

AGENCY: U.S. Environmental Protection Agency  
Office of Environmental Justice

TITLE: Environmental Justice Collaborative Problem-Solving (EJCPS) Cooperative Agreement

ACTION: Request for Proposals (RFP) Amendment

FUNDING NO: EPA-OP-OEJ-18-01

CFDA: 66.306

DATE: January 4, 2018

**SUMMARY:** This notice is issued to amend the Environmental Justice Collaborative Problem-Solving Cooperative Agreement 2018 Request for Proposals (RFP). This amendment highlights the following change:

- 1) **New Pre-application Assistance Call date.** The date of the fourth Pre-application Assistance Call has been changed from Tuesday, January 23, 2018 to **Wednesday, January 24, 2018**. The time of the call remains the same at 7:00 PM – 8:30 PM (ET).

**This amendment supersedes all previous versions.** The above mentioned changes are found accordingly:

- 1) On page 20, Section IV.D.

<b>Date</b>	<b>Time (Eastern Standard)</b>
Tuesday, December 5, 2017	4:00 p.m. - 5:30 p.m.
Wednesday, December 13, 2017 (EJSCREEN Tutorial for applicants)	3:30 p.m. – 4:30 p.m.
Thursday, January 11, 2018 ( <i>en Español</i> )	2:00 p.m. - 3:30 p.m.
Wednesday, January 24, 2018	7:00 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.
Thursday February 1, 2018	4:00 p.m. - 5:30 p.m.

All other terms and conditions remain unchanged.

**AGENCY:** U.S. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY (EPA)  
Office of Environmental Justice (OEJ)

**TITLE:** Environmental Justice Collaborative Problem-Solving (EJCPS)  
Cooperative Agreement

**ACTION:** Request for Proposals (RFP)

**FUNDING OPPORTUNITY NUMBER (FON):** EPA-OP-OEJ-18-01

**CATALOG OF FEDERAL DOMESTIC ASSISTANCE (CFDA) NUMBER:** 66.306

**DATES:** ANNOUNCEMENT DATE: November 15, 2017  
CLOSING DATE: February 16, 2018

**Translations available:** To receive a Spanish translation of this announcement contact Jacob Burney in the Office of Environmental Justice at (202) 564-2907 or via email at [burney.jacob@epa.gov](mailto:burney.jacob@epa.gov). **Please note that applications must be written in English only.** Applications written in languages other than English will not be considered for award.

Hay traducciones disponibles de este anuncio en Español. Si usted esta interesado en obtener una traduccion de este anuncio en Español, por favor llame a La Oficina de Justicia Ambiental conocida como "Office of Environmental Justice," linea gratuita (1-800-962-6215).

**DEADLINE:** Proposal packages must be submitted through Grants.gov and must be submitted by 11:59 p.m. ET on February 16, 2018. Proposals received after the closing date and time will not be considered for funding.

**SUMMARY:** The Environmental Justice Collaborative Problem-Solving (EJCPS) Cooperative Agreement Program provides funding to support community-based organizations in their efforts to collaborate and partner with local stakeholder groups (e.g., local businesses and industry, local government, medical providers, and academia) as they develop and implement solutions that address environmental and/or public health issues for underserved communities. For purposes of this announcement, the term "underserved community" refers to a community with environmental justice concerns and/or vulnerable populations, including minority, low income, rural, tribal, and indigenous populations. Eligible projects must demonstrate use of the Environmental Justice Collaborative Problem-Solving Model to support their collaborative efforts during the project period. Applying organizations should have a direct connection to the underserved community impacted by the environmental harms and risks detailed in the workplan.

The long-term goals of the EJCPS Program are to help build the capacity of communities with environmental justice concerns and to create self-sustaining, community-based partnerships that will continue to improve local environments in the future.

**SPECIAL CONSIDERATION:** For the 2018 opportunity, the EJCPS program will give special consideration to high ranking proposals to be performed in rural areas as defined by the program. Rural areas, for the purposes of this competition, are defined as local areas with populations of 50,000 or less that have limited access to public or private resources commonly found in metropolitan areas. Applicants claiming rural status must provide sufficient detail (census data, population figures, descriptions of local resources, etc.) for EPA to validate the rural status of the

underserved community. The goal of this special consideration is to encourage and increase project performance in rural areas in the EPA EJ Grants program.

Additionally, EPA will give special consideration to high ranking proposals submitted by eligible organizations that have **not** previously received an EJPCS award. This means that EPA may factor in an applicant's award history with the EJPCS program when making final selections among high ranking proposals. (see Section V.C).

**PLEASE NOTE: All eligible organizations are encouraged to apply.** Under this announcement, projects not located in rural areas and/or proposed by organizations that have previously received an EJPCS award are still eligible for award. The special considerations described above and in Section V apply as an "other" selection factor the selection official may consider in determining selections among high ranking proposals.

**FUNDING/AWARDS:** The total estimated funding for this competitive opportunity is approximately \$1,200,000. EPA anticipates awarding one cooperative agreement of \$120,000 within each of the 10 EPA Regions, subject to availability of funds, the quality of proposals received, and other applicable considerations. Funded assistance agreements will have a two-year project period. Applicants should plan for projects to start September 1, 2018.

EPA reserves the right to increase or decrease the total number of grants awarded or reject all proposals and make no awards under this announcement. Such changes may be necessary as a response to the quality of proposals received by EPA or the amount of funds available.

An eligible applicant **MUST BE** one of the following entities:

- incorporated non-profit organizations—including, but not limited to, environmental justice networks, faith based organizations and those affiliated with religious institutions;\*
- federally recognized tribal governments—including Alaska Native Villages; OR
- tribal organizations

\* Applicant non-profit organizations must include documentation that shows the organization is either a 501(c) (3) non-profit organization as designated by the Internal Revenue Service; OR a non-profit organization recognized by the state, territory, commonwealth or tribe in which it is located. For the latter, documentation must be on official state government letterhead.

**Applicants must be located within the same state, territory, commonwealth, or tribe in which the proposed project is located.** This means that an applicant's registered address of record (i.e. the address designated on their IRS or State-sanctioned documentation) must be in the same state, territory, commonwealth or tribe as the location of the proposed project.

The following entities are **INELIGIBLE** to receive an award, but we encourage applicants to partner with these organizations as appropriate (see [Contracts and Subawards solicitation clause](#) referenced in Section IV):

- colleges and universities;
- hospitals;

- state and local governments and their entities;
- quasi-governmental entities (e.g., water districts, utilities)\*;
- national organizations and chapters of the aforementioned organizations\*\*;
- non-profit organizations supporting lobbying activities as defined in Section 3 of the Lobbying Disclosure Act of 1995; and\*\*\*

\* Generally, a quasi-governmental entity is one that: (1) has a close association with the government agency, but is not considered a part of the government agency; (2) was created by the government agency, but is exempt from certain legal and administrative requirements imposed on government agencies; or (3) was not created by the government agency but performs a public purpose and is significantly supported financially by the government agency.

\*\* National organizations are defined as comprising of one centralized headquarters or principal place of business that creates and controls the mission, structure and work carried out by its chapters or affiliates.

\*\*\* Funds awarded under this announcement may not be used to support lobbying activities or any activities related to lobbying or the appearance thereof. **Subawards made to nonprofit organizations that lobby are not allowed.**

## CONTENTS BY SECTION

- I. [Funding Opportunity Description](#)
- II. [Award Information](#)
- III. [Eligibility Information](#)
- IV. [Proposal and Submission Information](#)
- V. [Proposal Review Information](#)
- VI. [Award Administration Information](#)
- VII. [Agency Contacts](#)
- VIII. [Other Information and Appendices](#)
  - A – Tips on Preparing an EJ Grant Application
  - B – Illustration of EJCS Model
  - C – Sample of Performance Measure/Milestones (Logic Model)
  - D – Blank Logic Model
  - E – EJCS Detailed Itemized Budget example
  - F – Blank Itemized Budget Sheet
  - G – Quality Assurance Project Plan Questionnaire

I. **FUNDING OPPORTUNITY DESCRIPTION** [\(back to Contents by Section\)](#)

A. **DEFINITION OF ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE**

EPA defines “environmental justice” as the *fair treatment* and *meaningful involvement* of all people regardless of race, color, national origin or income with respect to the development, implementation, and enforcement of environmental laws, regulations, and policies. *Fair treatment* means that no one group of people, including racial, ethnic, or socioeconomic groups, should bear a disproportionate share of the negative environmental consequences resulting from industrial, municipal, and commercial operations or the execution of federal, state, local, and tribal environmental programs and policies. *Meaningful involvement* means that: (1) potentially underserved community residents have an appropriate opportunity to participate in decisions about a proposed activity that will affect their environment and/or health; (2) the public’s contribution can influence the regulatory agency’s decision; (3) the concerns of all participants involved will be considered in the decision-making process; and (4) the decision-makers seek out and facilitate the involvement of those potentially underserved. An “*underserved community*”, for the purposes of this competition, refers to a community with environmental justice concerns and/or vulnerable populations, including minority, low income, rural, tribal, and indigenous populations that may be disproportionately impacted by environmental harms and risks and has a local environmental and/or public health issue that is identified in the applicant’s proposal.

## **B. BACKGROUND & EJ COLLABORATIVE PROBLEM-SOLVING MODEL**

In 2003, the Office of Environmental Justice (OEJ) initiated the first solicitation for the Environmental Justice Collaborative Problem-Solving Cooperative Agreement Program. To find the latest information about the EJPCS Program visit: <https://www.epa.gov/environmental-justice/environmental-justice-collaborative-problem-solving-cooperative-agreement-0>

The purpose of the EJPCS Program is for EPA to provide financial assistance to support community-based organizations to collaborate and partner with other stakeholders (e.g., local businesses and industry, local government, medical providers, academia, etc.) to develop and implement solutions that will significantly address environmental and/or public health issue(s) at the local level. The program’s objective is to support projects that demonstrate the utility of the Environmental Justice Collaborative Problem Solving Model. Because this program requires substantial involvement and interaction between the applicant and EPA, these awards will be made in the form of cooperative agreements. See Section II.A.ii for more detail on cooperative agreements.

For the purposes of this EJPCS Program, collaborative problem-solving is defined as an effort to bring together groups and resources (e.g., information, labor, money) by three or more stakeholders to solve a set of problems that any single entity cannot solve individually. Collaborative problem-solving builds upon existing community understanding to establish and maintain partnerships capable of producing meaningful environmental and/or public health results. To provide a systematic approach towards collaborative problem-solving, OEJ has developed a Collaborative Problem-Solving Model (Model). Such a Model is intended to assist vulnerable and underserved communities in developing proactive, strategic, and visionary approaches to address their environmental justice issues and achieve community health and sustainability.

Collaborative problem-solving also involves developing and implementing a well-designed strategic plan with a built-in evaluation component to measure and achieve results on local environmental and/or public health issues and to sustain the partnerships. These elements are cross-cutting and interdependent and should be utilized in a proactive, strategic, and iterative manner. Determining which elements to undertake, and in what order, can vary greatly, however, depending upon the unique facts and circumstances surrounding each environmental and/or

public health issue. Not all the elements are required to be used in every situation. Rather, the CPS Model and its seven elements can be viewed as a “tool box” filled with different tools that can be used as needed. The seven elements are as follows:

1. Issue Identification, Visioning, and Strategic Goal-Setting;
2. Community Capacity-Building and Leadership Development;
3. Development of Multi-Stakeholder Partnerships and Leveraging of Resources;
4. Consensus Building and Dispute Resolution;
5. Constructive Engagement with Other Stakeholders;
6. Sound Management and Implementation; and
7. Evaluation

For additional information about OEJ’s CPS Model, please see follow the link below:

<https://www.epa.gov/sites/production/files/2016-06/documents/cps-manual-12-27-06.pdf>

A key starting point for any collaborative problem-solving project is the identification of an environmental and/or public health issue and the community’s leadership in formulating goals (*e.g.*, diesel reduction, lead abatement, reducing high incidence of asthma, land use changes, pollution prevention, implementation of fish advisories, hazardous waste, emissions reduction, risk reduction, community cleanups, or compliance with local environmental and/or public health regulations, etc.). Collaborative problem-solving involves the establishment and/or maintenance of partnerships between and among other stakeholders and the underserved community to address the community’s local environmental and/or public health issues.

These partnerships can include, but are not limited to the following stakeholder groups:

- Other local community-based non-profit organizations;
- Local, regional, and national environmental non-profit organizations;
- State, local, and tribal governments;
- Federal government agencies;
- Health care providers;
- Faith-based organizations and local churches;
- Philanthropic organizations;
- Civic organizations;
- Local economic and/or community development corporations/organizations;
- Educational institutions (*e.g.* schools, colleges, and universities);
- State, local and tribal government agencies;
- Local Businesses and Industry;
- Elected officials (you may not use Federal grant funds or cost-sharing funds to conduct lobbying activities); and
- Labor and professional organizations.

## C. QUALIFIED ENVIRONMENTAL STATUTES

The EJPCS Program is designed to address multi-statute environmental and/or public health issues. For this reason, each project must include activities related to **at least one** of the following federal environmental statutes. **Failure to clearly and conclusively identify and cite at least one of the federal statutes in your work plan will result in your project not being considered for award.**

1. **Clean Air Act, Section 103(b)(3):** conduct research, investigations, experiments, demonstration projects, surveys, and studies (including monitoring) related to the causes, effects (including health and welfare effects), extent, prevention, and control of air pollution.
2. **Clean Water Act, Section 104(b)(3):** conduct and promote the coordination of research, investigations, training, demonstration projects, surveys, and studies (including monitoring) relating to the causes, effects, extent, prevention, reduction, and elimination of water pollution.
3. **Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act, Section 20(a):** conduct research, development, monitoring, public education, training, demonstration projects, and studies on pesticides.
4. **Marine Protection, Research, and Sanctuaries Act, Section 203:** conduct research, investigations, experiments, training, demonstration projects, surveys, and studies relating to the minimizing or ending of ocean dumping of hazardous materials and the development of alternatives to ocean dumping.
5. **Safe Drinking Water Act, Section 1442(b)(3):** develop and expand the capability to carry out a program (that may combine training, education, and employment) for occupations relating to the public health aspects of providing safe drinking water.
6. **Solid Waste Disposal Act, Section 8001(a):** conduct and promote the coordination of research, investigations, experiments, training, demonstration projects, surveys, public education programs, and studies relating to solid waste (e.g., health and welfare effects of exposure to materials present in solid waste and methods to eliminate such effects). *Please note that proposals supporting brownfields work are not eligible for funding under this announcement.*
7. **Toxic Substances Control Act, Section 10(a):** conduct research, development, monitoring, public education, training, demonstration projects, and studies on toxic substances.

#### **D. EPA STRATEGIC PLAN LINKAGE & ANTICIPATED OUTPUTS, OUTCOMES & PERFORMANCE MEASUREMENT:**

Pursuant to Section 6a of EPA Order 5700.7, “Environmental Results under EPA Assistance Agreements,” (see <https://www.epa.gov/grants/epa-order-57007a1-epas-policy-environmental-results-under-epa-assistance-agreements>). EPA must link proposed assistance agreements to the Agency’s Strategic Plan.

EPA’s draft Strategic Plan 2018 - 2022 is available at <https://www.epa.gov/planandbudget/strategicplan.html>). The activities to be funded under this announcement are intended to further EPA’s current priorities for:

1. Improving air quality to ensure more Americans are living and working in areas that meet high air quality standards
2. Ensuring clean and safe water by improving water infrastructure and supporting drinking water, aquatic ecosystems, and recreational, economic and subsistence activities
3. Cleaning up contaminated sites and returning land back to communities
4. Improving environmental protection through joint governance, state/tribal primacy efforts, and compliance assistance
5. Increasing transparency, public participation, and collaboration with communities.

Applicants should explain in their proposal how their project will further **at least one** of the current priorities listed above.

EPA Order 5700.7 also requires that grant applicants adequately describe environmental outputs and outcomes to be achieved under assistance agreements. Applicants must 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 will demonstrate how the project will contribute to the goals and objectives described above.

**1. Outputs (Evaluation Criteria, Section V.A)** The term “output” means an environmental activity, effort, and/or associated work product related to an environmental goal and 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 the funding period. Examples of some expected outputs from the project(s) may include the following:

- The number of residents trained by an environmental and/or public health program to reduce resident exposure to environmental and/or public health hazards (e.g., number of residents trained on safe shellfish harvesting)
- Creation of an environmental and/or public health program to achieve and sustain environmental and/or public health improvements (e.g., a community-wide asthma coalition)

**2. Outcomes (Evaluation Criteria, Section V.A.)** The term “outcome” means the result, effect or consequence that will occur from carrying out an environmental program or activity that relates 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 achievable within an assistance agreement funding period. EPA encourages recipients to identify outcomes wherever possible because they lead to environmental and/or public health improvement more clearly than outputs. Examples of expected outcomes may include but are not limited to the following:

1. The number of residents that actually adopt safe shellfish harvesting
2. The number of community members that utilize an asthma action plan to manage asthma at home, work, and/or school
3. The number of families that have reduced exposure to lead paint as a result of their homes undergoing a lead abatement program
4. Reduction of carbon emissions/pollution

**3. Performance Measurement Plan (Evaluation Criteria, Section V.A.)** Outputs and outcomes are critical components of an applicant’s overall plan for measuring their project’s performance. An applicant will be evaluated on the quality of their overall performance measurement plan including the proposed outputs, outcomes, and associated timeframes for achieving those results. An applicant’s performance measurement plan will help gather insights, will be the mechanism to track progress concerning successful progress, output and outcome strategies, and will provide the basis for developing lessons learned to inform future recipients. A logic model is useful in developing an overall performance measurement plan. See Appendices C and D for a sample logic model template.



The following questions are also useful to consider when developing output and outcome measures of quantitative and qualitative results:

1. What are the measurable short term and longer term results the project will achieve?
2. How does the project measure progress in achieving the expected results (including outputs and outcomes) and how will the approach use resources effectively and efficiently?

## **II. AWARD INFORMATION**

[\(back to Contents by Section\)](#)

### **A. FUNDING AVAILABILITY AND PROJECT PERIOD**

- i) Total estimated funding expected to be available for awards under this competitive opportunity is approximately \$1,200,000 contingent on the availability of funds, the quality of proposals, and other applicable considerations. Cooperative agreements are fully funded at time of award.
- ii) EPA anticipates awarding one cooperative agreement of \$120,000 in each of the 10 EPA Regions (Section VII), subject to availability of funds, the quality of proposals received, and other applicable considerations. The funding for selected projects will be in the form of cooperative agreements because this program requires substantial involvement and interaction between the applicant and EPA. EPA will negotiate the precise terms and conditions of “substantial involvement” as part of the award process. Federal involvement may include: close monitoring of the recipient’s performance to verify the results proposed by the applicant; collaboration during the performance of the scope of work; in accordance with 2 CFR 200.317 and 2 CFR 200.318, as appropriate, review of proposed procurements; reviewing qualifications of key personnel; and/or review and comment on the content of printed or electronic publications prepared. EPA does not have the authority to select employees or contractors employed by the recipient. The final decision on the content of reports rests with the recipient.
- iii) Proposed projects are for two years. The estimated project period start date for awards is September 1, 2018.
- iv) EPA reserves the right to make additional awards under this announcement, consistent with Agency policy, if additional funding becomes available after the original selections. Any additional selections for awards will be made no later than six months from the date of the original selections. In addition, EPA reserves the right to increase or decrease the total number of grants awarded or reject all proposals and make no awards under this announcement. Such changes may be necessary as a response to the quality of proposals received by EPA or the amount of funds available.
- v) In appropriate circumstances, EPA reserves the right to partially fund applications by funding discrete portions or phases of proposed projects. If EPA decides to partially fund an application, it will do so in a manner that does not prejudice any applicants or affect the basis upon which the applicant or portion thereof, was evaluated and selected for award, and therefore maintains the integrity of the competition and selection process.

### III. ELIGIBILITY INFORMATION

[\(back to Contents by Section\)](#)

A. **Eligible Entities based on CFDA.** In accordance with CFDA 66.306, an eligible applicant must be one of the following:

- incorporated non-profit organizations—including, but not limited to, environmental justice networks, faith based organizations and those affiliated with religious institutions;\*
- federally recognized tribal governments—including Alaska Native Villages; OR
- tribal organizations

\* Applicant organizations claiming non-profit status must include documentation that shows the organization is either a 501(c) (3) non-profit organization as designated by the Internal Revenue Service; OR a non-profit organization recognized by the state, territory, commonwealth or tribe in which it is located. For the latter, documentation must be on official state government letterhead.

**Applicants must be located within the same state, territory, commonwealth, or tribe in which the proposed project is located.** This means that an applicant's registered address of record (i.e. the address designated on their IRS or State-sanctioned documentation) must be in the same state, territory, commonwealth or tribe as the location of the proposed project.

The following entities are **INELIGIBLE** to receive an award, but we encourage applicants to partner with these organizations, as appropriate (see [Contracts and Subawards solicitation clause](#)):

- colleges and universities;
- hospitals;
- state and local governments and their entities;
- quasi-governmental entities (e.g., water districts, utilities)\*;
- national organizations and chapters of the aforementioned organizations\*\*;
- non-profit organizations supporting lobbying activities as defined in Section 3 of the Lobbying Disclosure Act of 1995; and\*\*\*

\* Generally, a quasi-governmental entity is one that: (1) has a close association with the government agency, but is not considered a part of the government agency; (2) was created by the government agency, but is exempt from certain legal and administrative requirements imposed on government agencies; or (3) was not created by the government agency but performs a public purpose and is significantly supported financially by the government agency.

\*\* National organizations are defined as comprising of one centralized headquarters or principal place of business that creates and controls the mission, structure and work carried out by its chapters or affiliates.

\*\*\* Funds awarded under this announcement may not be used to support lobbying activities or any activities related to lobbying or the appearance thereof. **Subawards made to nonprofit organizations that lobby are not allowed.**

## **B. THRESHOLD ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA**

These are requirements that, if not met by the time of proposal submission, will result in elimination of the proposal from consideration for funding. Only proposals from eligible entities (Section III) that meet all of these criteria will be evaluated against the ranking factors in Section V. Applicants deemed ineligible for funding consideration because of the threshold eligibility review will be notified within 15 calendar days of the ineligibility determination.

1. Proposals must substantially comply with the proposal submission instructions and requirements set forth in Section IV of this announcement or else they will be rejected. However, where a page limit is expressed in Section IV with respect to the proposal workplan, pages in excess of the page limitation will not be reviewed.

In addition, initial proposals **must be submitted through [Grants.gov](https://www.grants.gov) as stated in Section IV of this announcement (except in the limited circumstances where another mode of submission is specifically allowed for, as explained in Section IV)** on or before the proposal submission deadline published in Section IV of this announcement. Applicants are responsible for following the submission instructions in Section IV of this announcement to ensure that their proposal is timely submitted.

2. Proposals submitted after the submission deadline will be considered late and deemed ineligible without further consideration unless the applicant can clearly demonstrate that it was late due to EPA mishandling or because of technical problems associated with [Grants.gov](https://www.grants.gov) or relevant [SAM.gov](https://www.sam.gov) system issues. **An applicant's failure to submit their proposal through [Grants.gov](https://www.grants.gov) because they did not timely or properly register in [SAM.gov](https://www.sam.gov) or [Grants.gov](https://www.grants.gov) will not be considered an acceptable reason to consider a late submission. **DO NOT wait to register in SAM.gov or Grants.gov. Finalizing these registrations could take a month or more. Register as soon as possible.** Applicants should confirm receipt of their proposal with Jacob Burney, [burney.jacob@epa.gov](mailto:burney.jacob@epa.gov), as soon as possible—failure to do so may result in your proposal not being reviewed.**
3. **Qualified Environmental Statutes:** Projects must include activities related to at least one of the Qualified Environmental Statutes listed under Section I.C. A project workplan must explain how it is tied to the local environmental and/or public health issue in the underserved community. Any failure to clearly and conclusively identify and cite at least one of the federal statutes in your work plan will result in your project not being considered for award.
4. **Applicant/Project Location:** Applicants must be located within the same state, territory, commonwealth, or tribe in which the proposed project is located. This means that an applicant's registered address of record (i.e. the address designated on their IRS or State-sanctioned documentation) must be in the same state, territory, commonwealth or tribe as the location of the proposed project.

5. **Three Letters of Commitment:** Applicants must have partners from at least THREE different stakeholder groups as documented by at least THREE signed letters of commitment
6. **Ineligible activities:** **Projects must not be used for the purposes of routine program implementation, implementation of routine environmental protection restoration measures, duplication of work performed under a prior EPA grant, or completion of work which was to have been completed under a prior EPA grant.** If a proposal includes any ineligible tasks or prohibited activities, that portion of the proposal will be ineligible for funding and may, depending on the extent to which it affects the proposal, render the entire proposal ineligible for funding.
7. **Multiple Proposals:** Applicants may submit only one proposal under this solicitation. If an applicant submits more than one, then they will be contacted by EPA prior to the evaluation process to determine which one to withdraw. However, an applicant organization may be a partner on a proposal from another organization.
8. Please note that proposals must be written in English only. Proposals written in languages other than English will not be considered for award.

#### C. COST-SHARING OR MATCHING FUNDS

No cost-sharing or matching is required as a condition of eligibility or otherwise considered for evaluating proposals for award.

### IV. PROPOSAL & SUBMISSION INFORMATION [\(back to Contents by Section\)](#)

#### A. CONTENT AND FORM OF PROPOSAL SUBMISSION

All proposals must be submitted electronically through [www.grants.gov](http://www.grants.gov). Proposals transmitted via postal mail, fax, and/or email will not be considered. Proposals are due by Friday, February 16, 2018 at 11:59 PM (ET).

**REQUIRED FORMS & DOCUMENTS:** The following forms and documents are **required**. Failure to include all documents listed below may result in your proposal being rendered ineligible:

- 1) **SF-424 Application for Federal Assistance** (part of the Grants.gov application submission process)
- 2) **Proposal Work plan** (subject to page limit described below and see optional template in Section IV.A.2) - use "Project Narrative" form in Grants.gov to submit your workplan
- 3) **Itemized Budget Sheet** (Appendices E and F)
- 4) **Project Performance Measures / Logic Model** (Appendices C & D)
- 5) **Letters of Commitment from Partners** (from at least three stakeholder groups)

- 6) [Key Contacts List](#) (EPA Form 5700-54) – use “Key Contacts” form in Grants.gov
- 7) **Resumes of the Project Manager (PM) and other key personnel**
- 8) **Proof of Non-Profit Status**

For items 3 thru 8 (except for 6), applicants can submit using the “Other” attachments form in Grants.gov.

It is strongly advised that applicants organize their proposals in the order presented above when submitting through Grants.gov. This will facilitate review and scoring of your proposal. However, applicants will not be penalized if documents are ordered differently. The following is a detailed description of all the required forms and documents:

**1) SF-424 APPLICATION FOR FEDERAL ASSISTANCE:** The SF-424 is the official form required for all federal grants and cooperative agreements. This form is a required form when submitting a grant application through [www.Grants.gov](http://www.Grants.gov). The form requests the basic information about your organization and proposed project. To complete the SF-424 form, applicants must provide a DUN and Bradstreet (D&B) Data Universal Numbering System (DUNS) number. Applicants can receive a DUNS number at no cost by calling the dedicated toll-free request line at 1-800-627-3867 or by visiting the D&B website at <http://www.dnb.com>.

**2) PROPOSAL WORK PLAN (Template available in Section IV.A.2):** The work plan is the most important part of the proposal package. The work plan describes the project. Work plans that are focused and succinct are stronger than ones that try to address too many issues. Under this announcement, applicants must submit a project focused on activities related to **at least** one Qualified Environmental Statute. Types of eligible activities are those described within the Qualified Environmental Statutes, as discussed in Section I of this announcement. Applicants should identify the chosen Qualified Environmental Statute in the Summary Page. Proposals will be evaluated on the extent and quality of how well the project addresses program objectives and allowable activities. The work plan, as described below, must not exceed fourteen (14) single-spaced typewritten pages and be on letter size pages (8 1/2 X 11 inches). Any pages beyond 14 pages (including the Summary Page) will not be read by the Review Panel. It is recommended that applicants use a standard font (e.g. Times New Roman, Calibri, and Arial) and a 12-point font size with 1-inch margins. Supporting materials, such as resumes and partnership letters, can be submitted as attachments and are not included in the 14-page limit.

The following table may be helpful when drafting the work plan:

**The 14-page work plan must contain the following components (items 1.0-6.0 below) and should be identified by the headings in the EXACT ORDER as listed below. Also ensure that the workplan addresses all the evaluation criteria in Section V and any necessary threshold eligibility criteria in Section III:**

## 1.0 PROGRAM OBJECTIVES

**a. Project Summary – Recommended one-page summary document (does count as part of 14-page workplan limit). Summary includes:**

- Project Title
- Project Location (including community/neighborhood(s), city, state, and zip code)
- Rural Area? (Yes / No)
- New EJCPS Recipient (if awarded)? (Yes / No)
- Applicant Information (name, address, main contact information)
- Brief Description of Applicant Organization -- Provide a brief description (100 words or less) of the applicant organization, including its mission and key ongoing projects/activities in which it is involved.
- Project Period Dates
- Environmental Statute(s)
- Project Type(s) -- such as training, monitoring, demonstration, public education (related to statute identified above)
- List of Project Partners -- include partner name and stakeholder group. (For example State University (academic); County commissioner (local government); Facility, Utility, etc. (industry)).
- Project Abstract -- Brief description (250 words or less) of the main objective, activities, and outputs/outcomes of the project, including the specific geographic areas of focus.
- Will you need to develop a QAPP for your project? (see Appendix G)

**b. Environmental and Public Health information of the Underserved Community - the applicant will be evaluated on the ability to clearly describe the local environmental justice issue(s) the project proposes to address and the community that is impacted. **Please describe the following:****

- What are the local environmental/public health issue(s) that the project seeks to address;
- What are the local environmental/public health results the project seeks to achieve;
- Describe the underserved community the applicant is directly working with to address the issues
- How the underserved community is disproportionately impacted by environmental harms and risks;
- How the underserved community will benefit from the project's intended local results; and

The applicant must include relevant information such as demographics, geographic location, and community history. We strongly encourage the use of EPA's [EJSCREEN](#) tool to characterize and describe your target community (along with local insight and perspective). Instructions and

resources on how to use EJSCREEN are included at the hyperlink above. For any questions you have about EJSCREEN, please contact Alyssa Edwards at [edwards.alyssa@epa.gov](mailto:edwards.alyssa@epa.gov) or 202-564-0473.

**\*Applicants proposing projects in RURAL AREAS must provide sufficient detail (census data, population figures, descriptions of local resources, etc.) for EPA to validate the rural status of the underserved community**

**c. Organization's Historical and Sustained Connection to Underserved Community -**

The applicant will be evaluated on the description of the strong connection between their organization and the underserved community as that term is defined in this announcement.

**Please describe the following:**

- History of the applicant's involvement with the underserved community, including duration of involvement and circumstances that led to your involvement;
- How the applicant has worked with the underserved community's residents and/or organizations to address local environmental and public health issues;
- How the underserved community's residents and/or organizations were involved in developing the current project plan and are part of the decision-making process; and
- How the applicant will sustain an ongoing relationship with the underserved community's residents and/or organizations.

**d. EJCPS Model - Demonstrate the utility of the Environmental Justice Collaborative Problem Solving Model (Section I.B). Provide a clear and concise description about:**

- Which of the seven elements of the EJCPS Model will be undertaken for this project. Also describe which EJCPS Model element(s) associated with this project may have already begun or been accomplished,
  - for example, EJCPS Model Element 1 – *Community Vision and Strategic Planning* may have occurred prior to applying. The EJCPS program focus is on developing and implementing solutions; it is anticipated that applicants may have accomplished some aspects of EJCPS Model elements.

**e. Project Linkages**

**Please describe the following:**

- How the project supports EPA's draft Strategic Plan 2018 - 2022 and how the project furthers **at least one** of the current priorities listed below:
  1. Improving air quality to ensure more Americans are living and working in areas that meet high air quality standards
  2. Ensuring clean and safe water by improving water infrastructure and

supporting drinking water, aquatic ecosystems, and recreational, economic and subsistence activities

3. Cleaning up contaminated sites and returning land back to communities
4. Improving environmental protection through joint governance, state/tribal primacy efforts, and compliance assistance
5. Increasing transparency, public participation, and collaboration with communities.

- How the project is related to the qualified environmental statute(s) identified in your Project Summary. Please note each project must include activities that are authorized by **at least one** of the federal environmental statutes listed in Section I.C.

**f. Partner and Collaborate** - Provide a clear and concise description of how the proposed project collaborates with other stakeholders to develop and implement solutions that will address environmental and/or public health issues at the local level. We encourage applicants to seek diversity in partnerships in an effort to enhance the process of achieving the project's goals. **Applicants must have at least THREE signed letters of commitment from partners representing at least THREE different stakeholder groups.**

- Describe how the project will accomplish its goals through the use of appropriate and diverse partnerships from multiple stakeholder groups, such as industry, business, academia, government, etc.
- Identify and describe all partners involved, including those partnerships that may be under development. Include the following details about each of your partners:
  - Planned roles of each partner listed in your Project Summary. Include which stakeholder group the partner represents and the project activities each partner will be responsible for
  - What resources each partner brings to the partnership
  - How the partner has a vested interest in working with this partnership [other than just getting income]
  - How the applicant organization plans to maintain and sustain these relationships on into the future

## **2.0 Project Activities / Milestone Schedule / Detailed Budget Narrative**

**Please describe the following:**



- Project Activities - Clear description of steps the applicant will take to meet the program objectives. Descriptions of the detailed project activities or components and the anticipated products/results associated with each activity.
- Milestone Schedule - Clearly articulated milestone schedule, including timeframes and major milestones to complete significant project activities.
- Itemized Budget Sheet / Budget Narrative - Clearly explain how EPA funds will be used. Applicants must itemize costs into the following budget categories: personnel, fringe benefits, contractual costs, travel, equipment, supplies, other direct costs, indirect costs, and total costs. Describe itemized costs in sufficient detail for EPA to determine the reasonableness and allowability of costs for each work plan component/activity. *Applicants are permitted to attach the itemized budget sheet as an “Other Attachment” to their application so the sheet will not count against the 14-page workplan limit.*

### **3.0 Environmental Results – Outputs, Outcomes, and Performance Measures (Logic Model)**

**Please describe the following:**

- Environmental Results-Outputs/Outcomes - Applicants will be evaluated based on the expected project outputs and outcomes identified in the proposal for their project. The expected outputs and outcomes should be effective in achieving the Program Objectives listed in Section I, including collaborating and developing partnerships to effectively address local environmental and public health issues, educating and empowering the community about those issues, and developing strategies and approaches for building consensus and setting community priorities in the underserved community. (examples of outputs and outcomes are provided in Section I and Appendix C of the announcement).
- Performance Measurement Plan – Applicants will be evaluated on the extent and quality to which the proposal demonstrates a sound plan for tracking progress toward achieving the expected outputs, outcomes, and associated timeframes for achieving those results. *Applicants are permitted to attach their completed logic models as an “Other Attachment” to their applications so the sheet will not count against the 14-page workplan limit.*

### **4.0 Programmatic Capability**

**In order to be evaluated under this criterion in Section V, applicants must provide information on their:**

- Organizational Experience related to the proposed project and their infrastructure as it relates to their ability to successfully implement the proposed project.
- Staff Experience / Qualifications of Project Manager (PM) - Provide information that clearly demonstrates that the proposed PM and other

staff associated with the project are qualified to perform the project successfully. This will be determined through the description of the following:

- Why the PM and associated staff are qualified to undertake the project;
  - Illustrating the PM's ties/historical connection to the community and the applicant organization. Please include detailed descriptions of any activities that the PM has worked on with the community and/or applicant organization.
- Expenditure of Awarded Grant Funds - Applicants will be evaluated based on their approach, procedures, and controls for ensuring that awarded grant funds will be expended in a timely and efficient manner and applicants must describe this in the workplan.

## **5.0 Past Performance**

Submit a list of federally funded assistance agreements (assistance agreements include Federal grants and cooperative agreements but not Federal contracts) similar in size, scope and relevance to the proposed project that your organization has performed within the last three years. Include the dollar amounts of each agreement. List no more than 5 agreements (preferably EPA agreements if applicable) and describe:

- whether, and how, you were able to successfully complete and manage those agreements; and
- your history of meeting the reporting requirements under those agreements including whether you adequately and timely reported on your progress towards achieving the expected outputs and outcomes of those agreements (and if not, explain why not) and whether you submitted acceptable final technical reports under the agreements.

In evaluating applicants under these factors in Section V, EPA will consider the information provided by the applicant and may also consider relevant information from other sources, including information from EPA files and from current/prior grantors (e.g., to verify and/or supplement the information provided by the applicant). If you do not have any relevant or available past performance or past reporting information, please indicate this in the proposal and you will receive a neutral score for these factors (a neutral score is half of the total points available in a subset of possible points). If you do not provide any response for these items, you may receive a score of 0 for these factors.

## **6.0 Quality Assurance Project Plan (QAPP) Information (If applicable)**

**Please describe the following:**

- Indicate whether you believe that your project will involve the use of existing environmental data or the collection of new data (use the checklist in Appendix G to

assist you in making this determination). For more information about Quality Assurance Project Plans, please consult the following website <http://www.epa.gov/quality/qs-docs/g5-final.pdf>.

**You are not required to develop a QAPP at this point.** You are only being asked to determine whether or not you will need a QAPP should your project be selected for funding. If required, then an approved QAPP must be in place *prior* to the initiation of project activities.

**3) Itemized Budget Sheet (Template available in Appendices E and F):** Provide a detailed budget and estimated funding amount for each project component/activity. Identify the requested federal dollars. Clearly explain how EPA funds will be used. Applicants must itemize costs related to personnel, fringe benefits, contractual costs, travel, equipment, supplies, other direct costs, indirect costs, and total costs. All subaward funding should be located under the “other” category. This section provides an opportunity for narrative description of the budget or aspects of the budget such as “other” and contractual. Provide itemized costs with sufficient detail for EPA to determine the reasonableness and allowability of costs for each work plan component/activity. Helpful tips on writing a budget can be found at: [http://www.epa.gov/ogd/recipient/ogd\\_budget\\_detail\\_guidance.pdf](http://www.epa.gov/ogd/recipient/ogd_budget_detail_guidance.pdf)

If the applicant does not have a current negotiated indirect cost (IDC) rate, the applicant may include a flat IDC rate of 10% of salaries and wages. Please note: Recipients that opt to use the 10% flat rate are obligated to use the flat rate for the life of the grant award.

Total estimated costs in the budget breakdown should reflect federal funding only. Include in the narrative how/if partners will contribute to the project via in-kind or financial support.

**Applicants are permitted to attach the itemized budget sheet as an “Other Attachment” to their application so the sheet will not count against the 14-page workplan limit.**

**Grantee Networking and Training Workshop:** All EJCPS recipients will be required to attend a two-day workshop to be held at each EPA regional office. The tentative timeframe of the workshops will be Fall 2018. Recipients will need to identify at least one authorized official to participate and travel to their corresponding EPA regional office. Recipients will be permitted to use awarded funds to pay for travel to the workshop. Applicants should include those travel costs in proposed budgets. The workshops will feature a mix of current and past EPA EJ grant recipients who will come together to provide perspective, insight, lessons learned, and collaborative opportunities regarding the environmental justice issues plaguing their communities and ways to address them. Recipients will also receive guidance on strategic planning and project management. The workshop may also include site visits to local EJ grant recipient communities depending on the EPA regional office agenda and available funding for the workshop.

**4) Project Performance Measures / Logic Model** (a sample logic model and blank template are available in Appendices C and D).

The ability to measure project progress is critical to achieving desired goals. Targeting work toward specific project outcomes can help the recipient manage the project to achieve these results. Measurement can indicate the effectiveness of the project and whether the efforts are having a positive impact on the community.

In order to determine whether your project has achieved its intended outputs and outcomes, you will need to think about *what* your data source will be (e.g., people, existing records, observation, etc.) and *how* you will collect the data (e.g., observing behavior changes, administering pre- and post-tests). You will need to do this for each performance measure you develop.

**When developing your performance measurement plan, please list and describe the following:**

- **Resources/Inputs:** Identify which resources, the organization and its partners are putting forward to further the project's goals. Resources may include but are not limited to staff time, in-kind contributions, monetary contributions, etc.
- **Activities:** What activities will the organization and its partners conduct under your work plan?
- **Outputs and Outcomes:** Describe the outputs and outcomes that will result from the project (potential outputs and outcomes are listed in Section I. D).

**When developing performance measures for all projects, it is also important to consider the following:**

- What are the measurable short term and longer term results the project will achieve?
- How will my project measure progress in achieving the expected results (including outputs and outcomes) and how will the approach use resources effectively and efficiently?

You will also need to think carefully about your data collection process in order to get quality information from your project and to achieve your project's intended results.

Logic models are useful tools in developing output and outcome measures. A logic model is a visual model that shows the relationship between your work and your desired results. It communicates the performance story of your project, focusing attention on the most important connections between your actions and the results. A logic model can serve as a basic road map for the project, explaining where you are and where you hope to end up. Development of a logic model for your project is not required, but strongly encouraged. If you choose not to provide a logic model, you must still address how you will measure performance.

**Applicants are permitted to attach their completed logic models as an "Other Attachment" to their applications so the sheet will not count against the 14-page workplan limit.**

- 5) **Letters of Commitment from Partners (representing at least three stakeholder groups):** Letters should be detailed and indicate how the supporting organization will assist the project, such as providing resources or in-kind support. Please do not include generic letters of support. These are not subject to the page limit.
- 6) **[EPA Form 5700-54](#), Key Contacts List:** Applicants are encouraged to ensure that all information presented on the Key Contacts form is accurate. Information contained on the Key Contacts form may be used in the event an applicant is contacted for additional information.
- 7) **Resumes of the Project Manager (PM) and Other Key Personnel:** Applicants must attach a resume or curricula vitae (CV) for the PM and other key personnel named on the Key Contacts List. These are not subject to the workplan page limit although individual resumes should not exceed 2 pages in length.
- 8) **Proof of Non-profit Status.** Applicant organizations claiming non-profit status must include documentation that shows the organization is either a 501(c) (3) non-profit organization as designated by the Internal Revenue Service; OR a non-profit organization recognized by the state, territory, commonwealth or tribe in which it is located. Documentation must be on official federal or state government letterhead. These are not subject to the page limit.

**B. ADDITIONAL SUBMISSION PROVISIONS:** The following list of provisions that apply to this solicitation and/or awards made under this solicitation, include but are not limited to: Confidential Business Information, Contracts and Subawards under grants, and Management Fees. Additional provisions can be found at: <http://www.epa.gov/grants/epa-solicitation-clauses> . Applicants are strongly encouraged to review these and other grant provisions when preparing proposals for this solicitation. If there is difficulty in accessing the provisions electronically at the website above, please communicate with the EPA contact listed in this solicitation to obtain the provisions.

**D. PRE-APPLICATION ASSISTANCE CALLS**

Applicants are invited to participate in conference calls with EPA to address questions about the EJPCS Program and this solicitation. Interested persons may access the pre-application assistance calls by dialing 1-866-299-3188 and entering the code 202-564-0152 when prompted. The following are the conference call dates and times:

<b>Date</b>	<b>Time (Eastern Standard)</b>
Tuesday, December 5, 2017	4:00 p.m. - 5:30 p.m.
Wednesday, December 13, 2017 (EJSCREEN Tutorial for applicants)	3:30 p.m. – 4:30 p.m.
Thursday, January 11, 2018 ( <i>en Español</i> )	2:00 p.m. - 3:30 p.m.
Wednesday, January 24, 2018	7:00 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.
Thursday February 1, 2018	4:00 p.m. - 5:30 p.m.

In accordance with EPA's Assistance Agreement Competition Policy (EPA Order 5700.5A1), EPA staff will not meet with individual applicants to discuss draft applications, provide informal comments on draft applications, or provide advice to applicants on how to respond to ranking criteria.

Applicants are responsible for the contents of their applications. However, consistent with the provisions in the announcement, EPA will respond to questions from individual applicants regarding threshold eligibility criteria, administrative issues related to the submission of the proposal, and requests for clarification about the announcement.

Responses to frequently asked questions (FAQs) will be available on OEJ's webpage. In addition, if necessary, EPA may clarify threshold eligibility issues with applicants prior to making an eligibility determination.

**E. Requirement to Submit through Grants.gov and Limited Exception Procedures:**

**Applicants, except as noted below, must apply electronically through Grants.gov under this funding opportunity based on the grants.gov instructions in this announcement.**

If an applicant does not have the technical capability to apply electronically through grants.gov because of limited or no internet access which prevents them from being able to upload the required application materials to Grants.gov, the applicant must contact [OGDWaivers@epa.gov](mailto:OGDWaivers@epa.gov) or the address listed below in writing (e.g., by hard copy or email) at least 15 calendar days prior to the submission deadline under this announcement to request approval to submit application materials through an alternate method.

<p><b><u>Mailing Address:</u></b> OGD Waivers c/o Jessica Durand USEPA Headquarters William Jefferson Clinton Building 1200 Pennsylvania Ave., N. W. Mail Code: 3903R Washington, DC 20460</p>	<p><b><u>Courier Address:</u></b> OGD Waivers c/o Jessica Durand Ronald Reagan Building 1300 Pennsylvania Ave., N.W. Rm # 51278 Washington, DC 20004</p>
--	--

In the request, the applicant must include the following information:

- Funding Opportunity Number (FON)
- Applicant Organization Name and DUNS
- Organization's Contact Information (Name for POC), email address and phone number)
- Explanation of how applicant lacks technical capability to apply electronically through Grants.gov because of: 1) limited internet access or 2) no internet access which prevents them from being able to upload the required application materials through [www.Grants.gov](http://www.Grants.gov).

EPA will only consider alternate submission exception requests based on the two reasons stated above and will respond timely to the request. If an alternate submission method is approved, the

applicant will receive documentation of this approval and further instructions detailing how to apply under this announcement. Applicants will be required to submit the documentation of approval with any initial application submitted under the alternative method. In addition, any submittal through an alternative method must comply with all applicable requirements and deadlines in the announcement including the submission deadline and requirements regarding proposal content and page limits (although the documentation of approval of an alternate submission method will not count against any page limits).

If an exception is granted, it is valid for submissions to EPA for the remainder of the entire calendar year in which the exception was approved and can be used to justify alternative submission methods for application submissions made through December 31 of the calendar year in which the exception was approved (e.g., if the exception was approved on March 1, 2017, it is valid for any competitive or non-competitive application submission to EPA through December 31, 2017). Applicants need only request an exception once in a calendar year and all exceptions will expire on December 31 of that calendar year. Applicants must request a new exception from required electronic submission through Grants.gov for submissions for any succeeding calendar year. For example, if there is a competitive opportunity issued on December 1, 2017 with a submission deadline of January 15, 2018, the applicant would need a new exception to submit through alternative methods beginning January 1, 2018. **Please note that the process described above is only for requesting alternate submission methods.**

#### **Grants.gov Submission Instructions:**

The electronic submission of your application must be made by an official representative of your institution/organization who is registered with Grants.gov and is authorized to sign applications for Federal assistance. For more information on the registration requirements that must be completed in order to submit an application through Grants.gov, go to <http://www.grants.gov> and click on “Applicants” tab on the top of the page and then go to the “Get Registered” link on the page.

If your organization is not currently registered with Grants.gov, please encourage to designate an Authorized Organization Representative (AOR) and ask that individual to begin the registration process as *soon as possible*. Please note that the registration process also requires that your organization have a DUNS number and a current registration with the System for Award Management (SAM). **The process of obtaining both could take a month or more.** Applicants need to ensure that the AOR who submits the application through Grants.gov and whose DUNS number is listed on the application is an AOR for the applicant listed on the application. Additionally, the DUNS number listed on the application must be registered to the applicant organization’s SAM account. If not, the application may be deemed ineligible. Applicants must ensure that all registration requirements are met in order to apply for this opportunity through Grants.gov and should ensure that all such requirements have been met well in advance of the submission deadline. Registration on Grants.gov, SAM.gov, and DUNS number assignment is FREE.

To begin the application process under this grant announcement, go to <http://www.grants.gov/> and click on “Applicants” on the top of the page and then “Apply for Grants” from the dropdown menu and then follow the instructions accordingly. **Please note: to apply through Grants.gov, you must use Adobe Reader software and download the compatible Adobe Reader version.** For more information about Adobe Reader, to verify compatibility, or to download the free software, please visit <http://www.grants.gov/web/grants/support/technical-support/software/adobe-reader-compatibility.html>

You may also be able to access the application package for this announcement by searching for the opportunity on <http://www.grants.gov>. Go to <http://www.grants.gov> and then click on “Search Grants” at the top of the page and enter the Funding Opportunity Number, EPA-OP-OEJ-18-01, or the CFDA number that applies to the announcement (CFDA 66.306), in the appropriate field and click the Search button..

Please submit all of the application materials described in Section IV.A., *Content of Proposal Submission*) using the Grants.gov application package that you downloaded using the instructions above. For additional instructions on completing and submitting the electronic application package, click the “Show Instructions” tab that is accessible within the application package itself.

Please Note: Applications submitted through [Grants.gov](http://www.grants.gov) beginning January 1, 2018 must be submitted through the “Workspace” feature. Information on the Workspace feature can be found at the [Grants.gov Workspace Overview Page](#)

**Application Submission Deadline:** Your organization’s AOR must submit your complete application package electronically to EPA through Grants.gov (<http://www.grants.gov>) no later than February 16, 2018, 11:59 p.m., Eastern Time (ET). Please allow for enough time to successfully submit your application process and allow for unexpected errors that may require you to resubmit.

For Grants.gov (<http://www.grants.gov>) submission questions, please call the Grants.gov 24-hour helpline at 1-800-518-4726 or visit <http://www.grants.gov/web/grants/support.html>.

Applications submitted through Grants.gov will be time and date stamped electronically. If you have not received a confirmation of receipt from EPA (not from Grants.gov) within 30 days of the application deadline, please contact Jacob Burney. Failure to do so may result in your application not being reviewed.

All other inquiries about this announcement must be directed to the Agency Contact listed in Section VII of this announcement ([Burney.Jacob@epa.gov](mailto:Burney.Jacob@epa.gov)). Queries or requests submitted to the [OGDwaivers@epa.gov](mailto:OGDwaivers@epa.gov) email address for any reason other than to request an alternate submission method will not be acknowledged or answered.

### **Technical Issues with Submission**

**1.** Once the application package has been completed, the “Submit” button should be enabled. If the “Submit” button is not active, please call Grants.gov for assistance at 1-800-518-4726. Applicants who are outside the U.S. at the time of submittal and are not able to access the toll-free number may reach a Grants.gov representative by calling 606-545-5035. Applicants should save the completed application package with two different file names before providing it to the AOR to avoid having to re-create the package should submission problems be experienced or a revised application needs to be submitted.

**2.** Submitting the application. The application package must be transferred to Grants.gov by an AOR. The AOR should close all other software before attempting to submit the application package. Click the “submit” button of the application package. Your Internet browser will launch and a sign-in page will appear. ***Note: Minor problems are not uncommon with transfers to Grants.gov. It is essential to allow sufficient time to ensure that your application is submitted to***



**Grants.gov BEFORE the due date identified in Section IV of the solicitation.** The Grants.gov support desk operates 24 hours a day, seven days a week, except Federal Holidays.

A successful transfer will end with an on-screen acknowledgement. For documentation purposes, print or screen capture this acknowledgement. If a submission problem occurs, reboot the computer – turning the power off may be necessary – and re-attempt the submission.

Note: Grants.gov issues a “case number” upon a request for assistance.

**3. Transmission Difficulties.** If transmission difficulties that result in a late transmission, no transmission, or rejection of the transmitted application are experienced, and following the above instructions do not resolve the problem so that the application is submitted to [www.Grants.Gov](http://www.Grants.Gov) by the deadline date and time, follow the guidance below. The Agency will make a decision concerning acceptance of each late submission on a case-by-case basis. All emails, as described below, are to be sent to Jacob Burney with the Funding Opportunity Number, EPA-OP-OEJ-18-01 in the subject line. If you are unable to email, contact Jacob Burney at 202-564-2907 be aware that EPA will only consider accepting applications that were unable to transmit due to [www.Grants.gov](http://www.Grants.gov) or relevant www.Sam.gov system issues or for unforeseen exigent circumstances, such as extreme weather interfering with internet access. Failure of an applicant to submit timely because they did not properly or timely register in SAM.gov or Grants.gov is not an acceptable reason to justify acceptance of a late submittal.

**a.** If you are experiencing problems resulting in an inability to upload the application to Grants.gov, it is essential to call [www.Grants.gov](http://www.Grants.gov) for assistance at 1-800-518-4726 before the application deadline. Applicants who are outside the U.S. at the time of submittal and are not able to access the toll-free number may reach a Grants.gov representative by calling 606-545-5035. Be *sure* to obtain a case number from Grants.gov. If the problems stem from unforeseen exigent circumstances unrelated to Grants.gov, such as extreme weather interfering with internet access, contact Jacob Burney at 202-564-2907.

**b.** Unsuccessful transfer of the application package: If a successful transfer of the application cannot be accomplished even with assistance from Grants.gov due to electronic submission system issues or unforeseen exigent circumstances, send an email message to [burney.jacob@epa.gov](mailto:burney.jacob@epa.gov) prior to the application deadline. The email message must document the problem and include the Grants.gov case number as well as the entire application in PDF format as an attachment.

**c.** Grants.gov rejection of the application package: If a notification is received from Grants.gov stating that the application has been rejected for reasons other than late submittal promptly send an email to [burney.jacob@epa.gov](mailto:burney.jacob@epa.gov) with the Funding Opportunity Number, EPA-OP-OEJ-18-01, in the subject line within one business day of the closing date of this solicitation. The email should include any materials provided by Grants.gov and attach the entire application in PDF format.

## V. PROPOSAL REVIEW INFORMATION

[\(back to Contents by Section\)](#)

### A. CRITERIA

**Threshold Eligibility Evaluation Criteria.** Before a proposal is reviewed by a panel of EPA regional staff (Review Panel) based on the criteria below, the proposal will be screened at EPA Headquarters in Washington, DC by the Office of Environmental Justice (OEJ) to ensure that it

meets the Threshold Eligibility Criteria (See Section III.B). A proposal will not be reviewed according to the evaluation criteria set forth below if it does not meet the Threshold Eligibility Evaluation Criteria.

**Ranking Criteria.** Proposals meeting the Threshold Eligibility Evaluation Criteria will be reviewed and scored by a regional Review Panel. Each regional review panel will evaluate the eligible applications submitted for projects to be performed in that region. Each criterion has corresponding points that range from 1 point (lowest) to 25 points (highest). The score for each criterion will be based on how well each criterion is addressed in the application submission. The maximum total number of points is 100. Please note that certain sections are given greater weight than others. The application will be scored on the following Ranking Criteria:

<b>Criteria</b>	<b>Category</b>	<b>Evaluation Criteria</b>	<b>Points 100</b>
1.0	<b>Program Objectives</b>	Proposals will be evaluated based on the extent and quality of how well the project addresses program objectives by demonstrating the following:	<b>46</b>
a.	<b>Project Summary</b>	<p>One-page summary document that includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Project Title</li> <li>• Project Location (including community/neighborhood(s), city, state, and zip code)</li> <li>• Rural Area? (Yes / No)</li> <li>• New EJCPS Recipient (if awarded)? (Yes/No)</li> <li>• Applicant Information (name, address, main contact information)</li> <li>• Brief Description of Applicant Organization</li> <li>• Project Period Dates</li> <li>• Environmental Statute(s)</li> <li>• Project Type(s)</li> <li>• List of Project Partners, including stakeholder group each partner represents</li> <li>• Project Abstract</li> <li>• Will you need to develop a QAPP for your project? (see Appendix G)</li> </ul>	2
b.	<b>Environmental and Public Health information of the Underserved Community</b>	<p>Applications will be evaluated on their ability to clearly describe the local environmental justice issue(s) the project proposes to address and the community that is impacted. Please describe the following information: (<b>maximum 2 points each</b>):</p> <p>(1) What are the local environmental/public health issue(s) that the project seeks to address;</p> <p>(2) What are the local environmental/public health results the project seeks to achieve;</p>	10

		<p>(3) Describe the underserved community the applicant is directly working with to address the issues</p> <p>(4) How the underserved community is disproportionately impacted by environmental harms and risks;</p> <p>(5) How the underserved community will benefit from the project's intended local results</p> <p><b>* The applicant must include relevant information such as demographics, geographic location, and community history. The use of <a href="#">EJSCREEN</a> to characterize and describe the target community is strongly encouraged (along with local insight and perspective).</b></p> <p><b>*Applicants proposing projects in RURAL AREAS must provide sufficient detail (census data, population figures, descriptions of local resources, etc.) for EPA to validate the rural status of the underserved community</b></p>	
c.	<b>Organization's Historical and Sustained Connection to Underserved Community</b>	<p>The applicant will be evaluated on the description of the strong connection between their organization and the underserved community including (<b>maximum 3 points each</b>):</p> <p>(1) History of the applicant's involvement with the underserved community, including duration of involvement and circumstances that led to your involvement;</p> <p>(2) How the applicant has worked with the underserved community's residents and/or organizations to address local environmental and public health issues;</p> <p>(3) How the underserved community's residents and/or organizations were involved in developing the current project plan and are part of the decision-making process; and</p> <p>(4) How the applicant will sustain an ongoing relationship with the underserved community's residents and/or organizations.</p>	12
d.	<b>EJCPS Model</b>	<p>Describe which of the seven elements of the EJCPS Model will be undertaken for this project, and the associated timeline and milestones for each element selected. Also describe which EJCPS Model element(s) associated with this project may have already begun or been accomplished.</p>	6
e.	<b>Project Linkages</b>	<b>Please describe the following:</b>	4

		<p>How the project supports EPA’s draft Strategic Plan 2018 - 2022 and how the project furthers <b>at least one</b> of the current priorities listed below (2 points):</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Improving air quality to ensure more Americans are living and working in areas that meet high air quality standards</li> <li>2. Ensuring clean and safe water by improving water infrastructure and supporting drinking water, aquatic ecosystems, and recreational, economic and subsistence activities</li> <li>3. Cleaning up contaminated sites and returning land back to communities</li> <li>4. Improving environmental protection through joint governance, state/tribal primacy efforts, and compliance assistance</li> <li>5. Increasing transparency, public participation, and collaboration with communities.</li> </ol> <p>How the project is related to the qualified environmental statute(s) identified in your Project Summary. Please note each project must include activities that are authorized by <b>at least one</b> of the federal environmental statutes listed in Section I.C. (2 points)</p>	
f.	<b>Partner and Collaborate</b>	<p>Provide a clear and concise description of how the proposed project promotes collaborations with partners from multiple stakeholder groups, such as industry, business, academia, government, etc., to develop and implement solutions that will address environmental and/or public health issues at the local level. (4 points)</p> <p>Identify and describe all partners involved, including those partnerships that may be under development. Include the following details about each of your partners:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Planned roles of each partner listed in your Project Summary. Include which stakeholder group the partner represents and the project activities each partner will be responsible for (2 points)</li> <li>○ What resources each partner brings to the partnership (2 points)</li> <li>○ How the partner has a vested interest in working with this partnership [other than just getting income] (2 points)</li> </ul>	12

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ How the applicant organization plans to sustain these relationships on into the future (2 points)</li> </ul> <p><b>Applicants must have partners from at least THREE different stakeholder groups as documented by at least THREE signed letters of commitment.</b></p>	
2.0	<b>Project Activities/ Milestone Schedule/ Detailed Budget Narrative</b>		<b>24</b>
	Under this criterion, proposals will be evaluated based on the extent and quality to which the proposal demonstrates the following:		
a.	Project activities	A clear description of steps the applicant will take to meet the project objectives and a clear description of the detailed project activities or components and the anticipated products/results associated with each activity as described in Section IV.	12
b.	Milestone schedule	A clearly articulated milestone schedule, including timeframes and major milestones to complete significant project activities.	6
c.	Itemized Budget Sheet / Budget Narrative	<p>A clear explanation of how EPA funds will be used. Applicants must itemize costs into the following budget categories: personnel, fringe benefits, contractual costs, travel, equipment, supplies, other direct costs, indirect costs, and total costs. Describe itemized costs in sufficient detail for EPA to determine the reasonableness and allowability of costs for each work plan component/activity.</p> <p><i>Applicants are permitted to attach the itemized budget sheet as an “Other Attachment” to their application so the sheet will not count against the 14-page workplan limit.</i></p>	6
3.0	<b>Environmental Results—Outcomes, Outputs and Performance Measures (Logic Model) - Under this criterion, proposals will be evaluated based on the following elements:</b>		<b>14</b>
a.	Environmental Results- Outputs/Outcomes	Applicants will be evaluated based on the expected project outputs and outcomes identified in the proposal for their project. The expected outputs and outcomes should be effective in achieving the Program Objectives listed in Section I, including collaborating and developing partnerships to effectively address local environmental and public health issues, educating and empowering the community about those issues, and developing strategies and approaches for building consensus and setting community priorities in the underserved community. (examples of outputs and outcomes are provided in Section I and Appendix C of the announcement).	8

b.	Performance Measurement Plan	Applicants will be evaluated on the extent and quality to which the proposal demonstrates a sound plan for tracking progress toward achieving the expected outputs, outcomes, and associated timeframes for achieving those results.  <i>Applicants are permitted to attach their completed logic models as an “Other Attachment” to their applications so the sheet will not count against the 14-page workplan limit.</i>	6
4.0	<b>Programmatic Capability</b> Under this criterion, proposals will be evaluated based on the applicant’s ability to successfully complete and manage the proposed project, taking into account the applicant’s:		<b>10</b>
a.	Organizational experience	Organizational experience related to the proposed project, and the organization’s infrastructure as it relates to their ability to successfully implement the proposed project	4
b.	Staff Experience / Qualifications of Project Manager (PM)	The applicant will be evaluated on the ability to clearly demonstrate that the selected PM and other staff associated with the project are qualified to successfully perform the project. This will be determined through evaluating the following:  (1) How the PM and staff are qualified to undertake the project successfully; <b>(2 points)</b> (2) Illustrating the PM’s ties/historical connection to the community and the applicant organization. Please include detailed descriptions of any activities that the PM has worked on with the community and/or applicant organization. <b>(2 points)</b>	4
c.	Expenditure of Awarded Grant Funds	Under this criterion, applicants will be evaluated based on their approach, procedures, and controls for ensuring that awarded grant funds will be expended in a timely and efficient manner.	2
5.0	<b>Past Performance</b> Under this criterion, applicants will be evaluated based on their ability to successfully complete and manage the proposed project taking into account the applicant’s past performance with respect to the agreements listed by the applicant in the proposal workplan as required under Section IV.A.		<b>6</b>

	<p>List of Federally Funded Assistance Agreements and Reporting History</p>	<p>Applicants will be evaluated based on their ability to successfully complete and manage the proposed project taking into account the applicant's:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• past performance in successfully completing and managing the assistance agreements identified in response to Section IV.A (3 points)</li> <li>• (ii) history of meeting the reporting requirements under the assistance agreements identified in response to Section IV.A including whether the applicant submitted acceptable final technical reports under those agreements and the extent to which the applicant adequately and timely reported on their progress towards achieving the expected outputs and outcomes under those agreements and if such progress was not being made whether the applicant adequately reported why not (3 points)</li> </ul> <p>In evaluating applicants under these factors in Section V, EPA will consider the information provided by the applicant and may also consider relevant information from other sources, including information from EPA files and from current/prior grantors.</p> <p><b>If you do not have any relevant or available past performance or past reporting information, please indicate this in the proposal and you will receive a neutral score for these factors (a neutral score is half of the total points available in a subset of possible points). If you do not provide any response for these items, you may receive a score of 0 for these factors.</b></p>	
--	---	---	--

## B. REVIEW AND SELECTION PROCESS

Applications will be reviewed and scored under the following process:

**1) Threshold Eligibility Screening Process** - All applications will be screened for Threshold Eligibility purposes (see Section III.B) at EPA headquarters by EPA staff from the Office of Environmental Justice (OEJ).

**2) Panel Review and Evaluation Process** - All applications that meet the Threshold Eligibility criteria after the screening review will be forwarded to the appropriate EPA Region (where the project will be performed) for technical review (please refer to Section VII for a listing of EPA's 10 regions) based on the criterion above. Each region will convene a panel to review, score, and rank the eligible applications for their region based on the evaluation criteria listed above. After that process, each Regional Review Panel will participate in a conference call with Headquarters OEJ staff before final selection recommendations, rankings, and evaluation results are presented by the regional review panels to the selection official, the Director of the Office of Environmental Justice. The purpose of this call will be for the regional review panels to discuss their evaluation results and allow OEJ staff to ask any questions about the evaluations. Any changes that result to the evaluations or scoring as a result of this call will be documented.

**3) Final Selection Process and Other Factors** – Final rankings and selection recommendations from the regional review panels (after the call with OEJ staff) will be presented to the Director of the Office of Environmental Justice in Headquarters who will then make the final selections for award. In addition to this information, the Director of the Office of Environmental Justice may also consider any of the following factors in making final selection decisions among high ranking proposals: (1) projects located in rural areas (as defined on page 1 of this solicitation), (2) projects from eligible organizations that have not previously received an EJPCS award, (3) programmatic priorities, and (4) the availability of funds. The EPA Regional Offices will then make the awards. EPA reserves the right to reject all applications and make no awards under this announcement.

## D. Anticipated Announcement and Award Dates

Date	Activity
November 15, 2017	EJCPS Program announced. Open competition period begins.
February 16, 2018	Open competition closes. Applications must be submitted through Grants.gov by 11:59 p.m. (ET), February 16, 2018. Applications received after this date will not be reviewed.
March 2018	EPA will review applications for Threshold Eligibility Criteria (Section III). Ineligible applicants will be notified via email with details regarding ineligibility. Notification to ineligible applicants will be sent via email to the contact identified on the submitted SF424 providing brief explanations on the reason(s) for ineligibility. Ineligible applicants may request a debriefing within 15 days of receipt of the correspondence.
March – July 2018	EPA review panels review, score, and rank eligible applications. EPA will make the final selections for awards. All applicants will be notified of the selection results by mail/email.



July – August 2018	Regional offices will request required application documentation from selected applicants. Awards will be made by the regional offices.
September 2018	OEJ will release a national announcement
Sept – Nov 2018	Regional EJ Grantee Workshops

## **VI. AWARD ADMINISTRATION INFORMATION** ([back to Contents by Section](#))

### **A. AWARD NOTICES**

EPA anticipates notification of selected finalists will be made via telephone or electronic or postal mail by August 2018. The notification will be sent to the original signer of the application or the project contact listed in the application. This notification, which informs the applicant that its application has been selected and is being recommended for award, is not an authorization to begin work. The official notification of an award will be made by EPA's Regional Grants Offices. Applicants are cautioned that only a grants officer is authorized to bind the Government to the expenditure of funds; selection does not guarantee an award will be made. For example, statutory authorization, funding or other issues discovered during the award process may affect the ability of EPA to make an award to an applicant. The award notice, signed by an EPA grants officer, is the authorizing document and will be provided through electronic or postal mail

The successful applicant may be requested to submit a final proposal and additional application forms which must be approved by EPA before the grant can officially be awarded. The award notice, signed by an EPA grants officer, is the authorizing document and will be provided through electronic or postal mail. The time between notification of selection and award of a grant can take up to 90 days or longer.

Once proposals have been recommended for funding, EPA will notify the finalists and request any additional information necessary to complete the award process. The finalists will be required to complete additional government application forms prior to receiving a grant, such as the EPA Form SF-424B (Assurances - Non-Construction Programs). The Federal government requires all grantees to certify and assure that they will comply with all applicable Federal laws, regulations, and requirements.

### **B. ADMINISTRATIVE AND NATIONAL POLICY REQUIREMENTS**

This award is subject to the requirements of the Uniform Administrative Requirements, Cost Principles and Audit Requirements for Federal Awards; Title 2 CFR, Parts 200 and 1500. 2 CFR 1500.1, Adoption of 2 CFR 200, states that the Environmental Protection Agency adopts the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) guidance Uniform Administrative Requirements, Cost Principles, and Audit Requirements for Federal Awards to Non-Federal Entities (subparts A through F of 2 CFR 200), as supplemented by this part, as the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) policies and procedures for financial assistance administration. This part satisfies the requirements of 2 CFR 200.110(a) and gives regulatory effect to the OMB guidance as supplemented by this

part. EPA also has programmatic regulations located in 40 CFR Chapter 1 Subchapter B. A listing and description of general EPA regulations applicable to the award of assistance agreements may be viewed at: <https://www.epa.gov/grants/policy-regulations-and-guidance-epa-grants>.

## **C. REPORTING**

### Progress Report.

The Project Manager will be required to submit semi-annual progress reports for the duration of the agreement to update the EPA Regional Project Officer and will also be required to have quarterly meetings with the EPA Regional Project Officer.

### Final Report Requirement.

The Project Manager must submit a Final Technical Report for EPA approval within 90 days after the end of the project period. A draft of this report should be submitted within sixty (60) days after the end of the project period. A Financial Status Report is also required and will be described in the award agreement. The EPA may collect, review, and disseminate those final reports that can serve as models for future projects. Many applicants may find it useful to document their progress using various media. This may include, but not limited to the use of videos, blogs and other forms of social media.

### Quality Assurance Project Plans (QAPP).

Quality assurance is sometimes applicable to assistance projects (see 2 CFR 1500.11). Quality assurance requirements apply to the collection of environmental data. Environmental data are any measurements or information that describe environmental processes, location, or conditions; ecological or health effects and consequences; or the performance of environmental technology. Environmental data include information collected directly from measurements, produced from models, and compiled from other sources, such as databases or literature. Once the award is made, if a Quality Assurance Project Plan is required for the project, the applicant will have to draft a QAPP prior to beginning work on the project. You must reserve time and financial resources in the beginning of your project in order to prepare your QAPP and include the cost for developing your QAPP in your Detailed Budget. Selected applicants cannot begin data collection until EPA approves the QAPP.

## **D. COMPETITION DISPUTE RESOLUTION**

Assistance agreement competition-related disputes will be resolved in accordance with the dispute resolution procedures published in 70 FR (Federal Register) 3629, 3630 (January 26, 2005) which can be found at <https://www.epa.gov/grants/grant-competition-dispute-resolution-procedures>.

Copies of these procedures may also be requested by contacting Jacob Burney at (202) 564-2907 or [burney.jacob@epa.gov](mailto:burney.jacob@epa.gov).

### **Additional Provisions for Applicants Incorporated into the Solicitation:**

Additional provisions that apply to this solicitation and/or awards made under this solicitation, including but not limited to those related to DUNS, SAM, copyrights, disputes, and administrative capability, can be found at the [EPA Solicitation Clauses](#) webpage.

These, and the other provisions that can be found at the website link, are important, and applicants must review them when preparing proposals for this solicitation. If you are unable to access these provisions electronically at the website above, please communicate with the EPA contact listed in this solicitation to obtain the provisions

## VII. AGENCY CONTACTS

[\(back to Contents by Section\)](#)

<b>Office of Environmental Justice</b>	<a href="mailto:Burney.Jacob@epa.gov">Burney.Jacob@epa.gov</a>
<b>Region 1</b>	<a href="mailto:Solomon.Gevon@epa.gov">Solomon.Gevon@epa.gov</a>
<b>Region 2</b>	<a href="mailto:Frazier.Tasha@epa.gov">Frazier.Tasha@epa.gov</a>
<b>Region 3</b>	<a href="mailto:Harris.Reggie@epa.gov">Harris.Reggie@epa.gov</a>
<b>Region 4</b>	<a href="mailto:Carter.Deborah@epa.gov">Carter.Deborah@epa.gov</a>
<b>Region 5</b>	<a href="mailto:Messersmith.Mark@epa.gov">Messersmith.Mark@epa.gov</a>
<b>Region 6</b>	<a href="mailto:Tillman.Tressa@epa.gov">Tillman.Tressa@epa.gov</a>
<b>Region 7</b>	<a href="mailto:Moses.Althea@epa.gov">Moses.Althea@epa.gov</a>
<b>Region 8</b>	<a href="mailto:Darling.Corbin@epa.gov">Darling.Corbin@epa.gov</a>
<b>Region 9</b>	<a href="mailto:Ty.Fatima@epa.gov">Ty.Fatima@epa.gov</a>
<b>Region 10</b>	<a href="mailto:Philip.Jeff@epa.gov">Philip.Jeff@epa.gov</a>

## VIII. OTHER INFORMATION AND APPENDICES [\(back to Contents by Section\)](#)

- A – Tips on Preparing an EJ Grant Application
- B – Illustration of EJCPS Model
- C – Sample of Performance Measure/Milestones (Logic Model)
- D – Blank Logic Model
- E – EJCPS Detailed Itemized Budget example
- F – Blank Itemized Budget Sheet
- G – Quality Assurance Project Plan Questionnaire

**See appendices on following pages**

## APPENDIX A

### TIPS ON PREPARING AN ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE GRANT APPLICATION

This information is intended to help you put together a competitive proposal for the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) Environmental Justice Grants Program. *Please read the Application Guidance carefully -- this document is intended for informational purposes only.*

➤ **Target your audience carefully**

Identify a specific group or community to work with to develop a program that will give the highest return for your dollars invested.

➤ **Build partnerships and alliances**

You are strongly encouraged to enlist project involvement from community groups with similar or related goals and secure their commitment of services and/or dollars. Be sure to document this by obtaining letter(s) of commitment for your application. Initiate the partnerships early in your planning, since building alliances can take time and effort.

➤ **Do some homework**

Allow time to develop and document your understanding of environmental justice issues within the community you work in or with. Find out what materials exist on the subject and the procedures you are planning to include in your work plan. Use this information to back up your project plans or to explain how your group activities are unique and/or creative.

➤ **Develop a project evaluation technique**

Define as carefully and precisely as possible what you want to achieve with this project and how you will test its success. Ask yourself: "what do you expect to be different once the project is complete?" Outline a plan you will use to measure the success of your activities/project.

➤ **Develop a timeline or project accomplishment schedule**

List the major tasks that you will complete to meet the goals of the project. Break these broad goals into smaller tasks and lay them out in a schedule over the twelve months of the grant period. Determine and identify in the proposal the total estimated cost for each task. You may estimate this cost by the number of personnel, materials, and other resources you will need to carry out the tasks.

➤ **Stay within the format and follow application instructions including any page limits**

This makes it easier for the reviewer to read and therefore, understand your work plan. Please refer to the application requirements.

➤ **Communicate the nature of your project accurately, precisely, and concisely.**

Describe exactly what you propose to do, how you are going to do it, when you are going to do it, who will benefit, and how you will know you are successful. Indicate not only what you propose but what expertise your group has for completing the project (include resumes).

#### COMMON STRENGTHS

- Project proposal developed solidly from within the community

- Broad based community support for a project that has the potential to positively affect local people
- Project identifies established community advisory board or community group who will guide, steer, or otherwise be involved with the project
- Good partnership with local businesses, industry, community, environmental groups, and state and local agencies. Good coordination with a variety of community groups
- Proposal does a good job of outlining a complex problem and approach to solving it -- does not overlook any major issues or key players
- Clear identification and background description of population to be served
- Proposal identifies specific outputs, target accomplishments, and estimated budgets for each goal, and target dates for completion
- Proposed project builds on existing projects or programs
- The scope of the project can be completed in a funding year
- Proposal clearly describes how the project will achieve the program goals outlined in the application guidance
- Proposal includes innovative ideas and creative thinking about how to motivate and involve youth in the communities where they live
- Proposal includes honest discussion of challenges involved

#### **COMMON WEAKNESSES**

- Application did not include information specifically requested in the application guidance
- Community members do not appear to be an integral part of the project planning process
- Not specific enough about what EPA funds will be used for
- Applicant is not an eligible organization (see application guidance page 2)
- Program may be too ambitious for a one/two-year project period
- Project funds conferences or dialogues to discuss EJ issues but does not fund activities that make direct changes in a community
- Immediacy of need is not established
- Methods of evaluating the success of the project unclear
- Failure to mention other groups that applicant will work with or to secure letters of commitment

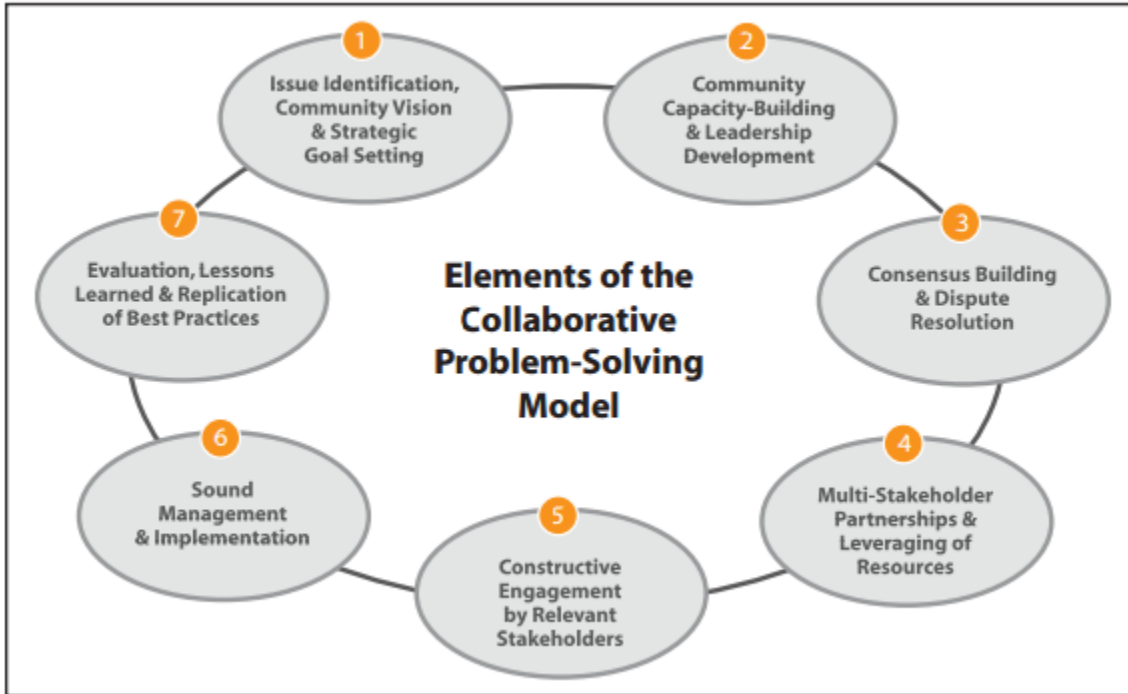
- Proposal seeks support for developing general environmental program with little mention of environmental justice issues. The link between goals of EPA's environmental justice program and the project is not clearly stated
- Discussion of overall mission and goals of the organization but not enough detail on how the specific project and activities will help achieve the goals

## APPENDIX B

### Environmental Justice Collaborative Problem Solving Model

<http://www.epa.gov/environmentaljustice/resources/publications/grants/cps-manual-12-27-06.pdf>

Reference the document provided at the link above for more detail regarding the model.



## APPENDIX C

### Sample of Performance Measures/Milestones

#### Creating Partnerships to Develop Inter-agency Air Quality Guidance

Resources/Inputs	Activities	Outputs	Outcomes
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Staff time</li> <li>▪ In-kind contributions</li> <li>▪ Additional grants</li> <li>▪ Volunteers</li> <li>▪ Partnering Organizations</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Identify potential partners in city, county, state government, public health office, universities to draft and implement air quality guidance</li> <li>▪ Partner meetings to discuss how to formulate an interagency air quality guidance</li> </ul>	<p><b><u>Developing a comprehensive understanding</u></b></p> <p>8 meetings on quarterly basis to formulate air quality guidance</p> <p>Draft air quality guidance</p>	<p><b><u>Creating Partnerships</u></b></p> <p>Increase # of various stakeholders participating to address issues concerning air quality</p> <p><b><u>Educating the Community</u></b></p> <p>Increase in # of stakeholders who are informed of the immediate impacts of poor air quality in target community</p> <p>Increase in # of residents who participate in the partner meetings</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Staff time</li> <li>▪ In-kind contributions</li> <li>▪ Additional grants</li> <li>▪ Volunteers</li> <li>▪ Partnering Organizations</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Conduct door knocking to solicit resident support and input</li> <li>▪ Generate report and brochures on air quality data</li> </ul>	<p><b><u>Engaging and informing the Community</u></b></p> <p>Create one report on the status of air quality, 4 brochures on specific neighborhood data</p> <p>Reach 250 residents in community through door knocking Disseminate report and brochures to 250 residents</p>	<p><b><u>Engaging and informing the Community</u></b></p> <p>Increase in number of residents aware of air quality issues in community</p> <p>Increase in number of residents actively participating in the project Improved air quality</p>



## Appendix D

### EJCPS Logic Model Template for Performance Measures/Milestones

PROJECT TITLE: \_\_\_\_\_

	Resources/Inputs	Activities	Outputs	Outcomes
<b>Semi-Annual</b> (six months after beginning of project)				
<b>Annual</b>				

**APPENDIX E**  
**EJCPS Detailed Budget Example**

	<b>Description</b>	<b>Total</b>
Personnel	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Project Manager @ \$50,000 annual salary X 30% of time on project = \$30,000 for two years</li> <li>▪ Outreach worker @ \$35,000 annual salary X 20% of time on project = \$14,000</li> <li>▪ Community support leader @ \$20,000 annual salary X 15% = \$6,000</li> </ul>	\$50,000
Fringe Benefits	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Project Manager 15% of salary (includes medical, dental, life insurance) = \$3,000 for two years</li> <li>▪ Outreach worker 10% of salary (includes medical, dental, life insurance) = \$1,400</li> <li>▪ Community support leader 10% of salary (includes medical, dental, life insurance) = \$1,200</li> </ul>	\$5,600
Travel	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Local mileage for Project Manager for partner meetings: 25 miles @ \$0.55/mi. X 32 meetings = \$440.00</li> <li>▪ Local mileage for Outreach worker for community outreach efforts: 10 miles @ \$0.55/mi. X 30 times X 12 months = \$1,980</li> <li>▪ Travel to 2 regional seminars: Per diem - \$30 per day X 3 days = \$90; Airfare = \$1,360</li> </ul>	\$3,870.00
Equipment (purchase greater than \$5,000)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ None</li> </ul>	\$0
Supplies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ 20 reams of copy paper @ \$4.00 for outreach materials = \$80</li> <li>▪ Laptop computer for Outreach worker to work off-site on community \$1,500</li> <li>▪ Miscellaneous supplies for staff on this project = \$1,500</li> <li>▪ Air Monitor = 3,830.00</li> <li>▪ Filters (500 filter) = 2,000</li> </ul>	\$7,910
Contractual	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Bookkeeper/Accountant \$10/hr. @ 3 hrs./week @ 104 weeks = \$3,120</li> <li>▪ Lab to conduct tests @\$45*500 = \$22,500</li> </ul>	\$25,620
Construction	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ None</li> </ul>	0
Other	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>☐ Sub-award = \$15,000</li> <li>▪ Outreach materials/Postage = \$1,500</li> <li>▪ Indirect Cost -= 5,000</li> <li>▪ Printing Cost 1,500</li> <li>▪ Meeting logistics = 3,000</li> </ul>	26,000
		<b>\$120,000</b>

**APPENDIX F**  
**EJCPS Budget Detail Template (Optional)**

	Description	Total
Personnel		
Fringe Benefits		
Travel		
Equipment		
Supplies		
Contractual		
Construction		
Other		
		\$120,000

**APPENDIX G**  
**Quality Assurance Project Plan Requirement (QAPP)**

Check Yes or No for each of the items provided below as it applies to your specific project. If you answered **YES** to any of the items listed above, you are **REQUIRED TO SUBMIT** a Quality Assurance Project Plan in accordance with EPA Requirements and an approved QAPP must be in place *prior* to the initiation of activities.

You will be contacted with information on how to prepare your QAPP. In the meantime, please visit the website <http://www.epa.gov/ogd/grants/assurance.htm> which provides guidance on what must be submitted for grants/cooperative agreements.

1. Your project will involve the collection of groundwater, soil, sediment, surface water, air, biota or fauna samples for chemical or biological analysis.

Yes  No

2. Your project will use existing computer databases containing analytical data or personal information previously collected.

Yes  No

3. Your project will use existing historical research pertaining to this project or proposal.

Yes  No

4. Your project will implement deed searches for current property or site.

Yes  No

5. Your project will conduct medical records search for the population covered in the grant.

Yes  No

6. Your project will compile meteorological data to determine weather trends or air mixing trends.

Yes  No

7. Your project will use existing statistical studies or will conduct these studies as part of the project.

Yes  No

8. Your project will create a new database based on the information gathered.

Yes  No

9. Your project will use this information for litigation purposes.

Yes  No

10. Your project will use this information to make recommendations on environmental decisions.

Yes  No