

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE: NOTICE OF INTENT TO AWARD

This announcement is not a request for applications.

This announcement is to provide public notice of the National Park Service's intention to award financial assistance for the following project activities. *Refer to Section 2. Grants.gov Posting Determination.*

ABSTRACT	
Grants.gov Opportunity Number	NPS-19-NERO-0103
Project Title	Operation, Use & Maintenance of the Independence Visitor Center
Recipient	Independence Visitor Center Corporation
Anticipated Federal Funding	\$770,814
Non-Federal Cost Share	\$0
Total Anticipated Award Amount	\$770,814
Award Instrument	☐ Task Agreement ☒ Cooperative Agreement ☐ Grant Agreement
Anticipated Period of Performance	Through September 30, 2019
Legal Authority	54 U.S.C. 101702(a), P.L. 106-131
CFDA # and Title	15.946 Cultural Resources Management
Single Source Justification Criteria	Legislative intent
National Park Service Point of Contact	Patrick Reidy, Grants Management Specialist 215-597-5949

Section 1. Project Summary

PROJECT GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

The objective of this Agreement is to operate and maintain a Park, City, and regional visitor center (Center) within Independence National Historical Park in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

STATEMENT OF PUBLIC PURPOSE

Independence National Historical Park (hereinafter referred to as "PARK") was established to preserve, manage, operate, maintain, protect, and interpret resources associated with the American Revolution and the establishment of the United States of America in order to perpetuate these resources and to help all people understand the people, events, and ideas associated with the park's tangible resources.

Public Law 106-131 dated December 7, 1999 authorized the development of a regional visitor center on Independence Mall. P.L. 106-131 also authorized the following: (1) a Park, City and regional orientation mission for the visitor center; (2) the ability of a private nonprofit organization to conduct a range of revenue-producing activities relevant to a visitor center; and (3) the retention of those revenues by that organization toward the operating costs of the visitor center. The law also states that no actions by the PARK or the IVCC can be in derogation of the preservation and protection of the values and resources of the PARK. The CENTER provides to visitors and area residents orientation and information related to the PARK, the surrounding historic district, the City and the Greater Philadelphia region. In undertaking this responsibility, IVCC works in close cooperation with the National Park Service, the City of Philadelphia, the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania and other stakeholders.

STATEMENT OF WORK SUMMARY

The IVCC and NPS entered into an Operating Agreement dated April 26, 2010 that, in accordance with P.L. 106-131, describes the operation, use, and maintenance of the CENTER at the PARK by the IVCC with the participation of the NPS (Attachment B).

The Operating Agreement requires the NPS, subject to the availability of funds, to annually contribute a portion of the funds necessary to operate the CENTER, in accordance with the terms outlined in the Operating Agreement.

RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE PARTIES

A. The recipient shall be responsible for the following items under this agreement:

1. Purchase supplies, costume characters, interpretative, insurance, utilities and other items and services included in 2018 budget narrative.
2. General responsibilities include, but are not limited to:
(a) Maintaining the interior of the CENTER, (b) Providing utilities to the CENTER, (c) Cleaning the CENTER, (d) Operating the Visitor Store, (e) operating the Snack Bar and the two Cafés (one within the visitor center, the other outdoors), (f) Managing the events venue (ballroom and terrace), (g) Operating the IVCC information/Ticketing Area, (h) Provide marketing support to NPS by building awareness of Independence National Historical Park.
3. Allow NPS to use the CENTER for events sponsored by NPS, subject to terms and conditions cited in the Operating Agreement.
4. Allow NPS to make all or part of the exterior space of the Visitor Center available for special public events and festivals sponsored or permitted by NPS, subject to terms and conditions cited in the Operating Agreement.

B. The NPS Responsibilities:

- ☐ A task agreement is proposed;
- ☒ A cooperative agreement is proposed;

therefore substantial involvement by NPS is anticipated during the period of performance of this agreement. In support of this agreement NPS will:

1. General responsibilities include: the administration and operation of all exterior portions of Independence Mall, including, but not limited to: (a) Lighting, (b) Maintenance, (c) Landscaping, (d) Security, (e) Clean-up, including trash pick-up, (f) Life cycle repairs and replacements as determined necessary by NPS including elevator, HVAC and other mechanical systems, (g) Law enforcement and crowd control, (h) Oversight and management of NPS sponsored or permitted special events.
2. Provide standard security and law enforcement through dispatch within the Visitor Center, café, and outdoor café, as specified in the Operating Agreement.
3. Provide trash removal for the Visitor Center, café, and outdoor Cafe.

- ☐ A grant agreement is proposed, therefore no substantial involvement on the part of the NPS is anticipated for the successful completion of the statement of work. It is anticipated that involvement will be limited to actions related to monitoring project performance and technical assistance at the request of the recipient.

Section 2. Grants.gov Posting Determination

- ☐ The National Park Service intends to award a task agreement under a previously competed or single source justified award.
- ☒ The National Park Service intends to award a single source justified cooperative agreement. *Refer to Section 3 Single Source Justification.*
- ☐ The National Park Service intends to award a single source justified grant agreement. *Refer to Section 3 Single Source Justification.*

Section 3. Single Source Justification

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE SINGLE SOURCE POLICY REQUIREMENTS

National Park Service Policy FAP&P 1443-2015-06 requires a written justification which explains why competition is not practicable. The justification must address one of the following criteria.

In order for an assistance award to be made without competition, the award must satisfy one or more of the following criteria:

- (1) Unsolicited Proposal – The proposed award is the result of an unsolicited assistance application which represents a unique or innovative idea, method, or approach which is not the subject of a current or planned contract or assistance award, but which is deemed advantageous to the program objectives;
- (2) Continuation – The activity to be funded is necessary to the satisfactory completion of, or is a continuation of, an activity presently being funded, for which competition would have a significant adverse effect on the continuity or completion of the activity. A single source on the basis of continuation must demonstrate that competition would result in a substantial duplicate cost to the government that cannot be recovered through competition;
- (3) Legislative intent – The language in the applicable authorizing legislation or legislative history clearly indicates Congress' intent to restrict the award to a particular recipient of purpose;
- (4) Unique Qualifications – The applicant is uniquely qualified to perform the activity based upon a variety of demonstrable factors such as location, property ownership, voluntary support capacity, technical expertise, or other such unique qualifications;
- (5) Emergencies – Program/award where there is insufficient time available (due to a compelling and unusual urgency, or substantial danger to health or safety) for adequate competitive procedures to be followed.

NPS did not solicit full and open competition for this award based the following criteria:

- ☐ Task Agreement issued under previously competed or single source master cooperative agreement per Section 2 above. Single Source Justification not applicable.
- ☐ Unsolicited Proposal ☐ Continuation ☐ Emergency
- ☒ Legislative Intent ☐ Unique Qualifications

Explanation of the proposed recipient's qualifications or the criteria of the proposed project which requires use of the single source criteria cited.

Public Law 106-131 specifically authorizes (but does not obligate) the Secretary of the Interior, in administering the Independence National Historical Park, to enter into an agreement under appropriate terms and conditions with the Visitor Center Corporation (a nonprofit corporation established under the laws of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania) to facilitate construction and operation of the Visitor Center in cooperation with the Secretary. The Corporation is authorized under the legislation to engage in activities appropriate for operation of a regional visitor center including charging fees; conducting events; and selling merchandise, food, and tickets to visitors to the Center. Independence Visitor Center Corporation ("IVCC"), a Pennsylvania not-for-profit corporation, was established in February 1998 to develop and operate the Independence Visitor Center Complex ("CENTER") on Independence Mall in Philadelphia.

Section 4. Department of the Interior Secretary's Priorities

This award will support the following DOI Secretary priority(ies):

Other Key Initiatives:

- ☐ Employment of veterans.
- ☐ Supporting DOI Infrastructure needs.
- ☒ Creating jobs in the American economy.
- ☐ Access to outdoor recreation opportunities.

Priority 1: Creating a conservation stewardship legacy second only to Teddy Roosevelt

- ☐ Utilize science to identify best practices to manage land and water resources and adapt to changes in the environment.
- ☐ Examine land use planning process and land use designations that govern public use and access.
- ☐ Revise and streamline the environmental and regulatory review process while maintaining environmental standards.
- ☐ Review DOI water storage, transportation, and distribution systems to identify opportunities to resolve conflicts and expand capacity.
- ☐ Foster relationships with conservation organizations advocating for balanced stewardship and use of public lands.
- ☐ Identify and implement initiatives to expand access to DOI lands for hunting and fishing.
- ☐ Shift the balance towards providing greater public access to public lands over restrictions to access.

Priority 2: Utilizing our natural resources

- ☐ Ensure American energy is available to meet our security and economic needs.
- ☐ Ensure access to mineral resources, especially the critical and rare earth minerals.
- ☐ Refocus timber programs to embrace the entire 'healthy forests' lifecycle.
- ☐ Manage competition for grazing resources.

Priority 3: Restoring trust with local communities

- ☒ Be a better neighbor with those closest to our resources by improving dialogue and relationships with persons and entities bordering our lands.
- ☒ Expand the lines of communication with Governors, state natural resource offices, Fish and Wildlife offices, water authorities, county commissioners, Tribes, and local communities.
- ☐

Priority 4: Ensuring sovereignty means something

- ☐ Support tribal self-determination, self-governance, and sovereignty.
- ☐ Solidify mutual interests between the U.S. and the freely associated states and territories.

Priority 5: Generating additional revenues to support DOI & National interests

- ☐ Ensure that the public receives the full market value for the natural resources produced on Federal lands.
- ☐ Ensure that fees or costs levied for DOI services are reasonable and targeted to achieve cost recovery.
- ☐ Consider the impact of DOI decisions on economic development and job creation.

Priority 6: Protecting our people and the border

- ☐ Actively support efforts to secure our southern border.
- ☐ Ensure DOI law enforcement staffing addresses public safety risks anticipated on DOI land.
- ☐ Promote a "public service" demeanor within our law enforcement community.

Priority 7: Striking a regulatory balance

- ☐ Reduce the administrative and regulatory burden imposed on U.S. industry and the public.
- ☐ Ensure that Endangered Species Act decisions are based on strong science and thorough analysis.

Priority 8: Modernizing our infrastructure

- ☐ Support the White House Public/Private Partnership Initiative to modernize U.S. infrastructure.
- ☐ Remove impediments to infrastructure development and facilitate private sector efforts to construct infrastructure projects serving American needs.
- ☐ Prioritize DOI infrastructure needs to highlight:
 1. Construction of infrastructure;
 2. Cyclical maintenance;
 3. Deferred maintenance.

Priority 9: Reorganizing for the next 100 years

- ☐ Improve alignment and integration of the DOI organizational structure. Redistribute organizational resources (people and funding) to enhance mission achievement and improved public service.
- ☐ Improve organizational alignment with Executive Branch counterparts with major land management assets or influence.

Priority 10: Achieving our goals and leading our team forward

- ☐ Senior executives are expected to provide leadership in achieving goals of the President and the Secretary.
- ☐ The Management Team is expected to:
 1. Ensure cost-effective operations and quality service to the public;
 2. Facilitate organizational cooperation and conflict resolution;
 3. Ensure the workplace environment is conducive to employee productivity and safety;
 4. Hold individuals accountable for actions that violate DOI policies and requirements.

The proposed project does not support any of the DOI Secretary priorities, but the project is being funded for the following reasons: