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Cc: EJ Coordinator Support, OECA-OEJ

Date: 11/19/2009 12:05 PM

Subject: Quick Q&A regarding EJ Showcase Communities and Green Development Pilots

Greetings,

recently some confusion about the EJ Showcase Communities funding has come to our attention via questions and misrepresentations in media accounts. Further, there was some confusion about who could apply for EJ Green Development Pilots. I have provided some points of clarification below. Feel free to contact me if additional clarification is required. Thanks

Showcase Communities Issues and Clarifications

1. The EJ Showcase Communities Project is NOT a GRANT program. It is a reprogramming of funds from OEJ Headquarters to the regional EJ program efforts.
2. The funds are intended to support regional activities.
3. Regions are neither encouraged nor expected to conduct regional grant competitions for the access to the funds. If a region feels they have no option other than to issue grants associated with these funds, they must conduct a competitive process for doing so, per the instructions of the Grants Administration Division at headquarters.
4. Organizations who may be partners on this effort should be made aware of the EJ Small Grants Program as a means of competing for financial support of external activities that may have a relationship to the showcase effort.
5. There is concern and curiosity about how the project locations were selected. I would encourage you to either include the description of your decision making process in your implementation plan or attach it to the previously completed plan.
6. EJ Coordinators should contact their Regional Press Officers to ensure that they understand that Showcase is not a grant program.
7. Contact your potential and existing partners to ensure they have an accurate understanding of the program.
8. OEJ and EJ Showcase Communities priorities team will provide feedback on proposed funds usage to encourage consistency among

the range of possible uses.

EJ Green Development Pilots: Application Process Clarifications

1. The EJ Green Development Pilots program is not a GRANT program. It will be a reprogramming of funds from OEJ Headquarters to the regional applicants which are selected as pilots.
2. The prospective funds are intended to support regional activities associated with EJ Green Development Pilot efforts (including climate change, green jobs, and related activities).
3. Regions are neither encouraged nor expected to conduct regional grant competitions for the access to the funds. If a region feels they have no option other than to issue grants associated with these funds, they must conduct a competitive process for doing so, per the instructions of the Grants Administration Division at headquarters.
4. This program is not for external competition. It is only internal to EPA Regions via the EJ program. These materials should not be distributed externally as they may cause confusion about the use, purpose and intentions of the funding when provided out of context.
5. Applications will only be accepted from the RA, DRA or the Regional EJ Coordinators. This is to ensure that the EJ Coordinator and management are aware of and supportive of the application contents.
6. Only one application per region will be accepted. OEJ will confirm the appropriate submission in the case of the multiple submissions.

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