



**STATE OF MAINE REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
RFP SUBMITTED QUESTIONS & ANSWERS SUMMARY**

RFP NUMBER AND TITLE:	RFA # PFNDT2025001 Targeted Grants for the Study of PFAS in Agricultural Systems, Round 1
RFP ISSUED BY:	DACF
SUBMITTED QUESTIONS DUE DATE:	12/10/2025
QUESTION & ANSWER SUMMARY ISSUED:	12/22/2025
PROPOSAL DUE DATE:	2/13/2025
PROPOSALS DUE TO:	PFASFund.DACF@maine.gov

Provided below are submitted written questions received and the Department's answer.

	RFP Section & Page Number	Question
1	N/A	Can an individual from an organization that meets the criteria described in Section 3: Eligibility (US-based public and private nonprofit institutions/organizations, public and private institutions of higher education, state and local governments, and Tribal governments) take over the RFP from the PI who submitted the pre-proposal? In other words, can the PI submitting the full proposal change if the eligibility requirements are still met?
	Answer	
	Yes, as long as the substance of the full proposal matches the project described in the pre-proposal, the PI submitting the full proposal can change to someone who meets the eligibility criteria.	

	RFP Section & Page Number	Question
2	6.1.2. (p13) and 6.1.4 (p.18)	Indirect cost rate: Can you give examples of an "existing policy that defines the indirect rate for agreements with the State of Maine as a percentage of that institution's federally negotiated indirect cost rate"? For example, does this mean that my institution's federally-negotiated indirect cost rate can only be used if some kind of past or active agreement with any State of Maine entity accepted this rate?
	Answer	
	Yes, an institution's federally negotiated indirect cost rate agreement (NICRA) can only be used as the basis for the indirect cost rate included in proposals submitted in response to this RFA if the institution has an existing policy to use a percentage of its NICRA for proposals submitted to a State of Maine agency. For an example, see https://www.maine.edu/apls/apl-viii-a/ (Agreements with the State of Maine). If there is not an existing policy in place, then the indirect cost rate will be 10%.	

	RFP Section & Page Number	Question
3	6.1.3.6 (p.14)	Should “List and describe major benchmarks and estimated completion dates as if funds were awarded in May 2025” read “...May 2026”? Furthermore: What is a realistic earliest start data for a project?
	Answer	
	Yes. The RFA has been corrected and now reads “May 2026.” DACF anticipates announcing awards in May 2026. Work may begin once a contract is fully executed, usually within 4 to 6 weeks of award notification.	

	RFP Section & Page Number	Question
4	6.1.3.10 (p.15)	Deliverables: “awardees are obligated to provide raw data and metadata to DACF in an open file format”. Can you define what kind of “raw data” in an open file format you envision? E.g., would this be LC/MS raw files or CSV results outputs after data evaluation of these raw files?
	Answer	
	DACF would like the CSV results outputs after data evaluation of the LC/MS raw files.	

	RFP Section & Page Number	Question
5	6.1.4 (p.18)	Subawards: “Quotes for subawards above \$25,000 must be included as an attachment”: Would that attachment be included in the Part II PDF, after Item 20 “Proof of Funds”?
	Answer	
	Yes, quotes for subawards above \$25,000 would be included in the Part II PDF, after any other attachments.	

	RFP Section & Page Number	Question
6	Appendix E (p.4)	Subaward budget justification: "If the budget contains subawards, provide the subaward budget narrative using the same level of detail as the prime budget": Is the budget justification for the subaward mentioned here the same as the "quotes for subawards above \$25k" mentioned in Section 6.1.4 (p.18)?
	Answer	
	No, a budget justification for the subaward should be provided for all subawards, regardless of the amount budgeted. For all subawards, a general breakdown of expenses should be included in the Part III budget spreadsheet. If the subaward is above \$25k, the Part III budget spreadsheet should include a general breakdown of expenses and a quote from the subawardee should be included as an attachment. See the "DACF EXAMPLE" tab in Attachment D – Part III Excel Budget Workbook for the level of detail to provide in the budget spreadsheet.	