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-0007
Project Title	The Oil Region National Heritage Area
Recipient	Oil Region Alliance of Business, Industry, and Tourism
Anticipated Federal Funding	$61,000
Non-Federal Cost Share	$61,000
Total Anticipated Award Amount	$122,000
Award Instrument	☑ Task Agreement ☐ Cooperative Agreement ☐ Grant Agreement
Anticipated Period of Performance	Date of Signing to September 30, 2020
Legal Authority	Public Law 108-447; 54 USC 101702(a)
CFDA # and Title	15.939 National Heritage Areas Program
Single Source Justification Criteria	
National Park Service Point of Contact	Patrick Reidy, Grants Management Specialist 215-597-5949

Section 1. Project Summary

PROJECT GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

The primary objective of this Agreement is for Oil Region Alliance of Business, Industry, and Tourism to undertake projects that meet the objectives of their Management Plan, and to ensure that they can continue to work with a large variety of partners to conserve resources in the region. The Goal is for the Heritage Area to foster a close working relationship with all levels of government, the private sector, and the local communities to develop strategies to empower the communities to conserve their heritage while continuing to pursue economic opportunities and also strengthen the integration of resource preservation into the broader public policy and land-use planning and decision-making at all levels. In addition, this will increase the opportunities for diverse public participation in resource protection activities.

STATEMENT OF PUBLIC PURPOSE

The public purpose of this project is to engage recipients, partners, communities, and/or visitors in shared environmental stewardship. It also promotes greater public and private participation in historic preservation programs and activities, and builds resource stewardship ethics in its participants. The information, products and/or services identified or developed by this project will be shared through a variety of strategies to increase public awareness, knowledge and support for historic preservation and stewardship of the nation's cultural and historical heritage. The project assists in the creation, promotion, facilitation, and/or improvement of the public's understanding of natural, cultural, historic, recreational and other aspects of areas such as ecological conservation areas, and state and local parks.

STATEMENT OF WORK SUMMARY

The Heritage Area is involved with a variety of projects such as historic oil-related Tarbell House in Titusville, PA. The house is used as a training location for preservation specialists, community volunteers, contractors, and others. This project involves cultural preservation, education, interpretation, sustainability, energy conservation, and volunteer participation. The heritage area is also involved in rehabilitation of the historic Downs Building in Oil City. They have developed and put up interpretive panels throughout the heritage area, built and manage a visitor center, work on completing a 270 mile long bicycle trail, and they are working on a region-wide identity initiative that includes the building of replica oil derricks, and hosting many activities and publications to engage the community.

RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE PARTIES

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

1. Use funds made available under this Agreement for the purposes of management operations to support the heritage area in a manner consistent with the Legislation;

2. Coordinate with units of local government, regional planning organizations, and nonprofit organizations;

3. Encourage, by appropriate means, economic viability that is consistent with the purposes of the heritage area; and

4. Comply with all applicable State and Federal laws, including, but not limited to, the National Environmental Policy Act and the National Historic Preservation Act.

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:

NPS is involved with the recipient in describing the goals, jointly developing the scope and the activities to be accomplished. The substantial involvement includes the direct involvement of the Northeast Regional Office National Heritage Areas Coordinator who participates in the implementation of the management plan and who can provide NPS technical assistance to the Heritage Area to implement the management plan. Through the direct actions of the National Heritage Areas Coordinator, the NPS will give priority to actions that in general assist in conserving the significant natural, historical, cultural, and scenic resources of the Heritage Area.

☐ 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. The unsolicited proposal must demonstrate an innovative capability or concept not currently available to the government, and prepared without Government involvement. ;

(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;

(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. Successful past performance, familiarity with existing requirements, capabilities that can be obtained or matched by a competitor, or a positive reputation, are not considered to be 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.

The Oil Region National Heritage Area was designated in Public Law 108–447 on Dec. 8, 2004. The legislation identified the Oil Heritage Region Inc. as the management entity which later was renamed to become Oil Region Alliance of Business, Industry, and Tourism. The legislation also states that the Secretary shall enter into a compact with the management entity. The compact shall include information relating to the objectives and management of the area and be the vehicle for providing the congressional appropriation.

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.
- [x] Creating jobs in the American economy.
- [x] 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.
- [x] 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

- [x] Be a better neighbor with those closest to our resources by improving dialogue and relationships with persons and entities bordering our lands.
- [x] 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: