

Solicitation for CESU Cooperator to carry out NHA Evaluation for Niagara Falls NHA

The National Park Service (NPS) evaluates National Heritage Area (NHA) coordinating entities prior to sunset of their federal funding authority. An evaluation methodology has been developed that allows NPS to make recommendations to Congress regarding the future role of NPS with respect to each NHA studied. The evaluation methodology is attached. We expect to accomplish one NHA evaluation under a task agreement using the established methodology. The area to be evaluated is Niagara Falls National Heritage Area (NFNHA) in New York. The results of the evaluation will be used to inform the Secretary of the Interior's report to Congress that will include a recommendation for the future role of the NPS with respect to NFNHA.

The project objective is to fulfill the evaluation requirements and, specifically, to conduct an evaluation of the accomplishments of NFNHA that addresses the following:

- a) Assess the progress of the local coordinating entity with respect to
 - (i) Accomplishing the purposes of the authorizing legislation for the National Heritage Area (P.L. 110-229, Section); and
 - (ii) Achieving the goals and objectives of the approved management plan for the National Heritage Area;
- b) Analyze the investments of Federal, State, Tribal, and local government and private entities in each National Heritage Area to determine the impact of the investments; and
- c) Review the management structure, partnership relationships, and funding of the National Heritage Area for purposes of identifying the critical components for sustainability of the National Heritage Area.

The NPS will provide established evaluation methodology, background information regarding the NHAs program, and contact information for the NFNHA. Cooperator's tasks to complete an NHA evaluation include, but not be limited to:

- Meet with NFNHA coordinating entity Executive Director and Staff to develop Logic model to guide outcomes-based evaluation process
- Review and analyze financial data
- Conduct topic-centered interviews with NHA Staff, NHA Partners, and NHA community network
- Analyze data and prepare draft findings document
- Finalize findings document in coordination with NHA under evaluation and the NPS review team to ensure factual accuracy
- Provide project status reports as stated within the task agreement
- Provide final findings document

The findings document shall not be shared outside government until a Congressional Report based on the findings is delivered to Congress by the National Park Service.

Award Amount

Not to exceed \$50,000.

Period of Performance

The period of performance will be July 1, 2020 to June 30, 2021. Work may be performed at the Cooperator's place of business, on-site in the NHA being evaluated, and at NPS offices. This time period may be adjust due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Deliverables

NFNHA findings document [one (1) pdf copy via email, 12 print and 12 CD copies].

Documents will comply with the document accessibility requirements of Section 508 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended in 1998 (29 U.S.C. § 794 (d)).

Proposal Submissions

The Cooperator shall describe its technical approach to the tasks outlined above, to include a proposed project timeline and budget, not to exceed \$50,000. Budget may include personnel, benefits, supplies, equipment, travel to NFNHA, printing, indirect costs. Proposals are due to Danny Filer via email at danny_filer@nps.gov no later than Wednesday, April 1 by 12 noon.