

NYS Department of State

Division of Local Government Services

Local Government Efficiency Grant

Request for Applications # 13-LGE-11

Questions & Answers

The responses to questions included herein are the official responses by the State to questions submitted by potential applicants and are hereby incorporated into RFA # 13-LGE-11 issued on June 17, 2013. In the event of any conflict between the RFA and these responses, the requirements or information contained in these responses will prevail.

Q1: Can a municipality apply for a CFA grant application for the construction of its own public works yard facility under the DOS – Local Government Efficiency Program. The facility would be for the City only, but would increase efficiency as the current yard is dilapidated. There would also be some shared services in terms of maintenance of some school district vehicles.

A1: In most cases a Local Government Efficiency (LGE) grant application must be by and between multiple local governments. However, a local government may apply individually to implement internal reorganizations or service delivery modifications, if it has had an operating deficit in each of the last three fiscal years or a deficit of over 10% in the last fiscal. In this case, if the local government is functionally consolidating maintenance programs with a school that would be eligible.

Q2: The County Sheriff's Office is looking for funding to construct a law enforcement training center under the Local Government Efficiency Grant program. The facility would be utilized mainly for training of law enforcement officers employed by various police agencies within the County. Is this a feasible project to be considered for this funding?

A2: The construction of a countywide law enforcement training center would be eligible for funding. However, it is expected that through the construction of the joint facility existing programs and services would be functionally consolidated to provide them more cost-effectively and efficiently.

Q3: In the Investment Worksheet, is it necessary to have multiple local governments' information to participate, and are MOUs required?

A3: Applications will need to have multiple local government participants unless an individual local government has had an operating deficit in each of the last three fiscal years or a deficit of over 10% in the last fiscal year. It is required that an application identify the impact that the project will have on expenditures and revenues for all involved local governments. MOUs are not required to be submitted with an application, but will show the level of commitment of each local government to the project.

Q4: I've written a local government efficiency grant and it was submitted in March and is pending, does this CFA replace that?

A4: The applications submitted in March were for a separate solicitation and not part of the CFA. The LGE program's inclusion into the CFA is for Fiscal Year 2013-14 funding. This has moved our traditional timing for funding announcements up by about six months. The announcement of the successful awardees from the March solicitation is currently pending. At this time it is recommended that applicants from the March pool of funding re-submit their projects through the CFA process.

Q5: Do you apply for the local government efficiency program using the CFA?

A5: Yes.

Q6: Are there funds to help consolidate town/village offices into one building?

A6: Yes, the consolidation of services and functions between and town and a village would be eligible under the LGE program.

Q7: Is the same plan for supporting the Opportunity Agenda?

A7: A project submitted through the LGE program can support a region's Opportunity Agenda by promoting efficiencies in local government services in that priority area.

Q8: Is the planning grant harder to get than the Implementation grant?

A8: The objective of the LGE program is to implement quality projects that reduce local government expenses and increase efficiencies. Since identifying the financial benefits from a planning project can be more difficult than for an implementation project, planning grants do have a more difficult time justifying direct benefits.

Q9: Is the maximum grant of \$1 million for the total of all the municipalities?

A9: Yes. The limit for an individual municipality is \$200,000 for implementation grants, which is capped at \$1 million for a project. In this case, five municipalities would need to work together in order to be eligible for full implementation funding.

Q10: Can you expand why the government is providing grants to local governments?

A10: The Department of State's Division of Local Government Services is committed to assisting local officials to implement opportunities to reduce expenses and increase efficiencies in the delivery of services. The Local Government Efficiency grant program provides an opportunity for local governments to implement a project that is currently not feasible. DOS also offers direct technical assistance to local officials who are exploring these opportunities.

Q11: I am interested in the Local Government Efficiency Grant Program for the village of Brockport planning portion of a project?

A11: Planning projects are eligible for funding. Please review the application information at www.dos.ny.gov/funding and apply through the CFA process, specifically describing your proposal and how it will reduce local costs and increase service efficiencies.

Q12: Regarding the Local Government Efficiency Program, it doesn't have to be consolidation of agencies?

A12: No, it does not have to be a full consolidation of government agencies, although often these projects can produce the most benefit. Other examples may include the functional consolidation of services between agencies or departments.

Q13: Local governments often have multiple departments, like code enforcement, economic development and community development. Each often have their own procedures and processes for collecting data. Would a project to install software and implement procedures to streamline these processes be eligible?

A13: Yes.

Q14: A county is looking to create a database to keep track of infrastructure and road construction projects. Would this be something that is covered by any of these grants?

A14: Yes, this could be eligible for implementation funding under the Local Government Efficiency Program, particularly if the county was working with other local governments to institute efficiencies in infrastructure management. Each applicant would be required to illustrate the potential cost savings that will be realized through implementation.

Q15: Are School Districts eligible for consolidation?

A15: Yes, school districts have been funded for projects that include the consolidation of services such as transportation, distance learning and maintenance, as well as the full reorganization of multiple districts.

Q16: What is the funding for implementation?

A16: Local governments may apply for funds to implement cost saving projects, the maximum award amount is \$200,000 per municipality up to \$1,000,000. For implementation projects there is a 10% local cash match requirement. Implementation expenses may include new technology, capital or equipment expenses, contractual services and other expenses that are integral to implementation.

Q17: Are local governments required to submit an RFQ for services with the CFA.

A17: A municipality is not required to submit a RFQ as part of an application.