

Department of Homeland Security Science & Technology Directorate (DHS/S&T)
Center for Borders, Trade and Immigration Research (CBTIR)

Center Lead FOA: DHS-14-ST-061-COE-002A

Center Partner FOA: DHS-14-ST-061-COE-002B

The following questions have been received by the DHS Grants Officer. Answers are based on published information in the above referenced Funding Opportunity Announcements (FOAs) and are intended to ensure all interested applicants have the same information. The identity of the institution asking the question will not be provided. Questions have been edited to provide clarity.

Question #1: Would a pending PhD be an obstacle in pursuing this proposal as PI or CO-PI, or would other credentials be sufficient?

Answer: There are no PhD requirements to apply. Please refer to the FOAs, Section III. Eligibility Information.

Question #2: Page 19 of the revised final FOA indicates “Principal Investigators (PI) that are already Partners under a Center Lead application may not submit an application under this Partner FOA”. My project under a current COE ends March 2015 (project award date). Am I eligible to apply for this competitive opportunity?

Answer: Yes, this competition is open to academic institutions and PIs that are currently partnered with existing COEs. Please note the modified Text on page 19 of the Partner FOA: “Principal Investigators that are already Partners under a Center Lead application may not submit the same application under this Partner FOA.”

Question #3: Please let us know If our technology platform could be of relevance to the requirements of the program or not.

Answer: Please refer to the “Research and Education Themes, Topics, and Questions” as identified in the FOA. DHS will not provide feedback on the relevancy of your project prior to submission.

Question #4: Do we submit a budget for all 5 years (max of \$20 million) or do we only submit a budget for year 1 at a max of \$4 million, even though some of the proposed projects will extend beyond Year 1?

Answer: Applicants should submit a budget for all 5 years, including the following for each project (from Center Lead FOA Section IV. How to Apply, D. 3. b. Page 31) “A year-by-year description of the project from inception to transition including key milestones for each year” and “Total costs per year”.

Question #5: There are 2 separate PIs with 2 distinct projects applying from our institution: one to be a partner under the Center Lead FOA applicant and one as a separate applicant to the CBTIR Center Partner FOA. Is it possible for both to receive funding, or is there a limit of only one application from our institution being chosen for an award?

Answer: You may submit both projects. Please see Section III. Eligibility Information of the Partner FOA: "Applicants may submit more than 1 proposal. Principal Investigators that are already Partners under a Center Lead application may not submit *the same* application under this Partner FOA."

Question #6: The "GG_LobbyingForm-V1.1" is not included in the application package and "The Disclosure of Lobbying Activities (SF-LLL)", listed as optional, is included in the mandatory section. Will this affect submitting the package through Grants.gov? Since the GG_LobbyingForm-V1.1 is not included in the application, how should it be attached?

Answer: The "GG_LobbyingForm-V1.1" listed in the FOAs in "Section IV. How to Apply. C. Certification Regarding Lobbying (GG_Lobbying Form-V1.1)" is **not** mandatory and only applicants selected to receive funding will be required to submit this form. The FOAs have been updated to reflect this. The "The Disclosure of Lobbying Activities (SF-LLL)" listed in the FOAs in "Section IV. How to Apply. E. Optional Forms" has been moved to the Optional section of the application package for the Center Lead and Center Partner FOAs.

Question #7: Should the Facilities & Administrative Cost letters for all the sub-awards be included with the application?

Answer: It can be submitted as an attachment.

Question #8: Does "Indirect costs on sub-awards are limited to the first \$25,000 of direct costs" mean we should only charge indirect costs against the first \$25K of any sub-awards we issue?

Answer: Yes. As the FOA states: "Indirect costs on sub-awards are limited to the first \$25,000 of direct costs." Your institution's federally-approved Indirect Cost rate provides the details of allowable charges.

Question #9: The submission deadline is listed as 12:59:59 PM EDT on the first page, but 11:59:59 PM EDT in the checklist.

Answer: It is 11:59:59PM EDT. The Center Lead and Center Partner FOAs have been updated.