

FAQ's for MEP Center State Competition – 2026-NIST-MEP-01

Q. Is the inclusion of letters of support from state partners and elected officials that do not commit cost share allowable as part of this application submission? And if so, please confirm that they will not count towards the 25-page project narrative limit.

A. The letters of support would count towards the page limitation, as they are not expressly excluded from it.

Q. Can we charge Pre-Award costs for the sake of continuity and to keep fully staffed from January to March 1?

A. Pre-award costs are incurred at your organization's risk of loss as there is no promise or guarantee that NIST will reimburse your organization for pre-award costs should your organization be selected for a MEP award. If your organization elects to incur pre-award costs and is ultimately selected for a MEP award, your organization would need to submit a formal post-award request to be reimbursed for allowable pre-award costs. NIST would review this request and the Grant Officer would issue a determination in writing.

See the Department of Commerce Financial Assistance General Terms and Conditions Section B.07 for additional information as well as 2 C.F.R. 200.458 Pre-award costs for additional information.

Q. Can you clarify if the intellectual property plan is included in the page count requirement?

A. The intellectual property plan is not included in the page count requirement. This was overlooked when updating the NOFO with this document requirement.

Q. What constitutes a "Letter of Commitment"? In the FAQs, we learned that Letters of Support are included in our page count. Letters of Commitment are not included in the page count. How can I tell the difference — especially in areas where people are committing to work for the Center or participate on the Board, but not contribute money or in-kind?

A. A letter of commitment is a resolution to contribute to work directly on behalf of the program. Letters of support pledge support for the mission of the program and the applicant's abilities to deliver on their proposal. A letter of commitment would ideally become a partner in delivering a portion of the work's scope if the application is successful.

Q. The single-year budget worksheet (submission item #12, NOFO p18) contains spaces for budget justification. Does this worksheet therefore also satisfy submission item #7 (NOFO p13, "budget narrative and justification," "no set format")? Should we perhaps upload that same single-year budget worksheet a second time with the name "budget narrative and justification," or is a separate narrative document expected for submission item #7? If the latter, how should the content differ?

A. The budget narrative and justification requirement in Section IV.7 is met with a fully completed single year budget workbook that is required in Section IV.12 and available on the NIST MEP competition website. There is no need to upload twice, as the requirements are for the same document.