



# US Environmental Protection Agency Office of Pesticide Programs

## Funding Opportunity Announcement EPA-OPP-11-002 EPA School Integrated Pest Management Grants

### Questions and Answers (Updated July 6, 2011)

The following are formal Agency responses to questions/comments received regarding the subject solicitation, which is available at [www.epa.gov/pesticides/grants/proposals/2011-school-ipm-grants.pdf](http://www.epa.gov/pesticides/grants/proposals/2011-school-ipm-grants.pdf).

**1. What is verifiable school IPM?**

The Brief Description section (page 2) of the announcement defines verifiable school IPM as, “..an ongoing activity that includes all of these documented elements: understanding pests; setting action thresholds for key pests, i.e., knowing when to take action against key pests; monitoring for pests, their locations and populations; removing conditions that allow pest infestation; and using one or more effective pest control methods including sanitation, structural maintenance, and nonchemical methods in place of or in combination with pesticides.”

**2. Does compliance with an existing state school IPM law, in and of itself, meet EPA’s criteria for a verifiable program?**

It does not, unless compliance affirms that the subject schools are using the five elements of verifiable school IPM identified in the Brief Description section (page 2) of the announcement.

**3. Is EPA specifically looking to bring IPM to districts and systems where it does not exist, or where there is no current mandate?**

EPA is interested in the implementation of IPM in the nations’ public and tribal schools where it is not currently being practiced. Because IPM is viewed as a continuum, EPA is also interested in elevating the IPM practices of those schools that may be practicing only the most basic elements of IPM. EPA takes no position on state or local laws or mandates related to school IPM.

**4. Can an applicant (i.e., a Principal Investigator) be a co-applicant (i.e., co-Principal Investigator) on a second application to the Agency?**

No. Section III.C.14 (page 14) of the announcement states, “EPA will consider only the first application submitted by each individual investigator.” EPA regards a co-investigator to be equivalent to a single investigator and would, therefore, not accept the second application submitted by this applicant.

**5. Can an applicant (i.e., a Principal Investigator) be a collaborator on a second application to the Agency?**

Yes. The applicant would not be viewed as having submitted multiple applications if they acted solely as a collaborator on a second application.

**6. Are non-profit organizations eligible?**

Yes, under certain conditions. Section III.A. (page 6) of the announcement states, "Eligible applicants include states, U.S. territories or possessions, federally recognized Indian tribal governments and Native American Organizations, public and private universities and colleges, schools and school districts, other public or private nonprofit institutions, local governments, and individuals. For-profit organizations are not eligible. Non-profit organizations described in Section 501(c)(4) of the Internal Revenue Code that engage in lobbying activities as defined in Section 3 of the Lobbying Disclosure Act of 1995 are also not eligible to apply." The term "other public or private non-profit institutions" refers to those organizations not otherwise specifically included or excluded in Section III.A.

**7. What is meant by the phrase "other applicable considerations" which appears in the Brief Description (page 3), Section II.A. (page 5), and Section II.B. (page 5)?**

In addition to the availability of funds and the quality of proposals received, other applicable considerations may become relevant during the competitive process, including, for example, geographic distribution.

**8. The link (sai.ipm.gov/pub/) referenced in the announcement for information on school IPM projects funded by EPA since 1998 is not working.**

The database referenced through this link had to be taken offline to correct a problem. A list of the school IPM related projects EPA has supported has been posted at [www.epa.gov/pestwise/ipminschoools/grants/historic-school-ipm-grants.html](http://www.epa.gov/pestwise/ipminschoools/grants/historic-school-ipm-grants.html).

**9. What is the difference between a grant and a cooperative agreement?**

The distinguishing factor between a grant and a cooperative agreement is the degree of federal participation or involvement during the performance of the work activities. If EPA, usually the project officer, participates in project activities, then a cooperative agreement is the proper funding mechanism. If the funded activities meet the definition of assistance and no substantial involvement by EPA is anticipated, a grant must be used to fund the project. See [www.epa.gov/ogd/recipient/fgcaa.htm](http://www.epa.gov/ogd/recipient/fgcaa.htm) for additional information.

**10. Can applicants request that they receive either a grant or a cooperative agreement?**

No. EPA will make a determination of the appropriate assistance agreement (grant or cooperative agreement) after the project has been recommended for funding. If EPA makes the decision to award a cooperative agreement, the "substantial federal involvement" terms and conditions will be clarified with the recipient and specified during the award process.

**11. Can a proposal include activities that will benefit EPA (e.g., providing school IPM training opportunities for staff)?**

No. If the principle purpose of the funded activity is to provide something for the direct benefit or use of the Federal government, then a contract is the appropriate legal instrument to use. See [www.epa.gov/ogd/recipient/fgcaa.htm](http://www.epa.gov/ogd/recipient/fgcaa.htm) for additional information.

**12. What is meant by the phrase “major project participants” as stated in Section IV.C.10.Appendix B: Resumes (page 12)?**

The phrase "major project participants" refers to the Principal Investigators and any co-Principal Investigators for the proposed project.

**13. Are letters of support required from cooperators on a project?**

No. Letters of support are not requested in nor required by the announcement. Arrangements with supporting organizations can be discussed in the project narrative.

**14. Was the wrong Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance (CFDA) number given in Attachment A. Grants.gov Instructions (page 21)?**

Yes. The announcement, as initially published, referred to CFDA 66.714 in the third paragraph of page 21. The announcement was corrected to reflect the correct CFDA number (66.716).

**15. Why are “consortia, partnerships, or other collaborative entities/arrangements” referenced in both the Outputs (I.D.2. - page 4) and Outcomes (I.D.3. – page 5) sections of the announcement?**

The term *output* means an environmental activity, effort, and/or associated work products related to an environmental goal and objective, that will be produced or provided over a period of time. The “...creation and support of consortia, partnerships, or other collaborative entities to provide IPM training in kindergarten to 12th grade schools...” would be classified as an output when referring to their creation as an activity of the project. For example, a project may propose to create a collaborative group (e.g., subject matter experts or key influencers) that does not presently exist as a critical step toward achieving a subsequent result.

The term *outcome* means the result, effect or consequence that will occur from carrying out an activity that is related to an environmental or programmatic goal or objective. “Expected outcomes...include: ...5) increasing consortia, partnerships, or other collaborative arrangements between public and tribal schools, state/tribal/local agencies and related stakeholders to advance the adoption of school IPM practices...” As it relates to outcomes, collaborative arrangements could become institutionalized or self-sustaining and advance school IPM well beyond the project period.