

Frequently Asked Questions for PFAS Exposure Assessment Technical Tools (PEATT): State Implementation and Feedback Pilot Grants RFA

Q: Will the RFA deadline be extended?

A: The RFA deadline has been extended from January 5, 2018 to January 19, 2018. Selected states will now be notified on January 26, 2018.

Q: Is there any leeway in the eligibility criteria requiring sites to be associated with current or former DoD sites?

A: The initial ASTHO RFA to implement and evaluate the PEATT indicated that only sites associated with current and former DoD sites were eligible to apply. The majority of PFAS sites that ATSDR supports are associated with current or former DoD sites. We recognize non-DoD associated sites also present unique opportunities to implement and evaluate the PEATT. In response to concerns expressed on the 12/15/17 Interested Applicants Call, ASTHO & ATSDR are revising the eligibility criteria. We have decided to **remove** the eligibility criteria requiring the site be associated with a current or former DoD site. However, we have added a **new scoring consideration** to the selection criteria for sites that are associated with a current or former DoD site.

The eligibility criteria now reads as follows:

To be eligible for this grant, the applicant must:

- Be a S/THA planning to implement or currently implementing all six of the PEATT's various components designed to facilitate PFAS biomonitoring activities and public outreach associated with biomonitoring and health risks of PFAS exposure, with the assumption that drinking water is the main source of PFAS exposure. These are described above and in the PEATT document.
- Demonstrate PFAS contamination in municipal water systems (not private wells).
- Have access to a state or private lab that has the capacity for PFAS biomonitoring analyses (letter of support from the lab is required).
- Propose a project that is reasonable in scope and implements the six components of the PEATT.
- Be willing to share resources and lessons learned with ASTHO, CDC, ATSDR, and other S/THAs across the country.
- Agree to fulfill all expectations for participation.

The selection criteria now reads as follows:

Each application will be reviewed and scored by a panel consisting of ASTHO staff and CDC/ATSDR personnel. The scores from each section will be combined into a final score, with the maximum score being 100 points. Proposals and applications will be scored on the following criteria:

- Completeness (includes Parts I - IV of the Application Procedure).
- Goals and objectives proposed.
- Impacted site is associated with a current or former DoD site.
- Demonstrated PFAS exposure burden from municipal water systems, as measured by:
 - High magnitude of exposure
 - Long durations of exposure
 - Wide range of exposure

- Appropriate budget request.
- Work plan, including activities, timeline, goals, and milestones.
- Evidence of commitment to implement and evaluate the PEATT.

Please note: The PFAS exposure burden criteria and the DoD association criteria will be weighted more heavily than the other selection criteria. However, it should be noted that even though they will be weighted more heavily than other criteria, the PFAS exposure burden criteria and DoD association criteria will carry equal weight when compared with each other.

States are encouraged to satisfy both criteria (as well as the other listed criteria) in order to have the most competitive application possible.

Q: How do you define the PFAS exposure burden?

A:

- A higher magnitude of exposure is defined as exposures measured at concentrations above state or federal drinking water standards.
- A longer duration of exposure is defined as exposures lasting more than 10 years.
- A wider range of exposure is defined as exposures than range(d) from below the limit of detection to higher concentrations (i.e. above state or federal drinking water standards)

Q: Has CDC/ATSDR considered if a portion of the analysis could be done at the CDC Environmental Health Lab, which would extend the sampling capabilities?

A: The CDC Environmental Health Lab will not be able to run samples as part of this project. We encourage applicants to submit budgets that reflect the costs associated with implementing the PEATT up to the \$350,000 ceiling.

Q: Does the partner lab need to be CLIA Certified?

A: Yes, participating labs need to have a CLIA certification.

Q: Do grantees need to do environmental sampling even if the exposure was in the past?

A: Sampling at the point of exposure is preferred. If a community's exposure occurred the past and has been mitigated, the state will need to provide evidence of environmental sampling from a period of time when exposure occurred.

Q: Can states with qualified labs work with projects from another state?

A: Yes, states with a qualified lab can work with another state applicant. As stipulated in the RFA, a letter of support from the qualifying labs (either within your state or in another state) should be included in the application.

States interested in making their state's lab(s) services available can email nporter@astho.org. Those labs will be listed online where the RFA application is posted.

Q: Are there any application components that do not apply to the 10 page application package limit?

A: CV's, letters of support, and relevant laboratory methods do not count towards the 10 page application package limit. Please include supporting reports and other data as web links within those 10

pages. While links are preferred, ASTHO will consider other supporting information if web links are not available.

Q: Can other entities or agencies (i.e. not the State/Territorial Health Agency) apply for the funding and work closely with the Health Department to execute the project?

A: Yes, another entity or agency may apply for the funds acting as a bona-fide agent of the State/Territorial Health Agency (S/THA). The applicant must describe how it will work in concert with the S/THA. The applicant must submit a letter of support from the health department/agency leadership certifying that they are a bona-fide agent of the health department/agency. Bona-fide agents can include (but are not limited to) other state agencies (including laboratories) or universities. Please contact ASTHO at nporter@astho.org if you are unsure whether a specific entity can serve as a bona-fide agent of the S/THA.

Additional Information

Nicholas Porter
Analyst, Environmental Health
Association of State and Territorial Health Officials (ASTHO)
2231 Crystal Drive, Suite 450
Arlington, VA 22202
571-318-5491
nporter@astho.org