



STATE OF NEW YORK
OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL

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August 28, 2013

The New York Attorney General Land Bank Community Revitalization Initiative

Questions and Answers Part II

(Not previously covered on the mandatory pre-application conference call)

Additional Questions Should Be Submitted in
Writing to Dina.Levy@ag.ny.gov

Q1: The application indicates that the narrative should be no more than 6 pages, excluding the budget and attachments. Does this page limit exclude the FINANCIAL INFORMATION REQUESTED on page 14 ?

A1: Yes. Financial information does not count towards the 6 page limit. That information is in addition to the 6 page narrative.

Q2: Are Commercial/Industrial properties eligible for funding, or is the focus residential only?

A2: As stated in the RFA, the OAG is committed to assisting units of local government with addressing blight and vacancy resulting from the foreclosure crisis. The OAG will consider an application that proposes to focus on Commercial and/or Industrial projects if the applicant can demonstrate to the OAG's satisfaction that the proposed activities are consistent with the intended purpose of this RFA.

Q3: Does the transfer of tax liens alone qualify as 'property' for this application?

A3: The transfer of tax liens would not be considered the same as property under this RFA.

Q4: Is there any match criteria required from municipalities requesting grant money?

A4: The OAG program does not require matching funds from municipalities as a condition of awarding funds under this RFA. However, Section D of the Narrative explicitly asks applicants to include information about how grantees will use OAG funds to leverage additional resources.

Q5: Are Phase I environmental reviews an eligible expense item for OAG funding?

A5: Yes.

Q6: Are marketing and legal counsel expenses eligible items under 'capacity building' support?

A6: In general, these types of activities may be considered eligible expenses where justified by a RFA response and subject to a full review of the RFA submission.

Q7: For residential and vacant land, can an ASTM designation E 1528-06 transaction screen assessment be used in lieu of the E 1527-05? This is a much cheaper alternative with nearly the same outcome.

A7: An Environmental Transaction Screen Assessment as set forth in the ASTM standard designation E 1528-06 is acceptable in lieu of an ASTM Practice E 1527-05 Phase I Environmental Site Assessment standard for residential and vacant land with no prior history of possible environmental issues. The OAG will require that an ASTM Practice E 1527-05 Phase I Environmental Site Assessment be prepared if the Environmental Transaction Screen warrants a more in-depth Phase I Environmental Assessment. A Phase I will be required for all properties with a prior industrial use or with a history of environmental issues.

Q8: Applicants are required to certify that a privacy policy has been established. Is the privacy policy requirement generated by a statewide policy or statute, a Governor's memorandum, or any formalized regulation? If so, can you provide a citation to that requirement?

A8: The privacy certification is a condition of grant awards issued by the OAG. There are many statutes that address need for custodians of records to maintain the privacy of certain types of information. Once funding awards are made under this RFA, the OAG will set out the scope of information that must be maintained as confidential under this policy.