

RESPONSES TO QUESTIONS
Supplemental Environmental Projects Idea Library Call for Proposals
Issued October 7, 2013
November 12, 2013

Question: How many settlement agreements are expected to be eligible for a SEP? Are there statistics on the history of penalties assessed through settlement agreements?

Response: MCAQD is expecting about 10 settlements per year with penalties large enough to be eligible for funding SEPs.

Question: How many proposals may be submitted by one organization for consideration?

Response: There is no limit on the number of proposals that any organization may submit.

Question: Is there a page limit for proposals?

Response: Not specifically within the original Call for Proposals. The *Revised Call for Proposals* sets a 25 page limit on each application, including all attachments.

Question: The 'SEP Idea Library Call for Proposals' clearly states that 'qualified tax-exempt 501(c)(3) non-profit or government organizations' can submit SEP proposals. Does this mean that private businesses are excluded from submitting SEP proposals?

Response: Yes. As MCAQD builds experience with implementation of the SEP Policy, it may consider expanding eligibility to for-profit businesses. It is expected, however, that governments and non-profit organizations may need to have private businesses as subcontractors. Regardless, the purpose of a SEP is to provide a measurable improvement in air quality or public health.

Question: Can you provide more information regarding the requirement for a project to connect to the population which is served by the respondent? In other words, how tight of a connection must be made between the two? For instance, if the County Health Department has a program which services residents of Maryvale, and a business in Avondale or Estrella (neighboring villages) is fined, will the Department's program be deemed eligible for funding?

Response: All determinations of whether a proposed SEP has an adequate nexus to the violations alleged in the settlement agreement will be done on a case by case basis. It is possible that a project benefitting people in Maryvale could have adequate nexus with a settlement agreement involving a business several miles away. In this example, Maryvale would be downwind of the location where the violations are alleged to have occurred.

Question: Due to the fact that the Health in Policy and Practice coalition works on multiple projects at once, and will be taking on more projects in the future, is the group able to apply to receive funding based on its mission, or does the group need to apply based on specific Health Impact Assessments (HIAs) it's working on? Our preference is the former, as no one has a crystal ball to foresee which HIA projects, fines, and time schedules will intersect in the near or distant future.

Response: Project proposals need to be as specific as possible. If projects need to be tailored to specific places and time periods, the proposal could provide a modular approach that: describes the nature of the project and variables that must be considered for determining

the scope and schedule for a particular project; includes a planning element for specific project design; identifies costs and time frames for providing a quantum and type of services; and estimates expected benefits for the delivery of such services.

Question: Do respondents get a reduction in fines for choosing a SEP?

Response: No. The cost of the SEP is part of the monetary penalty. Further, the enforcement settlement will include stipulated penalties for failure to fully fund a SEP and assure its satisfactory completion.

Question: Only governments and non-profits can receive the 'grant' money from the department/county but they can work with private business to accomplish the project. Why is private business not allowed to submit outlines of ideas (we could actually fill out almost the entire pre-approval application) to show recipients what is possible?

Response: MCAQD fully expects that private businesses will be subcontractors for non-profit and government entities implementing SEPs. Most SEPs will either require additional staffing for conducting the work or involve knowledge, equipment or skill sets outside of the ability and experience of the organizations implementing the SEP.

Question: If a private business worked with a government/non-profit to submit a project for the SEP Library could a recipient in another part of the county select that project and then customize it to their area? (i.e. if Higley School District works with SWG to submit a project to convert school buses to CNG and Glendale is a recipient, could they select 'pre-approved' Higley project and then customize the location?)

Response: Yes, but it may have to be treated as a custom SEP proposed by the respondent to the enforcement action. The description, budget, time frames, etc., from the SEP Idea Library project can be used as a template.

Please also see the Revised Call For Proposals. Among other changes, the deadline for submitting proposals has been postponed to November 26, 2013.