

**NYS Department of State
NY State Division of Local Government
Local Government Efficiency Grant**

**Request for Applications # 21-LGE-15
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 # 21-LGE-15 issued on May 10, 2021. In the event of any conflict between the RFA and these responses, the requirements or information contained in these responses will prevail.

- Q1. The RFA indicates that the local cash matching funds must be equal to 50% for planning grants, while the sample funding chart indicates that total project cost is \$100,000 with the maximum state share \$50,000, with the local share being \$50,000. The maximum funding for a planning grant award per each local government is \$12,500. This means that a project with a minimum of four local governments would be necessary to achieve the maximum local state share of \$50,000 and the local government share would need to be \$50,000, for a total project cost not to exceed \$100,000.**
- A1. Correct.
- Q2. Are there any constraints or mandates on the local share? If multiple local governments are involved, do they need to evenly split the local share or can one municipality contribute more than the others. If five local governments are participating, can one local government pay 50% of the local share (e.g. \$25,000) and the remaining four local governments split the remaining 50% or \$6,250 or some combination thereof?**
- A2. The local match is based upon the eligible award. Any or all partners may contribute so long as the 50% requirement is met. There will be only one contract per award, with a lead local government as signatory. The signatory will be responsible for the match and accounting for the allocation between each participating local government.
- Q3. Does funding for a LGE project or initiative require it be a component of an existing plan?**
- A3. No, it is not required, however it is allowable.
- Q4. Which programs allow us to use in-kind services to satisfy the County's match requirements?**
- A4. For additional information on what constitutes eligible and ineligible costs, see page 3 of the Request for Applications.
- Q5. Does an award for demolition and remediation of a property require the awardee already own the parcel, or maintain ownership?**
- A5. Yes, the property impacted must be owned by the applicant or co-applicant.
- Q6. Can an award be transferred to another party?**

- A6. No, an award cannot be transferred to another party. However, subcontracting for services is allowable.
- Q7. For implementation grants, to what extent does each municipality need to be involved in the application in order to be included in the \$200,000 funding per municipality? Is it enough to list each municipality on the cost savings worksheet as a co-applicant? Or do we need to include a support letter from each municipality?**
- A7. A resolution, or at a minimum a letter of support is required from each co-applicant to show that they are a willing participant in the project. The fiscal impact for each co applicant is also required.
- Q8. Are municipal housing authorities eligible to apply for the LGE Program?**
- A8. No, a municipal housing authority is not eligible for a Local Government Efficiency grant.
- Q9. If we are not eligible, how would we partner with an eligible entity?**
- A9. Applications must have a minimum of two local government applicants. An ineligible applicant may partner with the required eligible entities on a project, however, only eligible partners will be considered in the funding calculations.
- Q10. Are automation and digitalization efforts eligible under the grant?**
- A10. Yes, if they are part of a shared services project or consolidation of services between two or more local governments.
- Q11. What is the average size of an implementation grant?**
- A11. The total maximum cumulative funding for an implementation project is \$200,000 for each local government involved in the project, not to exceed 90% of the project cost or \$1,000,000 whichever is less.
- Q12. Do we need to apply for a planning grant first? Can we go ahead and apply for an implementation grant if we do our preliminary vetting and research?**
- A12. A planning grant is not necessary prior to an implementation grant award.
- Q13. Have you worked with land banks before? Rather than submit separate proposals for each town, can we submit a proposal for multiple communities involved in the land bank? How can we best leverage the pieces of the proposal?**
- A13. Land banks are not eligible applicants for a Local Government Efficiency grant. However, a land bank might be involved in a proposal including eligible local governments to share or restructure a local government service. All projects are evaluated based on the potential municipal tax levy impact, project need, service delivery benefits, operational changes, comprehensiveness and specificity of work plan, appropriateness of the project budget, local linkages and capacity, and local and regional support.
- Q14. Are school districts considered "eligible entities"?**

A14. Yes, school districts are eligible applicants and have been funded in the past for projects that include the consolidation of services such as transportation, distance learning and maintenance, as well as the full reorganization of multiple districts.

Q15. Is a community college eligible for funding?

A15. No, a community college is not eligible for a Local Government Efficiency grant.