

**The U.S. Department of the Interior (DOI), Interior Business Center (IBC),
Acquisition Services Directorate (AQD)**

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2024
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A. Program Description

A1. Authority

This notice of funding opportunity is administered by the U.S. Department of the Interior, Office of the Secretary, Interior Business Center, Acquisition Services Directorate (AQD) as part of the U.S. Government Interagency Agreement between U.S. Department of the Interior, Office of Wildland Fire and AQD.

Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act, 16 USC 6592, PL 117-58, Sec. 40803(c)(5).

Assistance Listing

15.088

A2. Background, Purpose and Program Requirements

Climate change is driving the devastating intersection of extreme heat, drought, and wildland fire danger across the United States, creating wildfires that move with a speed and intensity previously unseen. This has created conditions in which wildfires overwhelm response capabilities, resulting in billions of dollars in economic losses, damage to natural resources, devastation to communities, and the tragic loss of human life.

The Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act, also known as the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL), enacted in November 2021, is bringing much-needed support to communities across the country to increase the resilience of lands facing the threat of wildland fires and to better support federal wildland firefighters. The BIL provides funding and authorizes the U.S. Department of the Interior (DOI) to develop and implement a pilot program to provide local governments with financial assistance to acquire slip-on tanker units to establish fleets of vehicles that can be quickly converted to be operated as fire engines.

Funding Opportunity Goals To provide local governments with financial assistance to acquire slip-on tanker units to establish fleets of vehicles that can be quickly converted to be operated as fire engines. This will increase the resilience of lands facing the threat of wildland fires and will better support federal wildland firefighters.

B. Federal Award Information

B1. Total Funding

Estimated Total Funding

\$5,000,000

B2. Award Amount

Maximum Award

\$200,000

Minimum Award

\$10,000

B3. Anticipated Award Funding and Dates

Anticipated Award Date

September 02, 2024

B4. Anticipated Number of Awards

Expected Number of Awards

25

B5. Type of Award

Funding Instrument Type

G - Grant

C. Eligibility Information

C1. Eligible Applicants

Eligible Applicants

25 – Others (see text field entitled “Additional Information on Eligibility” for clarification)

Additional Information on Eligibility

Eligibility is restricted to U.S. local governments that provide fire protection and other emergency services and are in need of slip-on tankers to improve the wildland firefighting readiness for their area of protection and service a location with a population of 25,000 or less. Additional details are found in the full announcement.

C2. Cost Sharing or Matching

Cost Sharing / Matching Requirement

No

C3. Other

Excluded Parties: AQD conducts a review of the SAM.gov Exclusions database for all applicant entities and their key project personnel prior to award. AQD cannot award funds to entities or their key project personnel identified in the SAM.gov Exclusions database as ineligible, prohibited/restricted or otherwise excluded from receiving Federal contracts, certain subcontracts, and certain Federal assistance and benefits, as their ineligibility condition applies to this Federal program.

D. Application and Submission Information

D1. Address to Request Application Package

This NOFO includes all information, documents, and electronic addresses needed to submit an application through www.Grants.gov or by email to AQD_OWF_FA@ibc.doi.gov.

D2. Content and Form of Application Submission

1. SF-424, Application for Federal Assistance

Applicants must submit the appropriate Standard Form (SF)-424, Application for Federal Assistance. Individuals applying as a private citizen (i.e., unrelated to any business or nonprofit organization you may own or operate in your name), must complete the SF-424, Application for Federal Assistance-Individual form. All other applicants must complete the standard SF-424, Application for Federal Assistance. The required application forms are available with this announcement on Grants.gov. The SF-424, Application for Federal Assistance must be complete, signed, and dated. Do not include any proprietary or personally identifiable information. Please note: Enter only the amount requested from this Federal program in the “Federal” funding box on the SF-424 Application form. Include any other Federal sources of funding in the “Other” box and provide details on those Federal source(s) and funding amount(s) in the required Budget Narrative (see the “Budget Narrative” section below).

Program Requirements/Objectives Narrative

Phase I: Parties interested in submitting a Statement of Interest, please provide the following information via email attachment to AQD_OWF_FA@ibc.doi.gov

For convenience, it is preferred that interested parties respond utilizing Attachment 3 of this notice. Include screen shots of the Population and Wildfire Risk information from the

Wildfire Risk to Communities dashboard [DOI SOT Grant Data Center \(wildfirerisk.org\)](https://www.wildfirerisk.org) for the entity's service area.

Instructions: If applying for a single entity/location complete section "A. Applicant Information" and section "B. Entity Location Information".

If submitting a consolidated application with multiple entities/locations complete ONLY one section "A. Applicant Contact Information" and a Section "B. Entity Location Information" for EVERY entity/location that the applicant is requesting slip on tankers. For example, if applying a consolidated application with three entities/locations the applicant would complete one section "A. Applicant Contact Information" and three Section "B. Entity Location Information" (one for each entity/location).

A. Applicant Information

Applicant Contact Information

- POC Name (first and last):
- Email Address:
- Street Address:
- State:
- Zip:
- Phone Number:

SAM.gov Entity Registration

- Unique Entity ID (UEI):
- Entity Type:

B. Location/Entity Information (If submitting a consolidated application with multiple entities/locations, complete the first (Applicant Information) tab and an (Entity Location Information) tab for every entity/location.)

Location/Entity Information

- Entity Name:
- Is the Entity a U.S. Local Government (Yes/No):
- U.S. State the Entity is Located in:
- Geographic Area (found at [National Geographic Area Coordination Center Website Portal \(nifc.gov\)](https://www.nifc.gov)):

Need for Wildland Firefighting Readiness

- National Wildfire Risk to Homes Percentage:

Population

- Description or Name of Serviced Area:
- Population of Serviced Area:

Number of Slip-On Tankers

- Number of Slip-On Tankers Requested:

Estimated Total Cost

- Estimated Total Cost of Request:

Vehicle(s) to Mount Slip-On Tankers to (if requesting multiple slip-on tankers provide information for each vehicle that a requested slip-on tanker will be mounted to). Example, if requesting funds to purchase three slip-on tankers provide information for three vehicles)

- Vehicle 1
- Make:
- Model:
- Year:

Based on the review of the minimum qualifications, priority ranking will be established as described in Section E1, Criteria. After prioritization is complete, the top 25 will be invited to submit an Application Package. The specific number of invitations will be based on availability of funding.

Phase II: Applicants invited to Phase II should submit a project narrative no longer than 10 pages, with a typeface no smaller than 11-point, and have at least one (1) inch margins on all sides. The 10-page limit includes all text, figures, references but does not include the Budget Detail.

Application narrative requirements include:

- Project Title.
- Rationale behind the number of units requested.
- Evidence that proposed unit(s) meet the minimum specifications.
- Provide self-certification that the vehicle(s) will be available prior to receipt of the unit(s).
- Transactional timeline from notice of award through installation and operation of the unit(s).

Applicants must submit the appropriate SF-424 Budget Information form and Budget Narrative. For non-construction programs or projects, applicants must complete and submit the SF-424A, “Budget Information for Non-Construction Programs” form. All of the required application forms are available with this announcement on Grants.gov. Federal award recipients and subrecipients are subject to Federal award cost principles in 2 CFR 200.

Detailed Budget Proposal/Justification

The project budget shall include detailed information on all cost categories and must clearly identify all estimated project costs. Unit costs shall be provided for all budget items including the cost of work to be provided by contractors or sub-recipients. In addition, applicants shall include a narrative description of the items included in the project budget, including the value of in-kind contributions of goods and services provided to complete the project when cost share is identified to be included (reference section C of this announcement). Cost categories can include, but are not limited to, those costs items included on the SF-424A or SF-424C.

Conflict of Interest Disclosure

Per the Financial Assistance Interior Regulation (FAIR), [2 CFR §1402.112](#), applicants must state in their application if any actual or potential conflict of interest exists at the time of submission.

(a) Applicability.

(1) This section intends to ensure that non-Federal entities and their employees take appropriate steps to avoid conflicts of interest in their responsibilities under or with respect to Federal financial assistance agreements.

(2) In the procurement of supplies, equipment, construction, and services by recipients and by subrecipients, the conflict of interest provisions in 2 CFR 200.318 apply.

(b) Notification.

(1) Non-Federal entities, including applicants for financial assistance awards, must disclose in writing any conflict of interest to the DOI awarding agency or pass-through entity in accordance with 2 CFR 200.112.

(2) Recipients must establish internal controls that include, at a minimum, procedures to identify, disclose, and mitigate or eliminate identified conflicts of interest. The recipient is responsible for notifying the Financial Assistance Officer in writing of any conflicts of interest that may arise during the life of the award, including those that have been reported by subrecipients.

(c) *Restrictions on lobbying.* Non-Federal entities are strictly prohibited from using funds under a grant or cooperative agreement for lobbying activities and must provide the required certifications and disclosures pursuant to 43 CFR part 18 and 31 U.S.C. 1352.

(d) *Review procedures.* The Financial Assistance Officer will examine each conflict of interest disclosure on the basis of its particular facts and the nature of the proposed grant or cooperative agreement, and will determine whether a significant potential conflict exists and, if it does, develop an appropriate means for resolving it.

(e) *Enforcement.* Failure to resolve conflicts of interest in a manner that satisfies the government may be cause for termination of the award. Failure to make required disclosures may result in any of the remedies described in 2 CFR 200.338, Remedies for noncompliance, including suspension or debarment (see also 2 CFR part 180).

Single Audit Reporting Statement

All U.S. states, local governments, federally recognized Indian tribal governments, and non-profit organizations expending \$750,000 USD or more in Federal award funds in the applicant's fiscal year must submit a Single Audit report for that year through the [Federal Audit Clearinghouse's Internet Data Entry System](#). U.S. state, local government, federally recognized Indian tribal government, and non-profit applicants must state if your organization was or was not required to submit a Single Audit report for the most recently closed fiscal year. If your organization was required to submit a Single Audit report for the most recently closed fiscal year, provide the EIN associated with that report and state if it is available through the [Federal Audit Clearinghouse](#) website.

Certification Regarding Lobbying

Applicants requesting more than \$100,000 in Federal funding must certify to the statements in [43 CFR Part 18, Appendix A-Certification Regarding Lobbying](#). If this application requests more

than \$100,000 in Federal funds, the Authorized Official's signature on the appropriate SF-424, Application for Federal Assistance form also represents the entity's certification of the statements in 43 CFR Part 18, Appendix A.

SF-LLL Disclosure of Lobbying Activities

Applicants and recipients must not use any federally appropriated funds (annually appropriated or continuing appropriations) or matching funds under a Federal award to pay any person for lobbying in connection with the award. Lobbying is influencing or attempting to influence an officer or employee of any U.S. agency, a Member of the U.S. Congress, an officer or employee of the U.S. Congress, or an employee of a Member of the U.S. Congress connection with the award. Applicants and recipients must complete and submit the SF-LLL, "Disclosure of Lobbying Activities" form if the Federal share of the proposal or award is more than \$100,000 and the applicant or recipient has made or has agreed to make any payment using non-appropriated funds for lobbying in connection with the application or award. The SF-LLL form is available with this Funding Opportunity on Grants.gov. See 43 CFR, Subpart 18.100 for more information on when additional submission of this form is required.

Overlap or Duplication of Effort Statement

Applicants must provide a statement indicating if there is any overlap between this Federal application and any other Federal application, or funded project, regarding activities, costs, or time commitment of key personnel. If no such overlap or duplication exists, state, "There are no overlaps or duplication between this application and any of our other Federal applications or funded projects, including activities, costs, or time commitment of key personnel". If any such overlap exists, provide a complete description of overlaps or duplications between this proposal and any other federally funded project or application regarding activities, costs, and time commitment of key personnel, as applicable. Provide a copy of any overlapping or duplicative proposal submitted to any other potential funding entity and identify when that proposal was submitted, to whom (entity name and program), and when you anticipate being notified of their funding decision. The statement and the description of overlap or duplication, when applicable, may be provided within the proposal or as a separate attachment to the application. If at any time a proposal is awarded funds that would be overlapping or duplicative of the funding requested, the applicant must immediately notify the point of contact listed on the NOFO. Any overlap or duplication of funding between the proposed project and other active or anticipated projects may impact selection and/or funding amount.

Overlap of Effort is defined as a single grantee receiving funding to support the same or similar services/activities from two or more granting agencies or grant programs, which engage in the same or similar activities.

Duplication of Effort is defined as a single grantee received an award of federal funds from more than one federal source and uses those funds for one or more identical cost item.

D3. Unique Entity Identifier and System for Award Management (SAM)

Identifier and System for Award Management (SAM.gov) Registration: This requirement does not apply to individuals applying for funds as an individual (i.e., unrelated to any business or nonprofit organization you may own, operate, or work within), or any entity with an exception to bypass SAM.gov registration with prior approval from the funding bureau or office in accordance with bureau or office policy. All other applicants are required to register in SAM.gov prior to submitting a Federal award application and obtain a [Unique Entity Identifier \(UEI\)](#) which replaced the Data Universal Numbering System (DUNS) number from Dun & Bradstreet in April 2022. A Federal award may not be made to an applicant that has not completed the SAM.gov registration. If an applicant selected for funding has not completed their SAM.gov registration by the time the program is ready to make an award, the program may determine the applicant is not qualified to receive an award. Federal award recipients must also continue to maintain an active SAM.gov registration with current information through the life of their Federal award(s). See the “Submission Requirements” section of this document below for more information on SAM.gov registration. **There is no cost to register with SAM.gov.** There are third-party vendors who will charge a fee in exchange for registering entities with SAM.gov; **please be aware you can register and request help for free.**

Register with the System for Award Management (SAM)

Applicants can register on the [SAM.gov](#) website. The “Help” tab on the website contains User Guides and other information to assist you with registration. The Grants.gov “[Register with SAM](#)” page also provides detailed instructions. Applicants can contact the supporting Federal Service Desk for help registering in SAM. Once registered in SAM, entities will be assigned a Unique Entity Identifier (UEI). Entities must renew and revalidate their SAM registration at least once every 12 months from the date previously registered. Entities are strongly encouraged to revalidate their registration as often as needed to ensure their information is up to date and reflects changes that may have been made to the entity’s IRS information. If applicable, foreign entities who want to receive payment directly to a U.S. bank account must enter and maintain valid, current banking information in SAM.

There is no cost to register with SAM.gov. There are third-party vendors who will charge a fee in exchange for registering entities with SAM.gov; **please be aware you can register and request help for free through the SAM.gov website.**

D4. Submission Dates and Times

Due Date for Applications

06/04/2024

Application Due Date Explanation

THIS IS A TWO-PHASE PROCESS

Phase I: Statements of Interest are due 21-March-2024

Phase II, if invited: Application Packages are due 4-June-2024

Electronically submitted applications must be submitted no later than 5:00 p.m., ET, on the listed application due date.

D5. Intergovernmental Review

An intergovernmental review may be required for applications submissions from a U.S. state or local government prior to submission. Applicants must contact their State's Single Point of Contact (SPOC) to comply with the state's process under [Executive Order 12372](#).

D6. Funding Restrictions

Indirect Costs: Individuals

The Federal awarding agency that provides the largest amount of direct funding to your organization is your cognizant agency for indirect costs, unless otherwise assigned by the White House Office of Management and Budget (OMB). If the Department of the Interior is your organization's cognizant agency, the Interior Business Center will negotiate your indirect cost rate. Contact the Interior Business Center by phone 916-930-3803 or using the IBC Email Submission Form. See the IBC Website for more information. Please refer to 2 CFR 200.404 for all indirect cost information.

D7. Other Submission Requirements

E. Application Review Information

E1. Criteria

Wildfire Risk to Communities Dashboard National

Maximum Points: 0

Wildfire Risk to Homes Percentage of the service area(s)

Responses will first be ordered based on the National Wildlife Risk to Homes Percentage of the service area(s) provided in the Statement of Interest. Responses will be ordered from the highest National Wildlife Risk to Homes Percentage to the lowest. For applications submitted for multiple locations (consolidated application), the Government will use the average National Wildfire Risk to Homes Percentage for all the locations included on the application. All responses will be evaluated in accordance with Section E of the full announcement.

Location/Entity Information:

Maximum Points: 0

This includes, but is not limited to, evaluation of the vehicles available for slip-on tanker installation, population, location, trained personnel, and the applicant's capacity to fulfill the intent of this opportunity. All responses will be evaluated in accordance with Section E of the full announcement.

Equitable Geographical Distribution:

Maximum Points: 0

It is the Government's desire that the slip-on tankers obtained through this opportunity be geographically distributed as equitably as possible, based on the pool of eligible parties submitting a Statement of Interest. DOI will maximize award to the number of Geographic Areas (as defined by the National Interagency Coordinating Center (gacc.nifc.gov)) by ensuring at least one eligible party from each Geographic Area, if submitted, will be prioritized within the approximately 25 invited to submit an application. All responses will be evaluated in accordance with Section E of the full announcement.

E2. Review and Selection Process

Prior to award, AQD will review any applicant statement regarding potential overlap or duplication between the project to be funded and any other funded or proposed project in terms of activities, funding, or time commitment of key personnel. Depending on the circumstances, AQD may request modification to the application, other pending applications, or an active award, as needed to eliminate any duplication of effort, or AQD may choose not to fund the selected project.

AQD may not make a Federal award to an applicant that has not completed the SAM.gov registration. If an applicant selected for funding has not completed their SAM.gov registration by the time AQD is ready to make an award, AQD may determine that the applicant is not qualified to receive an award. AQD can use that determination as a basis for making an award to another applicant.

Prior to award, AQD will evaluate the risk posed by applicants as required in 2 CFR 200.205. AQD documents applicant risk evaluations using DOI's "Financial Assistance Recipient Risk Assessment" form. Prior to approving awards for Federal funding in excess of the simplified acquisition threshold (currently \$250,000), AQD is required to review and consider any information about or from the applicant found in the Federal Awardee Performance and Integrity Information System (FAPIIS). AQD will consider this information when completing the risk review. AQD uses the results of the risk evaluation to establish monitoring plans, recipient reporting frequency requirements, and to determine if one or more of the specific award conditions in 2 CFR 200.208 should be applied the award.

E3. CFR – Regulatory Information

E4. Anticipated Announcement and Federal Award Dates

F. Federal Award Administration Information

F1. Federal Award Notices

Upon being selected for the award, successful applicants will receive a notification of the selection of their application for funding. A QD will notify the applicant selected for award by insert date. A notice of selection is not an authorization to begin performance on an agreement. This notice will detail the next steps in the awarding process. Once all clearances and reviews have been conducted, a cooperative agreement or grant will be sent for signature.

Work cannot begin before the non-Federal entity receives a fully executed copy of the grant/cooperative agreement which contains the signature of the Agreements Officer. Any pre-award costs incurred prior to the receipt of a signed agreement or written notice signed by an Agreements Officer authorizing pre-award costs, is at the applicant's own risk. A signed grant/cooperative agreement signed by an Agreements Officer is the only authorizing document to begin performance.

Organizations whose applications have not been selected will be advised as promptly as possible.

F2. Administrative and National Policy Requirements

See the "[DOI Standard Terms and Conditions](#)" for the administrative and national policy requirements applicable to DOI awards.

Data Availability

Per the Financial Assistance Interior Regulation (FAIR), [2 CFR §1402.315](#):

(a) All data, methodology, factual inputs, models, analyses, technical information, reports, conclusions, valuation products or other scientific assessments in any medium or form, including textual, numerical, graphic, cartographic, narrative, or audiovisual, resulting from a financial assistance agreement is available for use by the Department of the Interior, including being available in a manner that is sufficient for independent verification.

(b) The Federal Government has the right to:

(1) Obtain, reproduce, publish, or otherwise use the data, methodology, factual inputs, models, analyses, technical information, reports, conclusions, or other scientific assessments, produced under a Federal award; and

(2) Authorize others to receive, reproduce, publish, or otherwise use such data, methodology, factual inputs, models, analyses, technical information, reports, conclusions, or other scientific assessments, for Federal purposes, including to allow for meaningful third-party evaluation.

F3. Reporting

Financial Reports

All recipients must use the [SF-425, Federal Financial Report](#) form for financial reporting. At a minimum, all recipients must submit a **final** financial report. Final reports are due no later than 120 calendar days after the award period of performance end date or termination date. For awards with periods of performance longer than 12 months, recipients are required to submit

interim financial reports on the frequency established in the Notice of Award. The only exception to the interim financial reporting requirement is if the recipient is required to use the SF 270/271 to request payment and requests payment at least once annually through the entire award period of performance. We will describe all financial reporting requirements in the Notice of Award.

Performance Reports

Performance reports must contain a comparison of actual accomplishments with the established goals and objectives of the award; a description of reasons why established goals were not met, if appropriate; and any other pertinent information relevant to the project results. Final reports are due no later than 120 calendar days after the award period of performance end date or termination date. For awards with periods of performance longer than 12 months, recipients are required to submit **interim** financial reports on the frequency established in the Notice of Award.

Significant Development Reports

Events may occur between the scheduled performance reporting dates which have significant impact upon the supported activity. In such cases, recipients are required to notify AQD in writing as soon as the recipient becomes aware of any problems, delays, or adverse conditions that will materially impair the ability to meet the objective of the Federal award. This disclosure must include a statement of any corrective action(s) taken or contemplated, and any assistance needed to resolve the situation. The recipient should also notify AQD in writing of any favorable developments that enable meeting time schedules and objectives sooner or at less cost than anticipated or producing more or different beneficial results than originally planned.

Real Property Reports

Recipients and subrecipients are required to submit status reports on the status of real property acquired under the award in which the Federal government retains an interest. The required frequency of these reports will depend on the anticipated length of the Federal interest period. AQD will include recipient-specific real property reporting requirements, including the required data elements, reporting frequency, and report due dates, in the Notice of Award when applicable.

Conflict of Interest Disclosures

Recipients must notify the program immediately in writing of any conflict of interest that arise during the life of their Federal award, including those reported to them by any subrecipient under the award. Recipients must notify the program in writing if any employees, including subrecipient and contractor personnel, are related to, married to, or have a close personal relationship with any Federal employee in the Federal funding program or who otherwise may have been involved in the review and selection of the award. The term employee means any individual engaged in the performance of work pursuant to the Federal award. Recipients may not have a former Federal employee as a key project official, or in any other substantial role related to their award, whose participation put them out of compliance with the legal authorities addressing post-Government employment restrictions. See the [U.S. Office of Government Ethics website](#) for more information on these restrictions. IBC will examine each conflict of interest disclosure based on its particular facts and the nature of the project and will determine if a significant potential conflict exists. If it does, IBC will work with the recipient to determine an appropriate resolution. Failure to disclose and resolve conflicts of interest in a manner that

satisfies IBC may result in any of the remedies described in [2 CFR 200.339](#) Remedies for Noncompliance, including termination of the award.

Other Mandatory Disclosures

The Non-Federal entity or applicant for a Federal award must disclose, in a timely manner, in writing to the Federal awarding agency or pass-through entity all violations of Federal criminal law involving fraud, bribery, or gratuity violations potentially affecting the Federal award. Non-Federal entities that receive a Federal award including the terms and conditions outlined in 2 CFR 200, Appendix XII—Award Term and Condition for Recipient Integrity and Performance Matters are required to report certain civil, criminal, or administrative proceedings to SAM. Failure to make required disclosures can result in any of the remedies described in [2 CFR 200.339](#) Remedies for Noncompliance, including suspension or debarment.

Reporting Matters Related to Recipient Integrity and Performance

If the total value of your currently active grants, cooperative agreements, and procurement contracts from all Federal awarding agencies exceeds \$10,000,000 for any period of time during the period of performance of this Federal award, then you as the recipient during that period of time must maintain the currency of information reported to the System for Award Management (SAM) that is made available in the designated integrity and performance system (currently the Federal Awardee Performance and Integrity Information System (FAPIIS)) about civil, criminal, or administrative proceedings in accordance with Appendix XII to 2 CFR 200.

G. Federal Awarding Agency Contact(s)

G1. Grant/Cooperative Agreement Officer

For questions regarding this NOFO, contact:

First and Last Name:

Chelsea Whitten

Address:

Telephone:

571-513-4053

Email:

AQD_OWF_FA@ibc.doi.gov

G2. Program Technical Representative/Officer

For programmatic technical assistance, please contact:

First and Last Name:

Address:

Telephone:

Email:

G3. Application System Technical Support

For Grants.gov technical registration and submission, downloading forms and application packages, contact:

Grants.gov Customer Support

Numeric Input Field: 1-800-518-4726

Support@grants.gov

For GrantSolutions technical registration, submission, and other assistance contact:

GrantSolutions Customer Support

1-866-577-0771

Help@grantsolutions.gov

Applications that fail to meet the application due date will not be reviewed and will receive no further consideration. You are strongly encouraged to submit your application a minimum of 3-5 days prior to the application closing date. Do not wait until the last day in the event you encounter technical difficulties, either on your end or, with <http://www.grants.gov>. Grants.gov can take up to 48 hours to notify you of a successful submission.

In addition, if you are submitting your application via Grants.gov, you must (1) be designated by your organization as an Authorized Organization Representative (AOR) and (2) register yourself with Grants.gov as an AOR. Details on these steps are outlined at the following Grants.gov web page: <http://www.grants.gov/web/grants/register.html>.

After you electronically submit your application, you will receive from Grants.gov an automatic notification of receipt that contains a Grants.gov tracking number. (This notification indicates receipt by Grants.gov only.) If you are experiencing problems submitting your application through Grants.gov, please contact the Grants.gov Support Desk, toll free, at 1-800-518-4726. You must obtain a Grants.gov Support Desk Case Number and must keep a record of it.

If you are prevented from electronically submitting your application on the application deadline because of technical problems with the Grants.gov system, please contact the person listed under For Further Information Contact in section VII of this notice and provide a written explanation of the technical problem you experienced with Grants.gov, along with the Grants.gov Support Desk Case Number. AQD will contact you after a determination is made on whether your application will be accepted.

Note: We will not consider your application for further review if you failed to fully register to submit your application to Grants.gov before the application deadline or if the technical problem you experienced is unrelated to the Grants.gov system.

If for any reason (including submitting to the wrong funding opportunity number or making corrections/updates) an application is submitted more than once prior to the application due date, AQD will only accept your last validated electronic submission, under the correct funding opportunity number, prior to the Grants.gov application due date as the final and only acceptable application.

Unsuccessful submissions will require authenticated verification from <http://www.grants.gov> indicating system problems existed at the time of your submission. For example, you will be required to provide an <http://www.grants.gov> submission error notification and/or tracking number in order to substantiate missing the cut off date.

Grants.gov will automatically send applicants a tracking number and date of receipt verification electronically once the application has been successfully received and validated in <http://www.grants.gov>.

H. Other Information

Payments: Domestic recipients are required to register in and receive payment through the U.S. Treasury's Automated Standard Application for Payments (ASAP), unless approved for a waiver by AQD. Foreign recipients receiving funds to a final destination bank outside the U.S. are required to receive payment through the U.S. Treasury's International Treasury Services (ITS) System. Foreign recipients receiving funds to a final destination bank in the U.S. are required to enter and maintain current banking details in their SAM.gov entity profile and receive payment through the Automated Clearing House network by electronic funds transfer (EFT). AQD will include recipient-specific instructions on how to request payment, including identification of any additional information required and where to submit payment requests, as applicable, in all Notices of Award.