



**Regional Industry Clusters of Opportunity II SFP
Q&A #3 (week of May 20th, 2013)**

Q: This is a 1-Year grant?

A: The money has to be drawn down by December 31, 2014 – so the grant period will be nearly 18 months. We anticipate that the bulk of the grant activities will occur between September 2013 and September 2014.

Q: Page 12 of the SFP lists the program start date "upon completion of contract," which page 18 says could be as early as June 30, 2013?

A: Yes. The awards will be announced June 20th and depending on the contracting speed at EDD, projects could start as early as June 30. However, Collaborative Economics will provide grantees their regional diagnostics one to two weeks prior to the first action clinic in September 2013.

Q: Page 8 of the SFP lists the launch event as Fall of 2014.

A: **TYPO!!!** – First Action Clinic is in September 2013.

Q: Page 10 says the grant period ends on December 31, 2014.

A: Yes, that is when the grant period ends.

Q: For purposes of the application's proposed objectives and activities, should the one-year time frame begin in the summer of 2013?

A: The project will go until December 31, 2014, but the bulk of the work (first three phases of the methodology) will be done within a 1-year timeframe (September 2013-September 2014). It is welcomed and expected that the teams do work before and after that though. Before September 2013, awardees should start to assemble their team and brainstorm issues (especially if they know the RICO process already). Collaborative Economics plans to get diagnostics to the teams a week or two prior to the action clinic to start reviewing and thinking about issues. The time before the first action clinic will be a slow ramp-up. After September 2014 teams should be doing work on Stage 4 (Sustainable Implementation), though that will mostly be on their own and not with designated contract activities (aside from closeout.)

Q: Should the grant period end in the summer of 2014 or does the December 31, 2014, date allow for grant close-out, etc?

A: The grant ends December 31, 2014. Close out can happen after the December 31, 2014 deadline.