**STATE OF MAINE REQUEST FOR APPLICATIONs**

**RFA SUBMITTED QUESTIONS & ANSWERS SUMMARY**

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| **RFA NUMBER AND TITLE:** | RFA# 202304080 – Grant Funding for the Establishment of PFAS Laboratories in Maine |
| **RFA ISSUED BY:** | Environmental Protection |
| **SUBMITTED QUESTIONS DUE DATE:** | May 5, 2023, no later than 11:59 p.m., local time |
| **QUESTION & ANSWER SUMMARY ISSUED:** | May 10, 2023 |
| **PROPOSAL DUE DATE:** | May 26, 2023, no later than 11:59 p.m., local time |
| **PROPOSALS DUE TO:** | Proposals@maine.gov |

**Provided below are submitted written questions received and the Department’s answer.**

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| **1** | **RFA Section & Page Number** | **Question** |
| B2 Page 1 | Do we need to be an MLAP certified laboratory to qualify for this funding? |
| **Answer** |
| Yes, the laboratory must already participate in the Maine Laboratory Accreditation program to be eligible for this funding. |

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| **2** | **RFA Section & Page Number** | **Question** |
|  | Do we need to already be testing PFAS currently to be qualified for this funding? |
| **Answer** |
| No. This funding is to increase the capacity of PFAS analytical testing for Maine samples. |

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| **3** | **RFA Section & Page Number** | **Question** |
| Eligibility 2 Page 10 | Do we need to be testing for Organic compounds within the MLAP program currently, or do other NON-MLAP accredited organic compound tests qualify? |
| **Answer** |
| Other non-Maine Laboratory Accredited organic compound tests qualify. |

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| **4** | **RFA Section & Page Number** | **Question** |
| Eligibility 3 Page 10 | Do we need to have already been sending EDD’s to the state, or do we just need to have the ability to do this in the future? |
| **Answer** |
| The lab does not need to have already been sending EDDs in the current format to the State, but must submit a report and corresponding EGAD EDD for an Organic analysis performed at the laboratory as part of the RFA submission. This report may be for Organic analyses performed for another entity. |

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| **5** | **RFA Section & Page Number** | **Question** |
| Page 3 | P3. Activities and requirements:  talks about providing service with special pricing for the State of Maine, other State Agencies, and in-state homeowners.  Is this in reference to other state agencies and homeowners involved in testing for this RFA (program) or ALL state agencies and in-state homeowners, even if they are existing clients or new clients not affiliated with this state program? |
| **Answer** |
| The special pricing applies to all PFAS samples that originate in the State of Maine including all State of Maine Departments and in-state homeowners. It does not apply to PFAS samples analyzed for consultants, Responsible Parties, etc. |

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| **6** | **RFA Section & Page Number** | **Question** |
| Page 3 | P3. Terms and conditions, bullet 5:  “The lab may not subcontract in-state PFAS samples to another laboratory.”  Does this only pertain to samples submitted through this program?  If not, will the lab be allowed sufficient time to ramp up operations in order to meet that lab’s current demand using its own funds for additional instrument(s) and personnel not funded by this RFA?  |
| **Answer** |
| The lab may not subcontract in-state PFAS samples from a State of Maine Department or in-state homeowners. Priority must be given for samples originating in the State of Maine. If awarded through this RFA, the lab will need to comply with the schedule proposed in their application. |

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| **7** | **RFA Section & Page Number** | **Question** |
| Page 3 | Will the lab be allowed to subcontract due to unforeseen circumstances that make it impossible to run them in house as long as the lab prioritizes running Maine samples first over other State’s samples? |
| **Answer** |
| The requirement is that subcontracting of Maine samples is not allowed. This requirement may be waived on a case by case basis in the best interest of the State of Maine. |

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| **8** | **RFA Section & Page Number** | **Question** |
| Eligibility 3 Page 10 | Is the requirement to submit a separate Excel spreadsheet in the EDD format or should this be converted into a pdf along with the Level 2 report as part of the full grant application? |
| **Answer** |
| The EDD should be submitted in an Excel spreadsheet so we can upload to our test database to see if it meets specifications. |

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| **9** | **RFA Section & Page Number** | **Question** |
| Eligibility 3 Page 10 | Should this EDD spreadsheet and the level 2 report also be submitted to dep.edd@maine.gov or is including it in the application sufficient to meet eligibility requirement B.4. |
| **Answer** |
| For the RFA submittal, the EDD and level 2 report should not be submitted to dep.edd@maine.gov. These items should only be submitted with the application. |