

Advancing Environmental Education in Region 6

Request for Proposals -Released July 30, 2012

Proposals due September 1, 2012

The Environmental Education Association of New Mexico (EEANM) has been awarded a \$150,000 grant by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Environmental Education Small Grants program. In partnership with the other four EE associations in the Region 6 states, Texas Association for Environmental Education (TAAEE), Oklahoma Association for Environmental Education (OKAEE), Louisiana Environmental Education Association (LEEA), Arkansas Environmental Education Association (AEEA), and the Albert I. Pierce Foundation (AIP Foundation), EEANM will award grants to organizations in TX, NM, OK, AR, and LA. The small grants will support the development and implementation of projects that advance regional environmental education priorities as defined by state environmental literacy plans and strategic plans, as well as the EPA's own educational priorities.

The Small Grants:

- At least 19 competitive grants will be awarded.
- The maximum competitive grant award is \$5,000. The EPA mandates that exactly \$92,273.50 will be awarded per region which necessitates that some grants will be for less than \$5,000.
- No entity may receive more than one award.

How to Apply:

Fill out the attached application and submit by email to info.eeanm.org@gmail.com.

Project period:

Funded projects will begin December 1, 2012 and must be completed by November 30, 2013.

Matching requirement:

At least 33% of the grant amount (or 25% of the total project cost) must be matched by non-Federal funds.

Process:

A Region 6 Small Grants Program Leadership Team, with at least two representatives from each of the five state associations, will over-see the program's administration. The Leadership Team will determine awards, based on the assessments of proposals by a team of volunteer reviewers from each state. An evaluation rubric is provided as an appendix to the application. Awardees will submit quarterly progress reports and will work with EEANM and the state associations to promote and disseminate the results of the projects. The Leadership Team will be available for technical assistance if the project encounters obstacles.

Non-discrimination statement:

No person shall, on the grounds of race, color, national origin, sex, religion, age, handicapped status, or ability to pay be excluded from participation in, denied the benefits of or be subjected to discrimination with respect to the services funded under this contract.

Schedule:

September 1, 2012	Proposal deadline.
October 25, 2012	Awards are announced.
November 30, 2012	Contracts are in place and projects may begin on December 1, 2012.
November 30, 2013	Projects are implemented and completed.
December 31, 2013	Final reports are due.

State Priorities:

Priority will be given to proposals that contribute to increased and sustained capacity to deliver effective environmental education. Proposals must also address specific state priorities that advance environmental literacy and other goals. Those priorities are derived from state Environmental Literacy Plans and state association strategic plans and are listed below:

Texas

Texas proposals should address the following vision, mission and goals of TAAE.

Vision

Current and future generations of Texas deserve healthy air to breathe, clean water to drink and green spaces to explore. The Texas Association for Environmental Education supports efforts to develop environmental literacy and responsible behavior.

Mission

The Texas Association for Environmental Education supports environmental education by utilizing partnerships, providing professional development and recognizing excellence.

Goals

Leadership, Support EE, Recognition, Networking and Professional Development.

Arkansas

Arkansas proposals should address the following vision, mission and goals of AEEA.

Vision

AEEA will embody an environmental education initiative that results in informed decision-making by an environmentally literate population helping to maintain Arkansas as the Natural State.

Mission

The mission of AEEA is to promote environmental education and support the work of environmental educators in Arkansas.

Goals

Increase capacity for environmental education by:

- Offering professional development opportunities
- Enhancing environmental education leadership
- Providing networking opportunities
- Facilitating EE resource connections

Oklahoma

Oklahoma proposals should address the one of the following priorities of OKAEE:

1. Professional development opportunities for formal and non-formal educators
2. Student-led community projects

Louisiana

Louisiana proposals should address the following mission, vision and goals of LEEA:

Mission

The mission of the Louisiana Environmental Education Association (LEEA) is the promotion, improvement, and coordination of environmental education.

Vision

LEEA is designed to foster stewardship of the Earth and the environmental awareness among the state's citizens.

Goals

LEEA is dedicated to supporting and promoting quality environmental education opportunities by facilitating communication, coordination and professional development among the varied EE programs in the state.

New Mexico

New Mexico proposals should address one of the following priorities of EEANM:

1. Increase the statewide capacity for providing EE. This may be done through contributing to the development of the Environmental Literacy Plan or the EE Certification Program (see www.eeanm.org for more information about these processes) or other means.
2. Provide professional development in EE.

EPA Educational Priorities:

All small-grant projects must address at least one of the EPA's educational priorities:

- **Capacity Building:** Increasing capacity to develop and deliver coordinated environmental education programs across a state or across multiple states.
- **Educational Advancement:** Utilizing environmental education as a catalyst to advance state or local education reform goals.
- **Community Projects:** Addressing environmental stewardship in a local educational context and using community-based stewardship activities as the primary teaching tool.

- **Human Health and the Environment:** Educating K-12 youth, post secondary students, and educators in formal and non-formal settings about human health threats from environmental pollution/issues and how to minimize human exposure to preserve good health.
- **EE Teaching Skills:** Providing pre-service and in-service professional development for teachers, faculty, or non-formal educators to improve their environmental education teaching skills and/or knowledge about environmental issues and content.
- **Career Development:** Educating K-12 youth, post secondary students, and their educators in formal and non-formal settings about environmental issues, solutions and stewardship for the purpose of encouraging interest in environmental careers.

EPA Strategic Environmental Priorities:

Every small-grant project must address at least one of the following EPA strategic priorities:

- Taking Action on Climate Change
- Improving Air Quality
- Assuring the Safety of Chemicals
- Cleaning Up Our Communities
- Protecting America’s Waters
- Expanding the Conversation on Environmentalism and Working for Environmental Justice
- Building Strong State and Tribal Partnerships

More information about the EPA environmental priorities is found at;

<http://blog.epa.gov/administrator/2010/01/12/seven-priorities-for-epas-future/>

Eligibility:

- Any local education agency, college or university, state education or environmental agency, or nonprofit organization as described in Section 501(C)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code, may submit a proposal. A teacher's school district, an educator's nonprofit organization, or a faculty member's college or university may apply, but an individual teacher or faculty member may not apply.
- Applicant organizations must be located within the five states and the activities must take place within the five states. The project may take place in two or more states.
- “Tribal education agencies” that are eligible to apply include a school or community college which is controlled by an Indian tribe, band, or nation, which is recognized as eligible for special programs and services provided by the United States to Indians because of their status as Indians and which is not administered by the Bureau of Indian Affairs. Tribal organizations do not qualify unless they meet that criteria or the non-profit criteria listed above.

Grant funds cannot be used for the following activities:

- Technical training of environmental management professionals
- Environmental “information” and/or “outreach” projects that have no environmental education component. *
- Advocacy promoting a particular point of view or course of action
- Lobbying or political activities
- Non-educational research and development
- Construction projects
- Indirect costs
- Prizes or rewards

* Environmental information and outreach may be important elements of EE projects, but these activities by themselves are not environmental education. By itself, environmental information only addresses awareness and knowledge, usually about a particular environmental issue. Outreach involves information dissemination and requests or suggestions for action on a particular issue (often without the critical thinking, problem solving and decision making steps in between). EE covers the range of steps and activities from awareness to action with an ultimate goal of environmental stewardship.

Accounting:

Grantees must have written accounting practices on file and follow them. Written documentation of all expenses must be kept.

Reporting:

Grantees will submit quarterly reports that include project progress, milestones, expenses, explanations of any variations from their proposal, and any other relevant information. Those are due on the 15th of the month following the quarter ending. For example, for the period of December 1, 2012 – February 28, 2013, the quarterly report will be due on March 15, 2013, and so on for the four quarters of the project term.

Questions:

Questions may be emailed to the project manager below at info.eeanm.org@gmail.com. All questions and replies will be posted on the EEANM website at www.eeanm.org.

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