

Notice of Funding Opportunity Number: 72049221R00003
Program Title: Climate Resilient Cities
Responses to Questions

1. Is the inclusion of any supplemental materials (letters of commitment, etc.) allowed to be included with the technical volume?

USAID Response:

No, please refer to Section D of the Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) for submission instructions and page limits.

2. Would USAID like the Branding and Marking Plan to be included with this application, or only once USAID has selected awardee?

USAID Response:

Please refer to page 25 of the NOFO. Only the apparently successful applicant will be asked to provide a Branding Strategy and Marking Plan.

3. Can USAID please clarify if cost share is included in the \$15M award amount, or if cost share is additive to the amount awarded by USAID?

USAID Response:

Cost share is additive to the estimated award amount of \$15M.

4. Does USAID require Key Personnel to be Filipino?

USAID Response:

No, USAID does not require Key Personnel to be Filipino.

5. Could you please confirm whether there is an expectation that the winning organization (or consortium) include a grant-making component for municipalities (or Filipino organizations in said municipalities) to carry out climate resilience innovations or is the emphasis more on helping municipalities identify shortfalls and opportunities for funding?

USAID Response:

Please refer to Section D of the NOFO specifically on page 19, 5(d) for instructions about the Technical Approach. Applicants must propose their approach to achieve the objectives.

6. Is there any guidance or criteria for how we should assess the matching contribution component from the winning organization (or consortium)?

USAID Response:

Please refer to Cost Share and Matching on page 16 and 2 CFR 200.306 for more information and guidance on cost sharing in grants and cooperative agreements.

7. Are there any requirements for the winning organization (or consortium) to have an ongoing ground presence in the Philippines as opposed to working through partners and frequent visits?

USAID Response:

USAID does not require to have an on-going presence in the Philippines. USAID intends to make an award to the applicant(s) who best meets the objectives of this funding opportunity based on the merit review criteria described in this NOFO subject to a risk assessment.

8. Can USAID clarify whether it intends for LGUs to access and manage climate financing from international sources as well as national sources?

USAID Response:

Section A of the NOFO, specifically on page 8, mentions both public and private climate finance programs in the Philippines. Applicants must propose their approach to achieve the objectives.

9. Does USAID require that the history of performance be submitted using a particular template? Can it be included in an annex?

USAID Response:

No, there is no template. Please refer to h) History of performance on page 24 for instructions. History of performance must be submitted as part of the Business (Cost) Application. Yes, the history of performance can be included in an annex, although there is no page limit to the Business (Cost) Application.

10. Can the offeror submit history of performance for its subcontractors?

USAID Response:

No, history of subcontractors' performance is not required at this time.

11. Does USAID require letters of commitment from subcontractors?

USAID Response:

No. Please refer to 6(f) on page 23 for sub-award requirements.

12. Does USAID have a maximum attachment file size per email for proposal submission?

USAID Response:

Yes, maximum attachment file size per email is 25MB.

13. Is USAID referring to the Cities Development Initiative when it describes the “urban economic development program” in Section A 6 on page 11?

USAID Response:

This refers to the ongoing urban economic program or group of activities of the Philippine Mission.

14. Could USAID expand upon the co-development/ collaboration workshop that will take place after the award of the CRC Project, referenced in Section A1: Summary? Is this collaboration with other projects and stakeholders?

USAID Response:

Once the Climate Resilient Cities Project is awarded, USAID expects the Recipient to conduct a co-development / collaboration workshop with USAID Agreement Officer (AO) and Agreement Officer’s Representative (AOR) together with various stakeholders such as but not limited to concerned Philippine Government agencies, development partners, ongoing USAID implementing mechanisms among others. The objectives of the workshop may include: a) to conduct project orientation by communicating the objectives of the Climate Resilient Cities Project to various stakeholders; b) to validate and/or update the Project’s interventions; c) to gain momentum and support from stakeholders working in the areas of climate change adaptation and mitigation; and d) to gather recommendations to improve the Project’s implementation and identify potential partnerships.

15. USAID indicates that the project will work in three sites at a minimum and that the criteria for selecting the project sites will be based on the top 22 vulnerable provinces identified by the Philippine Cabinet Cluster on CCDRM. USAID further

indicates that of the project sites, the majority must be CDI sites but none of the CDI cities are included in the top 22 vulnerable provinces. Could you please clarify? In addition, could you please provide the list of project sites of the Coastal Resilience Project, as USAID indicates that offerors are to preferably exclude those sites from the proposed CRC sites.

USAID Response:

The general criteria for selecting the project sites will be based on the Philippine Cabinet Cluster on CCDRM's identified focus areas of the roadmap, i.e., city/ cities belonging to the 22 vulnerable provinces and/or 822 coastal municipalities and the USAID's Cities Development Initiative (CDI) sites. The Mission is strengthening the economic competitiveness and resilience of secondary cities outside of Metro Manila, Cebu and Davao through the CDI approach. More information about CDI is on page 4 of the NOFO. The Applicants are encouraged to identify specific criteria for choosing the project sites.

A weblink about the Coastal Resilience Project is indicated on page 12.

16. Could USAID specify whether the offerors should provide key personnel CVs as an annex to the proposal?

USAID Response:

No, please refer to Section D of the Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) for submission instructions and page limits.

17. Does USAID want the offerors to include their written policies on personnel compensation as part of the budget narrative or in an annex?

USAID Response:

No, applicants must review the NOFO instructions and determine how to present their budget and budget narrative.

18. This Solicitation states that there is a Cost Share Requirement of 5%. The 95% will be shouldered by usaid. Please Confirm if my observation is correct?

USAID Response:

Yes. Please refer to Cost Share and Matching on page 16 and 2 CFR 200.306 for more information and guidance on cost sharing in grants and cooperative agreements.

19. With respect to staffing- If some of staff will be from a Philippine Government agency with whom I will be partnering- and I will have some staff working with my

team coming from USA- I want to ask- what law governs in regard to compensation of Philippine Government Staff whom I intend to include as part of my payroll? or stated another way, these staff are getting their salary from the Philippines government agency- and I want to ask if USAID will allow a form of incentive to said local staff from the Philippines?

USAID Response:

Please refer to 2 CFR 200 Subpart E for Cost Principles governing a USAID cooperative agreement.

20. Can you please Identify in regard to the Geographic Sites, which is not specified with particularity as follows: Vulnerable Areas- Spanning 9 Regions, 22 Provinces, 8 22 Coastal Communities?
- Does said Region Include -Autonomous Region of Muslim Mindanao like Tawi Tawi, Jolo.
 - Coastal Communities- does it include Tagkawayan, Sariaya coastal, Burgos, Dalahican, Mulanay, Alabat- all coastal communities in Quezon Province
 - in Provinces, does it include Laguna de Bay which is in Laguna
 - How about the Cordillera Region?
 - How about Leyte - is it included in the coastal communities?
- A map or link to the Geographic Sites will be very valuable for participants from the US in order to tailor the budgeting aspect especially in regard to safety of consultants in the ARMM region.

USAID Response:

Please see response to Question no. 15. Further, identification of geographic sites for Climate Resilient Cities Project is more strategic if the Applicant can identify a set of criteria as to why it proposes certain sites in the Technical Application.

Spatial images, maps, photos, technical reports, among others can be easily accessed via the internet.

21. Is it possible to have Fil-Am participants, who are familiar with political, economic, social, cultural background of the Philippines. How does USAID implement the Mandate of the Executive Order by giving priority to such group?

USAID Response:

There is no restriction on nationality of an Applicant's employees.

22. Is Tawi Tawi included in the Geographic Sites of the solicitation?

USAID Response:

Please refer to Section A of the NOFO to see the Climate Resilient Cities Project description and coverage.

23. Please confirm this solicitation does not include construction.

USAID Response:

Yes, the solicitation does not include construction.