**STATE OF MAINE REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS**



**RFA SUBMITTED QUESTIONS & ANSWERS SUMMARY #2**

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| **RFA NUMBER AND TITLE:** | 202111181 - Community Resilience Partnership Service Provider Grant |
| **RFA ISSUED BY:** | Governor’s Office  Office of Policy Innovation & the Future |
| **SUBMITTED QUESTIONS DUE DATE:** | January 11, 2022, no later than 11:59 p.m., local time. |
| **QUESTION & ANSWER SUMMARY ISSUED:** | January 13, 2022 |
| **PROPOSAL DUE DATE:** | February 15, 2022, no later than 11:59 p.m. |
| **PROPOSALS DUE TO:** | [Proposals@maine.gov](mailto:Proposals@maine.gov) |

**Provided below are submitted written questions received and the Department’s answer.**

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| **1** | **RFA Section & Page Number** | **Question** |
| Details and Instructions, Section D. Number of Awards, (p5) | Is GOPIF looking for an equitable representation of communities across the named counties within a particular regional Group? For example, is an application that names one community for each of the five counties in Group One more competitive than an application that names five communities in just two or three of the counties in Group One? |
| **Answer** | |
| The towns within an applicant’s group do not need to be geographically representative. The applicant should be able to articulate: 1) a reasonable regional connection among the communities in the proposed group; and 2) why collaboration among the communities is expected be successful. | |

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| **2** | **RFA Section & Page Number** | **Question** |
| Details and Instructions, Section D. Number of Awards (p5) | Can we assume that proposed service provider support to specific Casco Bay island communities, considered a part of the City of Portland, will be understood to be limited to those named island communities and will exclude the mainland peninsula of Portland? |
| **Answer** | |
| Service provider organizations are eligible for Service Provider Grants to provide assistance to Municipalities and Tribal Governments to prepare for and enroll in the Community Resilience Partnership and then apply for grant funds for priority projects. A neighborhood, district, or island within a municipality is not eligible by itself to enroll in Partnership or apply for Community Action Grants, and therefore would be unable to fulfill the intended outcomes of the Service Provider Grant. | |

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| **3** | **RFA Section & Page Number** | **Question** |
| Details and Instructions, Section D. Number of Awards (p5) | Can service providers propose working with communities that were included in the original GOPIF service provider pilot program, assuming the RFA scope of work is still relevant to those communities’ needs? Would proposing to work with a community included in the original GOPIF service provider pilot program make our application less competitive? |
| **Answer** | |
| Service Provider Grant applications may include any municipality or tribal government that is not currently enrolled in the Partnership. The eight communities that participated in the Community Resilience Pilot Project completed the community workshop enrollment requirement and likely compiled the information necessary to complete the two self-assessments. An application that included one or more of the eight pilot communities should describe which services are needed by the community(ies) to complete enrollment and apply for funding, as well as a project budget that reflects the scope of services to be provided. | |

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| **4** | **RFA Section & Page Number** | **Question** |
| Detail and Instructions, D-Number of Awards (p5) | Are a community’s grant proposals in each of the four rounds independent of each other? In other words, would a community that made a proposal in Round 1 be disadvantaged in any way if it were to make a different proposal, perhaps in coordination with other towns, in a subsequent round? |
| **Answer** | |
| Note: This question was submitted for the Service Provider RFA but appears to inquire about the Community Action Grant RFA. It will be answered in the Q&A summary documents for both RFAs.  A municipal or tribal government may participate in one Community Action Grant application per grant round (i.e. the March round and the September round). It is possible that a community’s applications in past grant rounds and performance on past Partnership grants may positively or negatively influence award decisions.  Similarly, a service provider organization may participate in one Service Provider Grant application per grant round (i.e. the February round and the August round). It is possible that a service provider organization’s applications in past grant rounds and performance on past Partnership grants may positively or negatively influence award decisions. | |

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| **5** | **RFA Section & Page Number** | **Question** |
| A. Application Purpose and Background, F (p6) | Please clarify your restrictions on multiple applications. Under what circumstances can one organization apply for multiple grants? |
| **Answer** | |
| Applicants may participate (as the primary applicant or a subcontractor) in one Service Provider Grant application per grant cycle. Applicants may apply and be eligible to receive awards in both grant cycles in a given year. | |

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| **6** | **RFA Section & Page Number** | **Question** |
| Activities and Requirements, Section A. Grants 5.c. (p7) | What qualifies as a “community workshop?” Are there any specific guidelines or thresholds to be met? |
| **Answer** | |
| Approaches to effective and inclusive community engagement will vary by community. The applicant should describe their engagement strategy and how it will lead to the RFA’s desired outcomes. | |

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| **7** | **RFA Section & Page Number** | **Question** |
| Activities and Requirements, A-2 (p7) | One of the answers in the informational webinar on Community Action Grants was: "There are no restrictions on the number of communities that may apply jointly for a Community Action Grant." (Answer #20).  One of the answers in the subsequent webinar regarding Service Provider Grants was: "Service Provider Grants are for providing support to 2-5 communities." (Answer #4).  To maximize municipal/tribal participation and achieve economies of scale at no incremental cost to the Community Resilience Partnership program, will GOPIF amend its Answer #4 and enable Service Providers to simultaneously assist a group of communities larger than five communities that have demonstrated a readiness, willingness and ability to participate in the program together for mutual, interlocal benefit? |
| **Answer** | |
| Such an amendment will not be made at this time. While we appreciate that larger groups of communities may be ready to participate in the program, we would be concerned about a service provider’s capacity to deliver robust assistance on all three Partnership enrollment requirements to larger groups of communities given the grant’s timeline and budget. | |

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| **8** | **RFA Section & Page Number** | **Question** |
| Activities and Requirements, A-2-i (p7) | Who can write Letters of Support in a municipality? Does it need to be the Town Council/ Select Board or can the Town Manager write it? If there is a committee charged with resilience and climate action, does that make a difference? |
| **Answer** | |
| Applicants are strongly encouraged to include letters of support from municipal officials, local civic leaders, and state legislators. | |

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| **9** | **RFA Section & Page Number** | **Question** |
| Activities and Requirements, B-4 (p8) | With respect to the "additional $2,500 for each community with elevated social vulnerability or community with a population of less than 4,000 people," can a service provider request 2x the additional $2,500 ($5,000) for a single community with both elevated social vulnerability and a population less than 4,000? |
| **Answer** | |
| This example would not be permitted. | |

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| **10** | **RFA Section & Page Number** | **Question** |
| n/a | I understand that some organizations plan to apply for the regional coordination grant as well as the service provider grant. Is there a risk that they will focus regional efforts on their service area towns? |
| **Answer** | |
| Strong proposals for the Regional Coordinator Pilot will demonstrate the bidder’s strategy and capacity for supporting the entire region. | |