved by a cognizant Federal agency prior to the proposed effective date of the award or 100 percent of the total proposed direct costs dollar amount in the application, whichever is less.

L. Application Requirements

Each Prospective Recipient will submit a package containing completed:

1. SF-424 (including SF-424A & SF-424B),
2. A budget with necessary supporting details. This budget should be based on a hypothetical intern opportunity at a stipend level of \$550 per week, with an allowance for required field trip travel of \$2,000, and a relocation allowance of \$500. Because it is anticipated that this agreement will be extended to include additional internships beyond the first, supporting information should be included to determine the full cost to the government of additional internships which may have any of the suggested stipend levels, have durations ranging from 12 weeks (3 month