

Edwards Settlement Fund Distribution Request for Proposals Frequently Asked Questions

About This Document

This list of Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) is intended to supplement the Edwards Settlement Fund Distribution Request for Proposals (RFP) announced November 21, 2019 and available at edwardscleanairsettlement.org along with the latest version of this document.

The contents of this document will be updated as questions arise and clarification is needed through January 6, 2020. To be notified of updates as well as for any other questions, contact RFP administrator Joyce Harant at **888-201-9377** or edwardsRFP@gmail.com.

Questions about Eligible Applicants

New in V3: Are labor unions eligible to apply for funding?

Labor organizations incorporated under section 501(c)(5) of the Internal Revenue Code and who serve Central Illinois residents are eligible to apply for projects in the **Training** category.

Can fund recipients work with for-profit entities to implement projects?

Yes. We understand that both nonprofits and governmental bodies may need to contract with for-profit entities to complete their projects—for example, for solar system design and solar panel installation. While for-profit entities are not Eligible Applicants and cannot directly receive funds under the settlement, fund recipients can contract or partner with for-profit entities to implement parts of their projects.

Questions about the Communities of Concern

New in V2: Is there a map or geographic definition of the Communities of Concern? Was a specific area identified using an environmental justice screening tool?

The intent of the funding distribution is to provide benefits to individuals and communities adversely impacted by the years of pollution from the Edwards plant. These include fenceline communities in Bartonville, Pekin, and adjacent areas and, due to prevailing winds and the topography of the Illinois River valley, the South Side of Peoria.

Evidence of pollution patterns was part of the litigation but the judge's ruling approving the settlement did not include a specific map or rely on a specific environmental justice screening tool. We intentionally wrote a broad definition of communities of concern because we are interested in neighborhood and broader community-oriented approaches that will serve people with health impairments as well as low-income residents and people of color.

New in V2: Is there a target number of people that projects need to serve?

By their very nature, different types of projects will target different numbers of people or households. We will review projects with a preference for projects that deliver meaningful community outcomes in a cost-effective way.

New in V2: What is the number of displaced workers?

We believe about 70 people are employed at the Edwards plant as of today. This includes

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salaried and hourly workers. Various building trades workers and others also periodically perform maintenance at the plant. The settlement requires the **Training** funds be spent on projects that provide job training and/or retraining at Peoria-area colleges, schools, community centers or other organizations, that encompass a range of industries and that may be made accessible to Edwards employees and others.

Questions about Structuring Your Proposal

New in V2: Is there a specific timeframe for proposals to be completed?

The only requirement is that the last disbursement must occur by March 1, 2024. For some projects it may be appropriate to continue reporting outcomes beyond 2024. We are open to proposals ranging from a few months to the full timeframe. Project scheduling should be centered on serving the most people as soon as possible in the most cost-effective way.

New in V2: How do I decide whether I have one or more proposals?

Generally, proposals that fall into different project categories should be submitted separately, noting synergies between the two proposals in both entries. However, if there are joint expenses, multiple proposals can be combined into a single entity so long as the budget spells out what share of administrative and other joint expenses is allocated to each project component. Similarly, the overall schedule should clearly identify milestones and metrics tied to fund disbursements for each project component and outcomes should be reported for each project component as well.

Proposals that include multiple sub-components within a single category, such as a variety of lung health services ranging from education to repairs that improve indoor air quality, should clearly indicate unit costs of delivering each type of service being proposed.

New in V2: What percentage of the budget can be allocated for administrative costs?

There is no fixed percentage as different project types will entail very different levels of administrative support. We are focusing on how the community will benefit, so the more funds that flow directly to beneficiaries, the better.

Questions about Collaboration

New in V2: Is there a mechanism to help collaborate with others on applications?

It's very encouraging how many groups are interested in collaborating. We set up a Facebook Group at www.facebook.com/groups/edwardscleanairsettlement where you are welcome to post about the type of collaboration you are seeking.

The Peoria City/County Health Department (2116 N Sheridan in Peoria) is hosting a meeting on Tuesday, December 10 from 2-4PM for organizations interested in collaborating on **Lung Health** projects in the Tri-County area.

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New in V2: As an individual I cannot submit a proposal but am interested in being part of a project in some capacity. Is there a way to get in touch with the organizations planning to submit proposals?

As we collected names of interested organizations, we did not collect permission to share their information so we cannot make those names publicly available. We set up a Facebook Group at www.facebook.com/groups/edwardscleanairsettlement where you are welcome to post about the type of involvement you are seeking.

Questions about Funding

New in V2: If my project is chosen for funding, how soon will the funds become available? What additional steps will my organization need to take?

As with almost all grant processes of this size, a grant agreement defining the conditions of the funding must be drafted and signed by the parties before funds can be disbursed. We will begin the drafting the agreements immediately after selecting winning projects with the goal of entering into those agreements and disbursing those funds quickly.

New in V2: Is funding on a reimbursement basis or can funds be requested up front?

Once the U.S. District Court and Department of Justice receive the list of selected projects and funding allocations, the parties will draft and sign a grant agreement. Applicants can request up-front funding or reimbursements as best fits the project and their organization's accounting requirements. Payment of funds by the grant administrator will be determined based on overall need to ensure project completion, meeting milestones and any other terms outlined in the grant agreement.

Questions about Specific Project Types

Expanded in V2: What Training project specifics are you looking for? What would Training wrap-around services look like?

Training projects should describe not only the specific training to be conducted, but also the wrap-around services that will increase participants' chances of success in finding a job. These services might include workforce readiness and essential skills training with a stipend during the training period, apprenticeship wages or stipends, study assistance for obtaining certificates relevant to the training and job placement services. Wrap-around support during job transition may also extend to career coaching, transportation, childcare, assistance with expungement of criminal records and housing allowances.

Training projects can target displaced Edwards workers as well as those in the communities of concern. Important outcomes for training programs include job retention statistics at three, six and twelve months.

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New in V2: Could Training target teens?

The court-approved settlement provides that the job training money fund job training and/or re-training programs that may be made accessible to Edwards employees and others. However, there is nothing that limits teens from participating in programs designed for the larger communities of concern.

Expanded in V2: What Lung Health project specifics are you looking for?

Metrics for lung health education projects should describe how many people the proposed outreach will reach and how many are expected to successfully complete such an educational program. Lung health programs that provide services should report on the number of people served, and enumerate targets for how access to and participation in services will be improved; in other words, how these funded actions will improve patient utilization of services, whether those be direct medical treatment, medication, diagnosis, tobacco cessation or other services. Air quality-related home improvement projects should describe the activity and/or devices to be used and how many people are served by the funded project. Lung health education projects should highlight specific goals for communities of concern to the extent possible.

New in V2: Could Lung Health projects include planting trees?

The settlement agreement provides for the lung health funding to be spent on educational programs, home-improvement projects, and/or access to medical interventions to improve lung health. Creative approaches are encouraged. However, a tree planting proposal would need to demonstrate clear links between what is being proposed and direct lung health benefits to people in the community.

What Electric Bus project specifics are you looking for?

Bus projects should provide include specifics on how the buses and any required charging infrastructure will be sourced. Total cost of ownership compared to your current bus or fleet should be calculated using Argonne National Laboratory's AFLEET Online tool. Details on driver and mechanic training should also be supplied.

Bus projects from applicants with fleets should also explain their process for determining where the electric buses will run and what impact their projects will have on localized air pollution.

What Solar project specifics are you looking for?

Solar projects should describe what type of property assessment will be conducted, any necessary preparatory work and who is responsible, any key subcontractors who will be performing parts of the work and how materials will be sourced. Specific details should be provided on capacity in megawatts (both AC and DC), expected annual production, proposed mounting and types of inverters and panels.

Solar projects installers should meet the Illinois Power Authority's "qualified installer" requirements (union or NABCEP certification) so that the project is eligible for Renewable Energy Credits. Evidence of this should be included in the proposal.

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Single-building solar projects may not have interim metrics but should be prepared to report milestones along the way. Projects that involve broader community ownership should include metrics for unduplicated subscriber recruitment and participation.

Outcomes specific to solar projects could include total Ameren bill savings based on avoided kilowatt or BTU usage, total carbon dioxide reduction and details on how the project is creating a wealth-generating asset in one of the **Communities of Concern**.

What Energy Efficiency project specifics are you looking for?

Energy efficiency projects should describe what type of property assessment will be conducted, what types of energy-saving repairs and improvements will be provided, any key subcontractors who will be performing parts of the work and how materials will be sourced.

Metrics specific to energy efficiency projects should include units assessed, units in progress and units completed as well as recruitment, assessment and repair/improvement costs incurred.

Outcomes specific to an energy efficiency project could include total Ameren bill savings based on avoided kilowatt or BTU usage, total carbon dioxide reduction and details on how the project is having a positive outcome on housing availability, housing affordability and property values in the **Communities of Concern**.

Other Questions

New in V2: Does this settlement preclude others from filing litigation based on health problems created by the plant?

The full settlement decree is posted at www.edwardscleanairsettlement.org and it does prevent Sierra Club, Respiratory Health Association and Natural Resources Defense Council from pursuing certain litigation related to the types of air pollution covered by the settlement. It does not waive anyone else's rights or in any way stop someone from proceeding with litigation.

Water issues with the plant are still very much a concern and Sierra Club currently has active litigation which is beyond the scope of the Clean Air Act case that led to this settlement.

New in V2: Is help available for preparing my proposal?

Our RFP Administrator, Joyce Harant, is available to answer questions about all aspects of the process and proposal requirements. Contact her at **888-201-9377** or edwardsRFP@gmail.com.

Another resource is an upcoming grant-writing workshop hosted by the NAACP Young Adults committee on Thursday, December 12 at 6PM at the NAACP building, 101 N Macarthur in Peoria.

Finally, you might consider partnering with other organizations. We've set up a Facebook Group at www.facebook.com/groups/edwardscleanairsettlement where you are welcome to post about the type of collaboration you are seeking.