



FY 17-18 Climate Change Research Program Solicitation FAQ #2

This Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) document represents key information and inquiry responses provided to potential research proposers for the FY 2017-2018 funding round of the Strategic Growth Council’s (SGC) Climate Change Research Program. The questions and answers published below provide clarification and additional detail on the FY 2017-2018 Climate Change Research Program Solicitation and application process. An FAQ responding to earlier questions related to the program was released on March 23, and can be accessed via [SGC’s website](#).

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Eligibility Information

Are researchers outside of California eligible to be Co-Principal Investigators?

Principal Investigators must be affiliated with a California-based research institution that is eligible to be a lead applicant (see page 6 of the Solicitation); however, senior personnel and others may be from out of State.

Can sub-recipients be located outside of the US?

Organizations outside of the country can be sub-recipients who are paid from the project budget. Of course, this can only be an eligible cost if the lead applicants approve payment to this entity.

Must the Principal Investigator (PI) also serve as the "Project Manager" as defined in the Glossary, pg. A-2? Or can the Project Manager be a Co-PI or other individual from one of the other Partner organizations?

The State does not have requirements or restrictions regarding the delegation of duties within a proposal, as long as the proposal complies with the guidelines identified in the program solicitation. The PI does not need to serve as the Project Manager for the proposed research. A separate individual may be assigned to manage larger projects in order to perform duties such as ensuring coordination, measuring progress and composing status reports. Determining the specific individual and institution providing management duties is the responsibility of the Lead Applicant, as they are liable for the resulting work and for submitting eligible costs for reimbursement. In addition to receiving approval from the department/division of the PI, the proposer should make sure that the institution's Research Office approves of all designated personnel. Please note that all requests for reimbursement must be submitted by the lead applicant. We are unable to directly reimburse partners or sub-recipients for completed work.

Is there a limitation to the number of co-investigators we may have in a proposal?

No.



Proposal Information and Submission Instructions

Submission Questionnaire

Sections I and II of the Project Questionnaire do not seem applicable to my research, do I need to fill them in anyway?

Sections I and II of the questionnaire (Applicant Information and Project Information) are required by the application system, but will not be used by SGC to evaluate submissions. Please only respond to the required questions in these sections. Regarding longitude/latitude, you can put information in for your campus or lab. There is no need to identify the locations where research tasks will be carried out.

Should all the questions in Sections I and II of the questionnaire be filled out, or only the mandatory ones?

Only the mandatory questions in these sections should be filled out. Optional questions can be

For the submission questionnaire, the solicitation provides character limits that are different than what is provided in GRanTS. Which one should we go with?

The character limits on the GRanTS site is correct.

Do character limitations include spaces?

Yes.

Who should the Point of Contact be?

This refers to the person who should be called if clarification is needed during the review process. It can be the Principal Investigator, or in cases of larger proposals, might be the proposed project manager.

Project Budget

Where can I find the budget template?

An editable budget template can be found on [SGC's website](#). Applicants are welcome to modify this template to fit their needs. If your institution uses a budget template for State contracts and grants, you may use that document to document the project budget – as long as it contains the level of information identified in the solicitation.

Could you please clarify if the indirect cost rate refers to Modified Total Direct costs or Total Direct Costs?



The Indirect Cost Rate refers to Modified Total Direct costs.

Can ineligible costs be covered under subcontracts?

If a cost is considered unallowable for the applicant that same cost may not be reimbursed for a sub-recipient or partner effort.

Can sub-recipient have a ‘fully loaded’ rate (not subject to the indirect cap or using their own internal methodology for calculating rates?)

The State has not put restrictions on loaded rates for sub-recipients; as long as those rates do not include a profit rate that is greater than 10%. Saying that, the rates would be subject to approval by the lead applicant institution and their internal rules. Also, I would note that cost effectiveness is one of the criteria listed in the programmatic review. The time or percentage of the budget for partners and sub-recipients would also be determined by the lead applicant rules or limitation.

Column 1 of the Budget Template, shows July 2017 – June 2018, but our project does not start until September 2018. Should I change the dates to reflect the dates of the project?

Proposers may modify the template by removing a column or changing the start/end dates for each year.

Is cost-sharing between two proposals allowed?

It is fine to include cost sharing as part of the project – as long as the applicant and partners do not make a profit from the proposed project.

Scope of Work

Can you clarify the deadline for when all research must be completed?

Researchers can propose conducting research until June 30, 2021. The June 30, 2019 deadline is the time during which the SGC can execute a contract to distribute the allocated funds.

The Solicitation says that funded projects should start no later than December 1, 2018.

Would it be acceptable to indicate an earlier start date?

You may set the start date as early as September 1, 2018, understanding that the date may need to be pushed back based on the award’s execution date. We want to allow researchers to include fall fees for graduate students, and will work closely with grantees to execute the agreements in a timely manner.



Biographical Sketches and Partnership Overview

How should the biographical sketches and Collaborators and Other Affiliations documents files should be uploaded to GRanTS? Should there just be one cumulative file or separate files per person?

If possible, please combine the biographical sketches into one PDF file. If you created a separate Collaborators and Other Affiliations document, you may download that as a separate PDF file.

Is there a template for the Scope of Work, Partnership Overview and/or Quality Assurance Statement or Data Management Plan?

We do not provide templates for these documents so that researchers can develop and format support documents that help to demonstrate the vision and objectives of the research.

For the CVs of senior personnel – if the individual does not have publications, patents, copyrights or software systems, are conference presentations appropriate to list in this section instead?

We are flexible on this. As long as the biographical sketch is two pages or less in length, we will allow the proposer to determine what is the most pertinent information for evaluators to understand about the team that will be conducting proposed research.

Letters of Support

The SGC Solicitation allows for up to seven Letters of Support, but the GRanTS system only allows a maximum of 5.

Please combine all of the letters into one PDF file and upload them all at once.

Are Letters of Support required for research projects if only one institution is participating on the project?

All proposals must include at least one Letter of Support. The letter can be provided from a traditional researcher, a stakeholder or beneficiary of the work. See the instructions on page 12 of the program's Grant Solicitation (Letters of Support) for more details.

Are State Agencies allowed to provide support letters?

In order to avoid conflicts of interest in proposal review and award decisions, State agencies are not eligible to provide letters of support or general statements endorsing research applicants or proposals. Also, departments cannot be an official partner or supporter of research proposals. However, during the post-award phase of this program the SGC will work with grant awardees to identify and assemble State agencies and departments with an interest in specific research



projects. The SGC intends to build a collaborative support system with its member agencies that provides awarded research projects with data, information, input, advice, feedback and technical assistance requested by a PI to conduct research, address research questions, ensure meaningful engagement with stakeholders, and fully consider the potential policy outcomes of the research.

Can Letters of Support come from sub-recipients?

Yes.

Who should letters of support for Climate Change Research proposals be addressed to?

Letters of support for a research project should be addressed to the Principal Investigator. SGC only accept letters of support as part of a research proposal submission.