

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-20-REG1-0004
Project Title	Philadelphia ProRanger Program
Recipient	Temple University
Anticipated Federal Funding	\$234,086.67
Non-Federal Cost Share	\$78,511.64
Total Anticipated Award Amount	\$312,598.31
Award Instrument	☐ Task Agreement ☒ Cooperative Agreement ☐ Grant Agreement
Anticipated Period of Performance	Through December 31, 2024
Legal Authority	54 USC §101702(b); 54 USC §101701(b)
CFDA # and Title	15.954 NPS Conservation, Protection, Outreach and Education
Single Source Justification Criteria	Continuation
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Section 1. Project Summary

PROJECT GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

The ProRanger Philadelphia Program is designed to provide academic educational experiences and career development opportunities to youth as they work in National Parks. The program's primary goal is to recruit and train students who represent the diversity of the American people for this hands-on training and educational opportunity that can prepare them for law enforcement careers. The educational and work opportunities are designed so the youth can gain a better understanding and appreciation of the NPS natural and cultural resources and the importance of protecting America's natural treasures. Students will receive hands-on training, academic-based class instruction, Leadership Camp and summer internships as ProRangers working alongside NPS Law Enforcement Rangers, Interpretation Rangers, and other NPS employees, as well as partake in outdoor recreational experiences on public lands.

STATEMENT OF PUBLIC PURPOSE

The public purpose of this program is to promote and stimulate critical areas of student education, job training, development of responsible citizenship, productive community involvement, and furthering the understanding and appreciation of natural and cultural resources. This is accomplished through the program's involvement of young adults in the protection, caretaking, preservation, and enhancement of our natural and public resources.

STATEMENT OF WORK SUMMARY

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:

This program will engage students from overlapping Cohorts in the classroom and park environments. Students will participate in regular training and familiarization activities hosted by NPS employees, as well as experienced individuals/organizations from the private sector. They will be engaged in the field working as ProRangers alongside NPS Law Enforcement and Interpretation Rangers, as well as maintenance, resource management and admin staff at a variety of National Parks. Each internship park will aid the program in providing hands on training and experiences in law enforcement tactics, procedures, and policy as well as Preventative Search & Rescue, Emergency Medical Services, trail work, preservation and conservation activities, fire management, and back country outreach initiatives. Students will participate in a week long Leadership Camp where they will be engaged in planned group activities that are designed to build teamwork, leadership skills as well as familiarization with Search & Rescue, Rock Climbing and Repelling, etc., to build a better "Rangering" skillset.

RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE PARTIES

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

Create recruitment materials, both printed and electronic media for distribution; Host recruitment events, recruit and select young adults from diverse backgrounds; Maintain applicant/selectee files and provide PRLEA tuition, and stipends during the internship, PRLEA program and Leadership Camp; Provide round-trip transportation at the start and end of the internship, and transportation to and from Leadership Camp; Provide uniforms, supplies and personal protective gear; Provide housing stipends if park housing is not available; Perform site visits; Comply with all NPS policies and regulations; Provide a comprehensive annual report; Provide a program point of contact to maintain communication between the university and the NPS, as well to maintain regular communication with the interns during assignments; Provide staff to monitor program activities and coordinate the evaluation of ProRangers during internships; Provide for training and development opportunities; Maintain and update a website and other areas of Internet presence; participate in program meetings, and serve on admissions committee; Provide academic coursework for program interns directly related to conservation, the NPS, and its programs and mission; Manage the program, supervise the interns, oversee program evaluation, coordinate PRLEA, and carry out all other administrative functions and program support. Provide 25% cost share.

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:

Identify parks to host ProRangers, coordinate the implementation of internships, and provide field oversight; Provide staff to assist with the application review, interview, and selection process; Provide staff to support program; recruitment and outreach; Provide project oversight and direction and additional tools/supplies as needed; Provide worksite transportation; Promptly, upon notification of an existing or potential health and/or safety problem, take corrective action to resolve the problem or to suspend project activity if needed; Provide housing for interns at park sites contingent upon availability; Provide a ProRanger Program Manager; Provide group training activities; Provide project and park orientations; Provide staff, as available, to instruct program specific courses; Provide educational resources about the work projects and resource management at NPS sites to increase the interns' knowledge of the environment, natural and cultural resources, and the NPS roles as stewards and protectors of our nation's public lands; Provide feedback regarding the performance of the ProRangers.

Jointly the parties will review standards, procedures and performance, develop work plans and trainings, and maintain communication.

☐ 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.

Temple has one of only seven FLETA recognized Park Ranger Law Enforcement Academies in the nation and the only one in the Northeast with a focus on NPS policies, procedures, and mission. They have proven academic and training expertise, instructors, facilities, and equipment already dedicated to the program. Temple also provides law enforcement training to local and state agencies, as well as Criminal Justice academic degrees. They are the only school offering a National Park Service Management certificate program. They have over forty student organizations focusing on diverse students and has established agreements with multiple Universities and Community Colleges from which the ProRanger Program can address in an effort to recruit candidates.

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: