

Answers to Questions Received by EPA Regarding 2009 Workshop Support RFP

Question: Can you please tell me the types or give examples of the training that this grant has previously supported? Is it also possible to fund the State and/or Regional Water Boards to conduct trainings about TMDLs and big TMDL projects that we are planning that would involve the public?

Answer: Yes, we funded a similar training project from our FY 2008 RFP, and it also provided a national workshop focus on assisting States, Tribes and local governments with technical TMDL issues, including impaired waters, water quality standards, permitting, etc. The intent of the five annual TMDL workshops for FY 2010 RFP is to provide "national" in scope workshops, rather than more regional or watershed specific scale training. As the RFP states, "The target audience for the CWA Section 303(d) National Listing and TMDL Training Workshops is expected to include primarily state and tribal TMDL program personnel and may also include local and regional officials, stakeholders, and national experts. An estimated 80-100 participants are expected to attend each training workshop; approximately 50% state (representatives of up to 50 states), 5% tribal, 20% non-state/non-federal, and 25% federal (mostly EPA)." As such, we would be interested in applications that offer this broader national TMDL focus.

Question: Is this a continuation of a past training program or a new initiative? Also, historically I was wondering if this was something that States, private consultants or universities have provided as a service?

Answer: In FY 2008, EPA issued an RFP that had a similar project focusing on TMDL technical workshops. We have not had prior projects focusing on the monitoring activities as defined in this new RFP. The previous TMDL workshops were offered by a national not-for-profit organization.

Question: Can you share any information about the timeframe for the review process, i.e., in developing a timeline what might we assume as a start date for the workplan? I apologize if this was in the RFP, but I didn't see it.

Answer: It will take 4 - 6 weeks after the proposals are due to make final selections & then likely a few more weeks before the grant awards are finalized. So, we may be looking at late February or early March before the grants are awarded.

Question: I am trying to determine if a customer of mine is eligible to apply. They are a non-profit, private career school. Would that meet the eligibility criteria for this grant?

Answer: Yes, under the "eligible applicants" section of the RFP (p.12), the grantee you refer to would be eligible to apply for these projects; however, the applicant would need to address all of the selection criteria as stated on pps. 19-21.