



DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

OFFICE OF THE STATE SUPERINTENDENT OF

EDUCATION

FAQ for the 2017 Environmental Literacy Advancement Grant (as of 8/31/16)

Q1: I see that the grant applies to programming conducted in “cadre” schools. Has this list of schools changed since the 2015-16 school year?

A: The list of cadre schools can be found here: <http://osse.dc.gov/service/environmental-literacy-leadership-cadre>. The list will not change for the 2016-17 school year.

Q2: Is there an obligation on the grant to conduct programming at ALL of the targeted schools? Is an applicant considered more favorably if they can serve a larger number of schools and/or a wider range of grades within any one school?

A: The strongest applications will be proposals that can serve an entire grade level at each of the cadre schools. Applicants can also propose to work with more than one grade level at each of the cadre schools. However, not all cadre schools include all grade levels. For example, if an applicant proposes to work with grade 5, they will not be working with all 16 cadre schools.

Q3: Is there a request amount per applicant? (e.g., \$10K, \$50K)?

A: No, there is not a limit on the request amount.

Q4: Will the emphasis this year also be on school gardens, composting, and recycling? Are there other areas of focus that a grantee can address?

A: Those were the focus areas of the Environmental Literacy Fellowship grant. For the Environmental Literacy Advancement grant, the focus areas are:

- Air: air quality, climate change;
- Water: stormwater, rivers, aquatic wildlife;
- Land: plants, soil, urban planning, terrestrial wildlife;
- Resource Conservation: energy, waste, recycling; and
- Health: outdoor physical activity, gardens, food

Q5: Is there a list of last year’s grantees?

A: Last year’s grantees included Project Learning Tree, FreshFarm with Washington Youth Garden, and Anacostia Watershed Society with Chesapeake Bay Foundation and Living Classrooms.

Q6: What are the guidelines of what can count as cost share?

A: As described on page 6 of the RFA, cost-sharing funds must be equal to or greater than 20 percent of the grant amount. Volunteer time may be used to satisfy this requirement. There are no other guidelines on what can count as cost share.

Q7: Is a partnership required?

A: No, a partnership is not required.

Q8: May my organization apply even if we were not able to send a representative to the pre-application conference?

A: Yes, your organization may still apply.

Q9: My organization can provide programming to all grade levels. How should we say that in our application?

A: In your application, describe how your organization is able to provide a unique experience based on the Environmental Literacy Framework as described on page 8 of the RFA. The same learning experience should not be repeated in any grade. It may be possible that your organization would get funded for a portion of your proposal.

Q10: Do I have to provide programs for all the schools in the cadre? What if they don't want to participate in my program?

A: As stated on page 8 of the RFA, OSSE reserves the right to select a comparable school at which the grantee would be able to provide programming.

Q11: Can an organization apply solo? If so, will that affect their score? Will you lose points for not having a partner?

A: Yes, organizations can apply solo. You will not lose points for not having a partner. However, be sure to demonstrate that your organization can – at a minimum – serve an entire grade level (e.g., all third grade classes) at ALL of the schools represented in the Environmental Literacy Leadership Cadre. According to page 9 of the RFA, if you choose to have partners, your score is determined by how well the application describes the role of partnering organizations and whether evidence is provided that partners will effectively collaborate.

Q12: Can an organization contract services, and do those services they provide have to be similar to the applicants?

A: Yes, an organization can contract services. As described on page 8 of the RFA, an applicant can collaborate and contract with other partners to ensure complete service delivery. Programs do not need to be the same across partners but must be similar in content.

Q13: No one from my organization was able to attend the pre-application conference. Was there any additional information provided that we should know?

A: The PowerPoint presentation from the meeting will be posted on the OSSE website: <http://osse.dc.gov/node/1186460>

For more information, please contact:
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