USDA Agricultural Marketing Service
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND EASTERN SHORE

REGIONAL FOOD SYSTEM PARTNERSHIPS PROGRAM (RFSP)

NAVIGATING THE 2024 RFSP REQUEST FOR APPLICATION

Understand RFSP (1.2)
RFSP supports partnerships that connect public and private resources to plan and develop local or regional food systems. The RFSP focuses on building and strengthening the viability and resilience of the local or regional food economy.

Project Types (1.3)
Two project types:
- Planning and Design *(2 years)*
- Implementation and Expansion *(3 years)*

Eligible Project Activities (1.3)
This section describe eligible activities associated with each project type and also provide examples of activities not eligible for funding.

Priority Considerations (1.3.5)
AMS will prioritize applications that:
- Leverage non-Federal financial and technical resources and coordinate with other local, State, Tribal, or national efforts.
- Cover an area that includes distressed low-income rural or urban communities with areas of persistent poverty.
- Have multiple entities and partners, including a diversity of entity and partner types.

Evaluation Criteria (6.1)
Provides additional information regarding how your application will be reviewed and scored. Think like a reviewer when you are reading through your application before submission and address all aspects of the evaluation criteria.

Prepare and Submit Through Grants.gov (5.3)
- Obtain Unique Entity Identifier (UEI)
- Register with the System for Award Management (SAM)
- Obtain a TIN/EIN
- Create a Grants.gov Account
- Submit & Track via Workspace

Letters of Commitment (5.2.6)
Applicants must provide SIGNED letters of commitment (in MS Word or PDF) from all project partners and collaborators.

Eligible Applicants (3.1 - 3.3)
Only partnerships are eligible to apply to RFSP. A partnership is an agreement between one or more eligible entities (see section 3.2) and one or more eligible partners (see section 3.3).

Have your 25% Match (4.1)
RFSP requires a 25% CASH match. Each application package much include written verification of match commitments from any party, including the applicant, who will contribute matching from non-Federal resources to the project.

Previously Funded Projects
Visit the grant website to view previously funded projects.

Submit Your Application Early
Submit your application package a week prior to the close date to provide you with time to correct any potential technical issues.

Review Your Application Package
Ensure your application package includes all required documents.

March 2024