IRA CRW Tips & Tricks Webinar

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SPEAKERS

Amara Davis, Joshua Brown

J **Joshua Brown** 00:00

Good afternoon, everybody. Thank you for joining us today on our webinar: ticks and- Tips and Tricks for New Applicants. This is going to be focused on the kinds of things that we have noticed over the years, that first time or infrequent grantees run into that prevent them from competing well, in our national competitions. This is not going to be talking about the details of a- our specific competition, though it is intended to focus on our client-, Climate Ready Workforce for Coastal States, Tribes and Territories competition. So when I use examples, I'll be using examples for that competition. As we start, I really want to thank Amara Davis, and Brooke Carney, who are our communications team who are running behind this, and making sure that technology works. Because if it were left to me, we'd be doing like easels. And also Ms. Puzio and Ms. Grant who are serving as our ASL interpreters. So, again, thank you all for joining.

J **Joshua Brown** 01:22

I'm Joshua Brown. I'm the Environmental Literacy and Workforce Development lead in the National Sea Grant Office, and I am the program officer that is overseeing our Climate Ready Workforce initiative. So jumping right into this, we will have some slides, I don't have a lot of slides, unlike some of our more formal webinars that were slide heavy, because we were going over the details of the funding opportunity. These are going to be some high level spaces, and then I'm going to open it for questions and answers. You can put your questions in the Questions box and Amara will help feed those to me at the end of the presentation.

J **Joshua Brown** 02:20

So the first thing- the first gate you have to get through when applying for federal funding is that you have to register to be able to do that. And with NOAA's competitions, there are three places you need to register. The first is with the System for Award Management, that is SAM, sam.gov. The second is grants.gov. And the third is called ERA Commons. sam.gov is where you prove that you are able to receive federal funds. And so this is the account or the system

that if you are selected as a recipient, the- will be used to move the money to you as the grant goes forward. grants.gov is the federal grant application portal and it is where you will submit your full proposal. And finally, there is eRA Commons. This is NOAA's new granting system. It is it is the applicant side. This is a system that has been used by NIH or by the National Institutes of Health and other federal agencies and NOAA is moving into using it starting this summer. And it's replacing our old grants system which was grants online. So you'll need to register in all three of these places.

Joshua Brown 04:07

And the reason why this is the first slide and- and was iterate- reiterated multiple times in our other webinars is that the registration process for each of these is not fast. It can take six or more weeks to complete for each website. You- if you plan to submit and do not already have active accounts register as soon as possible. There is no financial cost. There's no fee for any of these websites. However, there is significant time in terms of getting your documentation in, getting it reviewed, and addressing any comments. So this is a- one of the first barrier errors and-, and it's not just registering at the start of the grant, you need to maintain active accounts with all of these throughout the course of the award. And if if that slips, we won't be able to manage the various processes. So please make sure that you stay current, I recognize that's- and I guess the final bullet I should have put on here is other than ERA Commons, which we have some ability to support, challenges or questions that people run into for sam.gov and grants.gov, NOAA doesn't have any influence. And we can't really provide significant help. So as you run into challenges, you'll need to work with the respective help groups for those- those sites. Okay.

Joshua Brown 06:00

The second big barrier that strikes many new applicants is getting the dates confused, or missing a deadline. If you miss a deadline, there is nothing we can do. Because this is a competitive process, we have to adhere to the rules. So for Climate Ready Workforce, you must have emailed the letter of intent to sg.grants@noaa.gov no later than November 30th. If it comes in at 12:01 am November-, or I guess that would be December 1, I can't accept it. You need to make sure it comes in on time. Early is good. I recognize that creates a barrier. But it's a challenge. If you send the email somewhere else, or you try to submit to grants.gov, there's no way for that letter of intent to get to me. It will be counted as late and I won't be able to do anything with it. So make sure you look at the funding opportunity and send the letter of intent to the email address listed. If you send it to my personal email address. That also doesn't count.

Joshua Brown 07:42

Similarly, with the full proposal, those are due February 13. For Climate Ready Workforce. Make sure those are submitted to grant- through grants.gov to the correct funding opportunity. There are a lot that that are going to look very similar. If you submit to another NOAA funding opportunity that is in grants.gov, it will not count as an on time submission. And so we can't-,

we can't help you with those sorts of things. If it's right at the end, if you submit it a month early and we happen to notice it, then we can have you submit to the correct portal. But if we don't notice, if it's not caught until the after the fact there's nothing we can do.

J **Joshua Brown** 08:37

Similarly, the project start date listed in the funding opportunity in this case is August 1st of 2024. Please don't send me proposals send us proposals with start dates of January 1st 2024 or December 2023. We can't- with the- we won't be able to get you the money by then. So make sure you're following those start dates directly. If you have questions, please ask because there may be- well, I think in this case, it's it's pretty clear they should start August 1st. But in general, you can always reach out and ask what if any flexibility there is on start dates. Because sometimes there is.

J **Joshua Brown** 09:32

Which leads to this point: Ask questions early. Reach out to the program staff as soon as you have questions, because I can answer questions and I have more flexibility in helping you say now, then after the letter of intents are passed or the full proposal application period is passed. This is a competition so I will not be able to answer certain kinds of questions that might give you a competitive advantage. But I'm always happy, and our whole staff is always happy to support questions around process or understanding what we're looking for. So please don't hesitate to ask those questions. But please bear in mind that- that as- as critical dates pass, we are limited in what we can help you with.

J **Joshua Brown** 10:30

Okay, I already touched on this once in in the timing. But again, make sure you submit to the right place. The letters of intent- The Letters of Intent are an email to sg.grants@noaa.gov, the full proposal is through grants.gov and to this competition number (NOAA-OAR-SG-2024-2007783). You may use third party submission software, that's fine. But make sure that it does its job and submits to grants.gov by the deadline, and then look for and keep confirmation of submissions. That's a lot easier on the full proposal side where you're going to get an automated confirmation in most cases, on the letter of intent, we will respond and- and send an email that your submission was received. But it might not be instantaneous, because I have to write that email. And so- so if you submit and don't hear back from me, 30 seconds later, please don't send another email saying, "Where's- where's my submission?" Give me, you know, at least an hour or so. So please be aware of that. But also, don't hesitate to ask for the confirmation. We will respond as quickly as possible.

J **Joshua Brown** 12:10

Letters of Intent: There are multiple NOAA competitions out right now. And they use Letter of Intent to mean different things. For Climate Ready Workforce, the letter of intent is exactly what it says- it's an expression of intent. It says, â€œHey, we want to do this project, and we plan on submitting a full proposal.â€ It doesn't commit you to making that submission. It

doesn't commit you to- to much beyond the general gist of what you're putting forward. So if you put a letter of intent in and you say it's going to cost us 2 million, and then after you develop your full proposal, you look and say actually, it's 6 million, that's okay. We know these are estimates. It allows us to gauge interest, and make sure we have the number of reviewers that are appropriate to do the job. Now- So you can think of it as as sort of opening the door to submit a full proposal. One- if you do not submit a letter of intent to our competition, you are not eligible to submit a full proposal.

J   Joshua Brown   13:27

So if in doubt, if you're on the fence as to whether you can bring the partnership together or not, or whether the idea is really going to work out or not submit something, that way your foot is in the door, the door is open, you can- you can go forward. If you don't afterwards manage to submit a full proposal, from our perspective, that's okay. We would rather know that you were interested. And we may follow up to find out what- what barriers prevented you from submitting, but there's no- you have no obligation to submit. This is different from some other competitions where the letter of intent serves as a pre proposal where you're putting in a fairly detailed short proposal and that is reviewed. And well- well scored proposal- pre proposals are invited for full proposal. So there can be some confusion. But and so make sure you understand what the letter- purpose the letter of intent will serve. But for Climate Ready Workforce, it's really that expression of intent to allow us to get the resources we need to review things properly.

J   Joshua Brown   14:56

The full proposal is what the name implies. This is where the rubber of your idea meets the bureaucratic road, where you put your ideas on digital paper, and send them in for full review by experts, and we'll talk about who the kinds of people our reviewers are in a minute. But for a competition, we have to make decisions based on what you submit in your proposal. We can't make decisions based on what we wish you had submitted, or what we think you meant, or what you probably would do, because we know that you have a good reputation, we have to gauge it based on what you submit to us. So make sure what you're submitting is what you intend to do. And that it really puts your best foot forward. And there are very few chances to revise or correct any mistakes in the materials. So if, for example, you leave out a form that is required, I can't come back to you after the submission deadline and say, "Hey, I need that form." I, I'm just not allowed. And so you need to make sure that you've got everything ready to go. This is different from non competitive grants, where there is often a chance for that back and forth. And I can say, "Hey, this sounds really good, but maybe work on this idea a little bit more." In a competition, it really is based on what you put forward at the time of submission.

J   Joshua Brown   17:07

In that vein, really make sure you check what we call the minimum requirements. There are a set of parts- forms and other elements that are listed for the application in there under a section called Content and Form of Application. If you don't have those things, you will not be sent to review. You- you're removed from the competition at the administrative level, because

you don't have everything necessary to allow us to evaluate your proposal equitably with everyone else. So make sure you have all of those elements. Because it's a- it's a really sad time, when we don't even get to send your ideas forward to review, you don't get any feedback, other than just you were missing this form, or you didn't include this- this information, we can't review your proposal. Please double check everything. And triple check. Because this is the most frequent cause of new applicants not even going to review is- is that they they miss one of those elements. And unfortunately, we try and spell them out as clearly as we can. But the list is long. And there are a lot of small parts.

J Joshua Brown 18:48

Okay, so assuming you submitted on time, submitted everything, we're going to send your full proposal to review. And, as I said, your proposal is where you- the rubber meets the road. It is where you tell your story. It's where you make your case for the work you're going to do. You have to do it in limited space. I believe the limit here is 15 pages in which to provide all the requested content. So you need to focus on what you need the funding for.

J Joshua Brown 19:31

I will share an example of a proposal that was reviewed where they spent about half the proposal talking about some actions the state was going to take that had nothing to do or had very little to do sort of set the background for the work that was actually requested, the funding was being requested for and it was really confusing because we were getting a lot of details on things that we couldn't fund, wouldn't fund, and- and it actually caused us to not understand what the ask was. So make sure you're you're focusing on what the funds are- you do need to provide context, but no more than essential to backup what you need. Leave out things that are not relevant to the funding effort. If- if your funding is to train in place 250 workers, tell me about the steps you're going to do to get to that I don't need to know about other sectors that aren't involved as far as those 250 work- folks who are going to be coastal engineers. I don't need to know about agriculture, or tourism, I need to understand the piece right there.

J Joshua Brown 21:10

And then, sort of the counterpart to leaving out things that are not relevant is to make it really easy to see how you are addressing the priorities. This competition for Climate Ready Workforce has a lot of priorities. Make sure they- it is easy for the reviewers to see those. How you choose to do that is up to you. The worst approach is to write a bunch of text and assume that people will see how you're meeting those priorities in your narrative. That might work but usually doesn't. There are other methods that work better whether you do bulleted lists or- or do call outs, I can't tell you how to do it, I can tell you how not to.

J Joshua Brown 22:12

And then equally important, so the priorities are why we're doing the competition and- and what we hope to get out of it. The counterpart to those priorities are the evaluation criteria. Those are how the reviewers will tell us whether your proposal is meeting those priorities,

whether it's going to accomplish what you say it's going to accomplish. So as you are writing your proposal, make sure you have the evaluation criteria. And you can see how you are addressing those. They are often a little broader in scope. You know, a priority might say, it is a priority that you hire between 50- or more than 50- train and place more than 50 workers. That can be an easy level. We intend to train and place 150 workers with the following employer commitments. Evaluation criteria might be something like, "how does this address the program priorities?" So you'll be- the reviewer will be trying to make sense of all of that. It might be, "how are- how strong are the employer commitments," the reviewer will be trying to gauge that.

J Joshua Brown 23:31

So as you look at those, really the priorities and the criteria work together to create the holistic picture of your proposal. Make sure you use them to your advantage. The- it is really sad when a good proposal comes in, one that's got a great idea but it scores poorly because it doesn't include information that addresses one or more of the evaluation criteria. So look at those and really think about how you are- in your limited space. Remember, we started this you have limited space. You've got to do all of this in those 15 pages. So think carefully. It doesn't have to be the most beautifully written prose. It needs to be clear, and it needs to help us understand your story.

J Joshua Brown 24:27

And I say us, the really important us is our reviewers. The reviewers for these competitions, this one in particular are experts in the field, whatever field it is. They are human and they are often volunteers. At best they might get a small amount of- of funding to travel or- or to compensate for a portion of their time. But- but fundamentally, they are- they're folks who are volunteering their time and expertise. They are excited. I think I can say without exception, they are excited to learn about the projects that come in on a competition. They're excited to learn about what you want to do. They- often we will hear, I was- things like exactly like that, "I was excited to see this proposal," or, "I really wanted to like this proposal," or, "This is exactly the kind of thing I had hoped somebody would put in."

J Joshua Brown 25:45

They're very excited. And they want you to succeed. My advice to you is to make their job easy. As we talked about on the preceding slide, make sure you give them what they need to- through those evaluation criteria through those priorities. And don't give them anything extra. Because that extra is rarely helpful. It often leads to confusion. And the counterpart is they can't give you credit for what isn't included. So make sure you include everything that's required. And, yeah.

J Joshua Brown 26:27

So the final piece, we talked a lot about the story and the reviewers. The final piece is really at the end of the day grants are about money. And there are a lot of forms that request breakdowns on the budget. And they all need to sum up to the same totals at the end. It is

breakdowns on the budget. And they all need to sum up to the same totals at the end. It is surprising the number of times we see budgets that come in, and they differ, you know, sometimes by $1, because of rounding errors in the different softwares, or not even errors, rounding procedures. Sometimes they differ by hundreds or thousands of dollars. That does not generally look great, it does not convey a sense that you know what you're doing and are able to manage these funds well. So make sure, at the end of the day, when you lay all your budget forms out that the numbers all add up.

J Joshua Brown 27:39

And with that, that- that's sort of the the most common barriers. The things that more often than not see, good ideas, not get funded. Again, if you follow these, it doesn't mean you will get funded, but it does increase the likelihood that you'll get to review and that reviewers will be able to successfully review your proposal. And you know, there- there is the hope at the end of the day that you- you will be successfully competing. We are- it may not feel like this, but we in our office and the reviewers are really rooting for everybody. We want to fund good projects. And we want to see all the ideas come in, in the best possible light. So it is, you know, it's our sincere hope that you are successful in submitting your letter of intent, submitting your application, and, at the end of the day, getting funded because that's a service that we provide and- and it's a way that we are able to support amazing work.

J Joshua Brown 29:07

So at this point, I'm going to open it to questions from the the questions feature, and I'll do my best to answer them. Again, I'm going to focus on tips and tricks rather than, you know, nitty gritty of the funding opportunities.

A Amara Davis 29:28

All right, we do have a few questions coming in Joshua. The first is "Is the process of securing employer commitment described anywhere? I'm familiar- unfamiliar with the entry points for securing such commitments."

J Joshua Brown 29:50

Yeah, so we- it can look like a lot of different things. There is no one process to secure those. It can be as simple as you working with a business and you get a letter from them that says, "If the training program produces people with these three skills, they are able- we are able and willing to- we commit to hire 25 of them." It can be even more formal than that. But at a basic level, it can be as simple as them making a written statement to that effect.

A Amara Davis 30:33

Thank you. Our next question is, "Is it possible for someone to serve as co-PI on more than one proposal?"

Joshua Brown 30:44

Yes, absolutely. The only limitation is that the federal government doesn't think you should work more than 40 hours a week. And so we don't like to fund people to work more than 40 hours a week. And so if you already have a full-time job, and are requesting salary support, we will be concerned about that. But certainly you can use- you can buy out some of your time, or-or if you are not working full time, for example, many university staff actually have nine month jobs, and they need to come up with the other three months of their salary. That's something you can do through a grant. But yes, you can be a co-PI on more than one award.

Amara Davis 31:41

"Is the ERA Commons registration due before the letter of intent is submitted or before the full proposal is submitted?"

Joshua Brown 31:53

Before the full proposal.

Amara Davis 31:57

"What is the latest project end date? And what is the award notification date?"

Joshua Brown 32:02

The latest- when- these can be up to four year awards. So the latest project end date would be July 31. Of 2028? I think? Math not my strong point on here. But they can be up to four years. The award notification date, I would- will be hopefully before the start date. Ideally, we would let you know by June of 2024. There are some bureaucratic things that may delay that a little bit but we at least like to informally let you know you've been recommended for funding. So I would expect June-ish. But we've- we've had some some things delay stuff this past year. So I would- I would ask for a little bit of grace and understanding that there'll be a little flex on that.

Joshua Brown 32:06

"For this particular funding opportunity, can you clarify whether you provide any feedback on the letter of intent beyond confirming receipt?"

Joshua Brown 33:27

We at this stage do not plan on providing any feedback on the letter of intent.

A Amara Davis 33:33

"You mentioned barriers to submission. Could you give some insight on overcoming those key barriers?"

J Joshua Brown 33:46

Yeah, so- so from our perspective, barriers to submission are things like not having the- the appropriate registrations. So before you can submit to grants.gov, you need to be registered in grants.gov. That can take six weeks, I think to register for grants.gov, you need to be registered in SAM. And so you're already looking at a two to three month window in advance of submission that you need to be working on it and if you're not already in that process, honestly, by- by the time you submit the letters of intent, you may not be able to make- especially because of holidays, you may not be able to get your grants.gov registration in place that would prevent you from applying.

J Joshua Brown 34:47

Similarly, not being familiar, you know getting all the parts and pieces together, knowing who in your organization needs to be able to sign certain documents can be a barrier. And it's not a barrier that we at NOAA can address. It's one that you- but that you need to be aware of. And so, I tried to highlight in- in these slides, some of those barriers, around registration, around missing deadlines, around sending things to the wrong place. Those are often the barriers to submission.

J Joshua Brown 35:34

And then barriers to success are things around the format of the application, missing key parts, or- or not really having your proposal target the evaluation criteria in a way that allows reviewers to give you a- an appropriate rating. These are the things that folks who do a lot of grants know, but that they are not necessarily completely obvious. And, and so laying- you know, that's our goal with this is to give you just- just to try and highlight some of those barriers and help you at least think about how you're going to overcome them.

A Amara Davis 36:34

Thank you, Joshua. The next question is, "If the region is applying for both a regional challenge grant and this grant, with different partners taking the lead on each one, is that a conflict?"

J Joshua Brown 36:46

No. I say no. 99% of the time, probably not. If you have a very specific example, please reach out to either me or the leads on the resilience regional challenge. And we can talk through it but 99% of time that shouldn't be a conflict.

Amara Davis 37:05

"Is there a degree level requirement for the PI on these?"

Joshua Brown 37:14

No. They need to demonstrate that they are qualified to lead the work. That could come in a range of forms, certainly doesn't need an advanced degree, or any degree specifically.

Amara Davis 37:37

"Roughly, how long should the letters of intent be?"

Joshua Brown 37:41

For this one, we limit it to three pages. The layout is, is pretty straightforward. They were going to be two pages, but we asked you to include a table of potential partners. So we gave you a third page to make that work. They don't need to be long. They just need to be enough that I can know that you're going to submit, roughly the kinds of topics you're using, and so that I can make sure I'm not asking people to review it, who are potentially going to be partners on your project.

Amara Davis 38:23

This one, I'm not sure if it's for the letter of intent or for the proposal, but it is, "What happens if applicant exceeds the page limits? Will the materials still be reviewed?"

Joshua Brown 38:37

So on the letter of intent, again, because there's no feedback, if you exceed the page limit, I will shake my head and be sad. So please don't exceed the plate- page limit. On a full proposal, we will redact anything after the page limit and allow it to be reviewed. But often that is not to your benefit, because you know, reviewers will see a stop in mid sentence kind of thing. So please be aware of those page limits. We do take them seriously. Yeah.

Amara Davis 39:26

"If there is more than one proposal from the same higher education institution are they reviewed independently or in comparison to one another?"

Joshua Brown 39:37

All proposals are reviewed independently. So whether they come from the same place or different places, they are reviewed against the evaluation criteria. Yeah, they're not reviewed against each other.

A Amara Davis 39:53

"If we propose a four year award period, do we have the entire four years for achieving employers' commitment to hire, and or promote a certain number of trained people?"

J Joshua Brown 40:06

I think the answer to that is yes. So, I will give an example. And if I get it wrong, then you can let us know in the chat. But let's say you have employers committed to hire 1000 workers over a four year period, you have the full four years to do that. And maybe in the first year, they're only hiring 100. And it increase- increases over the course of the- of time, that would be fine. Though we do prioritize projects that can start placing workers quickly. So in the first one to two years, but you do have the the whole period of the award to achieve the milestones you laid out.

A Amara Davis 41:10

"Are there instructions in the application for registering on sam- and gov dot grants-grants.gov?" Sorry.

J Joshua Brown 41:23

We included a section with a rough overflow at the end of the Notice of Funding Opportunity to help. However, the- those would be superseded by anything that you find on sam and grants.gov. If they've updated their instructions, since we wrote those, you know, follow the directions on their websites, and they do have those directions. But we did give you a very rough overview of what is involved. Just- just to try and give you as much help as as we could provide.

A Amara Davis 42:10

"Is the evaluation criteria document available to applicants?"

J Joshua Brown 42:18

Yes, it is in the Notice of Funding Opportunity, there is a section titled evaluation criteria, those are spelled out and they will not change. So you know, as you are applying what you will be evaluated against.

Amara Davis 42:36

"Is there a minimum number of trainees or hires that will be considered?"

Joshua Brown 42:54

We're, I think we put in the funding opportunity 50+, so we're looking for at least 50 over the course of the award. Obviously, I believe, I believe one of the evaluation criteria reflects, you know, the number of potential trainees and placements. So that is a factor. But, but 50 is kind of the floor.

Amara Davis 43:25

"Is worket placement a requirement of the proposed project, for example, does a termed apprenticeship qualify?"

Joshua Brown 43:38

Worker placement is required. And so I think a termed apprenticeship would constitute the training. And we would be looking for hires following the end of the term of the apprenticeship, so commitments to hire after that.

Amara Davis 43:54

All right, I think that that is our final question. For folks who are asking, I'm doing my best to respond in the chat. And also- sorry, we just got one more- Materials, including the recordings and the slides, plus the Notice of Funding Opportunity and other information regarding this opportunity are going to be available on our website as soon as we can get them up. That website is seagrant.noaa.gov/crw. It's on the slides right now, and that is where we'll be posting all of that information.

Amara Davis 44:37

We did get a couple of questions while I was speaking. So I'll go ahead and pass those on.

Amara Davis 44:43

"What role can Cooperative Extension faculty and staff/Sea Grant play in grants?"

Joshua Brown 44:51

What role can they play in grants?

A Amara Davis 44:54

Yes.

J Joshua Brown 44:58

That is a very broad question. The- the short answer- in these grants- Okay, in these grants. In grants in general they can play many roles. For for climate ready workforce we see extension, Cooperative Extension, Sea Grant, and others as key partners. They may serve as backbone organizations, they may be the convening organization, they may also be strategic partners who provide important scientific or social knowledge. They may bring folks to the table, they may help employers understand what's involved. There is, I think, a really important role for extension in this space. Because it crosses so many boundaries. And at the end of the day, the goal for this is to build a transboundary, I guess that's a multidisciplinary sort of partnership. It's going to cross sectors potentially, it's going to cross expertise lines, and extension generally has a real skill at doing that. So I think there are several roles I could imagine.

A Amara Davis 46:46

Alright, so, "For a smaller planning proposal, do we need to have formal commitments for job placement or just a defined pathway for job placement?"

J Joshua Brown 46:58

You will be evaluated on the strength of your commitments even in the planning stage. So it is in your- it's probably in your best interest to have as- as much employer buy in as possible even at the planning stage.

A Amara Davis 47:20

Okay, this next one is a request for elaboration. In terms of the work commitment piece. "Are there examples of public and private sector partners who are legally able to commit to something like this? I can see them making loose commitments to hire individuals that possess certain skills. But it seems much more challenging to commit to hiring X number of trainees who successfully completed a training program."

J Joshua Brown 47:47

Well, private sector organizations are perfectly able to commit themselves. Correct? Like they can, according to whatever rules of- of their company or organization can make commitments to the extent that they are able. Public sector, I think is- is maybe a little more nuanced, but we are aware of examples. For example, EDA, is good jobs challenge where public and private sector organizations made appropriate commitments and carried through with them.

A Amara Davis 48:33

"Is it correct that promotion of a trainee from their current hired position can count as part of the 50 or more minimum for persons trained and hired?"

J Joshua Brown 48:50

If it is a promotion from their current position to a new position? Yes.

A Amara Davis 48:54

"Do contract jobs work for job placement? For example, can trainees be hired for a one year contract?"

J Joshua Brown 49:06

So we will be tracking, in terms of success, worker placements after one year and after five years. So ideally, a good job if you go back to the good jobs principles we talked about in previous webinars, a good job includes some stability. I would leave it to the reviewers to determine whether a contract placement represented a- a good job in- consistent with those principles. I won't make that determination right now.

A Amara Davis 49:47

Right, I'll just give it a few more moments. If anyone has any final burning questions. We do have some things coming in? Oh, you're good. Here we go.

A Amara Davis 50:09

"Please elaborate on tracking for us hiring for how long?"

J Joshua Brown 50:14

We have been- we have been committed- we are- have committed to tracking for at least five years. So you- workers placed after one year and after five years is- is the numbers I think we're currently working with. And we will be working with recipients to make sure that that whatever tracking we do make sense for them.

A Amara Davis 50:46

"For further clarification is that five years after the grant ends or after the grant begins?"

Joshua Brown 50:58

I will say that my understanding is after the end of the award. So, but we are still in discussions about how we can best do that. So put that at a- like a 75% certainty.

Amara Davis 51:16

"As we are developing the regional partnership and beginning meetings to identify roles and responsibilities, can the backbone organization change after the letter of intent has been submitted?"

Joshua Brown 51:33

Yes. If that happens, please send us an email noting that to sg.grants.@noaa.gov so that we don't kick out the application, because it's coming from a different place. So you are allowed to do that. It, it does lead a little to a potential confusion on our end. So we just make sure we know that that is what happened. Otherwise, when I look at my spreadsheet of who's submitted letters of intent, and who submitted proposals, I might say, Oh, these folks aren't there.

Amara Davis 52:17

This might be a question that we'd need to get back to. But, "How does quality control of software tools- how is it maintained?"

Joshua Brown 52:31

I don't know that I understand that question in this context. We, if it's- if it's like, how do we make sure that the software that you're submitting grants through is maintained? We have-grants.gov, era and sam all have technical teams. If it's how good my spreadsheets are, I have colleagues who double check me. So I'm not sure, I would need more context. Feel free to send an email. And we'll try and clarify that.

Amara Davis 53:14

The clarification is "the end product to be used in NOAA day to day activities," I think.

Joshua Brown 53:21

Oh.

Amara Davis 53:23

Go ahead.

J Joshua Brown 53:24

Oh, so talking about the end products that would be put up on the climate resilience toolkit. We have a team of folks that work on that. We will work with anyone who submits that to make sure that it is QA/QC'd, upon submission. But it is the submitters responsibility to make sure it's in good shape.

A Amara Davis 53:58

Thank you for that.

J Joshua Brown 54:00

And thank you for thatclarification.

A Amara Davis 54:04

"Can a program applicant have other grants operating while they're applying or accepting this grant program? Especially from NOAA or NSF?"

J Joshua Brown 54:13

Yes, absolutely.

A Amara Davis 54:16

And, "Is there any flexibility to modify budget line items or the scope of work throughout the project performance period?"

J Joshua Brown 54:23

There is- there is some flexibility and you know, with it- with appropriate justifications.

A Amara Davis 54:34

Alright, folks, we have about five minutes left. If you have further questions, please do add them into the chat and as a reminder, this webinar, the recording for it, the materials for it, including the questions and the answers to them, will be available on the website seagrant.noaa.gov/crw.

J Joshua Brown 55:02

And again, while we we have this pause, I want to again thank Amara and Brooke for their technical support and Miss Grant and Miss Puzio for their fabulous translation services, it's a real value.

A Amara Davis 55:21

All right, I want to let you know that the audience has shared their thanks. And that this was very helpful. And I think that we are good to go. I don't see any more questions coming in. So thank you all for your attendance. Please do reach out if you have questions. And don't forget that these materials will be available on our website at seagrant.noaa.gov/crw.

J Joshua Brown 55:43

Thank you all for attending today. And great questions.