

PICCC Funding Frequently Asked Questions (and answers), FY14 Version 1

Format:

Q: Does the 2 pages for the SOI also include references and contact information or can this material be regarded as supplementary to the 5 pages of proposal text?

A: Five pages includes references and contact information.

Q: Can I attach an appendix with figures and photos?

A: No, the 2 page limit is for all SOI content.

Institutions:

Q: The University of Hawaii has a new procedure and wants all proposals to go through the Office of Research Services prior to submission. Does PICCC need that approval to process submitted proposals or only after proposals are selected for funding?

A: The latter. However, all signatures required for funding will need to be obtained before the project can be initiated.

PIs and partners:

Q: Does there have to be a management person on the team?

A: Yes, this is a requirement to ensure that project results are directly useful to management of natural and cultural resources.

Q: How do you define a "manager"?

A: An individual who makes decisions that directly affect how natural or cultural resources are managed. The person may be affiliated with a government or NGO entity, or have a position of community leadership that gives them authority over resource use.

Q: Do you get more "points" if you have (for example) a FWS person on your team?

A: No.

Q: Is it ok to have international collaborators and have some funding go to support their work, travel, etc.?

A: There is no restriction on collaborators and grant funds can be used for any normally allowed purpose.

Q: Is there a limit to how many proposals a single person can be on?

A: No.

Funding details:

Q: What is the total amount of funds available?

A: The total amount of funds available will be about \$250,000.

Q: Is the PICCC under the DOI, so are these federal funds?

A: Yes, the source of the grant funding is DOI, they are federal funds.

Q: Do funds have to be expended by the grantee by the end of FY14 (i.e. Sept. 30, 2014?)

A: No, the award has to be made to the grantee and funds obligated in FY14. Once the agreement is finalized and the funds obligated, the grantee can draw funds as needed.

Q: Do funds need to be expended by a certain time as these are FY 2014 funds?

A: Project duration is capped at 2 years from the provision of funding.

Q: Would you consider student funding, i.e. is paying a graduate student ok?

A: Yes

Q: Is the size of the grant important?

A: Cost is a factor but there is no minimum size. Maximum amount is \$150k.

Q: Are proposals penalized if the indirect rate they are forced to charge by their institution is high?

A: We encourage applicants to use the lowest indirect rate they can, e.g. through a CESU agreement. But we do not use indirect rate as a ranking criterion, and have ongoing projects with a variety of indirect rates.

Q: How can we show subawards? In the budget template there appears to be no room for another institution to join ours in this venture unless they were to put their salaries where it says salaries instead of subawards.

A: Please put any subawards as single line totals under "Contractual Services" and attach an additional budget sheet for the subaward, clearly marking it as such. Also please explain this in the budget narrative so that our reviewers are aware of the nature of the subaward/PI relationship.

Project selection:

Q: How about proposals relevant to agricultural, forestry, and ocean related programs?

A: The relevance, merits, or appropriateness of any particular proposal will be determined by the review panel based on the priorities and criteria in the RFP; we can't expand on those or provide individual judgments.

Q: My study involves surveying members of the public. Is this possible using Federal funds without going through the lengthy Paperwork Reduction Act approval process?

A: Yes. The PRA process does not apply to surveys devised by, and conducted by, non-Federal researchers.

Q: Are there any requirements for specific partnerships? For example: Does FWS need to be (part of) a partnership?

A: No.

Q: With regards to geographic area, what is the exact extent of the PICCC area of interest?

A: The geographic focus of the PICCC is the islands and near-shore waters of the Pacific Islands that are formally affiliated with the United States. However, the PICCC will cooperate with and may assist climate-related research and conservation efforts in other Pacific Island areas to facilitate the viability of species and ecosystems within the primary geographic area.

See

http://hawaiiconservation.org/activities/pacific_island_climate_change_cooperative for a map.

Q: Does PICCC have co-op institutions out there? Specifically, are there co-op offices in CNMI, etc.?

A: PICCC is a cooperative of many Federal, state, NGO and private entities. There are offices for many of these entities on many islands. See

http://hawaiiconservation.org/activities/pacific_island_climate_change_cooperative for a list of member agencies.

Q: Data is not widely available for some resources - did you want to see a large amount of background data?

A: The scientific basis to assess change would be relevant; research needs to be done because we lack information on many resources. Baseline information may be useful; in many cases a measure of change since a baseline was established would be more so.

Q: Do you have a list of current and/or on-going grants? I would like to see it to see who could be possible partners (create possible partnerships) and for data points.

A: Yes, we have a list but please note that these grants were issued under other criteria.

A list of funded grants and contact information for PIs is posted on

http://hawaiiconservation.org/activities/pacific_island_climate_change_cooperative/funding_opportunities

Q: Regarding research and management of endangered species, how or where do we draw the line between research and management? Is it ok to have both?

A: As long as the proposal addresses the themes and covers the criteria, it is ok to have both research and management, although our emphasis is on the use of climate change science in management. These funds are not intended to support management actions.

Q: Will there be feedback on why our proposals didn't get picked?

A: Yes.

Q: Are high risk or exploratory proposals ok?

A: Our only criteria are those in the funding document.

Q: Can you give us an idea on who is on the review panel?

A: The review panel membership is not public information. The review panel is made up of members of the Steering Committee or staff of those entities, who are familiar with: climate change, the grant process, island ecology, monitoring, cultural resources, etc.

Q: What if your panel doesn't include members that are expert in my field?

A: The panel may seek outside confidential review by subject matter experts.

Q: Are PICCC partners able to be Co-PI's on a proposal? Are there any limitations on what role PICCC partners can undertake?

A: Yes, partners can be co-PIs, no limitations.

Q: How will the data management and archiving work? Will I lose access to my data?

A: The establishment of a data management plan and secure and accessible archiving of data are requirements to ensure that data from projects is widely available and is well-described so that others may use it. Please read the PICCC Data Management Policy which addresses many of these issues.