

**NOAA 2020 Environmental Literacy Program (ELP) Funding
Opportunity
Priority 1 Pre-Applications Informational Teleconference Transcript
October 21, 2019
3:00 pm EDT**

Coordinator: Welcome and thank you for standing by. All lines are in a listen-only mode until the question and answer session. At that time you may press star 1 and record your name. Today's conference is being recorded. If you have any objections, you may disconnect at this time. I would now like to turn today's meeting over to Sarah Schoedinger. Thank you. You may begin.

Sarah Schoedinger: Thank you, Carolyn. Well welcome to the October 21, 2019 Information Teleconference for NOAA's Fiscal Year 2020 Environmental Literacy Program Grants Funding Announcement.

I am Sarah Schoedinger. I am one of the Federal Program Officers for this funding opportunity. And I will introduce - or I will allow my colleagues in the room to introduce themselves. So John.

John McLaughlin: John McLaughlin, a Program Officer for Environmental Literacy Program.

Genie Bey: Genie Bey, Knauss Fellow with the Environmental Literacy Program.

Maggie Allen: This is Maggie Allen. I'm the Competition Manager for the Grants Competition.

Sarah Schoedinger: Okay. And Carrie, are you able to chime in? All right. We have one of our colleagues dialed in remotely. So Carrie McDougall has joined us as well. So you may hear from any one of these people during the call but primarily from John and me. And then another of our team members, Jaime Frungillo, is out today. But you may also be corresponding with her during the course of the competition.

So as was mentioned, this teleconference is being transcribed and we plan to post the transcription as soon as possible. We'll post it to our frequently asked questions web page no later than October 30 but they're pretty quick with turning them around to us; so hopefully by the end of this week if we can get that done. At the latest, early next week.

So what we'll be doing today is giving you an overview of the 2020 Environmental Literacy Program Funding Opportunity. And this call is focused on applications to Priority 1. And then as was mentioned, we'll open up the phone lines or we'll follow the procedure as laid out by our moderator for taking your questions.

As the operator indicated, all participants are muted for this first part of the teleconference. Once we complete the funding opportunity overview, you can queue up per her instructions.

So you will want to have a way that you can view the funding opportunity titled Environmental Literacy Grants: Supporting the education of K-12 students and the public for community resilience because we're going to be reviewing much of this document page by page in the coming hours, so.

We will cover how to get a copy in a few moments if you don't already have one. So don't panic. As we go along, please note any questions you have so that we can address those during the Q&A period.

And if you are able to access the Internet while participating in this teleconference, this may be helpful to you because we will also be referring to certain Web pages as we conduct the overview.

Okay. So if you don't yet have a copy of what we affectionately refer to as the NOFO, which is Notice of Funding Opportunity, you will want to go to the grants.gov website using whatever Internet browser you like and click on the tab for "Search Grants" along the top of the grants.gov page.

And then you'll come to a search page and you'll see three basic search criteria in the upper left corner. You can use any of these criteria to find the current opportunity.

So for example, you could type in the phrase environmental literacy into the keyword area or can type in 11.008 into the CFDA number area. And you will get a list of funding opportunities.

The one that you want is the one that is designated NOAA-SEC-OED-2020-2006190. That is the funding opportunity number and that is a unique number to our funding opportunity announcement.

So once you click on that funding opportunity, it will lead you to a page called the View Grant Opportunity Page. And there you'll see there's a synopsis of the opportunity in the middle of the screen.

Now the synopsis information on this page is - it's an overview of all of the phases of the competition. And so it gives you the first closing date [for pre-applications], but not the [second] one [for full applications], and the award floor [for priority 2] because it's for this entire competition. So it's not entirely specific to Priority 1 and is marginally useful, I have to say, as a source of information.

So what you want to do is click on the tab called Package. And here you'll see that there are different application packages for the different components of this competition. And we'll get into the details of why this is shortly.

So you'll note that there are different closing dates. And then if you look down, you'll see under "actions" [that] you can preview [the application package] and you'll notice that for instance in the middle one [of this list], which is for the pre-application competition to Priority 1, the topic of today's call, that you're going to actually have a slightly different application package, a much briefer one than the other two have because they're for full applications. And you'll also notice that each of these lines there is a competition ID number that is unique.

So if you click on the tab on this page called "Related Documents", you will now see a table with links to the full announcement. And you'll want to click on the second full announcement link, which is to open a PDF of the NOFO. And this is a document we'll be overviewing today. So if you don't already have a copy, open it up, download it.

One other thing I'll note before we leave this Web site is you will see there's a button on the top right that says "Subscribe". I believe once you have an account grants.gov, when you click on that button and you hit subscribe, if we

make any changes to this funding announcement, they have to be posted on grants.gov.

And you will then get a notification when there's been an update. So you can be sure that you have the latest information. I'm not anticipating we'll have to do that but you never know.

Okay. So let's see. So again, in case my nomenclature is a little bit foreign to you, NOFO is a term for Notice of Funding Opportunity. And so this is the primary document that you should be looking at when preparing your application.

We've provided a lot of other little tools and guidance documents to you to help but this is really where the “rubber hits the road” in terms of preparing your application for submission.

So in this funding opportunity we'll be soliciting two types of projects through separate competitive priorities. Priority 1 will support new projects from applicants located in Southern and Western regions of the United States.

And by new projects, we mean projects that are really new to NOAA; that they were not funding in one of the previous three funding rounds that focused on community resilience, which started in 2015.

Those that received funding through the competitions run in 2015 and 2016 are eligible to apply for Priority 2. And we have a whole separate call [for applications] for them. Priority 2 will support the continued evolution of the Environmental Literacy Program Grants Projects from the 2015 and 2016 competitions. So just to reiterate, this telecon is for Priority 1. If you're Priority 2, you can hang up now and join us on October 30 for that telecon.

So we restricted the geographic focus for Priority 1 due to the very high demand that occurred during the last competition with this focus. This geographic restriction will limit the number of applications that can be submitted and thereby increase the success rate.

Two regions of the country were selected for this first competition in what will be - in what will be a nationally focused competition series, the next one of which is planned for the fall of 2021. And that will cover the other two regions.

The boundaries of these regions are based on the National Weather Service's regional service map. And this map was used as a starting point for defining regions because projects within each region face similar hazards.

These two regions were grouped together because together they comprise approximately half the population of the United States. And also the Western and Southern regions were selected for this first round using this restricted geographical restricted - geographically restricted approach because we have had less investment in the regions - these two regions heretofore.

Okay. So the Southern region includes the following states and territories; Alabama, Arkansas, Florida, Georgia, Louisiana, Mississippi, New Mexico, Oklahoma, Puerto Rico, Tennessee, Texas and the U.S. Virgin Islands.

The Western region includes the following states, and territories; Alaska, American Samoa, Arizona, California, Guam, Hawaii, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, Northern Mariana Islands, Oregon, Utah and Washington.

So if your physical address is associated - that is associated with your institution's DUNS number is not in one of these states, you are not eligible to apply to Priority 1. Also, projects must be implemented in the region in which the applicant is located. And we'll get into a little bit more details about what that means later on.

Priority 1 has a pre-application requirement. Priority 2 does not. In Priority 1 we will review these pre-applications and only the most highly ranked pre-applications will be authorized to submit a full application. We will be focusing on the aspects that are relevant to the pre-application process in this telecon.

Even in spite of having this geographic restriction for this priority, we anticipate this priority to be very competitive like recent competitions that we have offered.

In 2018 we received 237 pre-applications, 59 of which were authorized to submit a full application. And we were only able to fund nine awards. We don't yet have our final budget for the current fiscal year but we anticipate having roughly the same amount to give out. So we anticipate a similar level of competitiveness for this funding opportunity.

So before I dive into the nitty-gritty of the funding announcement, I just want to emphasize that you really should read the entire Notice of Funding Opportunity. It may not be the most titillating reading you'll ever do, but it is important because we try to only put in the necessary information into this announcement.

Okay. So looking at the NOFO, the first five pages are really just a summary. So we're going to be starting on Page 6. And I'm going to be starting with

some of the program background and rationale for our emphasis on community resilience.

Okay. So first of all, this program's been around since 2005. And since that time, the Environmental Literacy Program Grants have supported formal and information education activities at local, regional and national levels to address NOAA's mission of science, service and stewardship.

But as you may have noticed in some of your communities, we are increasingly facing challenges not only of recovering from extreme weather events and other environmental hazards but also transforming to prepare for a future, more frequent and damaging events.

Events and hazards include but are not limited to severe storms, tornadoes, hurricanes, flooding, heavy precipitation events, persistent drought, heat wave, increased global temperatures, acidification of the oceans and sea level rise.

United States is experiencing a rising number of these costly and damaging events. And so we're interested in minimizing the disruption, damage and loss of life and property that occur from these hazards because that's essential to maintaining a healthy economy and the overall wellbeing of our society.

I'm now at the top of Page 7. So since 2015 the Environmental Literacy Program has been focused on community resilience and we define resilience here or we use the USGCRP's definition of resilience, which is the capability to anticipate, prepare for, respond to and recover from significant multi hazard threats with minimum damage to social well being, the economy and the environment.

So you highlight that educated communities are less vulnerable to environmental hazards as they're more likely to be prepared for and recover from disasters.

And U.S. communities can become more resilient by exploring the hazards they face, assessing their specific vulnerabilities and risks, considering options, prioritizing and planning and finally taking action. What I just described are really the five steps laid out in the U.S. climate resilience toolkit.

So this next statement in the NOFO is very important. This is our goal statement. So you should become very familiar with this. The goal of this funding opportunity is to build environmental literacy of K-12 students and the public so they're knowledgeable of the ways in which their community can become more resilient to extreme weather and/or other environmental hazards and become involved in achieving that resilience.

And one thing I want to note because we've already gotten questions is the K-12 students and the public that encompasses all the audiences will entertain. You don't have to be reaching both audiences through your program activities.

So if you want to focus on K-12 students and features, great. If you want to focus on children and their families through informal education, that's fine; or just adults. That's also fine. You don't have to do everybody.

So efforts to build environmental literacy ultimately aim to contribute to the reduction of risks from current and future environmental hazards through climate smart and inclusive decision making and long-term stewardship of healthy ecosystems all while promoting a low carbon economy.

So this is really sort of our long-term goal for the efforts that we're funding. One thing I will note is that the activities that will be supported by this funding opportunity do not include research. That is not what this is about.

And now at the top of Page 8, please bear with me while I continue to read through. Projects should be the collective environmental literacy for communities to become more resilient to the extreme weather and other environmental hazards they face in the long - the short and the long-term.

Building sufficient environmental literacy in a community means that these communities are composed of individuals who are supported by formal and informal education that develop their knowledge, skills and confidence to reason about the ways that human and natural systems interact globally and where they live, including the acknowledgement of disproportionately distributed vulnerabilities.

Participate in scientific and/or civic processes and consider scientific uncertainty, cultural knowledge and diverse community values in decision making.

Each individual in a community does not need to develop their knowledge, skills and confidence to the same extent. But the community should collectively and sufficiently have these capabilities for use in resilience building initiatives.

So what this statement indicates is that your project may need to draw on the disciplines of geography, social science, ecology and the physical sciences, engineering and economics. It's really a multifaceted - it will require a multifaceted approach.

Projects should demonstrate how they will engage community members to build these capabilities particularly through active learning. And if you're not sure what the definition of active learning is, we provide one for you on Page 43 of this funding announcement.

So projects should be demonstrating how they will engage community members to build these capabilities through active learning during the award period. Examples of active learning include interactive discussions, deliberations or investigations about an issue or - investigations about an issue or participation in simulations where different scenarios and solutions are explored.

Projects should leverage and incorporate relevant state and local hazard mitigation and/or adaptation plans and collaborate with individuals and institutions that are involved in efforts to develop or implement those plans. And we provide a URL here to help you go find out who the hazard mitigation officers are in your state and where some of those plans are or where you can find those plans if you're not already familiar with them.

Projects may focus on a single location or multiple locations and a single type of environmental hazard or a range of hazards that impact a community or communities.

Projects will be based on the established scientific evidence about current and future extreme weather and other environmental hazards facing communities and should consider relevant socioeconomic and ecological factors in the targeted location or locations. Particular attention should be paid to populations within communities that have greater exposure and have fewer resources to deal with the impacts of extreme weather and/or environmental hazards that are the focus of the project.

I want to note a couple things here. First of all, this opportunity is not limited to coastal communities. These hazards are maybe inland hazards. So please don't think this is just about sea level rise or ocean acidification or something happening on the coast.

The other thing that I wanted to mention, because this apparently caused some confusion, we have a geographical restriction on eligibility and where the project is being implemented; and we set that restriction based by state or region - states within these two regions I defined earlier. That does not mean that your project must occur such that it addresses the entire state of say Hawaii or California or Oklahoma or whatever is included in one of those regions.

You can be working - in fact we would expect that your implementation will likely happen at the local level. And if you choose to work in multiple localities, that's fine as long as they're occurring in one of these states as defined in these two regions. But do not think that you need to be, you know, trying to implement on a statewide or regional wide scale.

Okay. I'm now at the bottom of Page 8. In addition, projects must relate to NOAA's mission. They must also utilize NOAA's scientific data, data access tools, data visualizations and other physical and intellectual assets available on these topics.

In order to facilitate the use of NOAA's assets, projects are strongly encouraged to partner with relevant NOAA entities such as offices or programs and the like and/or NOAA employees and affiliates.

There are a bunch of links provided at the top of Page 9 that will guide you toward those NOAA offices and programs and data and datasets and other resources that are relevant to this funding announcement.

I'm now on the first full paragraph on Page 9. If the project location includes areas that are served by NOAA's Sea Grant College programs, the National Estuarine Research Reserves, the National Coastal Zone Management Program and/or NOAA's Regional Integrated Sciences and Assessments Program, applicants are encouraged to consider involving representatives from these programs as project advisors or partners, as these programs have a broad focus on resilience. RISA teams provide interdisciplinary expertise on climate-related risks and impacts and options for adaptive responses to them. Applicants can locate their local/regional NOAA resilience expertise as well as other non-NOAA experts at the URL that you see at the end of that paragraph. I won't read it out.

Projects should consider integrating citizen science tools when appropriate. When applied with intentional design, citizen science tools can result in learning outcomes by participants, help meet scientific project goals and benefit communities by serving as conduits to data.

Okay, one important thing to note about partners. You've probably gotten the sense thus far in the call that many disciplines are necessary to address all the areas that I've just mentioned in the project's activities. So we find that the most successful projects often utilize partnerships to ensure the project teams have adequate expertise. So for example, we expect to see strong education, strong science and strong resilience expertise on a project. We'll cover additional details on partners later on when we reach that section of the funding opportunity.

Okay. So moving on. I'm now at - toward the bottom of Page 9. Applicants are strongly encouraged to review resilience education projects funded by this program since 2015 and proposed projects should be informed by the lessons learned by these grantees.

Information on existing projects can be found on the NOAA Office of Education's Resilience Hub. And the URL is posted there. This resilience hub is a wealth of resources we've gathered over the last three to four years related to community resilience education projects.

NOAA convenes resilience grantees to share ideas every year and a half... to share ideas, best practices and lessons learned from their NOAA funded resilience education projects. So if you want to see the latest lessons learned or really the lessons learned from both of the workshops that we've had thus far, you can see those at the URL listed at that paragraph.

As a reminder, this funding opportunity has two priorities, numbered without regard to importance for funding. Priority 1 awards will support new projects located in Southern and Western regions of the United States. So just to remind you, the Southern region includes the following states and territories; Alabama, Arkansas, Florida, Georgia, Louisiana, Mississippi, New Mexico, Oklahoma, Puerto Rico, Tennessee, Texas and the United States Virgin Islands. The Western Region includes the following states and territories; Alaska, American Samoa, Arizona, California, Guam, Hawaii, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, the Northern Mariana Islands, Oregon, Utah and Washington.

Priority 2 awards will support the evolution of projects funded under the 2015 and 2016 funding opportunities from this program. Those are listed out there.

So if you're from one of those projects, you don't need to stay on this call because we're only addressing Priority 1 projects here.

I also want to point your attention to the fact that there are other funding opportunities related to resilience and those are listed in the middle paragraph on Page 10. I'm not going to read them out here but you may want to take a look at those if you're finding that your project after reading this funding announcement isn't really a good fit.

So I'm now down to [the section on] target audiences. So target audiences for this funding opportunity are the public, K-12 students and may include informal educators and formal educators, pre- or in-service, school administrators. Higher education students and professionals working in the area of community resilience are not target audiences for this funding opportunity. However, they could be members of your project team and receive funding for their efforts. They're not the participants that should be the target of your - target audience for your project.

There is an interest in projects that specifically engage highly vulnerable members of the community. Underserved members of a community, such as minority, low income, homeless, persons with disabilities and rural, tribal, and indigenous populations, are disproportionately vulnerable to extreme weather and other environmental hazards.

Projects should employ approaches and partnerships that are appropriate for the targeted underserved populations. Projects are strongly encouraged to develop meaningful partnerships with community-based organizations, particularly those from underserved communities. And adequate compensation should be provided for community-based organization partners and community members for the efforts they are contributing to the project.

There is also an interest in projects that engage children and youth, as their involvement benefits not only them but their communities.

Applicants are encouraged to describe the demographics and vulnerabilities of their target audience and use data to support those assertions.

Okay. So I'm now at the bottom of Page 11 under project evaluation. Okay. So all projects should include an evaluation component. However, projection descriptions for - and project descriptions for full applications will include a robust evaluation plan.

For those of you applying for Priority 1 in your pre-application phase there is no requirement to have an evaluation plan. But you should begin thinking about it because if you're authorized to submit a full application, you will need to develop quite a robust evaluation plan for that phase of the funding opportunity.

Okay. So now I'm going to skip over to the top of Page 13. So this is under awards dates and mission goal. So this is just to say that we anticipate that awards funded under this announcement during this fiscal year, 2020, will be made by September 30, 2020 and that the projects funded under this announcement will have a start date no earlier than October 1, 2020.

Moving down the page a little ways under program priorities. Again, I can't state this enough but we're talking about Priority 1 awards here and that's for new projects. An organization applying to this priority must be based in one of these two regions spelled out in that first paragraph of this section. And that will be determined based on the associated physical address of the applying institution's DUNS number.

And as I mentioned earlier, the impact of the project - the implementation must also occur in the same region as the applicant. We anticipate that Priority 1 of the next funding opportunity for this program will support projects from the Central and Eastern regions encompassing the remainder of the U.S. that we did not cover in this funding call.

Okay. And now I'm up to the top of Page 14. I just want to emphasize that an applicant may only submit a given project idea to one priority or another. And in the event that a project is submitted to both priorities, the Office of Education staff will be contacting the institution to ask them which application should be withdrawn.

So now I'm going to hand things over to John to dive into some of the funding availability and other gory details.

John McLaughlin: Thanks Sarah. Gory details for Halloween. So I'm going to start on Section 2 in the middle of Page 14 and go to Part A, Funding Availability. We at NOAA anticipate that approximately \$3 million may be available in fiscal year 2020 for this announcement.

Approximately six to ten awards among both priorities in the form of cooperative agreements will be made in fiscal year 2020. We plan to continue to focus on building the environmental literacy necessary for community resilience during the next few years of the Environmental Literacy Program.

For Priority 1 of the current competition, projects must be between 2 and 5 years in duration and total federal amount requested from NOAA for each project must be no less than \$250,000 and no more \$500,000 for all years of the project, including direct and indirect costs.

Any project requesting total federal support from NOAA less than \$250,000 or more than \$500,000 total for all years will not be considered for funding. So as you're hearing here, please make sure your award is between that ceiling and floor for funding requests.

Now we're going to skip ahead to Page 15 and the bottom of Page 15, Section 3.A, Eligible Applicants. This is critical so I'm going to read the whole section because if you are not an eligible applicant type, you probably do not want to proceed with submitting - you do not want to proceed with submitting an application.

So for both priorities of this funding opportunity, eligible applicants are limited to institutions of higher education; K through 12 public and independent schools and school systems; other nonprofits, including community-based organizations and informal education institutions such as museums, zoos, and aquariums; state and local government agencies; and Indian tribal governments in the United States.

For-profit organizations, foreign institutions and individuals are not eligible to apply. However, for-profit organizations, foreign institutions and individuals may participate as project partners. Likewise, federal agencies are not eligible to receive federal assistance under this announcement but may be project partners.

As Sarah stated, for Priority 1, which we're covering today, eligible organizations must be based in the Southern or Western Regions of the United States as determined by the physical address of the applying institution's DUNS number. I will not read the list of states and territories again but please

make sure your organization is indeed based in one of those states or territories.

It is strongly encouraged that an individual serve as a principal investigator on only one application submitted to this funding opportunity. Institutions may submit more than one application and individuals may serve as co-principal investigators or key personnel on more than one application.

Federal employees may not serve as principal investigators or co-principal investigators on any application although they may be included as key personnel.

On to Section 3.B, Cost Sharing or Matching Requirements. This is a quick one. There is no cost share requirement for this funding opportunity.

Section C, Other Criteria that Affect Eligibility.

Pre-applications must be submitted by the due date through grants.gov. No other types of submission will be accepted. Moving on to Section 4, the Address to Request an Application Package. This is also an essential section so I will read the first paragraph in full.

Pre-application packages including required federal forms and instructions are available through grants.gov. Grants.gov requires applicants to register with the system prior to submitting any application. This registration process can take several weeks and involves multiple steps.

In order to allow sufficient time for this process, applicants should register as soon as they decide they intend to apply even if they are not yet ready to submit their pre-applications.

Also, even if an applicant has registered with grants.gov previously, the applicant's password may have expired or their System for Award Management known as SAM registration, which was formerly the Central Contractor Registration or CCR, may need to be renewed or updated prior to submitting to grants.gov.

Note your CCR username will not work in SAM; you must create a new SAM user account to renew or update your registration. Grants.gov will not accept submissions if the applicant has not been authorized or if the credentials are incorrect.

Authorizations and credential corrections may take several days to establish. Please plan accordingly to avoid problems with the submission process. For further information you can visit the SAM website portal at the URL given here in the middle of Page 17.

Each applicant must be registered in grants.gov. If you experience problems downloading the pre-application forms from grants.gov, uploading the pre-application into the grants.gov system or using the grants.gov workspace feature, contact grants.gov customer support. And the phone number and email address are provided here in Page 17 of the NOFO Federal Funding as well as being available from their website..

Please note that a list of software applications that allow you to successfully navigate the grants.gov page and complete your submission are available from the grants.gov FAQ page, the link to which is also provided here on Page 17 of the funding opportunity.

On to Section 4.B, the Content and Form of Application. For Priority 1, each applicant must submit a pre-application through grants.gov for review. Pre-applications are required to prevent the expenditure of effort on full applications that are not likely to be successful. All applicants will receive a response to their pre-application via email from NOAA indicating whether or not they are authorized to submit a full application for the project.

Only those institutions that receive authorization from NOAA are eligible to submit a full application. Failure of an applicant to submit a pre-application or a full application before the deadline will result in the project not being merit reviewed or receiving any additional consideration.

You can [see](#) our office's frequently asked questions [web pages](#)~~Web sites~~, the URLs to which are provided in the top of Page 18. Note linked helpful information for applying to this announcement is available from our apply page, the link to which is provided near the top of Page 18.

On to content elements - required elements for Priority 1 pre-applications. The first section is the format requirements, which I will not read to you but please do review and make sure your application adheres to.

On Section B, the content requirements. Each pre-application must contain the following three elements. Number 1, an SF42 form, which is an application for Federal assistance. Number 2, a title page. And please use the title page template available from our models and templates page, the URL which is given here on Page 18.

But whether or not you decide to use that title page template, a title page must be submitted and contain all of the following seven elements that are listed here on the bottom of Page 18 and the top of Page 19.

Third, your pre-application must contain a project description, which has a four page limit. This section should summarize the project, present the rationale for the project and describe the specific project objectives to be achieved during the project period.

Describe the expected activities and related outputs and outcomes and explain how the project addresses the goal of this funding opportunity as Sarah read in Section 1A.

The rest of the details in here are directly related to (those) we've already covered so I will not read them. However, please be aware that this is what your project will be evaluated against so review them carefully and make sure your pre-application addresses them.

We have been asked if we're authorized to submit a sample of a project description and I will just say here we are not so we are unable to provide one. Please note that pre-applications do not have to submit a budget description beyond what is on the title page.

All right. Coming down to the bottom, we will skip the format requirements for Priority 1 full applications and Priority 2 full applications. Those are not the focus of this call. And we will now move to the bottom of Page 27 and specifically Section IV.D, Submission Date and Times.

For Priority 1 the deadline for pre-applications is 11:59 pm EST on November 25, 2019. As you've probably gathered, this is a hard and fast deadline. It's a regrettable situation for everyone involved when a pre-application does not make it in by the deadline or is incomplete.

We ask you to please plan sufficient factors of safety in your timeline to allow for contingencies that may arise as you prepare and submit your pre-application.

Moving on to Section G on Page 28. Applications submitted through grants.gov will be accompanied by an automated receipt of the date and time of submission.

Applications submitted through grants.gov will be accompanied by three automated email responses. The first email confirms receipt by grants.gov, not NOAA. The second email confirms that the submission is acceptable and timely. And the third validates the pre-application has been forwarded to NOAA for further processing.

If all email notifications are not provided within two days of submission, contact the grants.gov help desk and our team at oed.grants@noaa.gov. Please note it may take grants.gov up to two business days to validate or reject the submission. Please keep this in mind when developing your submission timeline.

Applicants are responsible for ensuring that all required elements have been appropriately submitted before the deadline. And additional instructions for using grants.gov can be found in the Priority 1 Frequently Asked Questions page on our Web site, the URL to which is provided on the bottom of Page 28.

Moving on to Page 29, Section V, the Evaluation Criteria for Priority 1. And please note that there are two sets of evaluation criteria, one for pre-apps and one for full applications. I'm not going to go through these because they correspond to the elements of the project that we've already covered. But

please review these as they are the criteria against which your pre-application will be reviewed.

And now we're going to move on to Page 35 and specifically Section V.B, review and selection process on the middle of the page. Upon receipt of the pre-application by NOAA, an initial administrative review is conducted to determine compliance with minimum requirements.

Minimum requirements for Priority 1 pre-applications including all of the following. The applicant is eligible to apply. The institution is located in and implementing the project activities in the region in which they are located; in this case the Southern and Western regions and that eligible - that the institution is in an eligible state or territory. The location will be determined by the submitting institution's DUNS number and the associated physical.

The total Federal request for all years of the project is no more than \$500,000 and no less than \$250,000 and the pre-application was received on time.

On to Page 36. We note that the pre-application phase will be conducted entirely by mail review and then our team will make recommendations to our selecting official, Louisa Koch, Director of Education for NOAA.

All pre-applications that meet eligibility and minimum requirements will be evaluated and scored by a group of independent reviewers, who are federal or non-federal experts, each having expertise in a separate area so that the reviewers as a whole cover the spectrum of activities covered by the pre-applications received.

The reviews will be conducted by mail review. The mail review will consist of each pre-application being reviewed by at least three reviewers. A rank

order of all pre-applications will be established by averaging the individual review ratings for each pre-application. The Program Office staff will look for a natural break in scores of the rank-ordered pre-applications to determine the top number of pre-applications closest to 40 that will be authorized to submit full applications.

The Federal Program Officers will make their recommendations to the Selecting Official, the Director of NOAA Education, on whether to authorize a full application based on rank order and the selection factors.

Application via an email to the authorized representative will notify the applicant of the status of their pre-application on February 6, 2020. Full applications from applicants who are not asked to submit them will not be reviewed or considered for funding.

Now we're going to move to Page 43 and Section 7, Agency Contacts. You can contact our team, the Environmental Literacy Program Grants Team, at oed.grants@noaa.gov. And you can also visit the website for the Office of Education.

I would ask you to please have reviewed the funding opportunity in full and also have reviewed our frequently asked questions page for Priority 1 before submitting questions.

Also, one note. If you are experiencing technical issues with grants.gov, please contact the grants.gov help desk via the contact information we previously discussed as our office will not be able to help you through technical details of that system and will likely just refer you back to that help desk.

Section 8, Other Information has two sections: definitions, which we suggest you review as well as the references that are cited within this funding opportunity. So that concludes our review of this Notice of Federal Funding.

Sarah Schoedinger: Thanks John. Okay. Carolyn, whenever you're ready, we're ready to do the Q&A.

Coordinator: Can you hear me? Okay. Thank you. We will now begin the question and answer session. If you would like to ask a question, please press star 1, unmute your phone and record your name clearly. If you need to withdraw your question, press star 2. Julia Beck, your line is open.

Julia Beck: Yes. Hi. I have, I guess, two questions. But the first one is just a quick one about the budget. On the pre-application it's for an overall budget and then obviously on the full application there's a greater breakdown. How exact does that overall budget need to be on the pre-application as oftentimes numbers shift when you start getting into the full breakdown and adding everything up. That's my first question.

And the second one has to do with if you are a statewide program and you had the capacity to offer programs to the entire state, you know, is that acceptable? Definitely sounded like you're more focused on specific communities.

Sarah Schoedinger: So to answer your first question about the budget, that is - basically you need to give us what your best estimate is for what your total cost will be. We understand that between, you know, if you are authorized to submit a full application and you start drilling down into the details of what you're going to do and how you're going to do it, those numbers may change a little bit.

The important thing is that you don't fall below the floor or exceed the maximum that's allowed by your priority. And then in terms of your question about if you have a statewide program, that doesn't necessarily mean that you won't be successful or competitive in this.

But you will need to justify like, you know, the hazards that you're focusing on, the communities that you're focusing on and why you're focusing on those. And if your rationale is solid for all of those and you can implement statewide, go for it. There's nothing to prevent you from doing that.

And I didn't mean to imply that we were only looking for, you know, super small scale implementation. We just recognize that often that is where people start when they're dealing with resilience issues. That answer your question?

Julia Beck: It does. Thank you very much.

Sarah Schoedinger: Okay.

Coordinator: Our next question comes from (Marcus Sandy). Your line is open.

Marcus Sandy: Good afternoon. Thank you for holding this information conference. My question is regarding the notion of doing something new. Where's a good place to go to see what's been done in I guess what would be called the Priority 2 projects or in earlier projects? Is that somewhere in the resources or assets? Can you recommend a good place for that?

Sarah Schoedinger: I'm so glad you asked that question because yes, it is. And it's several places. The quickest place to find that information - we do have links provided in the FFO to the prior competitions but really you want to go to our resilience hub and look for those.

Well, that's where you'll get a sense of not only just what types of projects have been done but also the lessons learned.

There are two separate reports. And then just above that in the resilience hub there is an awards map. And that will take you to all of the projects that have been funded to date with brief information of who their leads are, their partners, brief summary of what they're doing. And then there's also a nice little photo story there just to give you a little bit more information if it's helpful.

Marcus Sandy: Oh great. Appreciate that.

Sarah Schoedinger: Yes. And, as Maggie was just pointing out to me, there is a direct link to this information, the resilience hub and that information about the former projects several places throughout the Notice of Funding Opportunity. So did that answer your question?

Marcus Sandy: Yes, very much. That's great. I was just looking for a point of where to start and that's perfect. Thank you.

Sarah Schoedinger: Okay. Great. Thank you. Another question?

Coordinator: Our next question comes from Judy Anistosio. Your line is open.

Judy Anistosio: Hi. This is Judy. I've got two questions. One I'm calling from Hawai'i, Volcanoes National Park. I am wondering if you consider volcanoes part of the criteria that meets this grants goals?

Sarah Schoedinger: Unfortunately no we don't because volcanoes are not part of NOAA's mission.

Judy Anistosio: Okay. And then the second question is it says government agencies can apply but Federal employees cannot be the PI. So would you need to partner with a school or a friend's group in order to put the application in?

Sarah Schoedinger: Yes. So just to clarify, Federal agencies cannot be the primary recipients of funds and in fact cannot receive any funds. But they can be partners on grants by other applicants. So yes, you could be a partner on a grant. You cannot receive any funding from us as a Fed or your office, entity and individually. But you certainly can partner on a grant with someone as sort of in kind support.

Judy Anistosio: Okay. Great. Thank you.

Coordinator: Our next question comes from Bonnie Goldwin. Your line is open.

Bonnie Goldwin: Hi. I have a question also about kind of the concept of new. And so we received some funding to start a new curriculum development but we still need additional monies. Is new kind of - does the newness have to start with this particular funding opportunity or can it be building on something that is new but in the process of being developed?

John McLaughlin: So great question. Thank you, Bonnie. With regard to new, it strictly refers to new to this funding program and simply the community resilience funding opportunities that we've been offering since 2015. So it does not necessarily need to be a completely new effort that is not based on or utilizing an existing program or project. I would have one caution about curriculum development.

Bonnie Goldwin: Okay.

John McLaughlin: Curriculum development can be a component of a project for active learning on the curve but curriculum development should not be the primary focus...

Bonnie Goldwin: I see.

John McLaughlin: ...of a project for the funding opportunity.

Bonnie Goldwin: Okay.

John McLaughlin: Does that answer your question?

Bonnie Goldwin: That's fine. I mean so yes, absolutely. Thank you for that clarification. Yes. Okay. Thank you for that.

Sarah Schoedinger: Okay. Perfect.

Bonnie Goldwin: That answers my question.

Sarah Schoedinger: Thank you.

Coordinator: Our next question comes from Dalton Hesley. Your line is open.

Dalton Hesley: Thank you. Yes. This is Dalton Hesley from the University of Miami. I was simply interested in - well first, thank you all for presenting this thorough review. It really helped. But I was interested in specifically the structure of the pre-proposal, the pre-application in addition to what was presented in the NOFO.

It seems like there is a pre-application PDF presented under package under the Environmental Literacy Grant that we're discussing. Would that be a good starting point, a good reference for what information you all are looking for?

Sarah Schoedinger: So I - let me just clarify your question. When you say the PDF under the package, you mean on grants.gov or somewhere on our Web site?

Dalton Hensley: Grants.gov.

Sarah Schoedinger: Yes. So that is the one required form that we have for this [pre-application competition]. And so you should definitely download it, make sure you can access it, you don't have any compatibility issues with it early on if you're going to apply. It's a pretty straightforward form that I believe you can attach your project description and your title page [to it].

Dalton Hensley: All right. That's perfect.

Sarah Schoedinger: But in terms of the details, in terms of what you want to put in those other two parts, the Models and Templates page on our FAQ site provides you the title page you'll want to use and then obviously just follow the NOFO instructions for what should be in the four-page project description and those things can get attached to your SF424 in grants.gov.

Dalton Hensley: Okay. Perfect. Sounds great. Thank you.

Sarah Schoedinger: All right. You're welcome.

Coordinator: Showing no further questions in queue at this time. A gain, as a reminder, please press star 1 on your phone and record your name clearly if you have a question. One moment please.

Sarah Schoedinger: Thank you.

Coordinator: I have a question from Janelle. Your line is open.

Sarah Schoedinger: Hi Janelle.

Gina Woodard: Hello. This is Gina. Is my line open?

Coordinator: Yes.

Sarah Schoedinger: Well Gina, go for it.

Gina Woodard: Hi. Thank you so much for your presentation. My name is Gina Woodard. I'm actually a Curriculum Specialist and a high school educator. We're planning on submitting the grant. If your local college, junior university but that has tied to a local NGO and they can get, like, a partnership grant that would be targeted towards several surrounding K-12 districts and communities. Would it be - would it be best if the principal - my question is about the Principal Investigator. Is it reasonable for that to be a college professor that is tied to an NGO that's going to be part of our partnership? What would be the best - considering our partnership application - what would be the best consideration for Principal Investigator?

Sarah Schoedinger: Yes. So there's no one-size-fits-all answer to that question so my answer may be somewhat frustrating to you. But it really depends on what you're trying to accomplish and making sure that you've got the team pulled together to make that happen. And if the oversight and execution of the project is best run through that non-profit organization and the PI has an appointment at the

university but also has an appointment with that NGO or non-profit organization...

Gina Woodard: Yes.

Sarah Schoedinger: ...and they can represent that non-profit organization, then that's fine. I mean from an eligibility standpoint that's fine. If you get to the full application phase, just let's say, the reviewers are going to evaluate, you know, your overall project team and how it's organized so that it can effectively execute the project that you're proposing.

Other than that, we don't designate it. You know, don't think, "oh, I better put somebody with a PhD on this because that's going to rank higher than somebody else." Not necessarily. You know, it really needs to depend on what you're planning to do, you know, who's going to be in the best position to ensure that the project gets executed as you want it to.

Gina Woodard: Okay. And so we would just be clear to delineate which role the NGO and the different institutions have. Correct?

Sarah Schoedinger: Absolutely. Yes.

Gina Woodard: Okay. Thank you so much.

Sarah Schoedinger: You're welcome.

Coordinator: Our next question comes from Margaret Seabrook. Your line is open.

Margaret Seabrook: Thank you. My question has to do with the review of the pre-application time period. Do you know when in February you anticipate finishing review of the pre-applications?

Sarah Schoedinger: I think we said we would notify you all by the 6th.

John McLaughlin: that's right.

Sarah Schoedinger: Or between the 6th - I know we definitely - it's after - right around the 6th or shortly thereafter. Maggie's looking it up really quickly here on our timeline.

Maggie Allen: Okay. Because I'm looking at the due date for the full application, which is it looks like about a month later. So we're looking at a quick turnaround time between a pre-app and a full application.

Sarah Schoedinger: Yes. That is true. So we plan - we hope - our aim is to...

Maggie Allen: The fourth.

Sarah Schoedinger: ...notify you all on the fourth and then yes, things are due March 26. So it's a little bit more than a month, which means that you need to be thinking about this while you're waiting for the reviews to come back. You can't just, you know, sit on it unfortunately. So you need to have the conversations with your partners and be thinking about how you would actually implement it. so if you are fortunate enough to get a positive response, you're ready to really flesh out the details.

(Margaret Seabrook): Right. Right. And the full application is how many pages?

Sarah Schoedinger: So all that information - that's all contained in the NOFO. It's more - I mean the project description is 15. Other sections don't have page limits. So sometimes they're a minimum of, like, 50 pages. Sometimes they're over 100 pages if you've got a lot of partners and resumes and letters of commitment and all that.

So it really varies from application to application. All those details, which we did not cover here today because they're not germane until you get a full application, we will be covering with any of the applicants you are authorized to submit a full application. We will have a similar kind of telecon with them later on as appropriate.

(Margaret Seabrook): I see. Okay. Thank you.

Coordinator: Our next question comes from Bob Contafoy. Your line is open.

Bob Contafoy: Hi. Thank you for the presentation. My question is relative to the pre-app and the full applicant. So because as, you know, like many of the other folks that are interested, we're pulling together multiple partners. And I was just wondering what the implications are if as we're going through the [process] - if we submit it as an applicant during the pre-application [phase] and as we're working on details and actually get more specific that we find that someone else that's eligible is a more appropriate applicant, if that's actually possible.

Sarah Schoedinger: So we're trying to remember what we've done in the past because this is not the first time we've had this question so you think I'd remember what the answer was. And I don't. I mean, generally speaking, we want to have the same institution applying who applied for the pre-application. I think what we'll probably have to do unless John can come up with an answer really

quick here is get back to you and make sure we have that posted on our FAQ page because that's an issue that probably will come up for other people.

Bob Contafoy: Great. Thanks a lot.

Sarah Schoedinger: But I'm sorry I can't give you a - I don't want to give you a definitive answer and say it's one way or the other...

Bob Contafoy: Sure.

Sarah Schoedinger: ...because I'm not sure what we're going to do this year and we haven't talked about this yet, actually.

Maggie Allen: I do think we have it listed as a minimum requirement for full applications.

Sarah Schoedinger: Do we? Does that carry?

Maggie Allen: Yes.

John McLaughlin: This is John. On the bottom of Page 35 we do say for Priority 1 applicant was authorized to submit a full application based on review of pre-application.

Bob Contafoy: Got it. Okay. Great. Thanks a lot.

Sarah Schoedinger: All right. Good question.

Coordinator: Our next question comes from - participant name was not recorded but your line is open. Your line is open.

Woman: I was trying to find out if you had multiple focuses within a project and it still falls under that same resiliency, how would you list - would you list it out and have it under one blanket tie in or would you have them listed as like subprojects?

Sarah Schoedinger: That's kind of up to you. I'm not sure what you're thinking - we've had projects in the past where they have focused on different resilience topics and they've focused in different localities and it's really kind of - I mean you need to be able to articulate which environmental hazards you're focusing on in the communities where you plan to have that focus and engage those target audiences. And it needs to be clear that there's a need there for that engagement. So I would say that you do need to be somewhat specific, but then, like, how you structure your project to manage that, is really up to you. We don't dictate that.

Woman: Okay. Thank you.

Coordinator: Next question comes from Ms. Jones. Your line is open.

Ms. Jones: Hi. Yes. I had a question about funding large equipment costs. So we have a [multi-touch table] that can run simulations and the cost of that is about \$100,000. Are there any caps on equipment costs?

Sarah Schoedinger: No. We don't have any caps on equipment costs in this NOFO. So really the challenge just comes down to you justifying the cost, you know, relative to other things in your budget. But no, we don't have any hard and fast rules and that's in part because we want you to be able to be creative with these projects and use all the tools at your disposal. Did that answer your question?

Ms Jones: Yes. Thank you.

Sarah Schoedinger: Thanks.

Coordinator: Showing no further questions in queue at this time. Again, as a reminder, please press star 1 on your phone and record your name clearly if you have a question. One moment please.

Sarah Schoedinger: Thank you.

Coordinator: Next question comes from Kayla. Your line is open.

Kayla: Hi. I had a question about eligibility with Federal versus state. Would Sea Grant programs be considered Federal?

Sarah Schoedinger: No.

Kayla: Okay.

Sarah Schoedinger: The lucky thing for Sea Grant is that they're considered a NOAA partner [too] if somebody wants to have you involved as a NOAA partner; but you are ...a state employee. And so no, you are not considered a Federal agency.

John McLaughlin: As far as the state State Sea Grants go, National Sea Grant is different.

Sarah Schoedinger: Yes. National Sea Grant is different.

Kayla: Okay. Thank you. That's really helpful.

Sarah Schoedinger: Good.

Coordinator: No further questions in queue at this time. Again, as a reminder, please press star 1 on your phone and record your name clearly if you have a question. One moment please. Our next question comes from (Raven). Your line is open.

Raven: Hi. Thanks guys for doing the informational. It was great. I was calling to see if within NOAA's mission if that also covers like exposure to toxic substances if it's dealing with exposure in the ocean or along the coastline.

Sarah Schoedinger: That's usually more of an EPA focus. Quite frankly we don't do much in terms of toxicology except as relates to fisheries. So it's not like automatically ruled out but that's not going to probably be a strong fit.

Raven: Okay.

Sarah Schoedinger: Not because it's not important but just, you know, it's not a central part of our mission.

Raven: Okay. Thank you.

Coordinator: There are no further questions in queue at this time. Again, as a reminder, please press star 1 on your phone and record your name clearly if you have a question. One moment please. Our next question comes from (Elia). Your line is open.

Elia: Hi. My question is about organizational eligibility. I work for a relatively small non-profit and we haven't gone through an audit yet. Is that a requirement for this grant?

Sarah Schoedinger: No. It's not a requirement. You just have to be registered in sam.gov so your credentials check out there. And you have to do that before you get registered for grants.gov. But you don't have to have gone through an audit or anything like that prior to submitting an application to us.

Elia: Thank you.

Coordinator: No further questions in queue at this time. Again, as a reminder, please press star 1 on your phone and record your name clearly if you have a question. One moment please. Again, as a reminder, please press star 1 on your phone and record your name clearly if you have a question. One moment please. There are no further questions in queue at this time.

Sarah Schoedinger: Okay. So if there are no further questions, I think we'll get ready for a wrap up. And so thank you for your moderation there. Appreciate it. So for those of you who are still left on the line, I just want to restate the importance of reading the Notice of Funding Opportunity.

And also I want to remind you of all the great resources at our resilience hub on noaa.gov. So links to all the information is in the NOFO. So that's where you can find it most easily.

We do anticipate this priority to be very competitive just like recent competition so be prepared for that. If you have any additional questions after this teleconference concludes and after you've had a chance to really read through the NOFO, as John asked earlier, please do review our frequently asked questions page for Priority 1 because your question may be answered there.

But if it's not, feel free to reach us at our email address, oed.grants@noaa.gov.
And again, as John mentioned, if you have technical issues with regard to grants.gov, you need to contact their customer support.

And lastly I'll just remind you that we will be posting transcripts not only from today's call but last week's call on our - on the Priority FAQ Web site no later than October 30 but probably before that.

So thank you so much for your attention today and your interest in this funding opportunity. We do hope that this teleconference has provided you with the answers to at least the majority of your questions. And with that, we'll sign off now.

Coordinator: That concludes today's conference. Thank you for participating. You may disconnect at this time.

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