



**U.S. Department of the Interior
National Park Service
CESU Network National Office**



**U.S. Department of the Interior
Office of Environmental Policy and Compliance**

REQUEST FOR STATEMENTS OF INTEREST & QUALIFICATIONS

CFDA #: 15.945, Cooperative Research and Training Programs – Resources of the National Park System

PROJECT TITLE: Impact Assessment of DOI Natural and Cultural Resources Recovery Support Function under the National Disaster Recovery Framework

SUBMISSION DEADLINE: 11:59 PM EST, Thursday, 10 March 2016

Responses to this solicitation announcement will be used to identify potential investigators for a project funded by the National Park Service (NPS) to assess the impact of Natural and Cultural Resources Recovery Support Function activities following recent disaster events. The available funding for this project is \$30,000.

Background

The U.S. Department of the Interior (DOI) is the coordinating agency for the Natural and Cultural Resources (NCR) Recovery Support Function (RSF) under the National Disaster Recovery Framework (NDRF). The DOI Office of Environmental Policy and Compliance (OEPC), as the lead for the Department, has coordinated with DOI bureaus and NCR RSF major and supporting agencies to deploy many staff to the disaster areas to provide technical assistance to help affected states, tribes, and local communities recover natural and cultural resources impacted by wildfires in TX, Hurricane Isaac in LA, Superstorm Sandy in NY, NJ, and CT, floods in CO, floods in NM Santa Clara Pueblo, and mudslides in WA.

OEPC is seeking assistance in the assessment of the NCR RSF activities in terms of impacts to natural and cultural resources recovery and affected economies after recent major disasters. This information will aid OEPC and its partners better understand the impact and success of NCR RSF recovery efforts led by the Department and FEMA, characterize the Department's leadership role in protecting the nation's natural and cultural resources and the environment, and provide valuable case studies to inform planning and improve the performance of future disaster recovery operations under the NCR RSF and other allied efforts.

Description of Essential Project Elements

- A. Collaborate with OEPC staff, local/regional NCR RSF personnel, agency managers/staff, planners, and community representatives to summarize NCR RSF activities associated with recent disaster events and identify key areas of analysis relative to the impact of NCR RSF activities.
- B. Develop and implement a study design for the assessment of key aspects of NCR RSF activities, as outlined under the NDRF, including (but not limited to) the following: natural and cultural resource damage assessments; identification of states, tribal, and local recovery priorities and projects; development of recovery support strategies; provision of technical and funding assistance; and webinars and workshops to promote planning and preparedness, sharing of best practices, and approaches for rebuilding sustainable and resilient communities.

- C. Evaluate effectiveness of the NCR RSF activities associated with recent disaster events, including:
 - Characterizing the impact of NCR RSF activities toward the recovery of natural and cultural resources for affected states, tribes, and local communities.
 - Characterizing the economic impact of NCR RSF activities to economies of affected states, tribes, and local communities.
- D. Develop/Revise evaluation methodology for periodic assessment of the impact of future NCR RSF activities.
- E. Provide summary documentation of project activities, including:
 - Report detailing all activities conducted for each project element, including description of methods, analysis, and discussion of findings.
 - Primary and secondary data, and analysis outputs from the project to serve as baseline for subsequent (e.g., periodic) assessment actions.
 - Public communication and outreach materials related to this effort.
 - Recommendations based on findings to inform future program planning and implementation.

Statement of Interest and Capabilities Guidelines

Submissions must be no more than four pages (12 pt, single spaced) and include the following:

- A. Principal investigator(s) with full contact information, including: name, title, organization, address, phone, email, and CESU affiliation.
- B. Brief Statement of Qualifications, including:
 1. Biographical Sketches for principal investigator(s) and other key personnel if any (e.g., faculty, staff, students, partners) to be involved with the project, including areas of expertise. (NOTE: Full curriculum vitae for project personnel may be included in addition to the Statement of Interest and Qualifications).
 2. List of relevant past projects and clients, with brief descriptions of these projects. Highlight any relevant NPS or other DOI Bureau projects that the investigator has been involved in and professional publications and/or technical reports related to the essential activities of this project.
 3. Brief summary description of capabilities and related actions you envision necessary to successfully complete the project as described above. You may wish to include specific technical expertise (e.g., NRDF), data collection and analysis methods, access to data or relevant equipment, location-specific knowledge, etc.

Note: A detailed project proposal with timeline and budget are NOT requested at this time.

Statements of Interest and Qualifications will be evaluated based on the specific experience and capabilities related to the essential project elements as described above. Based on a review of submissions received, an investigator(s) will be selected to jointly prepare a full study proposal and formal agreement with NPS and OEPC.

Submit Statements of Interest and Capabilities, and any related inquiries, by email attachment to both:

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