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	NPSNOINTIRP19AC00648
Project Title	Administrative & Volunteer Support, Trail of Tears NHT
Recipient	Trail of Tears Association
Anticipated Federal Funding	0
Non-Federal Cost Share	0
Total Anticipated Award Amount	0
Award Instrument	☐ Task Agreement ☑ Cooperative Agreement ☐ Grant Agreement
Anticipated Period of Performance	September 15, 2019 through September 15, 2024
Legal Authority	54 USC 101702(a)
CFDA # and Title	15.935, National Trails Projects
Single Source Justification Criteria	Continuation
National Park Service Point of Contact	Trish Fresquez-Hernandez, 505-988-6122, trish_fresquez-hernandez@nps.gov

Section 1. Project Summary

PROJECT GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

Project Goals – The project focuses on enhancing volunteer efforts to provide increased public access, recreation and retracement opportunities along the Trail of Tears National Historic Trail and related sites through interpretation, and for preservation and protection of the resources. Project activities will highlight the national historic trail to the public and multi-state trail communities through events and communication associated with the 50th anniversary of the National Trails System, as well as through other outreach opportunities.

The objectives of this Agreement are:

• Encourage private and public sector participation in the acquisition, planning, development, protection, operation, and maintenance of

STATEMENT OF PUBLIC PURPOSE

• Encourage private and public sector participation in the acquisition, planning, development, protection, operation, and maintenance of the Trail of Tears NHT.

• Accelerate the effort to acquire and develop the NHT by securing private and public sector involvement.

• Increase private and public awareness and use of the NHT and their support for its complete development.

• Support and strengthen the staff capabilities and volunteer efforts of the TOTA in taking a leading role within the private and public sector in acquiring, planning, developing, protecting, and maintaining the NHT.

STATEMENT OF WORK SUMMARY

The project focuses on enhancing volunteer efforts to provide increased public access, recreation and retracement opportunities along the Trail of Tears National Historic Trail and related sites through interpretation, and for preservation and protection of the resources. Project activities will highlight the national historic trail to the public and multi-state trail communities through events and communication associated with the 50th anniversary of the National Trails System, as well as through other outreach opportunities.

RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE PARTIES

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

A. The Recipient agrees to:

1. Work cooperatively with the NPS while implementing the scope of this Agreement; and in assisting the NPS in attaining the management objectives and implementation actions set forth in the Comprehensive Management and Use Plan for the Trail of Tears National Historic Trail (1992).

2. Designate a representative who shall act as technical liaison with the NPS. TOTA's liaison will represent the interests of the NHT and will provide assistance to the NPS that is within the scope of this Agreement.

3. Undertake and perform in a professional manner additional work or projects in planning and other activities related to the development of the NHT in accordance with Task Agreements executed by the parties under Article VI of this agreement.

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:

B. The NPS agrees to:

1. Work cooperatively with TOTA while the scope of this Agreement is being implemented.

2. Involve TOTA in a meaningful way in the implementation of the Trail of Tears Comprehensive Management and Use Plan (1992) for the NHT to the extent permitted under Federal law.

3. Assist TOTA by allowing use of the NHT logo for appropriate purposes, as requested in writing.

4. Review and approve each phase of projects prior to the commencement of subsequent phases, if applicable.

5. Participate in project meetings concerning project review and progress.

☐ 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 Trail of Tears Association (TOTA) has been a valuable partner with the NPS for over 20 years. They have completed several projects pertaining to the Trail of Tears NHT, including signing, interpretation, education, site development, and preservation of historic resources. They also have several ongoing projects as well. In 2016 they led to over 29,500 volunteer hours and the equivalent of almost $700,000 towards trail activities. To begin a new partnership with another entity would greatly impact the successful development of the Trail of Tears NHT since the Trail of Tears Association fully understands and is quite knowledgeable about the mission of the NPS as it pertains to the Trail of Tears NHT. This understanding and knowledge is invaluable.

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.
- [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.
- [ ] 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: