



Climate Action Champions Request for Applications

CAC RFA Webinar
DE-FOA-0001189
October 9, 2014

Protocol for questions during this Webinar

- In order to provide equal access to information for all possible applicants, questions will not be answered during this Webinar.
- Questions can be asked during this presentation OR emailed to CACRFA@ee.doe.gov.
- All questions and answers will be recorded and then posted and answered on EERE eXCHANGE

CLIMATE ACTION CHAMPIONS: REQUEST FOR APPLICATIONS

Anticipated Schedule:

Request for Applications Issue Date:	10/01/2014
Informational Webinar	10/09/014
Submission Deadline for Applications (5PM ET)	10/27/2014
Expected Date for EERE Selection Notifications	11/30/2014

Disclaimer

- None of the information presented here is legally binding. The content included in this presentation is intended only to summarize the contents of Request for Applications DE-FOA-0001189. Any content within this presentation that appears discrepant from the Request for Applications language is superseded by the language included in the Request for Applications.
- All Applicants are strongly encouraged to carefully read the Request for Applications guidelines and adhere to them. Neither the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) nor the employees associated with DOE working on this presentation shall be held liable for errors committed by Applicants based on potentially incorrect or inaccurate information presented in this webinar.

Agenda

- 1) Registration Requirements
- 2) Designation Information
- 3) Eligibility Requirements
- 4) RFA Information
- 5) Application
- 6) Review Process
- 7) Frequently Asked Questions

Registration Requirements

- To apply to this RFA, Applicants must register with and submit application materials through EERE eXCHANGE: <https://eere-exchange.energy.gov>
- Obtain a “control number” at least 24 hours before the submission deadline
- Although not required in order to submit an Application, the following registrations must be completed to receive a Designation as a Climate Action Champion under this RFA:

Registration Requirement	Website
DUNS Number	http://fedgov.dnb.com/webform
SAM	https://www.sam.gov
FedConnect	https://www.fedconnect.net

Means of Submission

- Applications must be submitted through EERE eXCHANGE at <https://eere-exchange.energy.gov>
 - EERE will NOT review or consider Applications submitted through other means.
- The Users' Guide for Applying to the Department of Energy EERE Funding Opportunity Announcements can be found at:
<https://eere-exchange.energy.gov/manuals.aspx>

Designation Information

Total Amount to be Awarded	No funds will be issued under this Request for Applications (RFA).
Program Structure	Applicants designated as Climate Action Champions under this RFA will receive special eligibility status to apply under Funding Opportunity Announcements and Notices of Technical Assistance that target Climate Action Champions.
Type of “Award”	Selected Applicants will be designated as Climate Action Champions.
Period of Designation	27-36 months

Eligibility Requirements (1 of 2)

- U.S. local and tribal governments, or consortia thereof, are eligible to apply. For the purposes of this initiative, local governments may include a county, municipality, city, town, township, local public authority (including any public and Indian housing agency), school district, special district, intrastate district, council of governments, any other regional or interstate government entity, or any agency or instrumentality of a local government.

Eligibility Requirements (2 of 2)

- To be considered as a tribal government for purposes of this Announcement, the entity must be any Indian tribe, band, nation, or other organized group or community, including any Alaska Native village or regional or village corporation as defined in or established pursuant to the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act (85 Stat. 688) [43 U.S.C. 1601 et seq.], which is recognized as eligible for the special programs and services provided by the United States to Indians because of their status as Indians.

Climate Action Champions Description

The DOE – in close collaboration with other Federal agencies – is launching an initiative to identify and showcase U.S. local and tribal governments that have proven to be climate leaders through pursuing opportunities to advance the following goals:

1. Reducing greenhouse gas emissions
2. Enhancing climate resilience

Climate Action Champions Description

The initiative will select 10-15 U.S. local governments and tribal governments – or regional collaborations or consortia thereof – that demonstrate a strong and ongoing commitment to implementing strategies that both reduce greenhouse gas emissions and enhance climate resilience, with a particular emphasis on strategies that further both goals.

Submission of Multiple Applications

- U.S. local and tribal governments, or collaborations thereof, may submit one application per entity.

Applications

- Applicants must submit a Complete Application by 5:00 pm ET on 10/27/2014
- A Complete Application includes:
 - The Applicant is an Eligible Entity as defined in Section II.A of the RFA; and
 - The Full Application complies with the content and form requirements in Section III.A of the RFA; and
 - The Applicant successfully uploaded all required documents and clicked the “Submit” button in EERE eXCHANGE by the deadline stated in the RFA.

Selection Factors

In arriving at selections for Designation as Climate Action Champions The Selection Official will consider:

- The Application provided
- Merit Review Panel recommendations, and
- Program Policy Factors

Merit Review Criteria

- **Criterion 1: Current Approach and Future Strategic Plan (60%)**

Approach and Plan

- Breadth of approach in addressing range of opportunities to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and enhance climate preparedness and resilience;
- Degree to which the approach has been clearly described and thoughtfully considered;
- Degree to which the approach and plan demonstrate, or have the potential to demonstrate, leadership in innovative approaches to addressing climate change at the local and/or regional level;
- Degree to which the strategic plan is clear, detailed, timely, and reasonable;
- Degree to which plan demonstrates collaboration and accountability across local agencies and local communities;
- Discussion and demonstrated understanding of potential risk areas involved in the proposed plan, and the quality of the strategies to address them; and
- Replicability/scalability of current approach and/or proposed plan to other communities who may seek similar outcomes.

Metrics and Milestones

- The strength of the metrics and milestones of the current approach and proposed strategic plan, such that meaningful interim progress will be made and measured; and
- The potential of the current approach and/or proposed strategic plan to inform the viability of future deployment by other communities and the private sector.

Merit Review Criteria

Criterion 2: Resources and Partnerships (40%)

- Extent to which the current approach and proposed strategic plan leverage relationships with, and funding from, other public, private, and philanthropic organizations.
- Extent to which the current approach and proposed strategic plan leverage commitments to energy and water efficiency, water reuse, and renewable energy deployment under ongoing Federal initiatives, challenges, and programs.
- Extent to which the current approach and proposed strategic plan increase or amplify the benefits of other proposed projects, accelerate the resilience of natural or cultural/socio-economic system functions, enhance ongoing resilience efforts, and enhance the combined resilience of spatially linked projects.

Program Policy Factors

- The Selection Official may consider the following program policy factors in determining which Applicants to select for designation as Climate Action Champions:
 - Ensuring the selection of a diversity of communities, (i.e. based on geographic region, size, sources of current energy use, and type of Applicant organization, and types of climate-related risks confronting the community).
 - Identifying communities in which Federal facilities and public housing are located, because part of the Federal government’s support for designated Climate Action Champions could come in the form of opportunities to pair local or tribal communities with Federal partners to together assess climate impacts expected in their area and develop plans for how to address them.
 - Recognizing projects that will advance innovative technologies and practices, and that have the potential to drive down costs and accelerate adoption of carbon reduction and climate resilience strategies.

Merit Review and Selection Process - Overview

- The Merit Review process consists of multiple phases each of which includes an initial eligibility review and a thorough technical review.
- Rigorous technical reviews are conducted by reviewers that are experts in the subject matter of the RFA.
- Ultimately, the Selection Official considers the recommendations of the reviewers, along with other considerations such as Program Policy Factors, in determining which applications to select.
- See Section III.A.2 of the RFA for information on the review criteria for Applications.

Key Submission Points

- Applicants should validate entries in EERE eXCHANGE.
 - Submissions could be deemed non-compliant due to an incorrect entry.
- EERE strongly encourages Applicants to submit 1-2 days prior to the deadline to allow for full upload of application documents and to avoid any potential technical glitches with EERE eXCHANGE.
- Make sure you hit the submit button.
 - Any changes made after you hit submit will un-submit your Application and you will need to hit the submit button again.
- For your records, print out the EERE eXCHANGE Confirmation page at each step, which contains the Application's Control Number.

Applicant Points-of-Contact

- Applicants must designate primary and backup points-of-contact in EERE eXCHANGE with whom EERE will communicate to conduct award negotiations
- It is imperative that the Applicant/Selectee be responsive during award negotiations and meet negotiation deadlines
 - Failure to do so may result in cancelation of further award negotiations and rescission of the Selection

Questions

- Questions about this RFA? Email CACRFA@ee.doe.gov.
 - All Q&As related to this RFA will be posted on EERE eXCHANGE.
 - You must first select this specific RFA Number in order to view the Q&As. (DE-FOA-0001189)
 - EERE will attempt to respond to a question within 3 business days, unless a similar Q&A has already been posted on the website.
- Problems logging into EERE eXCHANGE or uploading and submitting application documents with EERE eXCHANGE? Email EERE-exchangeSupport@hq.doe.gov.
 - Include RFA name and number in subject line.
- All questions asked during this presentation will be posted on EERE eXCHANGE.