

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-18-NERO-0110
Project Title	Volunteer Leadership & Administration
Recipient	Appalachian Trail Conservancy
Anticipated Federal Funding	\$71,000
Non-Federal Cost Share	
Total Anticipated Award Amount	\$71,000
Award Instrument	☒ Task Agreement ☐ Cooperative Agreement ☐ Grant Agreement
Anticipated Period of Performance	Date of final signature through December 31, 2020
Legal Authority	54 U.S.C. §101702(a); : 82 Stat. 919; 16 USC 1241
CFDA # and Title	15.935 National Trails Systems Projects
Single Source Justification Criteria	
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Section 1. Project Summary

PROJECT GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

A. Project Goals – The Appalachian Trail Conservancy will provide assistance and support in managing APPA's Volunteer Program. The Program is substantial and includes volunteers from over 5,000 volunteers from 14 states and 31 Trail Clubs. Volunteers are the lifeblood of the Trail, as the Trail is a Cooperatively Managed unit of the National Park Service.

B. Project Objectives – The Appalachian Trail Conservancy will assign staff to work with APPA staff on managing and maintaining a comprehensive volunteer coordination program.

STATEMENT OF PUBLIC PURPOSE

The National Park is legally required to manage the usage of Service lands through the Special Park Uses program when the usage of those lands/facilities is requested by outside parties for purposes that require a greater degree of management control and authority as defined by RM-53. The Appalachian National Scenic Trail carries out this responsibility in cooperation with our partner The Appalachian Trail Conservancy, with whom we have a Cooperative Agreement. This Task Agreement provides funding to support the ATC in assisting the NPS in fulfilling this requirement.

STATEMENT OF WORK SUMMARY

This Task Agreement will provide funding from the National Park Service to the Appalachian Trail Conservancy to provide assistance and support in coordinating, managing, and monitoring the Park's Volunteer program.

Specifically, this funding will be used to support staff and services at the ATC's regional offices who will help coordinate the management and administration of a complex volunteer program spread across 14 states and 31 Trail Clubs, including ensuring compliance with National Park Service volunteer management and administration policies and regulations.

RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE PARTIES

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

1. Coordinate and manage trail club volunteers, trail crew volunteers, and individual ATC volunteers who work on public lands following National Park Service and US Forest Service Standards volunteer management policy, standards, and practices. Ensure all ATC staff with managerial and/or supervisory responsibilities for volunteers has reviewed DO#7, RM#7, and USFS standards.
2. Work with National Park Service to develop standardized volunteer service agreements including volunteer position descriptions, volunteer standards and training requirements, volunteer code of conduct, and volunteer hours reporting.
3. Coordinate regional and Trail-wide volunteer administration and establish and manage a Trail-wide volunteer database including hours and work category reporting as established by National Park Service. Administer A.T. Volunteer Recognition program including collecting, organizing, and managing volunteer data; and providing volunteer recognition items, years of service awards, and other appropriate recognition.

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. Assist with overall administration of a Trail-wide volunteer program fulfilling responsibilities of the NPS Volunteer in Parks program. Assist coordination with USFS Volunteer in Forests program to ensure all who volunteer on the Appalachian National Scenic Trail are appropriately documented with volunteer service agreements and covered for liability/tort claims as allowable in the Volunteer in Parks Act.
2. Provide NPS volunteer program management and administration materials including DO#7, RM#7, International Volunteer Program information, Volunteer Service Agreements, and review these materials with ATC staff.
3. Collaborate on volunteer hours reporting processes that result in accurate counts of the number of official volunteers, work hours by category, and annual summary of activities.
4. Participate and support volunteer management activities including Stewardship Council, Regional Partnership Committees, Volunteer Leadership meeting, and other meetings as appropriate.



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.

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: