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| **Question** | **Originated from:** | **Questions/Comments** | **Government Response** |
| Q1 | Opportunity Day Event | The footer of Page 6 (FOA) is a link to the Federal STEM Strategic Plan. That link is dead. Do you anticipate the link being available shortly? |  <https://bidenwhitehouse.archives.gov/wp-content/uploads/2024/11/2024fedSTEMplan.pdf>Updated on FOA on 31 January 2025 |
| Q2 | Opportunity Day Event | Are current consortium partners eligible to apply? | Yes, current partners, including Battelle Memorial Institute, are eligible to apply. |
| Q3 | Opportunity Day Event | Can organizations apply to only one area of the consortium? | No, organizations must apply as part of a consortium covering all nine fundamental elements. |
| Q4 | Opportunity Day Event | Are there restrictions on the type of lead institution? | Any non-federal entity can apply, including for-profit companies, but no profit or fee is allowed. |
| Q5 | Opportunity Day Event | Will the slides and recording be posted? | The slides were posted on 31 January 2025. The session was not recorded. |
| Q6 | Opportunity Day Event | Is the STEM Learning Hub available for preview? | Currently, the STEM Learning Hub is not publicly available, but access may be provided upon request |
| Q7 | Opportunity Day Event | Are organizations required to be located in the US? | Yes, organizations must be located in the US, including territories like Puerto Rico. |
| Q8 | Opportunity Day Event | Will forums be provided for partnerships? | No, organizations are responsible for forming partnerships independently. |
| Q9 | Opportunity Day Event | Please confirm when questions are due. You stated 14-Feb earlier but on Page 57 of the FOA it indicates questions are due 7-Feb - please clarify. | Questions are due by February 14th. The FOA has been updated on page 57 to reflect this. |
| Q10 | Opportunity Day Event | There will be a single award, correct? | Yes. |
| Q11 | Email | Does this opportunity strictly include a request for funding to oversee the overarching consortium or are organizations also welcome to apply for funding for individual elements of the proposal (i.e., receive funding for Fundamental Element 5: Strategic Outreach Initiatives)?   | This opportunity will result in only one recipient of the cooperative agreement who will be the consortium manager / lead organization. We are not accepting proposals for individual elements. However, if you are interested in particular elements, then you may partner with an applicant (potential lead organization) as a consortium member. As a member, you will be able to apply for funding for the element(s) applicable to your organization. |
| Q12 | Email | I can see in Section 10 Profit/Fee & Section G.2.l. that fee is not permitted, but what I’m wondering is if we were to execute a FPP Subcontract, can the SUBK include fee in their proposal?  We are a non-profit organization, associated with an IHE. | The rule is anyone engaged in the public purpose of the award cannot receive profit or fee. Basically, if they are performing the effort under the CA, they cannot receive a profit or fee. In my example of materials, the materials provider is not performing the work for the public purpose of the award, so they are not expected to forego a profit. A rule of thumb – We can pay for commercial supplies or services to support the effort, but anyone doing the effort cannot receive a profit or fee at the prime or sub level. |
| Q13 | Email | If we are interested in participating only in Element 5, we should not apply at this time, and once the Consortium is chosen, they will send an RFP for element partners?OrWould we need to be included in a proposal from an organization that submits as a lead organization as a partner in a specific element effort? | The latter option is true. To be a part of the initial Consortium, your organization should partner with the Applicant / Lead Org and be included on the proposal to the Govt. Although – Element 1 of the FOA states “The Lead Organization should establish structure and guidance such that at the request of the Consortium and at the approval of the CMC and the government, additional Consortium Members may be added to or removed to advance ASEC efforts and improve alignment to emerging areas of interest or to address gaps within the Consortium (pg. 9)”. So, any org can be added after award as well. The Recipient will likely not issue any sort of RFP for element partners after award. |
| Q14 | Email | 1. There is no mention of a central registration system in the FOA. Is this something that should be included in the budget and administration plan? If so, can you provide a cost estimate?
2. What are the requirements around paying internships and fellowships under employee arrangements? We run a model internship program which provides for clearances for the interns to work directly with defense laboratories and government stakeholders, however, a stipulation of providing clearances is that they must be hired as employees including some overhead costs. Can this model be replicated under the Army STEM program due to the benefits in securing clearances for the interns? If so, is there a limit to the amount of overhead that would be allowable?
3. What level of autonomy will the performer have in managing and updating content on the Army STEM website?
4. Will the performer need to host and maintain sections of the website, or will it be fully managed by the Army?
5. How frequently should content updates and reports on web engagement and outreach success be provided?
6. Will there be data-sharing requirements for tracking engagement metrics on the outreach efforts?
 | 1. There are mentions of a centralized registration tool throughout the FOA. Most relevant to this question is under Element 1, Metrics, page 13. “In addition, the LO is responsible for ensuring that all ASEC programming is advertised through the centralized website and all programs capture application/registration/selection data through the centralized application tool, unless otherwise approved by CAM, and that core cross-consortium data is collected and reported correctly.
2. Army STEM Interns and Fellows are not GOV employees, contractors, nor employees of the IPA/LO. Internships/Fellowships offered under the ASEC will not include “hiring” agreements with host sites. Clearances and other access efforts are the responsibility of the host site.
3. The consortium can define that autonomy. There will still be GOV oversight by the CAM.
4. The website will be managed by Element 3 lead with input from consortium members. The consortium can determine roles/responsibilities of hosting/maintenance.
5. This can be included in the monthly status reports mentioned on page 31.
6. The Government followed up with the organization for clarification on this question, but did not receive a response before the Q&A deadline. The Government was therefore unable to answer this question as is.
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