Land and Water Conservation Fund State and Local Assistance Program
FY 2016 Outdoor Recreation Legacy Partnership Program
Funding Opportunity Announcement

Summary Information

- **Federal Awarding Agency Name:** State and Local Assistance Division, National Park Service, U.S. Department of the Interior

- **Funding Opportunity Title:** FY2016 Outdoor Recreation Legacy Partnership Program

- **Announcement Type:** Initial

- **Funding Opportunity Number:** P16AS00065

- **Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance Number:** 15.916, Outdoor Recreation Acquisition, Development, and Planning

- **Key Dates:** Pre-applications from the State Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) lead agencies are due to the National Park Service (NPS) via Grants.gov by 10pm EDT on Friday, May 20, 2016. We expect that the lead agencies will establish earlier deadlines for project sponsors to submit their proposals for review and consideration for nomination to the national competition. We anticipate that preliminary selection of projects will occur by September 30, with final applications due between October 1 and December 31, 2016, and actual award of grants between January 1 and March 31, 2017.

- **Executive Summary.** Eligible U.S. state and local government agencies and federally-recognized Indian Tribes are advised that the NPS State and Local Assistance Division is soliciting project proposals to be considered for acquisition and development grants worth from $250,000 to $750,000 each, and planning grants worth up to $75,000 each, from an available total of up to $15 million in nationally-competitive grant funding from the LWCF (i.e., 20 to 60 grants). The main competition is targeting projects that would acquire and/or develop public land for outdoor recreation purposes located within or serving jurisdictions delineated by the Census Bureau from the 2010 Census as "urbanized areas," that is, areas with populations of 50,000 or more people and consisting of densely settled territory. In addition, with a couple of exceptions the project sponsor must also represent a jurisdiction of 50,000 or more people. The competition will prioritize projects located in or directly accessible to neighborhoods or communities that are underserved in terms of parks and recreation resources and where there are significant populations of people who are economically disadvantaged, minority, and/or youth. Further, there is a new pilot planning grant program mini-competition, which will fund special studies to help guide park and recreation investment to where it is needed most in these urbanized areas, consistent with the overall goals of the ORLP and Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plans. Grants require a minimum of 1:1 match from state, local, or private sources. The program authorities are 54 USC 200305 and P.L. 113-76, Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2014.

FULL TEXT OF ANNOUNCEMENT

A. Program Description

The Funding Opportunity Announcement (FOA) is to advise States, local units of government, and federally-recognized Indian Tribes of the availability of funds for grants from the Land and Water Conservation Fund's (LWCF) Outdoor Recreation Legacy Partnership (ORLP) Program. The purpose of the LWCF ORLP is to provide grants to acquire and/or develop public lands for outdoor recreation purposes consistent with the LWCF, but specifically targeting projects located within or serving jurisdictions delineated by the Census Bureau from the 2010 Census as urbanized areas, that is, areas with a population of 50,000 or more people and consisting of densely settled territory. Further, specifically targeting projects located in or directly accessible to neighborhoods or communities that are underserved in terms of parks and recreation resources and where there are significant populations of people who are economically disadvantaged, minority, and/or youth.

Background on LWCF: The LWCF State and Local Assistance Program was created by the Congress in 1964 to assist in preserving, developing and assuring accessibility to present and future generations of U.S. citizens and visitors "such quality and quantity of outdoor recreation resources as may be available and are necessary and desirable for individual active participation in such recreation and to strengthen the health and vitality of the citizens of the United States…." This is accomplished in part by authorizing and providing grants to States, and through States to local units of government and federally-recognized Indian tribes, for projects that will provide outdoor recreation opportunities to the public through the acquisition of lands and waters for parks and other outdoor recreation areas, as well as through the development of new or renovation of existing outdoor recreation facilities.

Acquisition of land may be in fee simple or a lesser interest (e.g., a perpetual easement) as long as public access is provided. On the development side, LWCF assistance is available for a wide range of outdoor recreation uses and the facilities needed to support the use and enjoyment of these areas. This includes things like parks, sports and other playing fields, picnic areas, and water-based recreation facilities such as swimming pools, trails, campgrounds, boating facilities, etc. Certain kinds of support facilities, such as restrooms, may also be eligible. For either project type, to be eligible the project must be located on public land and the project sponsor must possess sufficient legal title and control of the property to be assisted to ensure that it can be managed and maintained for outdoor recreation in perpetuity and otherwise remain compliant with the anti-conversion provisions of the LWCF Act (see 54 USC 200305(f)(3)). Outdoor recreation areas and facilities assisted by the LWCF must be open to the general public and not limited to special groups. Chapter 3 of the LWCF Manual describes project eligibility requirements in detail.

The LWCF State and Local Assistance program is operated by the National Park Service (NPS) in partnership with designated lead agencies in each of the 50 States as well as American Samoa, the District of Columbia, Guam, Northern Marianas Islands, Puerto Rico, and the Virgin Islands. Each fiscal year Congress appropriates money from the LWCF for this program, which traditionally is in turn allocated to the States based on a legislative formula. (A separate announcement – P16AS00015 – is posted on Grants.gov for the formula program.)

To be eligible for LWCF grants, States must prepare and the NPS must approve a Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP). Among other things, SCORPs are used to assess the supply and demand for outdoor recreation resources and set priorities for the use of LWCF funds. A State must maintain an active SCORP at all times, as well as update them at least once every 5 years, although they may do so more frequently.

Background on the LWCF ORLP Program: In P.L. 113-76, Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2014, Congress appropriated a supplemental amount from the LWCF ($3 million) designated for a new nationally competitive grant program to be developed by the NPS. The NPS created the LWCF ORLP in response. The program operates within the context of the traditional LWCF Program, but focuses on projects that will benefit urban areas.

Similar to the inaugural ORLP competition in FY2014, this competition round will target projects that will create or reinvigorate parks and other outdoor recreation spaces located in Census-delineated urbanized areas. (Note that American Samoa, Guam, the Northern Marianas Islands, and the Virgin Islands do not have any such areas.) Further, the NPS will prioritize the selection of projects that will: directly connect people to outdoor places, particularly in communities that are underserved* in terms of parks and other outdoor recreation areas and have significant numbers of individuals who are economically disadvantaged, minority, and/or youth; engage and empower members of the affected community in the development of the project; involve and expand public-private partnerships, particularly to provide for the leveraging of resources; and rely on a high degree of coordination among the public, multiple levels of government, and the private sector, to improve recreation opportunities for all. In addition to the competition objectives, selected projects must advance goals of or otherwise meet priority recreation needs identified in their State's SCORP.

* For the purposes of this competition, "underserved communities" should be considered as those with: (1) no existing parks; (2) some parks but not enough to support the size of the population or otherwise satisfy existing recreational demand; or (3) some existing parks (potentially even an adequate number of parks) that are so deteriorated/obsolete or underdeveloped that redevelopment or rehabilitation would have a significant impact in terms of increasing the number of people who could be served and/or increasing the recreational opportunities that could be provided (in a way that is equivalent to new).

In addition, within the 2016 competition round the NPS is piloting a new competitive program for planning grants. Up to 5% of the available funding (a maximum of $750,000), is being set aside to potentially fund grants that will support development of special studies used to supplement the on-going preparation of a new SCORP or amend/update an existing SCORP. The NPS is aware that many SCORPs, along with many urban communities, lack up-to-date planning analyses that can specifically be used to help identify areas underserved by parks and outdoor recreation resources, and/or evaluate and prioritize improvements that address identified needs. The NPS hopes that these grants will stimulate interest in targeted planning efforts that, among other things, will help identify economically disadvantaged neighborhoods or communities that are underserved with respect to parks and other outdoor recreation areas, consistent with the goals of the ORLP, and thereby provide a nexus to future project proposals suitable for the national competition. Such proposals will be favored over other kinds of efforts

that may focus on urbanized areas but not are not specifically intended to benefit ORLP-targeted communities. For details, see Section I of this FOA.

All prospective LWCF ORLP grant applicants should be aware that the LWCF Act requires that any park or other outdoor recreation facility that has benefitted from assistance from the LWCF, whether for acquisition or development purposes, and regardless of the amount or extent of assistance, may not be converted to other than public outdoor recreation uses (*see* Section 5(f) of P.L. 88-578 or 54 USC 200305(f)(3)). As a condition of the grant, the NPS requires that language be recorded against the deed of the assisted property advising that the property described in the scope of the project agreement, including via a signed and dated project boundary map that shows the extent of the area subject to the requirement made part of that agreement, was acquired with or assisted by Federal funds from the LWCF. Further, that the property must be preserved for outdoor recreation uses in perpetuity and cannot be converted to other than public outdoor recreation use without the written approval of the Secretary of the Interior. In general, this requirement is applied to the assisted park or other recreation area *as a whole*, unless the NPS agrees to a more limited area. An assisted park may be released from this requirement only with the approval of the Secretary of the Interior. Approval is contingent upon the conversion being found consistent with the State's SCORP and the project sponsor replacing the area to be converted with a *new* recreation area involving land of at least equal fair market value and reasonably equivalent recreational utility. Before seeking a grant, project sponsors should carefully consider their ability and willingness to comply with this provision of the law. The authority for the LWCF State and Local Assistance Program is 54 U.S.C. 200305. Excerpts of relevant sections of the LWCF Act can be found at http://www.nps.gov/ncrc/programs/lwcf/lwcf_act.pdf. The authority for the ORLP is P.L. 113-76, Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2014.

The LWCF Grant Assistance Manual, v. 69 (October 1, 2008) establishes the eligibility, procedural, and programmatic requirements for LWCF grants, including ORLP grants. The Manual can be found at http://www.nps.gov/ncrc/programs/lwcf/manual/lwcf.pdf. It outlines the criteria and process for eligible states and territories to develop a SCORP, nominate projects to the NPS, and implement grants for selected projects.

B. Federal Award Information

The FY16 ORLP competition will make available up to $15 million appropriated by Congress for this program in FY15 ($3 million) and FY16 ($12 million). The maximum amount of funds that may be requested per proposal is $750,000. There is also a minimum level of $250,000. With these limits, the NPS expects anywhere from 20 to 60 projects to receive funding. The NPS anticipates initial selection of projects based on the pre-applications by September 30, 2016, followed by submission of final applications and actual award of grants during the first and second quarters of FY 2017. Timelines for project proposals should assume a grant start date between January 1 and March 31, 2017. The period of performance for LWCF grants is typically from 1 to 3 years; this competition will favor projects that can be completed in shorter timeframes. Projects will be evaluated for their readiness (i.e., will begin within one year of grant award) and likelihood of completion within the stipulated period of performance.

All awards will be given as grants. LWCF ORLP must be implemented in accordance with the LWCF Manual, the LWCF Project Agreement General Provisions found at http://www.nps.gov/ncrc/programs/lwcf/forms/lwcf_general_provisions.frm.pdf, and 2 CFR 200.

C. Eligibility Information

1. Eligible Applicants: Each State has a lead agency designated by the State's Governor or by legislation for the purposes of implementing LWCF in that State and only the lead agencies can be applicants for LWCF grants. Consequently, only the State lead agencies are eligible to submit applications for LWCF ORLP grants, although they may do so on behalf of themselves or another entity via a sub-award. For the purposes of this competition "States" include only the 50 U.S. States plus the District of Columbia and Puerto Rico (American Samoa, Guam, Northern Marianas, and the Virgin Islands do not have any urbanized areas on the Census list). In turn, eligible sub-awardees include other state agencies, local units of government (state political subdivisions such as cities, counties, and special purpose districts such as park districts), and federally-recognized Indian Tribes. Applications submitted directly to the NPS by entities other than the lead agency will automatically be rejected without consideration. Individuals, nonprofit organizations, and other private entities are not eligible as applicants or sub-awardees.

Further, for a project to be eligible the project's sponsor must:

- Represent a jurisdiction of at least 50,000 people, AND
- Be named as one of the 497 urbanized areas delineated by the Census Bureau OR be a jurisdiction that lies geographically within one of the delineated urbanized areas.
- If the project's sponsor is a state agency, the project must serve one or more of the urbanized area jurisdictions as described above.

In addition, the project itself should be physically located within one of the 497 urbanized areas. Projects that are not located within an urbanized area boundary are not necessarily ineligible, but may not compete well unless the sponsor can make a compelling case for how the project will serve the target populations, recognizing that access and proximity factor in the scoring criteria.

A list of the 497 urbanized areas was published in the Federal Register on March 27, 2012 (77 Fed. Reg. 18652-18669). The Census Bureau has published maps delineating each urbanized area, which can be found at https://www.census.gov/geo/maps-data/maps/2010ua.html.

2. Cost Sharing or Matching: As required by the LWCF Act, LWCF ORLP grants must be matched at a minimum level ratio of 1:1 with non-Federal funds. Matching funds may be derived from state, local, non-governmental, or private sources in the form of cash or in-kind contributions. The competition will favor contributions of cash or land from non-public sources over other types and sources. Eligible costs, sources of match, and other cost-sharing requirements are detailed in Chapter 5 of the LWCF Manual. The competition will also favor projects that involve partnerships among the public, private, and non-profit sectors that result in the leveraging of resources (e.g., money, donations of land, supplies, services, etc.) and the extent of that leverage that allows the *LWCF-eligible* costs included in the project budget to exceed the 1:1 match required by the LWCF Act.

The following costs may not be counted toward the non-Federal matching share (not inclusive):

- Any project costs incurred before the grant start date, unless they are an eligible pre-award cost as defined in the LWCF Manual or unless the sponsor gets prior approval from the State lead agency and the NPS (i.e., waiver of retroactivity).
- Any funds or in-kind contributions such as land or services that have been used previously or will be used in the future to satisfy the matching requirements of another LWCF grant or other Federal grant.
- Any funds or in-kind contributions such as lands or services that were or will be acquired with other Federal funds, unless otherwise provided by Federal law.

Funding that originated from Federal sources or the value of land or services acquired with Federal funds may not be used as non-Federal match unless their enabling legislation authorizes that treatment. The best known examples are HUD's Community Development Block Grants and DOT's Recreation Trails Program, but there may be others (project sponsors should be prepared to show supporting documentation if seeking to use Federal funds from other sources as match). Other than this exception, in accordance with 54 USC 200305(f)(1) projects seeking LWCF ORLP grants may not include funds from other Federal sources, including LWCF formula funds, in the project's budget, even if all programs' match requirements are met.

Prospective applicants should note limitations on certain kinds of costs, whether proposed for the grant, as match, or as overmatch, including those related to project management/administration, contingencies, and design/engineering fees. This is described further in the Budget Narrative component of Section of D.2 of this FOA. Further, project sponsors should be aware that the LWCF Act specifically excludes acquisition support costs from eligibility (see 54 USC 200305(e)(2)(A)) so such costs should not be requested for reimbursement from the ORLP grant or to meet the match within the 1:1 level.

3. Other: The process for a project sponsor to seek an LWCF ORLP grant will begin at the State level. Each State's lead agency for LWCF will be allowed to nominate up to two projects to the NPS for consideration in the national competition. The lead agency will be responsible for: further soliciting project proposals from other state agencies, local units of government, and federally-recognized Indian Tribes; conducting the initial review of proposals for completeness and eligibility requirements; evaluating and prioritizing proposals according to the competition criteria and the State's Open Project Selection Process; ensuring that proposals are consistent with outdoor recreation priorities outlined in the State's SCORP; and selecting the proposal(s) to be nominated. If a proposal is selected for funding in the national competition, the lead agency will also be responsible for submitting the final application to the NPS. Grants will be awarded to the lead agency, which will be responsible for ensuring that allocated funds are used for the purposes of and in a manner consistent with the LWCF. The lead agency will in turn make a sub-award to the project's sponsor, which must be the public entity that submitted the proposal. Project sponsors interested in seeking a grant must contact the lead agency to get specific details about the State's process for identifying projects for this competition. A list of agency contacts can be found at: http://www.nps.gov/ncrc/programs/lwcf/contact_list.html.

If a project is selected, the project cost estimate defines the maximum federal share that can be requested. (Note this is a departure in policy from grants awarded under the LWCF formula

program, which under some circumstances permit amendments to increase the federal share if costs go up.) Similarly, reductions in scope may lead to the federal share being reduced. In general, changes to the scope of the project after selection, particularly those that would result in an increase or decrease in costs, will be discouraged as they may materially alter the circumstances under which the project was evaluated and selected. A significant departure from the project's original proposed scope could result in the LWCF ORLP grant being withdrawn.

D. Application and Submission Information

1. Address to Request Application

The full FOA and pre-application materials are available to be accessed and downloaded from the Synopsis page of the announcement in Grants.gov. Copies of individual forms and other application documents can also be found at www.nps.gov/ncrc/programs/lwcf/pub.htm. Project sponsors should check with their State's lead agency to determine if the State has any other requirements for submitting proposals at the State level. You may also contact the NPS LWCF-ORLP leads for assistance (see Section G).

2. Content and Form of Application Submission

For the purposes of the competition, project proposals will be reviewed and evaluated based on pre-applications. The pre-application must include all five Required Elements, listed in a. through e. below. *Applications submitted without all of the required elements will automatically be rejected without consideration.* Project proposals will be scored and ranked on a national basis based on an evaluation of how the project meets the review and selection criteria for the competition and the general requirements of the LWCF Act. Therefore it is critical that applicants follow the outline provided below for the narratives to ensure each criterion is addressed. Supplemental Elements, also described below, are not required at this time but will be required with the final application if the project is selected. However, submitting one or more Supplemental Elements with the pre-application may help substantiate the project's "readiness." The Required Elements are designed to ensure a minimum level of necessary information is provided by the applicants to ensure each project can receive a comparable review.

Project sponsors should note that the pre-application does not include important documentation needed to substantiate the project's compliance with environmental and historic/cultural resources laws (i.e., NEPA, NHPA), and that such documentation will be required if the project is selected. Further, selection of the project could be withdrawn if development of these documents reveals a previously unknown issue that materially affects the project's eligibility or feasibility of completion. If this occurs, the NPS will move to the next project on the ranked list.

Required Elements

a. Letter of recommendation from the State

The State lead agency should highlight why and how the project rose to the top through the State's Open Project Selection Process, including concurring with or supplementing the explanation for how the project helps implement the State's SCORP.

b. Standard forms for federal grant applications, including the Application for Federal Assistance (SF-424) and Budget Information for Construction Programs (SF-424C)

c. Project narrative (target length: 10 pages)

This narrative provides the sponsor the opportunity to describe the purpose of their project and how it meets the objectives of the competition; intended outcomes of the project; and expected benefits (short and long term) and other impacts in terms of improving recreation opportunities that meet an identified recreational deficiency or need for a neighborhood or community. Project sponsors are encouraged to review the descriptions of the 9 (nine) evaluation criteria outlined in Section E to understand how projects will be evaluated and scored. We recommend that the narrative be generally outlined in the order of the criteria (headers are provided below) to ensure that the project (and budget) narratives directly address each criteria.

Project Overview:

For acquisition projects: provide a street address sufficient to provide at least a general location for the property, a description of the property, and an explanation of the need for its acquisition. Explain whether the acquisition would create a new public park or recreation area or is to expand an existing site. Describe and quantify the types of resources and features on the property (e.g., 50 acres of forested area, 2,000 feet of waterfront, scenic views, vacant lot, special habitats, unique or special features, recreation amenities, historic/cultural resources) as well as any constraints (e.g., existing development; hazardous materials/contamination history; and restrictions such as institutional controls, easements, rights-of-way, reversionary interests, above ground/underground utilities; etc.). Describe the plans for developing the property for recreation purposes after acquisition and the timeframe, including when the site is expected to be open and accessible for public use. Describe the current status of the acquisition, including negotiations with the landowner and development of due diligence materials such as title work and appraisal.

For development projects: provide a street address sufficient to provide at least a general location for the property, a description of the planned physical improvements and/or facilities, and the reason(s) such development is needed. Explain whether the work involves new development or rehabilitation or replacement of existing recreation facilities. Describe and quantify the types of resources and features available on the site as well as any constraints. Describe the current status of planning for the development and the timeframe for completing the project, including when the site will be open (or reopened) and accessible for public use.

For projects that will comprise acquisition and development (including projects where the land acquisition is being used as in-kind match) provide a narrative that combines the elements above.

Improving physical and recreational access and addressing recreational deficiencies:

Describe how the proposed project will create or significantly improve access to close-to-home park and recreation opportunities by expanding the quantity or quality of parks or other outdoor recreation areas. This can be through either: creating a new park/outdoor recreational area or significantly enhancing the quality of an existing park/outdoor recreation area by replacing or upgrading infrastructure to be able to provide high priority recreation services. Describe the new

or expanded types of outdoor recreation opportunities and/or capacities that will be created as a result of the acquisition and/or development. Describe how the project meets an identified recreational need or deficiency.

Improving recreation service to priority target groups for this competition:

Describe the activities and uses planned for the project site after acquisition and/or development. Describe who will benefit from the project, particularly with respect to the groups targeted by this competition (minorities, youth, and/or low to moderate income individuals or families) and for whom serious recreation deficiencies exist.

Sponsors are encouraged to include available data/statistics about the local populations to be served by the park/recreation area in the response. Census-defined minorities are African-Americans, Hispanics, American Indians, Asians, Eskimos, Aleuts, and Pacific Islanders.

Project Engagement and Participation:

Describe the process that led to the development of this proposal. In particular, focus on efforts to engage the public, especially the local community that will be served by the park, and their participation in the project as well as that of other interested/affected entities. Describe any partnerships or other collaborative efforts, such as with neighborhood groups, community organizations, or private entities that have helped facilitate the project. Also, describe or provide evidence of local support for the project, particularly from local residents.

Supporting details could include how the public was notified of and provided opportunity to be involved in planning for and development of the project proposal; who has been involved (including local, state, and federal agency professionals; subject matter experts; and private organizations) and how were they able to help develop or review the proposal; and formal public participation processes such as meetings, hearings, and comment periods, including dates and length of time provided for the public to participate in the planning process and/or to provide comments.

Innovation and Transformative Attributes:

Describe the extent to which the project encompasses or exhibits innovation, especially in ways that can be transformative for the neighborhood(s) and community in terms of revitalization. These qualities could be related to aspects such as: redevelopment of a blighted or distressed properties; involvement of new or non-traditional partners; unusual features in the project design; employment of novel solutions to issues in/challenges to addressing the community's recreation needs; the ability to affect or advance other complementary and intrinsic benefits beyond providing new or enhancing park or other outdoor recreation spaces; and other similar characteristics.

Project's Alignment with SCORP and other applicable plans:

Describe how the project will advance, implement, or meet a priority need and/or goal of the applicable state's SCORP and other relevant park and recreation planning documents. Projects

can also receive credit for aligning with or advancing priorities of other comprehensive or master plans at the city, regional, and/or state level such as community revitalization plans, economic development plans, open space plans, etc.; and/or benefitting other initiatives and programs.

Project Readiness:

Describe the status of the planning for the grant project and its readiness to be implemented. Provide a narrative description of the timeline for the planned scope of work and a proposed period of performance, including providing dates for discrete benchmarks of significant work elements that will support the grant project' implementation to completion.
Describe the current use (if any) or disposition of the property targeted for the project. If there are any existing non-outdoor recreation or other non-public uses that are intended to continue on the property on an interim or permanent basis and/or proposed in the future, these should be explained.

Applicant and Partner Capacity:

Describe the project sponsor's experience in completing other similar park and recreation projects. If partners are or will be involved in the grant project's implementation, their role(s) should also be described. Describe who holds or will hold title to the property and how the park or recreation area will be managed and maintained to assure permanent use for public outdoor recreation. Describe the funding resources available to support the operation and maintenance. If partners will be involved with long-term management of the property, this should be described. Also describe the project sponsor's or partner's past experience, if any, with managing grant funds, particularly LWCF or other federal awards.

d. Budget narrative (target length: 3-4 pages, including tables)

Viability and reasonableness of the project's budget:

This section should explain how the requested LWCF assistance will be used and how the match requirement will be met, including any costs proposed for overmatch. Break down, describe, and justify the proposed project costs that correspond to the details of the work activities outlined in the project narrative. Project sponsors are encouraged to provide budget information in both narrative and tabular forms to ensure sufficient detail so the budget can be clearly understood, particularly in terms of what costs are proposed for reimbursement by the LWCF ORLP grant and what costs will be used to satisfy the 1:1 match.

Project sponsors are encouraged to review Chapters 3 and 5 of the LWCF Manual to ensure understanding about eligible costs. Of note: Land acquisition costs should be based on appraised value or other estimate of fair market value. Acquisition-related support costs (e.g., appraisals) are not eligible LWCF expenses or as match. On the development side, for this competition, project management/administration expenses, design/engineering fees, and contingencies may be included in the budget, but they are capped at 5% (administration) and 10% (design/engineering and contingencies) of the total budget, respectively. If indirect costs are planned (by the State lead agency) this should be reflected in the budget.

Match contributions can consist of cash, land donation, and in-kind contributions of supplies or services needed to implement the project. Describe the availability or firmness of commitments for funds to meet the 1:1 match and for the full amount of funds needed to complete the project, including any match commitment(s) that exceed the 1:1 requirement. Note that, at a minimum, sufficient funding to meet the 1:1 match requirement must be in hand or firmly committed. If the project match exceeds the 1:1 requirement, indicate how the additional funds/in-kind contributions will be used. Overmatch costs needn't necessarily be eligible for LWCF but more weight will be given for leveraging if they are. Project sponsors should also ensure costs are reasonable and that it's clear why they are being included in the project budget.
As noted in Section C.2, other federal resources may not be used as a match for the LWCF grant unless such treatment is specifically authorized the source's enabling legislation. Project sponsors should be prepared to show supporting documentation if requested. Due to the increase in the ceiling for the LWCF-ORLP request for this competition round, project sponsors will not be permitted to also include LWCF formula funding in the project budget.

If the LWCF ORLP grant-funded project is part of a larger project, please be sure the LWCF-related components of the budget can be clearly discerned. It can be difficult to review and score a budget when it's not clear how the grant funds will fit in, and project sponsors risk having the requested federal share reduced if it appears ineligible costs will be charged to the grant or as part of the 1:1 match share. Note that the LWCF ORLP and match funded element(s) of the project must still result in a viable recreation opportunity that is not reliant on other funding even in the context of a larger planned project.

Partner Support and Leveraging:

Describe the how project is or will be supported by partnerships with the public, private, and/or non-profit sectors specifically through contributions of money, land, supplies, services, etc.
In addition to the types of contributions and amounts, be sure to describe the source(s) of the contributions proposed for the match, particularly if they are from non-public partners in the project, and whether they are already available or still being secured.

If applicable, describe how and to what extent the LWCF ORLP grant will play a role in leveraging funding for the project from non-federal public, private, and/or non-profit resources, and if they allow the project budget to exceed the 1:1 match requirement. Projects that leverage the LWCF ORLP grant funds beyond the 1:1 match will be favored, but more points will be awarded when the leverage is comprised of LWCF-eligible costs directly related to the acquisition or construction work versus other kinds of costs that support the project in a larger sense but aren't necessarily needed to support the acquisition or development.

e. Project Location and Site Maps/Plans

The pre-application should include: 1) a neighborhood/community map showing the location of the project and any other existing recreation resources in the vicinity of the project site; 2) a map or aerial photo clearly delineating the specific project site to be acquired and/or developed, including the proposed boundary of the area that would be subject to the anti-conversion provisions of 54 USC 200305(f)(3), and 3) a plan or sketch of the site that depicts the likely

location of planned recreational improvements and other features such as where the public will access the site, parking, etc.

Supplemental Elements

Letters of support: These are not required but may be helpful in terms of substantiating public support for the project, evidence of partnerships, etc. To ensure such letters are considered by the merit panel, *submit them with the application*. Letters sent separately to the NPS are discouraged because they are unlikely to be received in time. Letters arriving after the pre-application deadline will not be provided to the panel.

The following Supplemental Elements are not required with the pre-application, but if the proposal is selected for funding, they will be required for review with the final application before grant funds could be awarded. The noted forms are available on the LWCF program website.

- Assurances for Construction Programs (SF-424D)
- Proposal Description and Environmental Screening Form (PD/ESF)
- Description and Notification Form (DNF)
- LWCF Project Agreement
- Pre-award Onsite Inspection Report
- Approved indirect cost rate agreement (if applicable)
- Copy of an approved waiver of retroactivity (if applicable)

3. Dun and Bradstreet Universal Numbering System (DUNS) Number and System for Award Management (SAM)

As Grants.gov relies upon electronic signature for applications, it requires applicants to be registered to use Grants.gov and will accept applications only from currently authorized organization representatives (AORs) affiliated with a particular agency. Obtaining a Grants.gov account requires applicants to first be registered with the System for Award Management (SAM). More information about SAM.gov registration can be found at: www.sam.gov. Applicants that do not currently have a Grants.gov account are encouraged to begin the process of registering as soon as possible. Applicants who have previously registered with Grants.gov are still encouraged to check to ensure that the agency's Grants.gov and SAM accounts are active, along with the individual Grants.gov account of the AOR who will be submitting the application. SAM accounts in particular must be renewed and validated on an annual basis. Last, please make sure that the DUNS number on the Grants.gov account that will be used to submit the application matches the one that has been registered with the NPS for use with the payment system (Treasury's Automated Standard Application for Payment system or ASAP). SAM registrations must remain active throughout the time period the application is under consideration and for the duration of the award. Expiration of the registration could delay or prevent the award of a grant.

4. Submission Date and Time

Pre-applications are due from the state LWCF lead agencies by 10:00pm EDT on Friday, May 20, 2016. The NPS will accept pre-applications that were accepted in Grants.gov by the

stipulated time, based on the time/date stamp in Grants.gov and have reached the validated stage, even if they are not forwarded to the NPS's grant management system before the deadline.

That said, we strongly recommend that you not wait until the last day to submit. The uploading and transfer process can take a while, especially when Grants.gov is getting heavy use. In addition, although the validation stage normally happens within just a few minutes to a couple of hours, it can take up to a day or two. Review the emails sent back by Grants.gov to confirm your application was successfully received, validated, and forwarded to the NPS (three different emails). Applications not submitted by the deadline will not be considered.

5. Intergovernmental Review

This funding opportunity is not subject to Executive Order (EO) 12372 "Intergovernmental Review of Federal Programs." State applicants subject to EO 12372 must contact their State's Single Point of Contact (SPOC) to find out about and comply with the State's process. The names and addresses of the SPOC's are listed on OMB's website at: http://www.whitehouse.gov/omb/grants_spoc/

6. Funding Restrictions

LWCF ORLP grants may only be used for costs needed to support the acquisition or development (or a combination) of lands and facilities that will provide outdoor recreation opportunities to the public. LWCF ORLP funds may not be used for (not inclusive):

- Grant administration expenses,
- Incidental costs related to land acquisition such as appraisals or title work,
- Operation and maintenance activities,
- Facilities that support semi-professional or professional athletics such as baseball stadiums or soccer arenas,
- Indoor facilities such as recreation centers or facilities that support primarily non-outdoor purposes like dining facilities or overnight accommodation (such as a lodge or hotel), or
- Acquisition of lands, or interests in lands, that completely restrict access to specific persons (e.g., non-residents of a community).

7. Other Submission Requirements

The pre-application for each stand-alone proposal, containing all required application elements as outlined in Section D.2 a-e) must be submitted in electronic form through the FOA posted on Grants.gov. Use of the fillable standard forms contained in the FOA is preferred over submitting scanned copies of printed versions (the forms are signed electronically via the submission process). However, files in commonly used formats such as PDF, MSWord, and Excel are acceptable for the other Required Elements. Applications sent by mail, email, or facsimile will not be accepted. No more than two applications per state will be accepted. In the event that more than two are submitted, only the first two received will be reviewed unless the State lead agency specifically requests to withdraw one. Please review Section D.3 above for further information about registration requirements to use Grants.gov. Questions about using Grants.gov

or resolution of technical problems experienced in the use of Grants.gov should be directed to the Grants.gov Contact Center at 1-800-518-4726.

E. Application Review Information

1. Evaluation Criteria

Part I – Relevance of Proposed Project to Core Program Goals (Merit panel; 60 points total)

a. Improving physical and recreational access and addressing recreational deficiencies - 20 points:

   This criterion will assess the degree to which the proposed project will create or significantly enhance access to close to home park and recreation opportunities by expanding the quantity or quality of parks or other outdoor recreation areas by either: creating a new park/outdoor recreational area or significantly enhancing the quality of an existing park/outdoor recreation area by upgrading the infrastructure to be able to provide high priority recreation services.

   Priority will be given to projects located in 1) densely settled neighborhoods or communities that lack any other or adequate parks/outdoor recreation areas within a reasonable service area (i.e, within .5 miles or a 10-minute walk for a neighborhood park, or within 1 mile for a park serving multiple neighborhoods or a community); or 2) whose existing park/outdoor recreation areas are not of a comparable caliber to park/recreation areas elsewhere in the jurisdiction; or 3) whose park/recreation areas are otherwise inadequate to serve community needs.

b. Improving recreation service to priority target groups for this competition - 20 points:

   This criterion will assess the degree to which the project will improve outdoor recreational opportunities for the target groups (minorities, youth, and/or low to moderate income individuals or families) for whom serious recreation deficiencies exist.

   Priority will be given to projects located where they will serve neighborhoods with significant populations of the target groups that are lacking in recreation opportunities. Applicant responses are encouraged to include available data/statistics about the local populations to be served by the park/recreation area. Merit panels will also be provided with relevant Census data. Census-defined minorities are African-Americans, Hispanics, American Indians, Asians, Eskimos, Aleuts, and Pacific Islanders.

c. Project Engagement and Participation – 10 points:

   This criterion will assess the level and degree of partnership building in support of the project among members of the public (particularly residents that would be served by the park and neighborhood groups), local government(s), and the private sector (including community organizations and businesses). In particular, the panel will evaluate the extent

to which the project was developed with neighborhood and/or community participation, input, and engagement, especially through or with the assistance of private organizations.

Priority will be given to projects that can demonstrate that there has been and continues to be a deliberate initiative or effort by the project sponsor and/or its partner(s) to engage residents of the target neighborhood(s) in the project's development. Further, where there is a substantial level of collaboration among the public and private sectors, including multiple levels of government, private/non-profit organizations, and community groups.

d. Innovation and Transformative Attributes – 10 points:

This criterion will assess the degree to which the project encompasses or exhibits innovation, especially in ways that can be transformative for the neighborhood(s) and community in terms of revitalization. These qualities could be related to aspects such as: redevelopment of a blighted or distressed properties; involvement of new or non-traditional partners; unusual features in the project design; employment of novel solutions to issues in/challenges to addressing the community's recreation needs; the ability to affect or advance other complementary and intrinsic benefits beyond providing new or enhancing park or other outdoor recreation spaces; and other similar characteristics.

This is a somewhat open-ended criterion but is an opportunity for project sponsors to describe and promote features of the project that go above and beyond the recreation services or opportunities the project will provide. Priority will be given to projects that demonstrate unique features that make them stand out relative to the other proposals submitted for the competition as well as the "typical" LWCF project.

Part II: Technical Merit and Qualification of Applicants (Technical panel, 15 points total)

e. Project's Alignment with SCORP and other applicable plans – 5 points:

This criterion will assess the degree to which the project advances or is otherwise tied to the priority needs and/or goals of the applicable state's SCORP and other relevant park and recreation plans. Projects can also receive credit for aligning with or advancing priorities of other comprehensive or master plans at the city, regional, and/or state level such as community revitalization, economic development, or open space plans.

Priority will be given to projects that meet clearly identified goals and/or needs in the SCORP, particularly any that are specific to urban areas, together with other applicable planning documents at different levels of government and/or private sector initiatives.

f. Project Readiness – 5 points:

This criterion will assess the status of the project to evaluate the readiness to be implemented, the likelihood of successful execution, and the viability of the period of performance for the project's execution.

Priority will be given to projects that are well into or mostly done with the planning stages such that implementation can likely begin within one year and the project could be opened to the public within 2 to 3 years.

g. Applicant and Partner Capacity – 5 points:

This criterion will assess the ability and likelihood of the project sponsor and partner(s) (if applicable) to initiate and successfully complete the project as well as effectively manage and sustain the park or recreation area to ensure long-term viability, particularly in the context of LWCF requirements. Also, assesses the project sponsor and/or partner's demonstrated capacity for appropriate grant management and successful compliance with grant conditions, particularly with past LWCF and/or other federal grants (if applicable).

Priority will be given to projects where the sponsor and/or partner(s) have experience with federal grants and have successfully completed similar projects with no problems complying with grant regulations or program-specific terms and conditions; and where there appears to be capacity for successful long term park management and protection. If the sponsor is a past LWCF grant recipient, the sponsor does not have any known outstanding Section 6(f)(3) conversion issues that are not in the process of resolution.

Part II – Financial Support and Leveraging (Technical panel, 25 points total)

h. Viability and reasonableness of the project's budget – 10 points:
This criterion will assess the eligibility and reasonableness of the costs included in the project's budget, whether the budget seems realistic for the scope of work, and the availability of or firmness of commitments for the full amount of funds needed to complete the project, including any match commitment(s) that exceed the 1:1 requirement.

Priority will be given to project proposals with clear and detailed budgets that contain all or mostly LWCF-eligible cost items that are reasonable and obviously related to the scope of the work for which the grant funds are specifically being requested. Priority will also be given to projects where funding to cover the entire project budget is mostly in place (excluding the grant amount), particularly any amounts promised as overmatch.

i. Partner Support and Leveraging – 15 points:

This criterion will assess the degree to which the project is or will be supported by partnerships with the public, private, and/or non-profit sectors through contributions of money, land, supplies, services, etc., and the extent of financial leveraging of the federal share with non-federal public, private, and/or non-profit resources that allow the project budget to exceed the 1:1 match required by the LWCF Act.

Priority will be given to projects involving multiple and diverse partnerships that have resulted in contributions of financial resources, particularly non-public resources; and that exceed the minimum 1:1 match level primarily with LWCF-eligible costs.

2. Review and Selection Process

Once a pre-application has been received from a State lead agency, the NPS LWCF program office will conduct an initial screening to determine whether the application is complete (i.e., at a minimum contains all Required Elements) and meets basic eligibility requirements (i.e., project is from an eligible applicant and/or sponsor, provides the minimum cost share, and its purpose is generally consistent with the LWCF Act and the ORLP program). Presuming it is found to be eligible for consideration, the project will be evaluated and scored in a field review conducted by both a technical panel of NPS staff focused mainly on LWCF-based requirements and a peer-based merit panel focused mainly on the project's purpose, purported benefits, and relevance to the competition objectives. (See Section E.1 to see which criteria the panels review.) All proposals will be scored individually in accordance with the assigned weights of the evaluation criteria. Each proposal will be reviewed by at least 4 (four) reviewers but no consensus advice will be given. Both federal and non-federal experts may be used for the merit panel. Reviewers' scores will be compiled and averaged as needed to create a final score.

The scores and reviewer evaluations will be used by the competition managers to produce a ranked list of projects that will be recommended to the competition's selecting official – the Director of the National Park Service – for final selection. Generally, projects will be recommended in the ranked order unless there is justification to select out of order based upon:

- Availability of funding
- Geographic distribution of projects and/or funds
- Program objective and priorities (see Section A of this FOA)
- The applicant's prior performance in managing LWCF grants and/or assisted sites
- The project's capacity to leverage non-Federal dollars.

The NPS will then request complete and final grant applications (see following Sections E.3 and Section F).

3. Anticipated Announcement and Federal Award Dates

The initial review of proposals will begin immediately following the application deadline and panel reviews are expected to begin in June. The NPS anticipates making an announcement about preliminary selection of projects by September 30, 2016. Once this selection has been made, the State lead agencies for the selected projects will be directed to work with the sponsors to prepare the final grant applications. Final applications will also be submitted via Grants.gov. The final applications will comprise the originally required elements of the pre-application, which sponsors may be asked to revise based on comments from the panels with respect to objectives, work plans, or budgets; as well as the Supplemental Elements. The revised application, particularly the Supplemental Elements, will need additional review by the NPS before a final decision about whether to make an award. If the Supplemental Elements reveal previously unknown features of the project that affect its eligibility or viability, the NPS may decide to withdraw the initial recommendation for funding and move on to the next project on the list. Final applications are anticipated to be due between October 1 and December 31, 2016, with awards made between January 1 and March 31, 2017. The period of performance for the proposed project should assume a grant start date between January 1 and April 1, 2017.

When a decision has been made (whether an award or declination), summaries of technical and merit reviews will be made available to the State lead agency and/or the project sponsor upon request. Declined applications will be held by the NPS for three years, in accordance with the current retention requirements, and then destroyed.

F. Federal Award Administration Information

1. Federal Award Notices

Once final decision is made by the NPS about award of a grant, a project agreement will be signed by the applicable LWCF Agreement Officer for the LWCF Region in which the project's state is located and sent to the state lead agency. The lead agency will then, if appropriate, make a sub-award to the local project sponsor. In no case will the NPS make an award directly to the local sponsor. Until the project agreement is signed, the sponsor should not begin work on the project that would result in the incurring of expenses desired for reimbursement from the grant or for use as match, unless for eligible pre-award costs or the project has a waiver of retroactivity.

2. Administrative and National Policy Requirements

The LWCF Manual establishes the eligibility, procedural, and programmatic requirements for LWCF grants, including ORLP grants. All applications submitted pursuant to this FOA must be consistent with the Manual and are subject to the requirements described therein.

Executed project agreements will reference the LWCF Manual and the LWCF General Provisions, which contain specific terms and conditions that recipients must agree to meet to accept the grant, such as the requirements to record a covenant or other notice with the deed for the property acknowledging the LWCF assistance and the restrictions on converting the property to non-outdoor recreation uses; and installing a permanent sign at the site acknowledging the LWCF funding. If there are outstanding issues still requiring resolution at the time the grant is issued, the NPS may include special award conditions in the project agreement restricting access to the funds until the conditions are satisfied.

Recipients and sub-recipients of LWCF grants are also subject to all Federal laws and agency policies, regulations, and procedures applicable to Federal financial assistance awards, notably OMB's requirements at 2 CFR 200. They are also outlined in the LWCF Manual and the General Provisions.

As the primary grantee, the State lead agencies are responsible for managing the day-to-day implementation of the grant and the sub-award supported activities to assure the project's compliance with the LWCF Act and Manual, other applicable Federal requirements, and that performance goals are being achieved.

3. Reporting

LWCF ORLP grant project monitoring requirements include interim annual performance and financial status (SF-425) reports, as well as final performance and financial status reports. Reports must summarize project activities conducted during the report period and provide a current status of the project, including any issues. The first reports will be due one year + 90 days

following the end of the quarter in which the award was originally made. (For example, an award made February 1, 2017 will have its report cycle end date as March 31. So, the first "annual" report, for February 1, 2017 to March 31, 2018, will be due by June 30, 2018 and then in subsequent annual intervals until the grant project is completed.) These reports are submitted to the applicable NPS program officer for the specific state. Within 90 days of the conclusion of the project or the award period of performance, whichever comes first, grantees must submit final performance and financial reports and a request for final payment, which include deliverables such as a final on-site inspection report. These must be approved by the NPS before final payment can be made.

G. Agency Contacts

For further information contact:

Elisabeth Fondriest
Branch Chief, Recreation Grants Programs
Phone: (202) 354-6916
E-mail: elisabeth_fondriest@nps.gov

or

Joel Lynch
Division Chief, State and Local Assistance
(202) 354-6905
joel_lynch@nps.gov

H. Other Information

Information about the LWCF State and Local Assistance Program, including the LWCF Manual, can be found on the NPS' LWCF website at http://www.nps.gov/lwcf. This FOA is available via the grants.gov website: http://www.grants.gov. Application materials are available via the Grants.gov and LWCF websites or by contacting the program officials identified above. Project sponsors should also review their state's LWCF website (if available) and particularly the State's SCORP. Links to State LWCF sites can be found at: http://www.nps.gov/ncrc/programs/lwcf/contact_list.html.

The $15 million in funding available for this competition was appropriated by Congress in FY15 and FY16. A request for further funding has been included in the President's budget proposal for FY 2017. Project sponsors are reminded that this competition represents just a portion of the funding allocated for grants from the LWCF State and Local Assistance Program in FY 2016 (just over $108 million). Grants may be available from your state for the regularly apportioned funds as well and a separate FOA (P16AS00015) has been posted for that funding. Contact your state's lead agency for more information.

We anticipate that the total amount requested for funding will significantly exceed the available funding. Neither the NPS nor the Department of the Interior will be responsible for proposal preparation costs or project costs if the proposal fails to receive funding. Publication of this announcement does not oblige the NPS to make an award to any specific project or to obligate any available funds.

I. Pilot ORLP Planning Grant Program

Information about the pilot program is provided below for the most part following the standard outline for FOAs. However, information is included here only to the extent that it deviates from or is specific to planning grants. Otherwise, the information in the main FOA applies.

Program Description

Within this LWCF ORLP competition, the NPS is setting aside up to $750,000 (5% of the total available funding) to fund a pilot planning grant program with a goal of stimulating targeted planning efforts that will improve SCORPs so that they better address the needs, problems, and/or issues of a given state's urban jurisdictions (per the Census' urbanized areas list). Consistent with the goals of the ORLP, the pilot program will favor planning proposals that will help identify economically disadvantaged neighborhoods or communities that are underserved with respect to parks and other outdoor recreation areas, thereby providing a nexus to future project proposals suitable for the ORLP national competition.

Grant-funded planning work supported under the pilot program could include statewide or regional analyses of urbanized areas, special studies of a particular urbanized area or several such areas, and/or other efforts to determine where increased access to parks is most needed to ensure equitable access to parks and other public outdoor recreation resources. Eligible activities comport with those allowed for regular SCORP grants: inventories, demand and supply studies, recreation trends analysis, gap analysis, etc., but with a specific focus on identifying underserved areas or understanding the specific recreation needs and concerns of underserved urban areas. The work could be performed by the State and/or through sub-award to one or more of the applicable urbanized area jurisdictions within the State.

Chapter 2 of the LWCF Grant Assistance Manual, v. 69 (October 1, 2008) establishes the eligibility, procedural, and programmatic requirements for LWCF planning grants. The Manual can be found at http://www.nps.gov/ncrc/programs/lwcf/manual/lwcf.pdf.

Federal Award Information

Grants worth up to $75,000 are available for these planning efforts. Up to 10 grants could be funded at the maximum funding level, depending on interest. Requests for smaller grant amounts could lead to additional grants. However, if there is insufficient demand to allocate the full $750,000, the excess funds will be used for projects in the regular ORLP competition instead.

Awards will be given as grants. Depending on where a state is in its SCORP cycle, the grant-funded work could support a targeted scope element in the on-going development of a new SCORP, or be used to amend an existing SCORP to provide more in depth information pertaining to the state's urban jurisdictions. The period of performance for a SCORP grant is typically two years, although the NPS may favor proposals with shorter timelines if it has the potential to generate new ORLP projects in time for a competition in FY 2017.

The NPS anticipates selecting projects during the summer of 2016, in time to make awards before the end of FY 2016.

Eligibility Information

Eligible applicants are limited to the State's lead agency for LWCF (specifically the State Liaison Officer). However, responsibility for executing the planning project or a portion thereof may be sub-awarded to an appropriate non-federal government agency (general purpose or special purpose unit of government). In any case, because this is a SCORP-related planning grant, the State is obligated to supervise and be responsible for work performed, and must be directly involved in the production of any final grant products and/or in the development of any policies or action options resulting from project work. Priorities identified in the final product must be proposed to the NPS as an addendum to the SCORP.

Cost sharing is the standard 1:1 required by the LWCF Act. However, the competition will favor applications where at least a portion of the match comes from local sources, and especially if the inclusion of such funds allows the match ratio to exceed 1:1.

States are not precluded from applying for an ORLP planning grant even if they have an active grant for SCORP development (or will have one in FY2016 or 2017), as long as the grant-funded work will not overlap. Also, apportionment-based limits (per the LWCF Manual) will not apply. States that are currently ineligible to participate in the LWCF program due to program compliance issues will likewise be ineligible for ORLP planning grants.

Application and Submission Information

The full FOA is available to be accessed and downloaded from the Synopsis page of the announcement in Grants.gov. Applicants should use the fillable SF-424 posted in the FOA on Grants.gov but for the other elements use the forms on the LWCF website: www.nps.gov/ncrc/programs/lwcf/pub.htm.

Pilot ORLP planning grant applications should contain:

- SF-424, SF-424A, SF-424B
- PD/ESF Cover Page
- Project and budget narratives (3-5 pages total) addressing the following:
    - How the current SCORP is deficient as it relates to the State's urbanized areas
    - How the pilot-funded grant work would contribute to helping "fill a gap" in the SCORP and/or serve as a model for an expanded strategy to address the concerns
    - Who will be involved in the project and through what mechanisms
    - Additional information consistent with the evaluation criteria below not addressed in the above bullet points.

ORLP planning grant applications have the same due date and time as the regular ORLP applications (10:00pm EDT on May 20, 2016).

Application Review Information

Evaluation criteria: Funds for this pilot grant program will be awarded competitively. The following criteria will be used to evaluate proposed projects. Only those that align with the purposes and goals of the ORLP program will be considered for funding.

1. Clearly written and contains an appropriate level of detail (15%): The application is clearly written and contains a well-defined project proposal, implementation schedule, budget, and end product(s) that will help identify and/or address outdoor recreation deficiencies in economically-disadvantaged urban areas.

2. Focuses on strategies that will be used to identify recreational deficiencies in economically-disadvantaged neighborhoods (25%): The proposal contains planning techniques, methodologies, resources, and practices that will identify, evaluate, and prioritize needs of economically disadvantaged neighborhoods or communities in the state's urbanized area(s) that are underserved with respect to parks and recreation. Projects that do so across all or more than one urbanized area in a state will be favored over projects with a narrower scope.

3. Leads to meaningful SCORP improvements (20%): The proposal describes how the project will advance or result in a tangible improvement to the SCORP or state planning processes that furthers addressing urban needs or the identification of those needs. It explains the extent to which the state's SCORP will be improved/enhanced as a decision-making tool for urban areas.

4. Embraces Broad Participation (20%): The project will meaningfully involve one or more urban jurisdictions, to the benefit of all such jurisdictions, especially if the involvement includes local financial contributions. Also, the project will engage the public, particularly individuals from communities that are underserved with respect to parks and recreation.

5. Demonstrates Planning Innovation (20%): The proposal demonstrates innovation in terms of developing or applying new planning or decision-making tools or strategies focused on urban needs or specifically benefitting urban areas, which can serve as a model for other states. The proposal describes how the project is unique or goes beyond standard planning approaches to address recreation deficiencies in urban areas or help to further approaches or methodologies to this end.

Applications will be reviewed and scored by a peer-based panel comprised of subject matter experts with backgrounds in public sector planning and SCORP preparation. Federal personnel from the awarding agency and non-federal personnel may be used. Their scores and evaluations will be used by the competition manager to make recommendations to the selecting official.

The NPS expects to notify applicants about selection during the summer of 2016 and will try to make awards before the end of FY 2016. Applicants should plan for a grant start date of no later than September 23, 2016. Unless revisions are warranted, the NPS will make the award from the originally submitted application.

Federal Award Administration

Generally the information from the main FOA applies here. However, performance and financial reporting will also comport with the requirements in Chapter 2 of the LWCF Manual.