

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

1. **Question:** Is there a matching requirement?

Answer: Yes, there is a matching requirement of 15% of the requested grant funds. You can find more information about the match on pages 5 and pages 23-24 of the RFA.

2. **Question:** Does the match have to be cash, or can it be in-kind (or a combination of both)?

Answer: Either cash or in-kind (or a combination of both) can be identified as match contribution.

3. **Question:** What is the project period of the grant?

Answer: The anticipated project period is February 1, 2024 through January 31, 2026.

4. **Question:** Do projects have to last the full two years? Is a project with a shorter term eligible?

Answer: Projects must be completed within **two (2)** years, and shorter project timeline is eligible (e.g., one year).

5. We have a current grant with the Hudson River Estuary Program. Are we able to apply?

Answer: A current grant with the Estuary Program is not a factor for eligibility under this RFA.

6. **Question:** Where can I find the eligible boundaries and priority culvert data for the Hudson River Estuary?

Answer: The Hudson River Estuary boundary can be queried using the searchable map available at <http://www.dec.ny.gov/pubs/103459.html> (Data Set titled “Hudson River Estuary Grant Program boundaries” listed under the “Misc. Environmental Maps” Section).

Data on assessed crossings in the Hudson watershed is available using the web map at <https://wri.cals.cornell.edu/hudson-river-estuary/watershed-management/aquatic-connectivity-and-barrier-removal-culvert-dams/>.

7. **Question:** Where can I find information about prior applications submitted to the Hudson River Estuary Program and subsequently awarded grants?

Answer: Data on awarded applications for the history of the program is available, and can be found at Open Data (<https://data.ny.gov/>; key words “Hudson River Estuary”). We also post records of awarded grants at the bottom of the Estuary Grants web page at <https://www.dec.ny.gov/lands/5091.html>.

8. **Question:** Where do we identify how the proposed project helps achieve Measures of Success from the 2021-2025 Hudson River Estuary Action Agenda?

Answer: Program Question 12. See Appendix IV in the RFA for more information about the Measures of Success that apply to the grant opportunity.

9. Question: What is the format for stakeholder letters and letters of support? Who may write these letters? Is there a specific salutation that should be used?

Answer: There isn't a specific required salutation for letters. They can be addressed to the "Hudson River Estuary Program Coordinator" or to the "Application Review Team" or to Susan Pepe, Grants Coordinator. We cannot advise on how letters of support will be interpreted, but internal support letters from a State Agency will not be considered. There are no other limitations on letters.

10. Question: What rates should be used for volunteer hours, and where are they entered in the budget form in the Grants Gateway?

Answer: If there is an established rate for the task which a volunteer is undertaking, particularly if it is a specialized task, you would use the established rate for the budget. You can refer to rates at https://www.bls.gov/oes/current/oes_ny.htm. Otherwise, you can use the hourly rate published by Independent Sector <https://independentsector.org/>. Independent Sector publishes an average hourly rate for the US, and also for individual states, including New York State (NYS). The Independent Sector has published the NYS hourly volunteer rate as \$35.71 per hour. The value of volunteer hours should be entered under the "Other" line in the Grants Gateway budget form.

11. Question: I am not sure how to complete the boxes in the personal services budget, such as % funded and # of months funded. Is there some guidance for completing this information?

Answer: Yes, there is a very thorough video that explains the personal services budget form and how to calculate these fields: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0b1btPFdHMu>.

12. Question: The Grants Gateway budget line for contractual services includes a narrative box to describe the services. Is any other documentation necessary to support contractual services costs?

Answer: The contractual services budget line and narrative are required for any professional services contract you anticipate under the project. Any additional documentation can be provided, but it is not required.

13. Question: Are there specific requirements for the amount of the budget by year?

Answer: There isn't a specific "per year" number you need to use for the budget.

14. Question: Are salary and fringe benefits eligible?

Answer: Salary and fringe benefits eligible for grant and match. However, administrative costs outlined in the RFA are not eligible for grant reimbursement.

15. Question: Does a specific contractor need to be identified in the budget at the time of application? Do we need to complete the RFP process by time of application submission?

Answer: It isn't required to have specific contractors identified at the time of application submission. The RFP process can be included as a Task in the Work Plan. If a consultant is unknown at this time you would indicate "TBD" for the name of the contractor, and the budgeted amount.

16. Question: Are federal pass-through funds eligible to meet the match requirement?

Answer: Federal and state funds are not eligible to meet the match requirement. Federal pass-through funds are treated as federal funds, and are also not eligible.

17. Question: Can you confirm the reporting dates for contracts will be July 30, October 30, January 30, and April 30?

Answer: Yes, those dates are the deadlines for grant reporting.

18. Question: Please confirm that for the application, on the Match Worksheet we just have to identify the source for (cash) match. We do not have to have the cash in hand.

Answer: You are able to propose match in the match worksheet without having it in hand at time of application. By submitting the application your organization is certifying the proposed match will be contributed should the project be awarded.

19. Question: The Match Worksheet in the Grants Gateway shows documentation of match should be provided. I could not find anywhere in the RFA where it describes what kind of matching funds documentation is necessary. Can you tell me what is needed?

Answer: The instructions for the Match Worksheet Detail Form in the Grants Gateway are boilerplate, meaning they are general for any grant opportunity and cannot be edited for individual grant opportunities. Documentation supporting match is not required for this grant opportunity, but if available you can provide it. There is no specific format since it is not required.

20. Question: Is the applicant's Sexual Harassment policy to be uploaded somewhere?

Answer: The certification should be uploaded in the "Pre-Submission Uploads" folder under "Attachment S." You will also find the certification template there. The full policy should not be uploaded.

21. Question: Is there any general advice about application submission?

Answer: Yes, we strongly recommend submitting your application before the day of deadline. There is no grace period for missing the deadline for any reason.