



Exchange Network Grant Program

**A Guide for Exchange Network
Rookies and Vets**



Overview

- What Is the Grant Program?
- How Do I Prepare a Quality Proposal?
- What Pitfalls Should I Avoid?



What Is the EN Grant Program?

- Competitive Grant Program
- States, tribes, territories
- Grants for individual entities and for partnerships
- Develop and deploy infrastructure
- Focus now on Phase 2
 - Publishing
 - New flows (AFS, eNOI)
 - Virtual Node and CROMERR services
- Completing Phase 1 data exchanges (e.g, WQX)
- Reusable and shareable services, and applications (build once, use many)
- Not for O&M



Program History

- Since 2002, 648 grants worth \$175 million
- 486 awards worth \$138.4 million to states
- 141 awards worth \$22.9 million to tribes
- 14 awards worth \$2.6 million to territories
- 7 awards worth \$10.8 mil to ECOS for associated program support





FY 2013 Grants – Current Status

- Approximately \$9.47M available after sequester
- Review panel met in January
- Recommendations accepted by Selection Official in February
- Currently on hold due to sequester
- Anticipate hold will be lifted by end of month given enactment of full year appropriation
- Plan to notify applicants in May
- Will make all reasonable effort to make awards by September 30



FY 2014 Grant Schedule

- Presidential Budget Request -- ≈\$10 million (unofficial)
- Solicitation Notice (SN) stakeholder review draft and conference calls late June
- SN posted NLT 8/15/13
- Applications due early November
- Notifications sent March/April
- Awards made June through September



Tips and Tricks for Preparing a Successful Grant Application

- Read last years SN to get your thinking started
- Read this year's stakeholder draft when ready; focus on
 - Priorities
 - Evaluation criteria
- Participate in stakeholder calls; provide comments to help improve clarity
- Develop project ideas
 - Agencies overall plan for the network
 - Collaborate with program offices
 - Establish priorities and select project(s)
 - Applications can include multiple goals (projects)
- Read SN carefully when posted
 - Note all requirements for a complete application
 - SN includes a checklist
- Write to the evaluation criteria
 - Make this easy for reviewers – take the guess work out
 - This is not supposed to be award winning prose
- Review the applications to make sure it is complete



Common Pitfalls

- Goals, outputs and outcomes not well organized or described
- Budgets not broken down by goal
- States – missing implementation plans; DQ's applications
- Applications that are not related to EN technology
- Applications that do not align with priorities
- Applications that include O&M
- Applicants with excessive ULO's
- Applicants with too many open grants

Goals, Outputs, Target Dates and Outcomes

| Goal | Output | Target Date ¹ | Outcome |
|----------------------|---|--------------------------|--|
| EIS & GHG Data Flows | 1.1 CERS data mapped to XML schema | Jan. 1, 2011 | Increased availability of timely, high quality data to other Exchange Network partners will improve environmental decision-making. |
| | 1.2 EIS flow to EPA becomes operational | June 1, 2011 | |
| | 1.3 GHG flow to EPA becomes operational ² | Dec. 31, 2011 | |
| | 1.4 Improve GIS locations & geospatial metadata for air release points ³ | Sept. 30, 2012 | |
| | 1.5 Add Assessment Module ³ to evaluate air emissions near new construction projects | Mar. 31, 2012 | |
| WQX ⁴ | 2.1 Data mapped to XML schema ² | Mar. 31, 2011 | Increased availability of data to other Exchange Network partners Electronic availability of standardized, timely, high quality data over the Exchange Network will improve the analysis of water quality monitoring data and lead to better decision-making. |
| | 2.2 Implement WQX Flow ³ | Sept. 30, 2011 | |
| | 2.3 Written documentation of implementing WQX with multi-state AWQMS database | Jan. 31, 2012 | |
| | 2.4 Publish Web Service | Sept. 30, 2012 | |



QUESTIONS?



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