

GRANTEE Q & A

Q: Have you considered small organizations who used to apply in AOSI but now can only apply in APS based on their budgets?

A: Project category (APS) grants are intended to be fully funded. The lowest AOSI grant amount is \$6,000, but could be as low as \$5,000 depending on the discretion of the regional partner. A fully-funded APS grant is \$5,000, nearly identical award amounts, one based on a budget and the other based on a project. Most organizations with budgets under \$50,000 are doing only one main thing; they can compete more successfully for a project grant rather than an operating grant. The two award levels were put very close together on purpose. There is regional flexibility based on what the needs are. For example, Region 4 has many rural counties; they wanted flexibility to have more project grants.

Q: What is the expectation with regard to *per capita* equity? There were many years of effort trying to get equity around the state, particularly in the northwest corner of the state there was much less funding from IAC, while the Indianapolis area was a great beneficiary. What is the expectation of how much of that component will be retained?

A: Each region is given a portion of the Regional Block Grant (RGB) funds based exclusively on the census. It does not change the amount of money in each region. It brings equity to the award process, the level, that any given applicant of a given budget size would receive. We have run the numbers, that it works for each region based on the amount of money they receive, based on the census, so that *per capita* equity per citizen has not changed at all. Nothing changes about the amount of money going to regions, still based on *per capita*. What this does is brings like organizations of like size and like category within line with each other across the state, with some flexibility.

Q: On page 5 it talks about the 3-year average cash operating income to determine the level. Is that actual or is that budgeted?

A: Actual.

Q: So at the end of the year when I'm looking back, I would look at my actual, what we actually had?

A: Correct.

Q: In regards to how AOS and APS grants full funding will be changed as far as when year to year that changes, where I'm headed with this is that, let's say, AOS grants are fully funded, does APS get what's left over from the changes, or is there a set amount as well for APS; I know it can go up or down \$1,000.

A: Depending on the year and how much funding we have and the regional partners have, they have the flexibility that we built into this system; it can go \$1,000 in either

direction of the averages in the state in any of the categories, so they could do that in AOSII but not in AOSI, or they could do that in both AOSII and AOSI; this gives the flexibility to meet the needs depending on how many applicants and what kind of applicants they have in the region. That being said, they have a set amount of money and the project grants will be filled as long as they're above a 75 score, as long as the money holds out, given those decisions that they've made, where to put the flexible money in their region. So, for instance, maybe they have \$50,000 in their APS category and they've said that they're going to award full grants at \$5,000; so they can fill 10 APS grants. Now maybe 12 APS grants are above the score of 75 but only 10 would be funded because that's all they have the money for. They might, however, choose to set the award amount at \$4,000 and therefore they could fill \$48,000 worth of grants and fund all twelve of them. So that's kind of up to the partner to read the needs in the region and try to accomplish the greatest good for the most organizations in the region, and that's why we've built that flexibility into the system, so they can meet those kinds of circumstances that differ from region to region.

Q: Our concern is obviously with smaller project grants that, being last on the totem pole, we're concerned over whether, as funding decreases, project grants would bear the brunt of that because, by the time you got to project grants, there would not be enough money to go around.

A: This scenario remains consistent under any funding level. In other words, the upper categories would also reflect a decrease. As funding would increase or decrease, we're not looking to remove or augment certain categories. Again, this is part of the regional partner working with the IAC, monitoring the local needs and the amount of grantees in each category. So every year, we're going to take a look at the pool of money and the pool of applicants, to determine these things and it is not our intent for the project grants to become the low man on the totem pole and first-out or something like that. In fact, the advocates in the state have something in front of the legislature to increase money, and we have some money specifically that would increase the project pool, and not necessarily impact or increase the operating support pool. So it's an area that we know we want to help in the state because we have a lot of rural and small organizations and projects out there and that's as important to us as anything is, so rest assured that that is not our intention, nor will this be managed that way.

Q: I have a question about the AOSII and the AOSIII where you've got both those categories have a million-dollar budget. What's the difference between those, because it would seem to me that you would have one category that would be the \$1,000,000-plus, rather than having two.

A: The answer to that question is the AOSIII category is for organizations that have a multi-regional mission and effect in the state. So you could have a \$1,000,000-plus organization that's still a local, one-region organization, or you could have a \$1,000,000-plus organization that would have a multi-region mission and effect, so to qualify for the AOSIII category you must not only have the correct budget amount but you also have to

have a multi-regional mission and effect, which not all \$1,000,000-plus organizations necessarily have.

Q: The three-year operating budget to determine your level, does that apply to the APS grants?

A: No, it does not.