1. What is the scope of work NYSTEM is allowing under this RFA?

The RFA seeks to develop, implement and evaluate informal science education programs designed to educate diverse general audiences on the fundamental principles, potential benefits and challenges of stem cell science and research. Proposed use of the funds for other activities, including educational exhibits, scientific training or research, will not be considered.

2. How much funding is available?

An estimated $4 million has been set aside for this RFA. Eligible applicants are limited in the amount of funds sought in each application. See Attachment 1 to the RFA.

3. Should we set up collaborations and/or subcontracts with scientists from academic research institutions?

You may choose to do so; it would likely be dependent upon the program outlined in your application.

4. When do you anticipate that decisions will be announced?

We anticipate that the Funding Committee of the Empire State Stem Cell Board will make recommendations for awards at their 10/31/14 meeting. Following that, there is an administrative review and approval process, after which applicants will receive a letter of award or regret. We expect to make these notifications by the end of the calendar year. Presuming award, the contracting process is initiated. That process may take several months.
5. When will reimbursements begin?

No expenditures will be reimbursed for work done before the contract start date (July 1, 2015). Further, expenses cannot be reimbursed for actual expenditures until the contract is fully executed (signed by all parties).

If the contract is not fully executed before the July 1, 2015, awardees can begin to work “at risk” of not being paid for eligible expenses. Invoices for payment for these cost reimbursement contracts will be due 30 days after the end of the first contract quarter. A schedule for reporting and invoicing will be included in contract Attachment D.