DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH, Environmental Health Administration

Program: Clean Diesel School Bus Retrofit

Award: $1,730,000

Project contact: Mr. Robert Tam, Mr. Wilfred Nagamine

1. For each group/category or program/project for which ARRA funds have been obtained, please provide the following information:
    a. A brief summary of the program/project, including goals
    Funds associated with the EPA's Clean Diesel Grant funds a replacement program targeting school buses and heavy duty diesel vehicles in the state of Hawaii. The general purpose of the grant is to reduce diesel emissions and improve air quality.
    b. Whether funds were appropriated for expenditure by a federal agency, were awarded as a formula/block grant to a State or country agency, or were awarded on a competitive grant basis;
    Funds were appropriated by the Environmental Protection Agency as a formula/block grant to the State of Hawaii.
    c. Whether matching funds are required, and, if so:
        i. Are they available; N/A
        ii. Have they been secured; N/A
        iii. If they have not been secured, why not; and N/A
        iv. Will the State be required to continue that match or provide increased/full funding in the future in the future; N/A
    d. If there additional requirements to receive funds, what are they; N/A
    e. The amount of funds involved and the state/federal fiscal year within which the funds must be expended (e.g. SFY 2009 – 2010 or FFY 2009 – 2010);
    The award total was $1,730,000 and must be expended within FFY 2009 – 2010.
    f. What criteria were used to identify the program/project as a priority and how does the program/project meet them;
    Funds were intended to provide supplemental funding for clean diesel programs. Negotiations are ongoing with the Hawaii Department of Education, University of Hawaii-Manoa, and private sector vendors in identifying districts and specific diesel vehicles for replacement.
    g. Efforts undertaken to coordinate application for funds and administration of the program/project, including expenditure of funds, with other federal, state, and county agencies;
    Department of Health is collaborating with the Hawaii Department of Education and the University of Hawaii-Manoa to expend funds most appropriately.
    h. The criteria used to select activities for the program/project;

EPA provided the guidelines and criteria on the applicable diesel projects and the types of diesel vehicles that would qualify under the clean diesel program.

i. Efforts made to provide public notice and seek public comment/input or, if public comment/input was not sought, why;
Public comment/input was not sought since EPA had stated its preference for projects that would reduce diesel emissions from school buses and its exposure to students. Due to legal issues, limited funds, and tight timeframe to complete the project, the best approach was to partner with other state agencies that dealt with students.

j. Efforts made during the bidding/award process to ensure that it was transparent and that the funds were awarded based on merit and in a prompt, fair, and reasonable manner;
Normal state procurement practices will be followed and duly documented.

k. Measures employed to 1) reduce duplication of efforts, 2) ensure that funds were used for authorized purposes, and 3) prevent cost overruns, fraud, waste, error, and abuse;
The Department of Health has published draft guidance for internal programs as well as an internal ARR Oversight Committee to assure timeliness and accuracy, and to scrutinize for waste, fraud, error, and abuse. This Committee convenes monthly or as needed. In turn, the Department of Accounting and General Services and the Department of Business, Economic Development and Tourism also provide oversight and guidance.

l. Current status of the program/project, including percentage of awarded funds that have been obtained, percentage of awarded funds encumbered and/or expended, and what part(s) of program/project have been completed; and
No funds have been expended at this time, although the specific diesel vehicles to be replaced under the project have been identified and prescreened by EPA. Currently, the Department of Health is in the process of drafting a Memorandum of Agreement with the Department of Education and also with the University of Hawaii-Manoa. Project work is expected to begin 1Q 2010.

m. Actual or anticipated economic impact to the State of the program/project, including the number of jobs saved/created and the long-term public benefits of the program/project.
Jobs retained/created cannot be calculated at this time. The long-term public benefit of the project will be cleaner air and improved health outcomes, as well as cost savings due to energy efficiencies. For the participating agencies, the replacement of the existing, older, dirtier diesel vehicles with new cleaner vehicles also equates to lower maintenance cost and future turnover savings of the vehicles.