

Federal Agency Name: U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 6, Water Quality Protection Division

Funding Opportunity Title: FY 2017 Clean Water Act Section 106 Tribal Water Pollution Control Program Cooperative Agreements

Announcement Type: Funding Opportunity

Funding Opportunity Number: EPA-CEP-01

Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance Number: 66.419

Deadlines:

- A full grant application, workplan and budget must be received by electronic submission through Grants.gov by 11:59 pm CST on January 31, 2017. Late proposals will not be considered for funding.
- First-time applicants must also submit a complete Treatment in the Same Manner as a State (TAS) application to be reviewed and approved by EPA or documentation of previous TAS approval prior to receiving Clean Water Act Section 106 funding.

FUNDING OPPORTUNITY DETAILS

Purpose and Available Funds

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 6 Water Division, State/Tribal Programs Section is soliciting applications and workplans for the Fiscal Year (FY) 2017 Clean Water Act (CWA) Section 106 Tribal Water Pollution Control Program. Funding is available to tribes having Treatment in the Same Manner as State (TAS) eligibility. The Water Pollution Control Program assists Federally-recognized Indian tribes in achieving environmental results by developing institutional capacity to administer water pollution control programs and to protect, improve and enhance natural resources.

In response to this funding opportunity, we request detailed proposals to conduct water quality pollution control projects. Please note that all funding activities must be clearly linked to the relevant measures in EPA's Strategic Plan. Funding for the program is dependent on federal allocation of federal resources authorized under CWA Section 106.

Following EPA's evaluation of proposals, applicants will be contacted for workplan and budget negotiation.

EPA Region 6 anticipates allocating approximately \$3.7 million to support CWA Section 106 Tribal Programs. This funding will allow EPA Region 6 to award grants averaging \$65,000 - \$80,000.

GRANT REQUIREMENTS

Eligibility and TAS

To be eligible for CWA Section 106 grants under this funding opportunity, tribes must have Treatment in the Same Manner as State (TAS) eligibility or submit a TAS application with the grant application (no later than the deadline for submission of the grant application and workplan).

Cost Sharing or Matching Requirements

- I. CWA Section 106 requires a non-federal cost share/match of 5 percent of the total project cost, and the cost share/match must be provided from non-federal sources. In order to receive an award, applicants must demonstrate how they will meet the applicable match requirements by the time of award. The cost share/match requirement can be satisfied by any of the following: (1) allowable costs incurred by the grantee, sub-grantee or a cost-type contractor, including those allowable costs borne by non-federal grants; (2) by cash donations from non-federal third parties; or (3) by the value of third party in-kind contributions. Examples of match calculations are provided in Table 1 below.
- II. The following table demonstrates a 5% cost share/match on CWA Section 106 requests of \$65,000 (base funding) and \$100,000 (base and variable funding). If applicants have additional questions regarding cost share/match calculations, please contact your Project Officer.

Table 1. Example Match Calculation

Federal Amount	Federal Share	Tribal Share	Tribal Match	Total Amount
\$65,000	95%	5%	\$3,421	\$68,421
\$100,000	95%	5%	\$5,263	\$105,263

Example Calculation:

If you know the total federal funds requested (i.e., \$100,000 for this RFP):

- (1) Divide the total federal funds requested by the maximum federal share allowed.
- (2) Subtract the federal funds requested from the amount derived in step 1.
- (3) The amount derived from step 2 is the non-federal cost share/match.

For example:

- (1) If the federal funds requested = \$100,000; and the recipient cost share/match is 5%, then the federal share = 95% or .95. $\$100,000 \text{ divided by } .95 = \$105,263$ (total project cost) then,
- (2) $\$105,263 - \$100,000 = \$5,263$
- (3) The non-federal cost share/match = \$5,263

Program Funding Types- Base and Variable

- **Base Program Funding:** Base Program Funding supports the tribe in conducting basic water quality program activities. Base program funding level is \$65,000. This program typically includes water program staffing, water resources planning, work on tribal water quality related ordinances, review of proposed water permits, education and outreach and operational and support costs such as training, supplies and equipment. Travel funds can also be budgeted for training, conferences and meetings.
- **Base Program with Variable Funding:** The overall amount of available CWA Section 106 grant funds may exceed \$65,000 using variable funds. Variable program activities may include any additional self-determined tribal environmental priorities building upon the tribe's Base Program and must comply with all Base Program requirements. Separate budgets for Base and Variable funding per year are required.

Two-Year Project Period

Although Tribes may select one-year grant project periods, EPA Region 6 recommends the use of a two-year project period. A two-year project period requires a corresponding two-year workplan narrative, workplan table with associated costs and a two-year budget narrative/justification. Applicants must separate the workplan narrative, workplan table with associated costs and budget narrative/justification for Year One and for Year Two.

Negotiation Process and Past Performance

EPA Region 6 will negotiate the variable funding amount and workplan tasks. Negotiations may be held through conference calls, face to face meetings and/or email. Program funding is dependent upon consistent prior performance, e.g., consistent and timely reporting, amounts of unliquidated obligations, and accomplishment of workplan tasks year to year. Poor performance may result in a reduction or a request to complete previous grant agreements before additional funding can be offered.

Linking Activities to EPA's Strategic Plan

Proposed projects will support Objective 2.2 of the FY 2014-2018 EPA Strategic Plan - Protecting America's Waters: Protect and Restore Watersheds and Aquatic Ecosystems. EPA's Strategic Plan is available at <http://www2.epa.gov/planandbudget/strategicplan>. In the proposal workplan, an applicant is required to describe how the project results will link the outcomes to the Agency's Strategic Plan. Additional information regarding EPA's discussion of environmental results in terms of "outputs" and "outcomes" can be found at <https://www.epa.gov/grants/epa-order-57007a1-epas-policy-environmental-results-under-epa-assistance-agreements>.

All proposals must discuss how proposed projects address the Strategic Plan priorities and include specific statements describing the environmental results of the proposed project in terms of well-defined outputs, and, to the maximum extent practicable, well-defined outcomes that demonstrate how the project will contribute to the overall protection and improvement of water quality.

Environmental results are a way to gauge a project's performance and are described in terms of outputs and outcomes. Environmental outputs (or deliverables) refer to an environmental activity, effort and/or associated work product related to an environmental goal or objective that will be produced or provided over a period of time or by a specified date. Outputs may be quantitative or qualitative but must be measurable during an assistance agreement funding period. Examples of environmental outputs anticipated as a result of the assistance agreements awarded under this Funding Opportunity may include

but are not limited to training, the number of permits issued, the Tribal Assessment Report and the number of samples collected.

Environmental outcomes are the result, effect, or consequence that will occur from carrying out an environmental program or activity that is related to an environmental or programmatic goal or objective. Outcomes may be environmental, behavioral, health-related or programmatic in nature, must be quantitative, and may not necessarily be achieved within an assistance agreement funding period. Outcomes may be short-term (changes in learning, knowledge, attitude, skills), intermediate (changes in behavior, practice, or decisions), or long-term (changes in condition of the natural resource). Examples of outcomes anticipated as a result of the assistance agreements to be awarded under this Funding Opportunity may include but are not limited to measurable improvements in water quality and increases in the number of facilities that meet effluent limits.

Eligible & Ineligible Activities

Eligible activities include but are not limited to:

- Water quality planning, assessments and studies
- Ambient monitoring
- Community outreach and education activities
- Source water, surface water, ground water and wetland protection
- Nonpoint source (NPS) control activities (including NPS assessment and management programs)
- Development of water quality standards (WQS)
- Development of watershed based plans
- Development of total maximum daily loads (TMDLs)
- Data management and reporting

Ineligible Activities include but are not limited to:

- Construction, operation or maintenance of wastewater treatment plans or drinking water systems
- Purchase or acquisition of land
- Duplication of efforts funded from another federal source
- Project funded by other grants
- Compliance monitoring of NPDES permitted facilities or public water systems

APPLICATION CONTENTS

I. Workplan Narrative

- a. **Introduction:** Provide background information about the tribal lands, including land size, population, location, boundaries, and an atlas of water resources (miles/acres of surface water, ground water and wetlands).
- b. **Project Goals and Objective, Workplan Components and Project Location(s):** Describe the goals and objectives of the proposal, each component of the workplan (which includes a description of the activities that will be implemented) and the project location(s). EPA recommends including maps of the reservation, waters to be addressed and project location.

The workplan must include a completed Tribal Sampling Matrix that outlines projected sampling sites, parameters to be sampled, and monitoring frequency. Please refer to Appendix A of this RFP for an example of a sampling matrix.

- c. **Environmental Outputs, Outcomes and Tracking:** Include commitments for each workplan component, including anticipated environmental outputs and outcomes (as required by EPA Order 5700.7), the linkage to the Strategic Plan Objective 2.2 and the applicant's plan for tracking and measuring its progress towards achieving expected outputs and outcomes.
- d. **Schedule:** Provide estimated personnel work years for each workplan component. Such information includes, but is not limited to, the following:
 - 1. Identify a specific "start" and "end" date for each workplan component and task or activity.
 - 2. Estimate the specific work years for each workplan component and task or activity.
 - 3. Provide interim milestone dates for achieving each workplan component and task or activity.
- e. **Roles and Responsibilities:** Describe the roles and responsibilities of the recipient and any partners in carrying out the work plan commitments. This may include, but is not limited to, the following:
 - 1. Defining the specific level of effort for the responsible parties for each workplan component.
 - 2. Identifying and describing parties who will take the lead in carrying out the workplan commitments.
 - 3. Identifying and describing other programs, parties and agencies that will provide additional technical and/or financial assistance.
- f. **Workplan Table:** The Workplan Table identifies workplan goals with tasks and outputs/outcomes, start and end dates, deliverables, responsible staff and work years and estimated cost (per task). The estimated cost column totals all the costs for each task including salary, fringe, equipment, contractual, supplies, travel and indirect costs.
- g. **Quality Assurance Project Plans:** Development of a Quality Assurance Project Plan (QAPP) is required of all EPA assistance agreements that fund data collection and assessment. The cost of QAPP development should be included in the project budget.
- h. **Quality Assurance Competency Policy-** In accordance with Agency Policy Directive Number FEM-2012-02, Policy to Assure the Competency of Organizations Generating Environmental Measurement Data under Agency-Funded Assistance Agreements. grantees agree that they have demonstrated competency prior to award, or alternatively, where a pre-award demonstration of competency is not practicable, grantees agree to demonstrate competency prior to carrying out any activities under the award involving the generation or use of environmental data. The grantee shall maintain competency for the duration of the project period of the grant agreement, and it will be documented during the annual reporting process. A copy of the Policy is available online at <https://www.epa.gov/sites/production/files/2015-03/documents/competency-policy-aaia-new.pdf> or a copy may be requested by contacting the Project Officer.

All Performance Partnership Grants and continuing environmental program assistance agreements expected to exceed a total value of over \$200,000 (in federal funding) and will generate or use environmental data in the agreement must include a section in the workplan documenting the organization's competency. The competency section should explain the similar nature of the scope of work to past performance and the existence of an approved QMP.

II. Budget Narrative and Table

- a. Provide a detailed budget and estimated funding amounts for each workplan component/task. Applicants must itemize costs related to personnel, fringe benefits, contractual costs, travel, equipment, supplies, other direct costs, indirect costs and total costs. This section provides an opportunity for narrative description of the budget or aspects of the budget such as "other" and "contractual."
- b. Describe itemized costs in sufficient detail for EPA to determine the reasonableness and allowability of costs for each workplan component/task including the use of the cost share/match funds.
- c. Total costs must include both federal and cost-share/matching (non-federal) components.
- d. Provide information on the approach, procedures and controls for ensuring that awarded grant funds will be expended in a timely and efficient manner. For example, provide a brief discussion and timeline of how the funds will be drawn down over the course of the grant. When developing your drawdown schedule, you may wish to consult your financial department for input.

PROPOSAL MATERIALS

Please include the following forms:

1. Application for Federal Assistance (SF-424)
2. Budget Information Non-Construction Programs (SF-424A)
3. Assurances- Non-Construction Programs (SF-424B)
4. Pre-Award Compliance Review Report for All Applicants and Recipients Requesting Federal Financial Assistance (EPA 4700-4)
5. Key Contacts Form (EPA Form 5700-54)
6. Certification Regarding Lobbying (EPA Form 6600-06)
7. Copy of current Indirect Cost Rate Agreement
8. Workplan Narrative and Table with associated costs
9. Budget Narrative/Justification and Table separated by base and variable funding per year

All forms can be found in grants.gov

REFERENCES

- **Final Guidance on Awards of Grants to Indian Tribes under Section 106 of the Clean Water Act for Fiscal Years 2007 and Beyond**, referred to as “The Guidance.”
<https://www.epa.gov/sites/production/files/2014-09/documents/final-tribal-guidance.pdf>

If you have any questions, please contact your respective Project Officer:

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