

South Central Region Sun Grant Initiative RFA 2009

Frequently Asked Questions:

What are the project start and end dates?

Based on our contract with the United States Department of Transportation (US DOT), the budget cycles for projects funded in the 2009 calendar year are:

- July 1 – December 31, 2009 (6 months)
- January 1 – December 31, 2010 (12 months)
- January 1 – December 31, 2011 (12 months)
- January 1 – June 30, 2012 (6 months)

These cycles are subject to change, based on availability of and/or when funds are released by the US DOT.

Note that Integrated Projects are no more than three years (36 months) in duration and Seed Projects are no more than two years (24 months) in length.

Can project partners come from outside the South Central Sun Grant Region?

Yes, however, the PI/Lead Institution must meet the eligibility requirements outlined on Page 5 of the RFA. Furthermore, an applicant must justify his or her collaboration in the narrative portion of the Letter of Intent/Pre-Proposal and Full Proposal. Institutions outside the region are considered Subrecipients. Applicants must identify their role/responsibility in the project, as well as related budget/costs. Additional instructions will be provided by PIs after March 1 that further addresses this issue.

Can a project request more funds in the first year, above the maximum allowed per year, and request fewer funds in the remaining years – thereby staying within the total project budget maximum?

No, both criteria must be met, per Page 3 of the RFA. For **Seed Projects**, grant guidelines allow for up to two years with a maximum funding request of \$35,000 per year. For **Integrated Projects**, grant guidelines allow for up to three years with a maximum annual funding request of \$125,000 per year.

What is included in Facilities and Administration (F&A) costs, and how is it calculated?

Applicants should check with the Grants and Contracts or Sponsored Programs Office for his or her institution's negotiated Facilities and Administration (F&A) rate. Every institution negotiates its own rate with the Federal government, plus what is included in its determination.

Calculate the F&A rate based on the total budget request according to the applicant's institution's formula. In the budget, applicants are allowed to claim either 25% of Total Direct Costs (TDC) or the institutional negotiated F&A rate, whichever is the lesser per budget year. Applicants may not use waived F&A on Federal dollars as part of the cost sharing match; however, waived F&A on cost share may be used to meet the match.

Additionally, Subrecipients can charge F&A on their portion of the proposal, per their institutional guidelines and the example above.

Is the Biosketch required, and what does it include?

Yes, the Biosketch is required on all Senior Personnel. The Biosketch is a two page vitae summary, and includes Post-Doctoral and Graduate Students supervised, as well as current and pending support. If the Senior Personnel Member does not supervise students or does not have any current or pending support, please indicate this by answering "None" in the appropriate section.

Please provide information on all current and pending Federal support for ongoing projects and proposals. The number of person-months per year to be devoted to the project must be stated, regardless of the source of support. This component is required, but will not be included as part of the two page vitae limit.

Who are certifiers/signing officials?

All PI(s) and Co-PI(s) associated with a project must certify the proposal prior to submission. Additionally, an institutional signing official must also certify a proposal. Certification is done in Webnibus by electronic signature. More information on this process is available on <http://www.sungrant.okstate.edu>.

The certification process in Webnibus is not intended to replace the applicant's official routing process. Check with the Sponsored Programs or Grants and Contracts Office to find out who the signing official is for a respective institution. Examples of potential signing officials within different institutions could be the Authorized Organization Representative (AOR) or possibly the Director of the Sponsored Programs Office. *NOTE: Applicants should not wait until the last minute to determine the institutional signing official. Submissions will not be accepted until all certifications are complete.*