

enforcement of environmental laws, regulations, and policies. Fair treatment means that no racial, ethnic, or socioeconomic group should bear a disproportionate share of the negative environmental consequences resulting from the operation of industrial, municipal, and commercial enterprises and from the execution of federal, state, local, and tribal programs and policies.

Efforts to address environmental justice through environmental education may include educational programs that provide culturally-diverse and low-income populations with critical-thinking, problem-solving, and decision-making skills to identify, assess, and address an environmental problem that has a disproportionately high and adverse human health or environmental impact in their community.

In reference to the *effective use of partnerships*, under Section V.X.3. above, EPA's goal is to encourage applicants to submit proposals which form partnerships, where possible. EPA hopes to fund many proposals which score high in the evaluation process and which promote the effective use of partnerships between organizations. The term partnerships refers to forming a collaborative working relationship between two or more organizations such as governmental agencies, non-profit organizations, educational institutions, and/or the private sector.

In reference to the *type of environmental issue*, under Section V.X.4. above, EPA's goal is to encourage applicants to submit proposals which use pollution prevention concepts or techniques to address a high priority environmental issue (as discussed under Section III.N.1.c.). EPA hopes to fund many proposals which score high in the evaluation process and which convey the importance of pollution prevention. The term pollution prevention refers to reducing or eliminating waste or pollution at the source. It means not creating waste or pollution in the first place, instead of deciding how to recycle, treat, or dispose of waste and pollution that has already been created. Pollution prevention may include increasing energy efficiency and resource conservation efforts, as well as finding non-polluting substitutes for existing products and activities.

Pollution prevention is EPA's preferred approach to reduce risk to public health and the environment. Efforts to promote pollution prevention through environmental education may include projects that educate the public about the value of preventive approaches to environmental problems and the choices they can make in their

everyday lives to minimize adverse effects of human activities on the environment (e.g., in the home, work place, market place, and/or community).

EPA Regional Administrators will select grant recipients for projects with federal environmental education grant funding of \$25,000 or less, taking into account the recommendations of the regional environmental education coordinators who will base their recommendations on the factors discussed above. The Associate Administrator for Communications, Education, and Public Affairs at EPA headquarters will select the grant recipients for projects with federal environmental education grant funding of more than \$25,000 and up to \$250,000, taking into account the recommendations of the Environmental Education Division Director who will base the recommendations on the factors discussed above.

Y. How and when will I be notified about the status of my proposal?

Applicants will receive a confirmation that EPA has received their pre-application once EPA has received all pre-applications and entered them into a computerized data base (in the winter of 1995-1996). EPA will notify applicants again after awards have been announced (in the spring of 1996). To the extent possible, this notification will include feedback on those proposals which were screened out of the process early and on how proposals were evaluated. The degree to which EPA can provide such feedback will vary among EPA offices depending upon the availability of resources to conduct these activities.

Z. Where may I obtain more information on possible sources of funding other than this program?

The large number of pre-applications EPA received in the past four years demonstrates the strong demand for funding environmental education projects. Unfortunately, EPA alone cannot meet this demand. In cooperation with EPA, the North American Association for Environmental Education (NAAEE) has developed a publication called "Grant Funding For Your Environmental Education Program" which provides strategies for identifying potential sources of funding. This publication can be purchased for a \$5.00 fee by writing to NAAEE, Publications and Member Services, P.O. Box 400, Troy, Ohio, 45373.

Section VI. Grant Recipient Activities

AA. When can I begin incurring costs?

Grant recipients may begin incurring costs on the start date identified in your

EPA grant agreement. Since EPA plans to announce awards in the spring of 1996, EPA recommends that you do not plan to begin incurring costs until June of 1996.

BB. May an applicant request Fiscal Year 1996 funds for a project that extends beyond a one-year budget period?

Pre-applications submitted to EPA regional offices for up to \$5,000 may request funds for only a one-year budget period. Pre-applications submitted to EPA regional offices or headquarters requesting funds of more than \$5,000 may request funds for up to a two-year budget period, although EPA strongly encourages applicants to request funds for only a one-year budget period.

CC. Who will perform projects and activities?

The Act requires that projects be performed by the applicant or by a person satisfactory to the applicant and EPA. All pre-applications must identify any person other than the applicant that will assist in carrying out the project.

DD. What reports and work products must grant recipients submit to EPA and when are they due?

All grant recipients must submit two copies of their final report and two copies of all work products to the EPA project officer within 30 days after the expiration of the budget period. This report will be accepted as the final report unless the EPA project officer notifies you that changes must be made. Grant recipients with projects that have a two-year budget period must also submit a progress report at the end of the first year. Grant recipients with a federal environmental education grant share greater than \$5,000 may also be required to submit a semi-annual progress report. Specific report requirements will be identified in the EPA award agreement.

EE. What does EPA plan to do with the grant recipients' final reports and final work products?

EPA hopes to assemble a central library of all final reports and work products at headquarters in Washington, D.C. EPA plans to evaluate these final reports and work products and may disseminate them to others to serve as model programs.

Section VII. Additional Information on Preparing Pre-Applications and for the FY 1997 Program

FF. Where can I get additional information in preparing my pre-application?

EPA strongly encourages applicants to carefully read the solicitation notice. Many questions, such as when is the deadline for submitting pre-applications