

Request for Proposals
Safe Children's Product Testing

Questions and Answers

Q1: What is the expected start time for the project? It seems that the time when the majority of child product purchases occur is during the holiday season. Can we award the grant in time for the 2009 holiday season?

A1: This testing award will be made 6 weeks from the date proposals are due – so by end of August/beginning of September.

Q1a: Do you anticipate a lengthy process to finalize the project and the terms of the contract after you have awarded the grant?

A1a: No – our process typically takes 3 weeks. We are typically pretty efficient with the finalization of contracts.

(NB: Grant start dates can be the date of grant notification if necessary. It does take PHI approximately 3 weeks to move the grant agreements through the system and make the first payment.)

Q2: Is there guidance on the type of toys that will be tested? What classifications or matrices? Paint on toys, plastic toys, etc. Is the intent of the RFP to group these toys?

A2: First, this RFP covers children's products, including toys. The RFP does not provide guidance on the type of toy but it suggests that the grantee may narrow the type of product down in some manner. The grantee may decide to use the grant to investigate a certain type of toy or child product. The project can look at whether there is a classification you could focus on that you think consumers would benefit from being tested.

Q3: Is there any break down or indication of amount to spend on equipment or supplies?

A3: Yes – on page 4 in the RFP in budget and justification section – it states that equipment over \$500 needs to be mentioned, anything under does not.

“Line items for all personnel, fringe benefits, operating expenses, consultants and subcontractors, travel, equipment over \$500, and materials/supplies”

We always expect a reasonable amount be applied to equipment. I think it will be difficult to spend budget funds on equipment and provide a reasonable program on testing. I would think a successful proposal organization would have the equipment already or have access through a partner or collaborating organization.

Q3a: Are you looking for quick and efficient and low cost method of testing in the field? So would we be purchasing field portable equipment? For example a portable XRF costs \$56k or half the grant. So I would imagine the funds would be spent on more simple techniques to determine lead content.

A3a: We can guarantee that if you are asking for \$56k for XRF equipment you won't get the grant.

Q3b: I'm just trying to determine what you expect is possible for \$100k.

A3b: We would not fund purchase of expensive equipment. However “rental” cost of the XRF equipment from a partner or your own organization is an acceptable cost. We understand that organizations that have this equipment are probably using them for program purposes and each program has a budget under which the equipment is paid for.

Additionally, the RFP notes that lead swab tests are as acceptable as XRF devices. Both methods will be useful in obtaining information that will enable the Attorney General to determine which products need to be sent to the lab for further analysis. There may be other acceptable methods as well. The form that will be made available – and approved by the Attorney General – will have a place to indicate what type of testing was used. The cost of the swabs would be an acceptable budget item as well.

Q4: There are 2 different sections of funding available – one for outreach and one for testing. Total available is \$100k?

A4: No - \$100k for testing and \$70k each for 3 outreach grants.

In the course of outreach we have mentioned that grantees could use testing to attract people to events but that testing would not be the main activity under the outreach grants.