

June 14, 2019

**NOTICE OF FUNDING OPPORTUNITY (NOFO)
OSMRE Semester Internship Program**

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- **Federal Agency Name:** The Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement (OSMRE), Department of the Interior
- **Funding Opportunity Title:** OSMRE Semester Internship Program
- **Announcement Type:** Initial
- **Opportunity Category:** Discretionary
- **Funding Opportunity Number:** S19AS00006
- **Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance (CFDA) Number:** 15.254
- **Dates:** Proposals must be received electronically through Grants.gov by Tuesday, July 23, 2019 at 11:59 PM Eastern Standard Time.
- **Application Submission Address:** Application must be submitted using Grants.gov.
- **Funding Opportunity Description:** OSMRE seeks applications from eligible organizations to assist in the administration of the OSMRE Semester Internship Program.
- **Anticipated Funding Amounts:** In FY 2019, OSMRE anticipates that one (1) organization will be awarded approximately \$100,000 to administer the OSMRE Semester Internship Program over a two (2) year period.
- **Funding Instrument Type:** Cooperative Agreement.
- **Who is Eligible:** Eligible sponsor organizations must be a non-profit organization with 501(c)(3) status and have the ability to oversee the administrative aspects of the Semester Internship Program. When projects deem eligible to be an AmeriCorps position, have access to AmeriCorps positions through partnership with the Corporation for National and Community Service, or other intermediary organization. Federal, state, and local governments are not eligible to receive this direct funding.
- **Cost Sharing Requirements:** Cost sharing is not required.

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A. Program Description

1. The OSMRE Semester Internship Program authority to award this Cooperative Agreement is found in the Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act of 1977, as amended, Public Law 95-87, 91 Stat. 445-532; Public Lands Corps Healthy Forests Restoration Act of 2005, Public Law 109-154 as amended in the National Park Service Centennial Act, Public Law 114-289; and Direct Hire Authority for Resource Assistant Internship Programs outlined by the Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2012, Public Law 112-74, H.R. 2055 Division E Title I Section 121, and 16 U.S.C. 1725(a).
2. The OSMRE Semester Internship Program is designed to partner with non-profit IRS 501(c)(3) eligible applicants who have the administrative capabilities to administer the Semester Internship Program, and who have access to AmeriCorps State and National (hereinafter referred to as AmeriCorps) positions through partnership with the Corporation for National and Community Service, or other intermediary organization.
3. The OSMRE Semester Internship Program was developed to support Agency and Bureau goals and provide participants with a meaningful work experience in OSMRE offices nationwide. Semester Interns are tasked with projects that significantly contribute to their professional development.
4. Recipients of OSMRE Semester Internship Program financial assistance will support an innovative partnership, working directly with OSMRE in the following areas: (1) community and environmental reclamation, (2) community environmental stewardship, (3) research, (4) data analysis, (5) geographic information systems, (6) mapping, and more.
5. The program is available to current students or recent graduates of an accredited institution of higher learning. Semester Interns serve ten (10) or fifteen (15) weeks in in OSMRE Headquarters, Regional and Field Offices. The Semester Internship Program runs three (3) internship semesters: Fall (August – December; 15 weeks); Spring (January – May; 15 weeks); and Summer (May – August; 10 weeks).
6. Some Semester Internship projects may fit within the guidelines for an AmeriCorps position as defined by the Corporation for National and Community Service. An AmeriCorps Member is an individual who engages in national service through an activity approved by the Corporation for National and Community Service, or an intermediate organization. Members receive a living allowance and other benefits while serving. Upon successful completion of their service, Members may earn a Segal AmeriCorps Education

Award from the National Service Trust that Members can use to pay for higher education expenses or apply to qualified student loans.

7. Semester Internship projects that do not fit the requirements for an AmeriCorps position will be categorized as general intern positions and participants will be paid minimum wage in the state in which they are serving.

B. Federal Award Information:

1. OSMRE is accepting applications for financial assistance for Fiscal Years (2020-2021).
2. The funding instrument that will be used is a Cooperative Agreement.
3. The recipient organization will be awarded a maximum amount of \$100,000 to administer a two (2) year OSMRE Semester Internship Program.
4. The OSMRE Semester Internship Program will fund a minimum of up to six (6) general Intern positions and up to ten (10) AmeriCorps Intern positions over two (2) years.
5. Anticipated start dates will be based on OSMRE's funding schedule and timing of funding appropriations.
6. The Cooperative Agreement will be for a project period not to exceed two (2) years from date of award.
7. The recipient grantee may apply for non-funded extensions of time as necessary to complete the project up to one (1) year.
8. In accordance with 2 CFR 200.24, a Cooperative Agreement creates an appropriate legal relationship between OSMRE and the performing organization to carry out a public purpose authorized by a law of the United States [see 31 U.S.C. 6101(3)]. OSMRE reserves the right to remain substantially involved during the course of the approved project.
9. Substantial involvement will be limited to one or more of the following areas:
 - (a) Identification of projects;
 - (b) Approval of the recipient's implementation plans;
 - (c) Review of the recipient's monitoring and evaluation plans;
 - (d) Approval of specified key personnel;
 - (e) Concurrence in the substantive provisions of sub awards.

10. Funding for the Semester Internship Program is contingent on availability of appropriations. In no event will OSMRE be responsible for the preparation costs incurred by any applicant if this program fails to receive funding or is cancelled because of Agency priorities. Publication of this NOFO does not obligate OSMRE or the Department of Interior to award funding.
11. There are no pre-applications with this NOFO.

C. Eligibility Information:

1. **An Eligible Applicant** is limited to not-for-profit IRS 501(c)(3) status organizations that meets the following requirements:
 - (a) Provide proof of non-profit IRS 501(c)(3) status as determined by the Internal Revenue Service of non-profit organizations and institutions.
 - (b) Manage and carry out all administrative functions associated with projects funded under this program, including maintaining all administrative records required for operation and management of the program.
 - (c) Exhibit the organizational capacity to oversee participants locally and across the country.
 - (d) Demonstrate established access to AmeriCorps positions through partnership with the Corporation for National and Community Service or other intermediary organization.
 - (e) Demonstrate a history of overseeing a national teams or programs.
 - (f) Cost Sharing or Matching. Cost Sharing not required.
2. The Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement requires recipients to maintain financial data to provide for the safeguard and accountability of Federal funds, to include written procedures for purchases, accounting system, cash management; and organizational structure in accordance with 2 CFR 200.303 Internal Controls. Examples include the following:
 - (a) Provide accurate, current, and complete financial information about Federal awards and sub awards.
 - (b) Maintain records that adequately identify the sources of funds for federally assisted activities and the purposes for which the award was

used, including authorizations, obligations, unobligated balances, assets, liabilities, outlays or expenditures, and any program income.

Accounting records must be supported by source documentation such as canceled checks, paid bills, payrolls, and time and attendance records.

- (c) Maintain effective control over and accountability for all cash, real and personal property, and other assets under the award; adequately safeguard those assets; and ensure that they are used only for authorized purposes.
- 3. Applicants are responsible for ensuring that proposed budget costs are allowable, allocable, and reasonable; in accordance with the Uniform Administrative Requirements, Cost Principles and Audit Requirements for Federal Programs, 2 CFR 200.403; 200.404; and 200.405.
- 4. **Suspension and Debarment:** Funds will not be awarded to any applicant that is presently debarred, suspended, proposed for debarment, declared ineligible, or voluntarily excluded from cover transactions by any Federal debarment or agency, or are presently indicted for or otherwise criminally or civilly charged by a government entity.

No funds will be awarded to recipients who have within a three-year period preceding this proposal have been convicted of or had a civil judgment rendered against them for commission of fraud or a criminal offense in connection with obtaining, attempting to obtain, or performing a public (Federal, State, local) transaction or contract under a public transaction; violation of Federal or State antitrust statutes or commission of embezzlement, theft, forgery, bribery, falsification or destruction of records, and making false statements or receiving stolen property.

- 5. **Applicant Violator System (AVS):** All applicants, organization officers and others having authority to make project related decisions will be screened through the Applicant Violator System (AVS). AVS is an automated information system owned and operated by OSMRE that contains information on applicants, permittees, operators, application and permit records, as well as unabated or uncorrected environmental violations of SMCRA.
- 6. **Federal Performance and Integrity System (FAPIIS):** Prior to any award of Federal funds, the Federal award agencies will review and consider information about the applicant that is in Federal Performance and Integrity System FAPIIS. Applicants may review and comment on information about them in FAPIIS and the agency will consider any applicant comments in making award decisions; and address post-award grant reporting requirements

and inform applicants about post-award FAPIIS reporting requirements, in accordance with 2 CFR 200.212(c)(5).

7. Conflict of Interest Disclosures:

(a) Applicability.

- (1) This section intends to ensure that non-Federal entities and their employees take appropriate steps to avoid conflicts of interest in their responsibilities under or with respect to Federal financial assistance agreements.
- (2) In the procurement of supplies, equipment, construction, and services by recipients and by subrecipients, the conflict of interest provisions in 2 CFR 200.318 apply.

(b) Requirements.

- (1) Non-Federal entities must avoid prohibited conflicts of interest, including any significant financial interests that could cause a reasonable person to question the recipient's ability to provide impartial, technically sound, and objective performance under or with respect to a Federal financial assistance agreement.
- (2) In addition to any other prohibitions that may apply with respect to conflicts of interest, no key official of an actual or proposed recipient or subrecipient, who is substantially involved in the proposal or project, may have been a former Federal employee who, within the last one (1) year, participated personally and substantially in the evaluation, award, or administration of an award with respect to that recipient or subrecipient or in development of the requirement leading to the funding announcement.
- (3) No actual or prospective recipient or subrecipient may solicit, obtain, or use non-public information regarding the evaluation, award, or administration of an award to that recipient or subrecipient or the development of a Federal financial assistance opportunity that may be of competitive interest to that recipient or subrecipient.

(c) Notification.

- (1) Non-Federal entities, including applicants for financial assistance awards, must disclose in writing any conflict of interest to the DOI awarding agency or pass-through entity in accordance with 2 CFR

200.112, Conflicts of Interest.

- (2) Recipients must establish internal controls that include, at a minimum, procedures to identify, disclose, and mitigate or eliminate identified conflicts of interest. The recipient is responsible for notifying the Financial Assistance Officer in writing of any conflicts of interest that may arise during the life of the award, including those that have been reported by subrecipients.
 - (d) **Restrictions on Lobbying.** Non-Federal entities are strictly prohibited from using funds under this grant or cooperative agreement for lobbying activities and must provide the required certifications and disclosures pursuant to 43 CFR Part 18 and 31 U.S.C. 1352.
 - (e) **Procedures.** The Financial Assistance Officer will examine each conflict of interest disclosure on the basis of its particular facts and the nature of the proposed grant or cooperative agreement, and will determine whether a significant potential conflict exists and, if it does, develop an appropriate means for resolving it.
 - (f) **Enforcement.** Failure to resolve conflicts of interest in a manner that satisfies the Government may be cause for termination of the award. Failure to make required disclosures may result in any of the remedies described in 2 CFR 200.338, Remedies for Noncompliance, including suspension or debarment (see also 2 CFR Part 180).
8. **Subawards:** The award recipient must request and receive written approval from OSMRE before any subawards can be made to a subrecipient. If the recipient is permitted to make subawards under this award, the recipient must execute a legally binding written agreement with the subrecipient. This agreement must incorporate all the terms and conditions of your Award, including any Special Award Conditions, and must include the information at 2 CFR 200.331. The recipient must perform all responsibilities required of a pass-through entity, as specified in 2 CFR Part 200.

The recipient must evaluate and document each subrecipient's risk of noncompliance with federal statutes, federal regulations, and the terms and conditions of the subaward for purposes of determining the appropriate subrecipient monitoring strategy, as described in 2 CFR 200.331(b).

9. **Delinquency on Federal Debt:** Any organization or individual that is indebted to the United States, and has a judgment lien filed against it for a debt to the United States, is ineligible to receive a Federal grant. Applicants are required to indicate in their applications if they are delinquent on any Federal debt. By signing the SF-424, the applicant is certifying that they are not

delinquent on federal debt in accordance with OMB Circular A-129. (Examples of relevant debt include delinquent payroll or other taxes, audit disallowances, guaranteed and direct student loans, benefits that were overpaid, etc.). If an applicant is delinquent on federal debt, they should attach an explanation that includes proof that satisfactory arrangements have been made with the Agency to which the debt is owed.

If the applicant discloses a delinquency, OSMRE may not award the grant until the debt is satisfied or satisfactory arrangements are made with the agency to which the debt is owed. In addition, once the debt is repaid or satisfactory arrangements made, and it will continue to take that delinquency into account when determining whether the applicant would be responsible with respect to an OSMRE grant, if awarded.

Anyone who has been judged to be in default on a Federal debt and who has had a judgment lien filed against him or her should not be listed as a participant in an application for an OSMRE grant until the judgment is paid in full or is otherwise satisfied. No funds may be rebudgeted following an award to pay such an individual. The OSMRE will disallow costs charged to awards that provide funds to individuals in violation of this requirement.

10. **Mandatory Disclosures:** The non-federal entity or applicant for a federal award must disclose, in a timely manner, in writing to the DOI awarding agency or pass-through entity all violations of federal criminal law involving fraud, bribery, or gratuity violations potentially affecting the federal award in accordance with 2 CFR 200.113. Failure to make required disclosures can result in any of the remedies described in including suspension or debarment. (See also 2 CFR 180; 2 CFR 376, and 31 U.S.C. 3321 for Federal Improper payment). Submission is required for all applicants and recipients, in writing, to the awarding agency and to the DOI Office of Inspector General (OIG) all information related to violations of federal criminal law involving fraud, bribery, or gratuity violations potentially affecting the federal award. Disclosures must be sent in writing to:

U.S. Department of the Interior Office
Attention: Fraud Hotline
1849 C Street NW
Mail Stop 4428
Washington, D.C. 20240
Website: www.doioig.gov
Phone Hotline: Toll Free 1-800-424-5081
Washington DC area: 202-208-5300

11. In accordance with 2 CFR 200.300, applicants must comply with the Federal

Funding Accountability and Transparency Act of 2006, 2 CFR.170.

12. Applicant's failure to meet an eligibility criterion by the time of an application deadline will result in the Federal awarding agency returning the application without review or, even though an application may be reviewed, will preclude the Federal awarding agency from making a Federal award.

13. **Data Availability**

- (a) **Applicability.** The Department of the Interior is committed to basing its decisions on the best available science and providing the American people with enough information to thoughtfully and substantively evaluate the data, methodology, and analysis used by DOI to inform its decisions.
- (b) **Use of Data.** 2 CFR 200.315 applies to data produced under a Federal award, including the provision that the Federal Government has the right to obtain, reproduce, publish, or otherwise use the data produced under a Federal award as well as authorize others to receive, reproduce, publish, or otherwise use such data for Federal purposes.
- (c) **Availability of Data.** The recipient shall make the data produced under this award and any subaward(s) available to the Government for public release, consistent with applicable law, to allow meaningful third party evaluation and reproduction of the following:
 - (1) The scientific data relied upon;
 - (2) The analysis relied upon; and
 - (3) The methodology, including models, used to gather and analyze data.

D. Application and Submission Information:

1. **Application Package.** The application package is available at www.grants.gov under NOFO #S19AS00006.
2. **Forms and Content of Application Submission.** The application must contain the following required forms and documents available on grants.gov:
 - (a) **SF-424, Application for Federal Assistance.** The SF-424 must be signed by an authorized representative of the applicant organization.
 - (b) SF-424, Item 12, should list the NOFO #S19AS00006.
 - (c) SF-424, Item 18, should list the total Estimated Budget amount to complete the project as defined in the application including the Federal

amount requested and other funding being brought to the project.

- (d) **SF-424 A, Budget Narrative.** The Budget information must reflect anticipated expenses for the project, considering all potential cost increases, including cost of living adjustment.
- (e) **SF-424 B, Budget Information** – Non-Construction Programs.
- (f) Lobbying Form; Grants.gov
- (g) Project/Performance site Location(s); Grants.gov (OMB 4040-0010)
- (h) Project Abstract; Grants.gov (OMB #4040-0010)
- (i) Key Contacts Form; Grants.gov (OMB #4040-0010)

3. **Application Format**

- (a) **Submissions:** All applications must be submitted utilizing grants.gov.
- (b) **Font:** Use 12 point font and 1 inch margins.
- (c) Smaller type may be used in figures and tables but type must be clearly legible.
- (d) Figures, Graphs, Images, and Pictures. Should be of a size that is easily readable or viewable and maybe landscape orientation.
- (e) **Page Limit:** The Application Package must not exceed a total of thirty (30) pages not including the required forms. The Technical Proposal for Applications is limited to fifteen (15) pages.
- (f) Resumes are also excluded from the page count and are limited to two (2) pages.
- (g) **Page size:** 8 ½ inches by 11 inches
- (h) **Application language:** English
- (i) **Application Replacement Pages:** Applicants may not submit replacement pages and/or missing documents once an application has been submitted. Any revisions must be made by submission of a new application that must be received by OSMRE by the submission deadline.
- (j) **Pre-Applications:** There are no pre-applications with this NOFO.
- (k) **Cover Sheet:** The cover sheet for the Technical Proposal should reference OSMRE Semester Internship Program Opportunity Number S19AS00006.
- (l) **Page layout:** Technical Proposal must be in portrait orientation.
- (m) **Page numbering:** Number pages sequentially.
- (n) **Table of Contents:** Include major sections and the corresponding page numbers.

4. **The full proposal must include the main documents and supplementary documents described below:**

- (a) The **Technical Proposal** is a document of no more than 15 pages. It should describe in depth the scope of the proposal: its goals, methods, schedule, personnel working on the project and their qualifications, and the instructional capabilities of the applicant.
- (b) The **Project Abstract** is a concise summary/abstract of the proposed effort. The project summary/abstract must contain a summary of the proposed activity suitable for dissemination to the public. It should be a self-contained document that identifies the name of the applicant, the project director/principal investigator(s), the project title, the objectives of the project, a description of the project, including methods to be employed, the potential impact of the project (i.e., benefits, outcomes), and major participants (for collaborative projects). The Project Abstract must not exceed one (1) single-sided page and counts toward the page limit of the Technical Proposal.
- (c) **Problems, Solutions and Technical Approach.** This is a description of the methods through which the goals of the OSMRE Semester Internship Program will be achieved. This section must explain how the awardee will be able to address the needs of the program, the way in which these needs will be met and the benefits for the approach taken.
- (d) **Statement of Work and Potential Impact of the Results.** This is a complete statement of work to meet the approach that directly addresses the information described in the Problems, Solutions and Impact Statement of the Technical Proposal. The statement of work must include a schedule of milestones for the overall project, the applicant's plan to manage the project tasks, and metrics for measuring the success of the proposal.
- (e) **Qualifications and Experience of Key Personnel and Resources Availability.** This is a description of the qualifications, proposed roles, and level of planned effort of the project participants, including the proposed role of the program leader, key personnel and staff. A description of the applicant's access to the necessary equipment and facilities to accomplish the proposed objectives should be included.
- (f) **Budget Narrative.** (This does not count toward the page limit). The Budget Narrative must provide a detailed breakdown of each of the object class categories as reflected on the SF-424 C. The budget justification should address all of the budget categories for which Federal funds are requested. The written justification should include the necessity and the basis for the cost. Proposed funding levels must be consistent with the project scope, and only allowable costs should be

included in the budget. Information on allowable cost is available in the Uniform Administrative Requirements, Cost Principles, and Audit Requirements for Federal Awards at 2 CFR 200.

- (1) Personnel – At a minimum, the budget justification for all personnel must include the following: name, job title, commitment of effort on the proposed project in terms of average number of hours per week or percentage of time, salary rate, basis for obtaining salary rate, total direct charges on the proposed project, description of the role of the individual on the proposed project, and the work to be performed.
- (2) Fringe Benefits – Fringe benefits must be identified separately from salaries and wages and based on rates determined by organizational policy. A link or information on how to access the organizational policy must be included. The items included in the fringe benefit rate (e.g., health insurance, parking, etc.) must not be charged under another cost category.
- (3) Equipment is defined as an item of property that has an acquisition cost of \$5,000 or more (unless the organization has established lower levels) and an expected service life of more than one year. Any items that do not meet the threshold for equipment can be included under the supplies line item. The budget justification must list each piece of equipment, the cost, and a description of how it will be used and why it is necessary to the successful completion of the proposed project. Please note that any general use equipment (computers, etc.) charged directly to the award must be allocated to the award according to expected usage on the project.
- (4) Travel – For travel costs required by the recipient to complete the project, the budget justification for travel must include the following: destination; names and number of people traveling; dates and/or duration; mode of transportation, lodging and subsistence rates; and description of how the travel is directly related to the proposed project. For travel that is yet to be determined, please provide best estimates based on historical data. Please specify the method used to obtain estimates. If a destination is not known, an approximate amount may be used with the assumptions given for the location of the meeting.
- (5) Supplies – Provide a list of each supply, the breakdown of the total costs by quantity or unit of cost, and the basis for obtaining the estimate. Include the necessity of the cost for the completion of the proposed project.

- (6) **Contracts/Subawards** – Each contract or subaward must be treated as a separate item. Describe the services provided and the necessity of the subaward or contract to the successful performance of the proposed project. Contracts are for obtaining normal goods and services. Subawardees perform part of the project scope of work. For each subaward, applicants must provide budget detail justifying the cost of the work performed on the project and the basis for obtaining the estimates.
- (7) **Other Direct Costs** – For costs that do not easily fit into the other cost categories, please list the cost, and the breakdown of the total costs by quantity or unit of cost. Include the necessity of the cost for the completion of the proposed project and the basis for obtaining the estimates. Only allowable costs can be charged to the award.
- (g) **Indirect Cost Rate Agreement:** If indirect costs are included in the proposed budget, provide a copy of the approved negotiated agreement if this rate was negotiated with a cognizant Federal audit agency. If the rate was not established by a cognizant Federal audit agency, provide a statement to this effect. Alternatively, in accordance with 2 CFR 200.414(f) applicants that have never received a negotiated indirect cost rate may elect to charge indirect to an award pursuant to a de minimis rate of 10 percent of modified total direct cost (MTDC), in which case a negotiated indirect cost rate agreement is not required. Applicants proposing a 10 percent de minimis rate pursuant to 2 CFR. 200.414(f) should note this election as part of the budget and budget narrative portion of the application.
5. **Information that successful applicants must submit after notification of OSMRE to make a Federal award, but prior to a Federal Award.**
- (a) **Unique entity identifier or DUNS number and System for Award Management (SAM):** Unless the applicant is an individual or Federal awarding agency that is exempt from the requirements under 2 CFR 25.11(b) or (c) or has an exception approved by the Federal awarding agency under 2 CFR 25.110(d) all recipients are required to (i) Be registered in SAM before submitting its application;(ii) provide a valid unique entity identifier in its application; and (iii) continue to maintain an active SAM registration with current information at all times during with it has an active Federal award or an allocation or plan under consideration by the Federal warding agency. Registration instructions are at www.grants.gov/web/grants/applicants/organization-registration.html or www.sam.gov.

- (b) Successful applications must provide evidence of compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) (42 U.S.C. 4321- 4370h) Endangered Species Act (ESA), the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA), and other applicable federal and state law and regulation.

6. Submission Dates and Times:

- (a) Applications will be considered on a continuing/rolling basis and all applications must be submitted no later than 11:59 p.m. Eastern Time, July 23, 2019.
- (b) Announcement and Award Dates. Awards will be announced approximately 60 - 120 days after the end of the review process.

7. Grants.gov Application Submission and Receipt Procedures

This section provides the application submission and receipt instructions for OSMRE's program applications. Please read the following instructions carefully and completely.

I. Electronic Delivery

OSMRE is participating in the Grants.gov initiative to provide the grant community with a single site to find and apply for grant funding opportunities. OSMRE requires applicants to submit their applications online through Grants.gov.

II. How to Register to Apply through Grants.gov

Instructions: Read the instructions below about registering to apply for OSMRE funds. Applicants should read the registration instructions carefully and prepare the information requested before beginning the registration process. Reviewing and assembling the required information before beginning the registration process will alleviate last-minute searches for required information.

Organizations must have a Data Universal Numbering System (DUNS) Number, active System for Award Management (SAM) registration, and Grants.gov account to apply for grants. If individual applicants are eligible to apply for this funding opportunity, then you may begin with step 3, Create a Grants.gov Account, listed below.

Creating a Grants.gov account can be completed online in minutes, but DUNS and SAM registrations may take several weeks.

Therefore, an organization's registration should be done in sufficient time to ensure it does not impact the entity's ability to meet required application submission deadlines.

Complete organization instructions can be found on Grants.gov here:
<https://www.grants.gov/web/grants/applicants/organization-registration.html>

- 1) **Obtain a DUNS Number:** All entities applying for funding, including renewal funding, must have a DUNS Number from Dun & Bradstreet (D&B). Applicants must enter the DUNS Number in the data entry field labeled "Organizational DUNS" on the SF-424 form. For more detailed instructions for obtaining a DUNS Number, refer to: <https://www.grants.gov/web/grants/applicants/organization-registration/step-1-obtain-duns-number.html>
- 2) **Register with SAM:** All organizations applying online through Grants.gov must register with the System for Award Management (SAM). Failure to register with SAM will prevent your organization from applying through Grants.gov. SAM registration must be renewed annually. For more detailed instructions for registering with SAM, refer to: <https://www.grants.gov/web/grants/applicants/organization-registration/step-2-register-with-sam.html>
- 3) **Create a Grants.gov Account:** The next step is to register an account with Grants.gov. Follow the on-screen instructions or refer to the detailed instructions here: <https://www.grants.gov/web/grants/applicants/registration.html>
- 4) **Add a Profile to a Grants.gov Account:** A profile in Grants.gov corresponds to a single applicant organization the user represents (i.e., an applicant) or an individual applicant. If you work for or consult with multiple organizations and have a profile for each, you may log in to one Grants.gov account to access all of your grant applications. To add an organizational profile to your Grants.gov account, enter the DUNS Number for the organization in the DUNS field while adding a profile. For more detailed instructions about creating a profile on Grants.gov, refer to: <https://www.grants.gov/web/grants/applicants/registration/add-profile.html>
- 5) **EBiz POC Authorized Profile Roles:** After you register with Grants.gov and create an Organization Applicant Profile, the

organization applicant's request for Grants.gov roles and access is sent to the EBiz POC. The EBiz POC will then log in to Grants.gov and authorize the appropriate roles, which may include the AOR role, thereby giving you permission to complete and submit applications on behalf of the organization. You will be able to submit your application online any time after you have been assigned the AOR role. For more detailed instructions about creating a profile on Grants.gov, refer to:

<https://www.grants.gov/web/grants/applicants/registration/authorize-roles.html>

6) **Track Role Status:** To track your role request, refer to:
<https://www.grants.gov/web/grants/applicants/registration/track-role-status.html>

7) **Electronic Signature:** When applications are submitted through Grants.gov, the name of the organization applicant with the AOR role that submitted the application is inserted into the signature line of the application, serving as the electronic signature. The EBiz POC must authorize people who are able to make legally binding commitments on behalf of the organization as a user with the AOR role; this step is often missed and it is crucial for valid and timely submissions.

III. How to Submit an Application to OSMRE via Grants.gov

Grants.gov applicants can apply online using Workspace. Workspace is a shared, online environment where members of a grant team may simultaneously access and edit different web forms within an application. For each notice of funding opportunity announcement (NOFO), you can create individual instances of a workspace.

Below is an overview of applying on Grants.gov. For access to complete instructions on how to apply for opportunities, refer to:
<https://www.grants.gov/web/grants/applicants/workspace-overview.html>

- 1) **Create a Workspace:** Creating a workspace allows you to complete it online and route it through your organization for review before submitting.
- 2) **Complete a Workspace:** Add participants to the workspace to work on the application together, complete all the required forms online or by downloading PDF versions, and check for errors before submission. The Workspace progress bar will display the state of your application process as you apply. As you apply using

Workspace, you may click the blue question mark icon near the upper-right corner of each page to access context-sensitive help.

- 3) **Adobe Reader:** If you decide not to apply by filling out web forms, you can download individual PDF forms in Workspace. The individual PDF forms can be downloaded and saved to your local device storage, network drive(s), or external drives, then accessed through Adobe Reader.

NOTE: Visit the Adobe Software Compatibility page on Grants.gov to download the appropriate version of the software at:

<https://www.grants.gov/web/grants/applicants/adobe-software-compatibility.html>

- 4) **Mandatory Fields in Forms:** In the forms, you will note fields marked with an asterisk and a different background color. These fields are mandatory fields that must be completed to successfully submit your application.
- 5) **Complete SF-424 Fields First:** The forms are designed to fill in common required fields across other forms, such as the applicant name, address, and DUNS Number. Once it is completed, the information will transfer to the other forms.
- 6) **Submit a Workspace:** An application may be submitted through workspace by clicking the Sign and Submit button on the Manage Workspace page, under the Forms tab. Grants.gov recommends submitting your application package at least 24-48 hours prior to the close date to provide you with time to correct any potential technical issues that may disrupt the application submission.
- 7) **Track a Workspace Submission:** After successfully submitting a workspace application, a Grants.gov Tracking Number (GRANTXXXXXXXX) is automatically assigned to the application. The number will be listed on the Confirmation page that is generated after submission. Using the tracking number, access the Track My Application page under the Applicants tab or the Details tab in the submitted workspace.
- 8) For additional training resources, including video tutorials, refer to: <https://www.grants.gov/web/grants/applicants/applicant-training.html>

IV. Applicant Support: Grants.gov provides applicants 24/7 support via the

toll-free number 1-800-518-4726 and email at support@grants.gov. For questions related to the specific grant opportunity, contact the number listed in the application package of the grant you are applying for.

If you are experiencing difficulties with your submission, it is best to call the Grants.gov Support Center and get a ticket number. The Support Center ticket number will assist your organization with tracking your issue and understanding background information on the issue.

V. Timely Receipt Requirements and Proof of Timely Submission

- 1) **Online Submission:** All applications must be received by 11:59 p.m. Eastern Time Eastern time on the due date established for each program. Proof of timely submission is automatically recorded by Grants.gov. An electronic date/time stamp is generated within the system when the application is successfully received by Grants.gov. The applicant with the AOR role who submitted the application will receive an acknowledgement of receipt and a tracking number (GRANTXXXXXXXX) from Grants.gov with the successful transmission of their application. This applicant with the AOR role will also receive the official date/time stamp and Grants.gov tracking number in an email serving as proof of their timely submission.

When OSMRE successfully retrieves the application from Grants.gov, and acknowledges the download of submissions, Grants.gov will provide an electronic acknowledgment of receipt of the application to the email address of the applicant with the AOR role who submitted the application. Again, proof of timely submission shall be the official date and time that Grants.gov receives your application. Applications received by Grants.gov after the established due date for the program will be considered late and will not be considered for funding by OSMRE

Applicants using slow internet, such as dial-up connections, should be aware that transmission can take some time before Grants.gov receives your application. Again, Grants.gov will provide either an error or a successfully received transmission in the form of an email sent to the applicant with the AOR role attempting to submit the application. The Grants.gov Support Center reports that some applicants end the transmission because they think that nothing is occurring during the transmission process. Please be patient and give the system time to process the application. Late applications will neither be reviewed nor considered.

- 2) **NOFO Amendments:** Any amendments to this NOFO will be announced through Grants.gov. Applicants may sign up on Grants.gov to receive amendments notification e-mails.

E. Application Review Information

I. Evaluation Criteria

The criteria that will be used in evaluating applications considered for the OSMRE Semester Internship Program are as follows:

1. ORGANIZATIONAL CAPACITY (25 Possible Points)

The extent to which:

- (a) The applicant describes the organization's knowledge and experience administering internship programs.
- (b) The application addresses how the organization is qualified to manage the administrative logistics of the program, including correspondence, budgeting, payroll, management, and travel coordination.
- (c) The application states past work experience related to program administration, stipend payment to participants and expense reimbursement.
- (d) The applicant must demonstrate past experience and success in administering a multistate program.
- (e) The application must describe the organization's human capital, technical resources, and skills to accomplish the tasks necessary for the successful implementation of the program.
- (f) The applicant must submit an organizational chart which clearly highlights key personnel.
- (g) The applicant has conducted high-quality process and outcome evaluations and has used evaluation results for organizational learning and continuous improvement.

2. PROGRAM DESIGN (30 Possible Points)

The extent to which:

- (a) The applicant clearly states its qualification to develop and implement strategic recruitment plans to advertise program opportunities to qualified individuals.
- (b) The application demonstrates recruitment from traditionally underserved communities, including low-income and disadvantaged populations.
- (c) The application must discuss how the organization will build and maintain relationships with colleges, universities, and other organizations, particularly institutions serving underrepresented groups, to recruit participants from diverse backgrounds.
- (d) The applicant must demonstrate ability to recruit participants from the geographic or demographic communities in which the program operates.
- (e) The applicant clearly identifies a strategy for recruiting individuals for the OSMRE Semester Internship Program who have the appropriate background qualifications and skill set.
- (f) The application discusses the organization's logistics in receiving applications, interviewing, and hiring participants in a timely manner.
- (g) The applicant describes outreach and program marketing print and web publication strategies that will be used in supporting and promoting the program.
- (h) The application describes the human capital, technical resources, and skills of the organization to accomplish outreach, program marketing, participant and supervisor support, and any other necessary tasks associated with the program design and success.
- (i) The applicant discusses past work experience related to the program design.
- (j) The applicant clearly lays out proposed performance measures to identify the success and impact of the program.
- (k) The application demonstrates previous examples of performance and

measure of success.

- (l) The application must state how the organization assesses success, and how often assessments are performed.

3. ACCESS TO AMERICORPS POSITIONS (15 Possible Points)

The extent to which:

- (a) The applicant clearly shows how the organization will receive positions from the Corporation for National and Community Service (CNCS) or other intermediate organization.
- (b) The applicant must state the minimum and maximum number of positions available, specifying the number of CNCS service hours per position.
- (c) The applicant must specify the type of positions received from CNCS. For example, cost-share positions or Education Award only positions.
- (d) The applicant identifies the CNCS National Performance Metrics on which the program will report.
- (e) The application will demonstrate how the performance metrics data will be collected and assessed.

4. COST EFFECTIVENESS/BUDGET ADEQUACY (20 Possible Points)

The extent to which:

- (a) The budget is submitted and proposed costs are allowable, reasonable, and allocable to the award.
- (b) Budget lists the cost per participant, support staff, and relevant cost.
- (c) The budget narrative/justification clearly documents how each line item is calculated and why each line item request supports the goals and activities of the proposed project.
- (d) The applicant's budget narrative must identify the non-OSMRE funding and resources necessary to support the project.

II. Review and Selection Process

1. Proposals, reports, documents and other information related to applications submitted to OSMRE and/or relating to financial assistance awards issued by OSMRE will be reviewed and considered by Federal employees or by non-Federal personnel who have entered into nondisclosure agreements covering such information, when applicable.
2. Initial Screening of all OSMRE Program Applications. All applications received in response to this NOFO will be reviewed as received on a rolling basis to determine whether they are eligible, complete, and responsive and aligned with the respective program objectives and research grant areas as described in the Program Description.
3. Applications determined to be ineligible, incomplete, and/or non-responsive based on the initial screening will be eliminated from further review. OSMRE, in its sole discretion, may continue the review process for an application that is missing non-substantive information that can easily be rectified.
4. Full Review of Eligible, Complete, and Responsive Applications. All applications that are determined to be eligible, complete, and responsive will proceed for full reviews in accordance with the review and selection processes set forth below for each of the respective programs.
5. OSMRE reserves the right to negotiate the budget costs with the applicants that have been selected to receive awards, which may include requesting that the applicant remove certain costs.
6. OSMRE may request that the applicant modify objectives or work plans and provide supplemental information. OSMRE also reserves the right to reject an application where information is uncovered that raises a reasonable doubt as to the responsibility of the applicant. OSMRE may select some, all, or none of the applications, or part(s) of any particular application. In some cases, OSMRE may ask applicants to consider combining projects. The final approval of selected applications and issuance of awards will be by the Assistant Director of the OSMRE Program Support Directorate.

III. Evaluation, Review, Ranking, and Recommendation

1. At least three objective reviewers, knowledgeable in the subject matter of this NOFO and its objectives, will evaluate each application based on the evaluation criteria (see Section E, Part I of this NOFO).
2. While every application will have at least three reviews, applications may have differing numbers of reviews if specialized expertise is needed to

evaluate the application. The reviewers may discuss the applications with each other, but scores will be determined on an individual basis, not as a consensus.

3. Each reviewer will assign individual scores to each criterion for each application.
4. The scores provided by each reviewer for each application will then be combined to form a composite score for each application, which serves as the basis for the relative ordering or ranking of applications.
5. OSMRE may select some, all, or none of the applications, or part(s) of any particular application.

IV. Selection Factors

1. The Merit Review Panel Lead will compile and recommend applications for award based upon the relative ordering ranking of the applications.
2. The Selecting Official must prepare a Recommendation Memorandum for the Approving Official, who is the Assistant Director of the OSMRE Program Support Directorate, which demonstrates that the evaluation and selection process was compliant with the procedures published in the NOFO.
3. The Approving Official may approve funding based on the Recommendation Memorandum however application may be awarded out of rank order based on one or more of the following selection factors, the availability of Federal funds and the alignment with program priorities.
4. If an application was selected out of rank order, there must be a detailed justification relative to the selection out of rank order.
5. **Notification to Unsuccessful Applicants:** Every unsuccessful applicant is entitled to a full explanation of why the application was not funded. The initial notice should provide a complete explanation, where possible. However, a notice may contain limited information regarding the unsuccessful application and indicate that a more detailed explanation will be provided at a later date or upon request.
6. **Retention of Unsuccessful Applications.** A copy of each non-selected application will be retained for at least three (3) years for record keeping purposes in accordance with 2 CFR Part 200.333 Retention requirements for records.

7. **Federal Awarding Agency Review of Risk Posed by Applicants.** After applications are proposed for funding by the Approving Official and prior to the issuance of an award, the OSMRE Grants Office will conduct an assessment of the risk posed by the applicant in accordance with 2 CFR 200.205. In addition to reviewing repositories of government- wide eligibility, qualification or financial integrity information, the risk assessment conducted by OSMRE will conduct the following:
 - (a) Review of applicants single audit submitted to Federal Audit Clearinghouse
 - (b) Review of applicants most recent independent audit
 - (c) Completion of financial capability questionnaire.
8. The financial stability of an applicant; quality of the applicant’s management systems; an applicant’s history of performance; previous audit reports and audit findings concerning the applicant; the applicant’s ability to effectively implement statutory, regulatory, or other requirements imposed on non-Federal entities. Upon review of these factors, if appropriate, specific award conditions that correspond to the degree of risk may be applied by the OSMRE Grants Office pursuant to 2 CFR 200.207. In addition, OSMRE reserves the right to reject an application in its entirety where information is uncovered that raises a significant risk with respect to the responsibility or suitability of the applicant.
9. Anticipated Announcement and Award Dates. Review of applications, selection of successful applicants, and award processing is expected to be completed approximately 60 – 120 days after the end of the review process.

F. Federal Award Administration Information

1. **Notices Federal Award:** Successful applicant will receive a Financial Assistance award notifying them that the project has been approved for funding. This agreement will provide information pertaining to programmatic and financial reporting requirements. In addition, terms and conditions pertaining to managing the agreement will be provided. This document will also include, key contact information for personnel associated with the award.

If the Federal awarding agency determines that a Federal award will be made, special conditions that correspond to the degree of risk assessed may be applied to the Federal award.

2. **Administrative and National Policy Requirements:** Uniform Administrative Requirements, Cost Principles and Audit Requirements. The Uniform Administrative Requirements, Cost Principles, and Audit Requirements for Federal Awards at 2 CFR 200 apply to awards made pursuant to this NOFO. Refer to <http://go.usa.gov/SBYh> and <http://go.usa.gov/SBg4>.
3. **Funding Availability and Limitation of Liability:** Funding for the program listed in this NOFO is contingent upon the availability of appropriations. In no event will OSMRE or the Department of Interior be responsible for application preparation costs if this program fails to receive funding or funding is cancelled because of agency priorities. Publication of this NOFO does not obligate OSMRE or the Department of Interior to award any specific project or to obligate any available funds.
4. **Electronic Funds Transfer:** Recipient will be required to establish an account in the U.S. Treasury's, Automated Standard Application for Payments system (ASAP), where OSMRE will disburse funding by means of an electronic funds transfer. The ASAP Account Settlement Report for the ASAP system should be referenced to reconcile with internal accounting system and to complete the semiannual SF-425. Refer to <http://asap.gov> to enroll.
5. **Financial Reports:** Each award recipient will be required to submit an SF-425 Federal Financial Report on a semi-annual basis for the period ending March 31 and September 30 or June 30 and December 31 of each year to the OSMRE Grants Management Specialist named in the award documents. Reports will be due thirty (30) days after the end of the reporting period. A final financial report is due ninety (90) days after the end of the project period.
6. **Programmatic Reports:** Programmatic reports are due semi-annually. The programmatic report requirements include the Midterm Reports from each Semester Intern and the OSMRE Semester Internship Program Summary, which includes a summary of the work of participants in each semester, as well as the OSM-51 Performance Report and Program Narrative Statement. The submission of programmatic reports to the Program Analyst will correspond to the periods ending March 31 and September 30 or June 30 and December 31 of each year. Reports are due thirty (30) calendar days after the end of the applicable reporting period end date. Programmatic reports shall contain information as prescribed in 2 CFR 200.328 Monitoring and reporting program performance. A final programmatic report is due within ninety (90) days after the end of the project period.
7. **Audits:** In accordance with the provisions of 2 CFR 200, Subpart F- Audit Requirements, non-Federal entities that expend financial assistance of

\$750,000 or more in Federal awards during its fiscal year must have a single or a program-specific audit conducted for that year.

Non-Federal entities that expend less than \$750,000 a year in Federal awards are exempt from Federal audit requirements for that year, except as noted in 2 CFR 200.503. Applicants are reminded that OSMRE, the Department of Interior Office of Inspector General or another authorized Federal agency may conduct an audit of an award at any time.

8. **Records:** Records for Federal financial assistance must be maintained in accordance with the provisions of 2 CFR 200, Subpart D, “Uniform Administrative Requirements, Cost Principles, and Audit Requirements for Federal Awards”.
9. **Record Retention:** Financial records, supporting documents, statistical records, and all other non-Federal entity records pertinent to a Federal award must be retained for a period of three years from the date of submission of the final expenditure report or, for Federal awards that are renewed quarterly or annually, be retained for at least three (3) years for record keeping purposes. (See 2 CFR 200.333 Retention for exceptions).
10. **Federal Funding Accountability and Transparency Act of 2006:** In accordance with 2 CFR 200.170, all recipients of a Federal award made on or after October 1, 2010, are required to comply with reporting requirements under the Federal Funding Accountability and Transparency Act of 2006 (Pub. L. No. 109-282). In general, all recipients are responsible for reporting sub-awards of \$25,000 or more. In addition, recipients that meet certain criteria are responsible for reporting executive compensation. Applicants must ensure they have the necessary processes and systems in place to comply with the reporting requirements should they receive funding. Also see the Federal Register notice published September 14, 2010, at 75 FR 55663 available here <http://go.usa.gov/hKnQ>.

G. OSMRE Federal Awarding Agency Contact(s)

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