

MATERIALS MANAGEMENT INFRASTRUCTURE (MMI) GRANT PROGRAM

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS – FINAL ADDENDUM – 11/21/24

Q: Is wood processing equipment eligible under the MMI Grant program?

A: No, wood processing equipment is not an eligible expense under this grant.

Q: We plan to partially fund countertop food waste bins and bags, as well as host an informational session for residents in order to facilitate this change. Would these expenses be considered eligible for the purposes of this project?

A: Items such as household collection containers and bags would not be eligible for funding under the MMI grant.

Q: Are specialized trucks for food waste pickup covered under the grant?

A: Yes, specialized trucks for food waste pick up would be covered by the MMI Grant program.

Q: Would you be able to clarify, is the award date the date of notice, or contract execution? Is there an estimated contract execution date/month? I understand that this may also be project dependent, but it would be very helpful in speaking to our timeline.

A: The date of January 17, 2025 would be the announcement of award date, not contract execution. Formal contract execution date is hard to estimate right now, as those will likely be project-specific and will depend upon whether a proposed project requires review through the CEPA process.

Q: We are potentially submitting an MMI application to support a residential electric food waste recycling program. We would be looking to purchase 500 FoodCycler Eco 3 machines, and provide them at no cost to residents who opt into the pilot. Would the purchase of these machines be eligible under this program? Further, what type of data do you think would be required for reporting? We could always collect data pertaining to demographics of those who opt in and the amount of waste diverted, but is there anything specific you would recommend?

A: Items such as countertop recycling appliances would not be eligible for funding under the MMI grant. The specific data required for reporting will be worked out as part of the drafting of a formal contract with Scope of Services after grant awards are announced.

Q: We are preparing an application for the MMI Grant and the finance department wants to know the length of the grant. From the informational session and the posted questions and answers, my guess is that the length of the grant is determined by the time it will take to put in place the infrastructure. In other words, it is dependent on the project. If you can answer this question, is that correct?

A: Yes, the grant length will be largely determined by the unique characteristics of each project that receives a grant award, particularly if the project triggers a review process through CEPA.

Q: Is there a match contemplated?

A: No.

Q: Would the purchase of a baler and stationary compactor be an appropriate request for this grant?

A: Yes, these items would be eligible under the MMI Grant program.

Q: My question regarding the funding award is aimed to understand when funding can begin to be spent in order to qualify for reimbursement. Would it be following the award date, or following contract execution? Since we are looking to potentially purchase a piece of land we'd like to be able to communicate expectations to the seller when they would be able to expect payment since the process of contracting typically takes several months.

A: In order to qualify for reimbursement, funding cannot be spent prior to contract execution. So the date of contract execution would be when an awardee could start expending funds that would be eligible for reimbursement.

Q: How does the department define a "short timeframe" (p. 1 of RFA)?

A: While the department does not have a hard and fast definition of "short timeframe," a 12 to 18 month period would be a good estimate to use as representing a short timeframe.

Q: Is organics hauling for food scrap recycling covered under the grant?

A: Hauling or disposal costs are generally not eligible for funding under the MMI Grant.

Q: Can you please define "level of site control"?

A: "Level of Site Control" simply refers to whether an applicant owns a property outright, has a lease for a property for some determined period of time, or has a property use agreement for specific purposes.

Q: Are permanent programs favored over pilots?

A: Proposed infrastructure projects that would support permanent programs are likely to receive more points than those infrastructure components designed for pilot projects. It should be stressed, however, that the MMI Grant program is NOT intended to fund the operations of a permanent or pilot program; rather, the funding is designed to develop and deploy infrastructure assets that SUPPORT waste reduction/diversion programs.

Q: Would any outreach material, such as posters, street signs, flyers, videos and mailings, that support the project be eligible?

A: These items would not be eligible under the MMI Grant program.

Q: Can you confirm that there is no set format in writing the grant proposal? There is information about the application in the RFA, but no indication of format.

A: There's no formal application for the MMI Grant, just the submission of a written proposal with supporting documentation as necessary in compliance with Section 3.1 of the RFA.

Q: Can MMI grant funds be utilized to purchase property for the relocation of public works materials in order to free up space at the existing transfer station for additional waste management activities?

A: As this action is not directly related to the enhancement or expansion of waste management infrastructure, it would not be eligible for funding under this grant program.

Q: Would the purchase of property to expand existing landfill capacity be eligible for MMI Grant funds?

A: While the use of MMI funds for this purpose would technically be eligible, one needs to consider that landfilling is the least desirable waste disposal option under the State's waste management hierarchy, and a proposal such as this would likely score significantly lower than other proposals.