

Food for Progress FY2023 Merit Notice of Funding Opportunity

Questions and Answers

Questions received to PPDED@usda.gov through April 24, 2024

1. Q. The FY2024 Merit NOFO states, “Recipients must have started and/or submitted their mid-term evaluation to IFAD prior to the publication date (March 20, 2024) of this NOFO.” Please confirm that “started” includes having contracted a midterm evaluation firm and submitted the TOR to USDA for approval and that organizations that have completed these steps are eligible to submit based on this requirement.

A: “Started” here includes either 1) begun engagement with the firm contracted to do baseline, midterm, and final evaluations *on the scope of the midterm evaluation*, or 2) submitted the midterm TOR to USDA for review and approval. Recognizing that there are different evaluation contracting mechanisms used by implementers, including a multi-evaluation contract which may include finalizing updated terms of reference at a different stage than with a single-evaluation contract, USDA asks implementers to please contact us via ppded@usda.gov with the specific agreement number if you need more information.

2. Q. Please confirm whether Applicants may complete the detailed budget template with past actuals at the category summary level (e.g., Salaries USN/TCN Staff, International Travel, Professional Services, etc.) for completed fiscal years and utilize detailed line-item projections for remaining years.

A: Yes, the applicant can use past actuals when preparing the detailed budget.

3.Q. On page 21 of the FOOD FOR PROGRESS PROGRAM MERIT BASED - SUPPLEMENTAL COMMODITY NOTICE OF FUNDING OPPORTUNITY, in Section D “Application and Submission”, subsection h “Other Submission Requirements”, instructions state that “submissions must be received by the Application Deadline and time via email to ppded@usda.gov.” However, on page 11 of the Merit NOFO, in Section D “Application and Submission”, subsection 1, USDA/FAS states “USDA/FAS will run a report from the FAIS system showing all applications that were submitted prior to 5:00:00 P.M. EDT on May 25, 2023. USDA/FAS will not consider late applications. See additional submission requirements in Part C Section 4. There will be no exceptions to the application deadline. The date of the Application Submission Deadline is also the closing date of this announcement.” Can USDA/FAS please confirm the submission method and the submission deadline and time?

A: As outlined in Section D, submissions must be received by the Application Deadline and time via email to ppded@usda.gov.

Page 11 should read “USDA/FAS will run a report from the “PPDED” system showing all applications that were submitted prior to 5:00:00 P.M. EDT on May 25, 2023. USDA/FAS will not consider late applications. See additional submission requirements in Part C Section 4. There will be no exceptions to the application deadline. The date of the Application Submission Deadline is also the closing date of this announcement.

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4.Q. On page 14, Section C “Content Guidance”, subsection i “Concept Note”, USDA/FAS states that a Justification Statement should be incorporated into the Concept Note. Does USDA/FAS have any additional specific sections they would like included in the Concept Note?

A: The applicant is encouraged to review section c. Content Guidance (i) for further information.