



Regional Office of Acquisition and Assistance

Questions and Answers to Local Partnerships for the Transformation of Water Annual Program Statement, APS No: 72067419APS00001

1. Qualifying criteria: If we have never received direct USAID funding nor indirect USAID funding would we be categorized as a "New Entrant" and therefore able to apply for both Tranche 1 and Tranche 2 funding?

Response to Question 1: Yes such an organization that has never received direct USAID funding would meet the definition of a "New Entrant" and be eligible to apply for both Tranche 1 and Tranche 2 funding.

2. We came across the above NOFO notice and have a query regarding the terms of the funding opportunity, in terms of profit/fees:

- On both page 2 and page 13 of the NOFO, it seems that no profit or fees are allowed: 'no profit/fee is allowed under assistance awards and foregone profit does not qualify as cost-sharing or leveraging' (p2), and 'profit or fee is unallowable for Assistance mechanisms ...'(p13).

Does this mean that we are not allowed to charge any fees at all for professionals/experts who would work on such a project? In other words, any work we would do would be completely without recompense? If this is the case we would of course not be able to participate, and I do not understand how any for-profit organisations would be able to do so. Could you please clarify if this is indeed the meaning/intention?

Response to Question 2: 2 CFR 200, Subpart E, Cost Principles, prohibits profit to recipients and subrecipients of assistance awards. While profit is not allowed for subawards, the prohibition does not apply when a recipient obtains goods and services for the recipient's own use and the award creates a procurement relationship with the contractor. For further detail see "Profit Under USAID Assistance Instruments", Additional Help for ADS 303, found at: <https://www.usaid.gov/sites/default/files/documents/1868/303sai.pdf>

3. The call states : "Construction is not eligible for reimbursement under awards resulting from this APS (the terms includes without limitation, roads, power plants, buildings, bridges, water treatment facilities, and vertical structures)". Does construction includes boreholes, water tank and small dam ? Does it include drilling ? Are hardware (such as motopump or specific spare) eligible or excluded ? Would any "pilot infrastructure" understood as any infrastructure for which innovative management practices can be tested and experimented be eligible or ineligible for reimbursement ?

Response to Question 3: Construction in this context would include the construction of boreholes, water tanks, dams and/or drilling. Although construction would not be a permissible use of USAID funding under this APS, partnering with other entities that can fund the procurement of any type of construction, would be permissible and encouraged. The use or installation of hardware does not fit under this definition of construction and would therefore be permissible if this type of activity were supporting any of the objectives listed under this APS: enhanced ecosystem services, increased individual and institutional resilience, improved governance around water resource management and water security, and improve engagement of you and local environmental champions.

4. Would an entity registered or based in Zimbabwe but with a regional purpose and already intervening in the targeted countries (for example Mozambique, Botswana) and willing to develop activities through this APS included or excluded?

Response to Question 4: An entity registered in Zimbabwe, unaffiliated with the Government of Zimbabwe, that is working in the target countries could be considered under this APS.

5. We are a registered Non-Profit Company in South Africa. Our work is funded by multiple donors, but we have never received funding (directly or indirectly) from USAID. Is our organisation eligible for funding under this Notice?

Response to Question 5: Yes, based on these facts your organization would be eligible for funding under this APS under Tranche 1 and Tranche 2.

6. The Notice refers in various parts to USAID's focus/experience in transboundary water resource management (including references to the Limpopo and Okavango River Basins). Our work includes a strong focus on water and water resource management, however our geographic footprint is in the Southern Cape and Little Karoo regions of the Western Cape Province. Will a proposal for work in this geographic location be eligible for consideration under this Notice?

Response to Question 6: Geographies outside of the Limpopo and Okavango would be considered especially if they can demonstrate the ability to scale, replicability or a strong link to the Limpopo or Okavango river basins.

7. Our planned application is from a consortium of universities in the US and South Africa, which appear to be eligible applicants. Can you confirm that this consortium, which will also include another SA partner, will be eligible?

Response to Question 7: A consortium of universities, including from the U.S. and South Africa, would be eligible under Tranche 2. If the consortium meets the definition of New Entrant then it would also be eligible under Tranche 1.

8. The solicitation does not specify indirect cost rates. Are indirect costs permissible as listed in ADS 303? Should our SA partner use the 10% indirect rate specified in ADS 303?

Response to Question 8: Details regarding indirect costs would be provided during the next stage of the process in a request for application. For purposes of developing the estimated total cost for the concept paper, an organization that would be eligible under 2 CFR 200.414 could reasonably use the 10% de minimis rate for estimating indirect costs.

9. Would it be possible to discuss our consortium with the AOR?

Response to Question 9: Discussion with USAID is not available prior to submission of concept papers.

10. I read with interest about the Local Partnerships for the Transformation of Water Annual Program opportunity, and was wondering if there was a guideline/recommendation for the length of the concept note due on the 23rd Nov.

Response to Question 10: Yes, please see Section D for formatting and page limits (specifically page 16).

11. I am wondering if an incumbent exists for the potential requirement: USAID/South Africa APS -Environmental Partnership and Innovation. If so, could you please provide the following information?:

- Vendor name
- Contract number
- Value
- Date of award
- Expiration date

Response to Question 11: As this is an Annual Program Statement in which the applicants propose the concepts in line with the Funding Opportunity Description, there is no incumbent.

12. I got your reference on the website (grants.gov) and are eagerly interested to submit a water proposal for my country Namibia, on the African continent. Please advise on best practice to submit such water proposal for prospective funding.

Response to Question 12: Please follow the instructions outlined in Section D of the APS, which is found under the "Related Documents" tab at the following link: <https://www.grants.gov/web/grants/view-opportunity.html?oppId=309834>

13. Does a cover letter count as a page under the three to five page limit for Concept Papers?

Response to Question 13: A cover page as described on page 17 of the APS does not count towards the page limit, but a separate cover letter would count towards the page limit.

14. Under which type of institution do you classify a South African district municipality?

Response to Question 14: A municipality would be considered a government entity and not eligible as the applicant/recipient.

15. Can a South African local or district municipality be the main beneficiary of the grant, thus not the grant applicant. The grant applicant will be the implementing agent?

Response to Question 15: Yes the municipality could be the main beneficiary with a different non-governmental organization recipient implementing the activity.

16. Can the applicant and implementing agent be a private company, and the beneficiary a municipality?

Response to Question 16: Yes, this arrangement would meet eligibility requirements as described.

17. Cover page item: title of proposed program. Can you please clarify if this is the grant title, or a title relevant to the specific grant activity or project suggested under this application?

Response to Question 17: This is the title of the proposed activity covered by the concept paper.

18. Does purchasing of equipment (such as leak detection devices) qualify for the grant?

Response to Question 18: Applicants can propose to purchase equipment in the application. Equipment generally requires Agreement Officer approval.

19. Does installations such as fitting of meters qualify for the grant?

Response to Question 19: Water metering can be a part of a water resource management activity; however, being that the purpose of this APS is to foster partnerships with local organizations by **achieve** objectives that focus on enhanced ecosystem services, increased **individual** and institutional resilience, improved governance around water resource management and water security, and improve **engagement** of you and local environmental champions, an activity which focuses on water metering alone would not qualify.

20. Will it be possible to have more than one part in the Concept Paper, and that USAID may award the funding to all parts or some parts or none of the parts of the Concept Paper?

Response to Question 20: Yes, this could be possible within the page limitations. Another option is to submit multiple concept papers.

21. Can you please provide more clarity on the statement on page 2: "Please note that no profit/fee is allowed under assistance awards and foregone profit does not qualify as cost-sharing or leveraging."

Response to Question 21: Please see the response to Question 2.

22. How much time will be allocated for invitees to submit a full application?

Response to Question 22: A minimum of thirty days are expected to be allocated for submission of a full application.

23. Can you please clarify the award of Assistance mechanisms that are allowed or not allowed, page 13, item 3.: "For-profit, or profit-making organizations, are eligible for award under this APS, however, profit or fee is unallowable for Assistance mechanisms and will not be authorized under any award made."

Response to Question 23: As stated in Section B, this APS has the flexibility to award Cooperative Agreements, Grants, and/or Fixed Amount Awards at the discretion of the Agreement Officer.

24. Is there a minimum amount (US Dollar) that should be applied for to consider an application?

Response to Question 24: There is no specified minimum. However, there is a maximum of two awards for Tranche 1 and Tranche 2 combined.

25. When will the Concept Papers or applications be reviewed and applicants notified or invited to submit a full application?

Response to Question 25: The review of concept papers is expected to begin immediately following the deadline with notice to any applicants to submit a full application as soon as possible thereafter. It is anticipated that this would occur in or about December 2018.

26. Are there any restrictions on costs (other than construction)? Can we include international travel, student stipends and fees, equipment, outreach and workshop activities?

Response to Question 26: More details on the development of a detailed budget would be provided in a request for application during the next stage of the process. However, excluding construction and profit, all reasonable, allocable and allowable expenses, both direct and indirect, which are related to the activity and are in accordance with applicable cost principles under 2 CFR 200 Subpart E. of the Uniform Administrative Requirements may be paid under an

anticipated award.

27. What level of institutional overheads can we include in the budget?

Response to Question 27: Please see the response to Question 8.

28. We are working on water projects in North West and Limpopo and would like to find out if we can apply for the above funding. I have read through the website but the process for application, closing dates etc. were unclear.

Response to Question 28: Please follow the instructions outlined in Section D of the APS, which is found under the “Related Documents” tab at the following link: <https://www.grants.gov/web/grants/view-opportunity.html?oppld=309834>

29. Are the four key partners of the Resilient Waters Project eligible for funding under this grant?

Response to Question 29: An organization that meets the eligibility criteria in Section C would be eligible.

30. What is meant by profit/fee? Does this mean that there should be no profit margin in the rate but that we can still charge an on cost amount?

Response to Question 30: Please see the response to Question 2.

31. Is there a maximum permissible rate?

Response to Question 31: It is not clear what “rate” means in this question. If referring to indirect cost rates, see the response to Question 8.

[END OF QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS]