

RFA NO. DTFH6114RA00014
Questions & Answers (Q&A) 13 – 26
7/15/14

Question #13: Page 27, Volume 3, Part II, 1.cites, “supporting all estimated cost by Activity”. Please define by activity. Is cost to be broken down by Task?

Answer #13: Yes; the cost is to be broken down by task and by activity within each task sufficient to allow the Government the ability to understand the approach and the realism of the approach.

Question #14: On SF 424A, Section B, No. 6, if we are to cost by task, are blocks (1) – (4) of Block 6 – Object Class categories to coincide with these tasks? If so, there are more tasks than available blocks, please advise how this is to be completed.

*Answer #14: Please refer to the form instructions on the Grants.gov website as follows:
<http://www.grants.gov/web/grants/form-instructions.html>.*

Question #15: Page 27, Volume 3, Part II, 1.c. cites, “provide supporting information to justify estimates that are different than those suggested in Attachment A”. Please provide Attachment A.

Answer #15: Please disregard the reference to Attachment A.

Question #16: Page 27, Volume 3, Part II, 3.c. cites “cost details for that portion of work” regarding sub-recipients. What levels of detail are required by the sub-recipients? Most sub-recipients will consider their cost details proprietary and will only release that information to the Government. If they are required to provide proprietary direct or indirect rate information, can that be provided directly to the government for evaluation? If so, how can the information be transmitted to the FHWA?

Answer #16: Cost details to be provided for the sub-recipient portion of work includes labor categories, labor hours, labor rates, fringe, G&A, indirect rates, travel, materials and supplies, equipment, etc. The sub-recipient can e-mail the proprietary information directly to the FHWA point of contact listed on page 1 of the RFA to arrive no later than the application deadline cited within the RFA.

Question #17: Page 26, Volume 2 Business Plan cites, “shall contain a five year financial forecast...” Is this five year financial forecast for this program or for the recipient’s organization?

Answer #17: The five year financial forecast is the recipient's financial forecast for this line of business. The focus is on how the recipient plans to become self-sufficient (for the certification testing business area).

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Question #18: On SF 424A, Section B, which section of this form should the sub-recipient cost be inserted?

Answer #18: *Sub-recipient cost should be inserted on 6.f.Contractual..*

Question #19: On SF 424A Budget Categories, if fringe benefits are part of an organization's indirect cost pools in accordance with disclosure statements and government approved systems, is it acceptable to note this in narrative form and leave the fringe benefits line blank?

Answer #19: *Yes.*

Question #20: On Page 3, Section I, Paragraph B, the legislative authority cites, "The authority to enter into a cooperative agreement" and the SF LLL Disclosure of Lobbying Activities Box 1 cites, "type of Federal Action: Grant". Should offerors revise SF LLL to check the cooperative agreement box to coincide with the legislative authority section of the RFA?

Answer #20: *Per RFA SECTION II – AWARD INFORMATION, C. Number/Type of Awards Anticipated, "FHWA anticipates making up to three Cooperative Agreement awards as a result of this RFA."*

Question #21: Section II, Paragraph A, page 22 cites, "FHWA anticipates Federal funding in the amount of \$2,000,000 will be made available for the awards subject to availability. FHWA anticipates this funding will be split between multiple awards, with a maximum of approximately \$600,000 for each award." Can the government clarify whether it intends to make separate awards to independent recipients or if a single recipient is eligible to receive multiple awards (up to the Cooperative Agreement Ceiling)?

Answer #21: *Per RFA SECTION V – APPLICATION REVIEW INFORMATION, Paragraph C. REVIEW AND SELECTION PROCESS cites, "The Government will accept the applications that are considered the most advantageous to the Government taking into account the best use of available funds to meet the objectives of the program legislation in accordance with the evaluation factors listed above. The AO is the official responsible for final award selections. The Government is not obligated to make any award as a result of this announcement."*

Question #22: On Page 25 regarding line spacing, is it acceptable to single-space tables and graphic/illustrations?

Answer #22: *Yes; it acceptable to single-space tables and graphic/illustrations?*

Question #23: Page 25 cites, "Text will be printed using Times New Roman, with no less than 12 point font." Would the government consider the use of a smaller font for tables and graphics? For example, Arial 10pt.

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Answer #23: *No; please follow the RFA guidance.*

Question #24: Section E. SOW states Task 7 (pg 8): Conduct Self-Sustained Certification Testing - occurs during Phase 6. Reports and Deliverables table, Task 7 (pg 21), Due Dates indicate this Task 7 Deliverable will be due as required during Phase 5. Please indicate which is correct. Same for Task 8 on the Deliverables Table, it stated due date is at least 6 weeks prior to schedule start of phase 6 when section E indicates this is part of Phase 6. Are we to understand that no deliverables are in phase 6?

Answer #24: *Task 6 does require deliverables. Please see the list of Task 6 deliverables on page 16 and the table for Task 6 deliverables in Section 1 of the RFA, part F Reports and Deliverables. Please note that there is some overlap between the tasks and therefore some of these deliverables will occur at the same time as deliverables for other tasks.*

Question #25: Regarding Volume Page Limits, are title pages, table of contents, and acronym lists excluded from page count?

Answer #25: *Title pages or table of contents will not be included as part of the page count. However, the list of acronyms shall be counted in the page count. The Technical Volume is limited to 50 pages. In the event an application exceeds the 50 - page limitation, the Government will evaluate only the first 50 pages of the application.*

Question #26: Would the government consider extending the Application Due Date?

Answer #26: *Yes; applications are due July 23, 2014 by 2:00 p.m. Eastern Time*