



Request for Proposal

Responses Due: 5:00pm ET Friday, 23-JUL-2021 to lmcfadden@wef.org

Water and Wastewater Systems Sector cross-sector training for preventing and controlling emerging and re-emerging infectious disease threats

The Water Environment Federation (WEF) is inviting letter proposals for providing in-person instruction and workshop moderation to increase the understanding of Water and Wastewater Systems Sector interdependencies, as well as wastewater-based epidemiology (WBE) efforts for relevant stakeholder groups throughout the US.

1 Background

Sustained cross-sector partnerships that are aligned with critical infrastructure protection capabilities and are coordinated with federal, state, and local emergency response protocols, can advance the prevention of, protection from, and especially the response to and recovery from a natural or manmade incident. Currently, these partnerships are not widespread, particularly regarding the engagement of the water sector. Under the National Infrastructure Protection Plan (NIPP), the water sector is one of 16 federally identified critical infrastructures and provides services essential to public health protection.

The primary objective of these workshops is to increase understanding of Water and Wastewater Systems Sector interdependencies, as well as wastewater-based epidemiology (WBE) efforts for relevant stakeholder groups throughout the US. A secondary objective is to increase the awareness among representatives from the Healthcare and Public Health Sector, as well as the Emergency Services Sector about their water interdependencies. As a result, these sectors should be better equipped in building sustained, resilient local and regional partnerships across these critical infrastructures.

The primary target audience for the workshop is executives, managers, and operators of water sector utilities from all size utilities, urban and rural, publicly or privately owned. In addition, practitioners in the Healthcare and Public Health Sector, as well as the Emergency Services Sector are targeted since these sectors are interdependent with the water sector and will benefit from awareness and WBE training.

2 Scope of Work

WEF will be rolling out in-person training beginning 01-AUG-2021 and it is anticipated that the contractor will perform the following tasks:

- Provide training and moderation for four (4) in-person utility workshops
- Work with WEF to disseminate and publicize the trainings
- Provide training summary notes to WEF

The work of the selected contractor will be guided by WEF staff working on the project.

3 Contractor Attributes

The contractor needs to bring the following to the project:

- Understanding of Water and Wastewater Systems Sector interdependencies;
- Understanding of Healthcare and Public Health Sector interdependencies;
- Understanding of wastewater-based epidemiology; and
- Experience in training and moderation of workshops.

4 Budget and Proposal Evaluation

The budget for this technical assistance effort is \$20,000. This is a not-to-exceed amount that must cover all salary, overhead, travel costs, and other expenses. The proposal evaluation criteria will include project approach, qualifications and experience of contractor, demonstrated understanding of project issues, and cost effectiveness.

5 Proposal Submittal/ Additional Information

Individuals or firms with an interest in this work should submit a proposal that includes a description of the proposed technical approach, qualifications and experience, and a detailed cost proposal. The proposal should be no more than five (5) pages in length (not including resumes of key project personnel) and should be submitted to Lisa McFadden, Director, Water Science & Engineering Center (lmcfadden@wef.org), no later than 5:00 PM ET on 23-JUL-2021. Questions can be directed to the e-mail above or by calling (703) 684-2400 x7060.