

**NYS Department of State
Office of Planning, Development and Community Infrastructure
New York Community Greenworks Initiative
Request for Applications
RFA #18-OPD-52**

The responses to questions included herein are official responses by the Department of State (DOS) to questions submitted by potential applicants and are hereby incorporated into the Request for Applications RFA #18-OPD-52 issued on June 12, 2019. In the event of any conflict between the Request for Applications and these responses, the requirements or information contained in these responses will prevail.

Request for Application Amendments

Application Evaluation Criteria, #5. Greenworks Implementation Projects is hereby amended to read:

Applicant provides a narrative demonstrating possible development project ideas for vacant and/or underutilized properties within ~~potential environmental justice area~~ the targeted community that represent potential “first mover” projects as referenced in this RFA.

Questions & Answers

- Q1. Regarding the Eligibility Criteria, can you better define the standards around the potential Environmental Justice areas? To be a qualifying project, should the applicant’s “first mover” project contain or fall within an EJ area? If the target community/neighborhood contains one or more potential EJ areas can the “first mover” project be located outside of the area or will that disqualify the project?**
- A1. While the “targeted community” must contain or be located in a potential Environmental Justice area, the first-mover project simply needs to be located in the targeted community and not necessarily in the Environmental Justice area. The Department of State may exercise some discretion regarding the location of the first-mover projects to ensure that the project serves the targeted community.
- Q2. I am writing to inquire about the Environmental Justice Areas for Sullivan County. Looking at the maps, I am not clear how these areas were selected, and how much our proposed projects have to adhere to the boundaries set forth in these maps. For instance, we would hope to work with one of the two largest villages in our county, as they are the most in need – and in the maps of both the Village of Liberty and the Village of Monticello, only a portion of the village is shaded as a Potential EJ Area. Knowing both villages quite well, I am not able to determine the justification for the borders drawn, which in both of these cases essentially cut the village in half. I assume that if we were to work with one of the villages, we would not have to restrict all of our activity to the shaded areas, is that correct?**
- A2. You are not required to restrict your activities and projects to the designated Environmental Justice area(s). If the targeted community you serve and choose is a village that contains or is located in an Environmental justice Area, your activities and projects can fall outside the Environmental Justice Area as long as they fall within the designated targeted community.
- Q3. Can I as a New York Citizen and member of two organizations chartered to assist in the Deer Lake rehabilitation, submit applications to continue my Ecological Training with NYS and NYSFOLA COURSES & Seminars without the politically motivated organizations I belong to.**

- A3. Eligible applicants for this RFA are New York State community-based organizations (CBOs) that meet the criteria listed in “Eligible Applicants” on page 6 of the RFA. DOS is not in a position to discuss the requirements to participate in training offered by either NYSFOLA or other state agencies.