

HEI RFQ E23-1 & E23-2

This file includes answers to questions posed by participants of the applicant informational webinar held October 11, 2023, and some additional questions asked via email. If you do not find an answer to your question here, you can consult our [policies](#) page, or email Dr. Donna Vorhees at dvorhees@healtheffects.org for more information.

Eligibility and Review Process	
Does being a member of a research team currently funded by HEI disqualify me from taking a leadership role in submitting a proposal?	No.
Is there an avenue for researchers from the private sector to apply?	Private sector researchers are eligible to participate in this RFQ as part of the research team but not as the Principal Investigator (PI).
Must applicants be from the United States or can anyone apply from anywhere?	The institution and the residency or citizenship status of the PI, and any member of the research team, can be based outside of the US provided they meet the eligibility criteria and the team is conducting US-based research.
Can regional governments apply for this funding?	Non-regulatory government agencies are eligible to participate in this RFQ as part of the research team but not as the PI.
How does cost factor into the decision process?	From the RFA text: “The HEI Research Committee will review the applications based on the quality of the narrative; relevance to the objectives of the RFQ; experience, competence, and diversity of the research team; adequacy of facilities, including access to relevant data sets; and reasonableness of the proposed costs.”
RFQ Scope	
Are studies looking at oil and gas outside the US, such as Mexico, accepted?	No, these RFQs are exclusively funding US-based research.
What are some insights into the types of projects RFQ E23-1 is looking to fund?	The Committee seeks very comprehensive assessments of available air quality data and other data that can be used to assess trends in emissions, air quality, and exposure associated with unconventional oil and gas development (UOGD). The Committee’s most challenging request, where feasible, is to assess UOGD contributions to any observed trends and whether specific changes (e.g., modifications to industry practice or government regulation) might explain any observed trends.
For RFQ E23-2, does the Research Committee expect an epidemiologist and a statistician to be a part of the proposed research team given the objectives on understanding community exposures?	The RFQ does not require a specific set of expertise that research teams should possess. HEI Energy expects applicants to choose team members that best fulfill RFQ objectives.



RFQ Scope (continued)	
For RFQ E23-2, how critical is it to collaborate with the research team of the ongoing Marcellus-based, HEI Energy funded study?	While such collaboration might be beneficial, HEI Energy does not require it. HEI Energy’s primary goal is to identify the most highly qualified teams to implement this research.
For RFQ E23-1, would the Research Committee consider research in a location with primarily conventional oil and gas activity where we have robust historical data on the surrounding, disadvantaged communities?	The source of funding for this initiative is focused on unconventional oil and gas development, but it’s possible that the Committee might be amenable to the research you describe if it yields knowledge that has relevance to unconventional oil and gas development.
Budget	
Is there a cap on the fraction of total budget that can go to subconsultants?	No.
Are consultants or subcontractors required to show a breakdown by cost element as part of their budget submission, or can they just submit a lump-sum fixed-price amount that includes all costs (e.g. labor, indirects, other expenses)?	You must provide all information required in Forms F-4b and F-5b.
Can a for-profit consultant serve as a subcontractor using GSA approved rates?	You can use GSA-approved rates with you in the role of subcontractor and with approval of the university serving as the prime.
Is there a salary cap?	No
Can a for-profit consultant or subcontractor include a fee or profit as part of its pricing?	Fees and profits are not permitted; however, we do expect that you will specify expenses required to perform the proposed research.
Are for profit consultants subject to the 30% overhead limit, or does this clause apply only to the PI’s institution?	Yes.
Indirect Costs are “Limited to 30% of direct costs excluding equipment and subcontracts”. Does “excluding.....subcontracts” mean excluding the entire cost of the subaward from our indirect cost base? I ask because our negotiated rate agreement allows us to charge indirect costs on the first \$25,000 of a subaward, and exclude any cost above that from our indirect cost base.	Yes, what you describe as your organization’s negotiated rate agreement is allowable; that is, you can charge indirect costs on the first \$25,000 of a subaward, and exclude any cost above that from your indirect cost base.



Schedule	
Is there any flexibility on the research start date and duration?	There is only a small amount of flexibility given HEI Energy's own funding timeline for this specific research.
Application Format	
Do references count as part of the 6-page limit for the "statement of qualifications" or is it a separate section?	No
Should we submit 2 documents (Forms and Statement of Qualifications) or submit them as a single file?	Please submit everything as a single pdf file.