grants program, please write to George Walker, U.S. EPA, Environmental Education Division (1707), Environmental Education Grants Program, 401 M Street, S.W., Washington, D.C. 20460, or call 202–260–8619.

## III. Purpose of Environmental Education and Training Program

C. What is environmental education and training?

The long term goal of environmental education is to increase public awareness and knowledge about environmental issues as well as provide the public with the skills necessary to make informed decisions and the motivation to take responsible actions. Environmental education enhances critical-thinking, problem-solving, and effective decision-making skills. Environmental education engages and motivates individuals, and enables them to weigh various sides of an environmental issue to make informed and responsible decisions. Under this program, training refers to activities such as classes, workshops, or seminars which are designed to prepare education professionals to teach about the environment.

D. What is the goal of the Environmental Education and Training Program?

EPA's broad goal is to increase the public's ability to make responsible environmental decisions. To accomplish this, EPA believes that it is critical to train education professionals who can develop and deliver quality environmental education and training programs. EPA believes that such efforts should, at a minimum, include the following:

- (1) supporting and expanding existing quality training efforts;
- (2) identifying, evaluating, and disseminating information on "model" education materials, teaching methods, and programs; and
- (3) strengthening and expanding partnerships and networks.
- E. Who should be targeted for training under this program?

The education professionals, in both formal and non-formal education and in pre-service and in-service programs, who may receive training under this program are:

- (I) Teachers, faculty, and administrators with local education agencies (e.g., schools and school districts, K–12th grades), colleges, and universities;
- (2) Employees of State, local, or tribal education, environmental protection, and natural resource departments; and

(3) Employees of not-for-profit organizations as well as businesses and their professional trade groups and associations who are involved in environmental education activities and issues.

Training efforts may include a "trainthe-trainer" approach or may directly reach the education professionals identified above.

## IV. Funding and Project Period

F. How much money is available to fund this program? When will the award be made?

To implement this program over the past three years, EPA awarded \$1.6 million in FY 1992, \$1.8 million in FY 1993, and \$2.0 million in FY 1994, for a total of \$5.4 million. EPA expects annual funding for this program to remain relatively constant. For planning purposes, EPA suggests applicants plan for approximately \$1.8 million per year for three years. However, funding for this program is subject to annual Congressional appropriations. EPA expects to announce the award by September 29, 1995.

G. How many awards will be made? What is the expected project period for the award?

EPA will award one cooperative agreement per year for a three year project period to the institution (or lead institution in a consortium) which is responsible for managing the implementation of the entire environmental education and training program. By law, EPA must award this cooperative agreement on an annual basis. However, EPA expects to award three consecutive cooperative agreements to the same institution (or the same lead institution in a consortium) over a three year project period, subject to the recipient's ability to meet the goals of the program and the availability of appropriations. Thus, EPA expects to fund this program over a three year project period from approximately October 1, 1995 through September 30, 1998.

H. What is a cooperative agreement? How is a cooperative agreement different from a grant?

Under the Federal Grant and Cooperative Agreement Act of 1977 (Pub. L. 95–224), both a grant and cooperative agreement are legal instruments in which the Federal government transfers money to a state or local government or other recipient for the benefit of the public. A grant is used when "no substantial involvement" is anticipated between the federal agency and the recipient during the performance of the project. By contrast, a cooperative agreement is used when

"substantial involvement" is anticipated between the federal agency and the recipient of the funds.

Because EPA will award a cooperative agreement to fund this training program, applicants should expect EPA to have ''substantial involvement'' in the recipient's overall implementation of this program to ensure that it meets the goals of this notice. EPA's involvement will include active participation in advisory committee and other planning meetings (in an ex-officio capacity), review and approval of yearly work plans, as well as review of products under development. Specific conditions regarding the relationship of EPA and the recipient will be identified in the award document.

I. If selected, when should proposed activities start and how much time will the selected institution have to complete its activities?

Proposed activities cannot begin before the funds are awarded. Therefore, start dates should not be scheduled to begin before October 1, 1995. Note that during the first quarter following the award, additional planning activities may need to take place along with the development of a final work plan for the first year. The selected institution will have a total of three years to complete the activities specified in three consecutive annual work plans, from about October 1, 1995 through September 30, 1998. Work plans must be submitted to and approved by EPA annually and activities for a given year must be completed before additional funds can be awarded.

J. How will funds be awarded in years two and three of the three year project period?

The institution which received funding for the first year of the program must submit a new application, work plan, and other required forms to obtain funding for each of the two subsequent years of the three year project period. The actual award of funds for years two and three will depend on the institution's ability to meet the goals of the program and the annual appropriation of funds by Congress.

K. Are matching funds required? Yes, non-federal matching funds of at least 25% of the total cost of the program are required. The matching funds must be from a non-federal source. For planning purposes, you may wish to estimate a matching share of approximately \$600,000 per year or \$1.8 million for three years. The match may be provided in cash or by in-kind contributions.

L. What cannot be funded under this program?