

## **Questions and Answers regarding FY 2024 Requests for Proposals (RFPs):**

**Q.** I am wondering whether we can/should include letters of support for our project. This is specifically in relation to data sharing/access and not from a formal project partner. Would these letters count toward the 6-page limit?

**A.** You may include letters of support with your proposal, These are not counted towards the 6-page limit.

**Q.** Can an organization apply for more than one grant in a funding cycle?

**A.** Yes. Organizations are allowed to apply for multiple grants.

**Q.** We recently constructed a greenhouse on Department of Corrections property for the purposes of being used for shore rehabilitation projects like the once anticipated in our grant application. Would we be able to claim the cost of construction of the new greenhouse to go towards a fund match? It is newly constructed and currently empty as we have not received a grant or started a program with it. If the cost of construction is not available, could we use a fair-market cost of renting a comparable greenhouse space? For the other part of my question, I was wondering about the valuation of labor. I know for many grants, volunteer labor can be used to match funding with the value set at minimum wage. Would we be able to use inmate labor at this calculation?

**A.** If the constructed greenhouse is solely used for the proposed project, then construction costs can be used as match. If other projects not funded by the grant are included, then fair-market rent value can be used if a direct cost. We do not allow indirect rate costs to be used as match. With regard to labor costs, we typically use the accepted volunteer rate that is specified in the grant. If inmate labor is voluntary, the accepted rate can be used. If inmates are compelled to work, we would not accept that as match.

**Q.** We are in the process of completing our IRLC grant application and will be requesting additional funds to complete a project begun using previously awarded IRL Council funding. Under “Total Project Cost” and “Detailed Project Budget Table” of this new application should we indicate only the new funding requested, or should these items include the previous funding amount?

**A.** There is a section of the proposal that asks if additional funding has been received for

this proposal and if any prior funding has been received from the Council. That is the place to indicate previous funding. Since you are asking for a new portion of funding for a current project it is best to make sure it is clear that this proposal is only for the new amount when compiling the total project budget.

**Q.** I see on the website that there will be multiple projects funded in the science category out of a fund of \$100,000; I just wanted to confirm this is correct.

**A.** We anticipate multiple projects being funded but, should the top ranked proposal be awarded all the available funding, then only the top-ranked project will be funded unless additional funding becomes available.

**Q.** Can a private company be considered a partner when applying for funding?

**A.** Yes a private company can be considered a partner and even the primary applicant.

**Q.** Can the cost of the nanobubble machine given to us by the company count towards local match?

**A.** Yes. The cost of the machine would be considered match.

**Q.** Is there any reason that it would not be appropriate to apply for IRL NEP funding for this pilot study?

**A.** It is an appropriate study and may be submitted for funding. One caveat might be that the IRLNEP has recently funded, and received results from, a nanobubble study. Our review team may not look favorably on funding such a similar project.

**Q.** Our group would like to monitor newly established living shorelines to identify factors that link planting design and project success. So, the proposal would fund a monitoring study of existing restorations rather than install a new restoration. Because this work is not basic science or experimentation, might it fit best into Category 2 rather than Category 4? Also, I see that under "Project Readiness" the points criteria note that *If a project/proposal documents that D&E is completed, required permits are listed and the status of any required permit is noted.* Would we be required to list permits for completed, built, projects?

**A.** Monitoring only would not be eligible under Category 2. This project you envision would be a Category 4 proposal and would require Quality Assurance Project Plan,

required when funded through EPA section 320 funds, which Category 4 projects. Project Readiness in Category 2 projects would not apply under Category 4 projects.

**Q.** We are interested in pursuing a partnership to apply for one of your grants, and was curious if Land Trusts qualify as a sole applicant or must a municipality be included?

**A.** Land trusts may be the sole applicant.