

# Information Session:

## *FY 2021 Request for Applications*

### CWA Section 319 Tribal Competitive Grants

**Wednesday, December 2, 1:00 – 2:30pm Eastern**

**Tuesday, December 8, 1:00 – 2:30pm Eastern**

**Steve Epting**, US EPA Headquarters



Audio for webinar available via computer speakers OR phone:  
Phone Call-in: 202-991-0477  
Participant Code: 677 917 054#

Please mute yourself here,  
or press \*6 by phone

# Information Session:

## *FY 2021 Request for Applications*

### CWA Section 319 Tribal Competitive Grants

Wednesday, December 2, 1:00 – 2:30pm Eastern  
Tuesday, December 8, 1:00 – 2:30pm Eastern

Steve Epting, US EPA Headquarters

#### Meeting chat

12:07 PM Meeting started

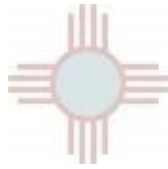
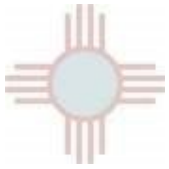
12:07 PM  
Hello!

Type a new message

Type questions  
here

Webinar slides and Q&As posted at:

<http://www.epa.gov/nps/tribal> under the “Current Grant Info” tab



# Webinar Agenda

- **What kind of work is EPA looking to fund?**
- **Who can apply?**
- **FY2021 Request for Applications (RFA)**
  - What's changed since last year?
  - How to navigate the RFA
  - How are applications evaluated?
  - Important Reminders & Key Dates
- **Question and Answer Segment**
  - Questions may be typed in at any time throughout the webinar



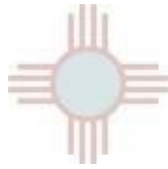


# What kind of work is EPA looking to fund?

Projects that...

- will directly improve/protect water quality by implementing on-the-ground BMPs.
- are strategically targeted in the watershed to address a NPS pollution problem/threat.
- demonstrate a “readiness to proceed.”
  - Reasonable and achievable budget and project schedule.
  - Project team with clearly defined roles/responsibilities.





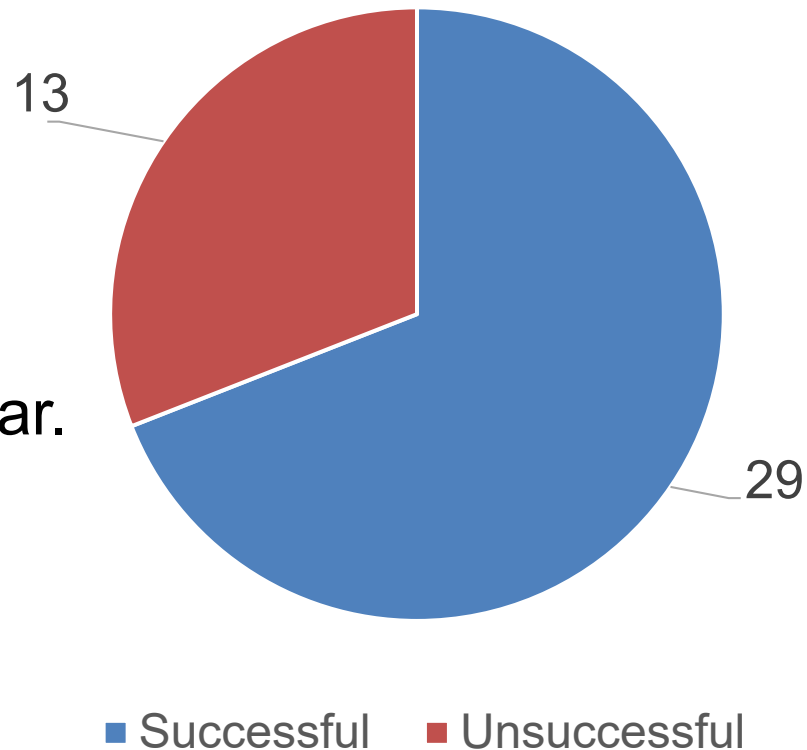
# Who can apply?

- All tribes eligible to receive FY2021 319 grant funds.
  - See [www.epa.gov/nps/tribal](http://www.epa.gov/nps/tribal) for list.
- Tribes may apply for both base & competitive 319 funds in the same year



# If you have a good idea, (Re)apply!

**FY2016-2020:**  
Average of 42 competitive  
grant applications each year.





# Application Package (see RFA pg. 17)

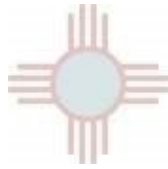
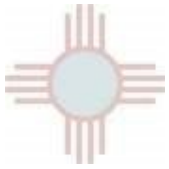
## Mandatory documents:

- a. SF-424 – “Signed Application for Federal Assistance”
- b. SF-424A – “Budget Information for Non-Construction Programs”
- c. EPA Key Contacts Form 5700-54
- d. EPA Form 4700-4 – Preadward Compliance Review Report
- e. **\*Project Narrative Work Plan (i.e., 15-page application)\***

## Optional documents:

- g. Supporting materials (e.g., photos, maps, figures)
- h. Negotiated indirect cost rate agreement, if applicable



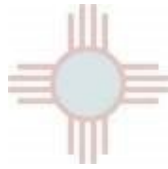


# Timing of Awards

- EPA will make selections in ~April 2021.
- Projects selected for funding will be awarded in spring/summer 2021.
  - In most cases, competitive 319 grant funds awarded with your base 319 grant.
- So, your project schedule should not begin before fall 2021.



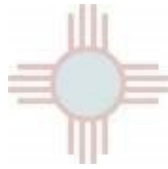
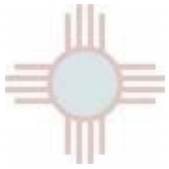




# FY21 Clarifications

- Past Performance (criterion f)
- Supporting Materials
- NPS Pollution (Sub)categories list

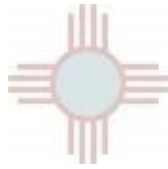
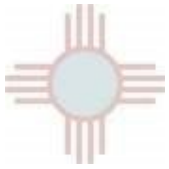




# FY21 Clarifications

- **Past Performance**, Evaluation Criterion f (page 24)
  - Provide a list of federally-funded assistance agreements from the last 3 years. No more than 5, preferably EPA agreements.
  - For each agreement listed:
    - Provide a brief statement on how you documented/reported on progress towards expected results.
    - If you didn't make expected progress, state how you documented this.

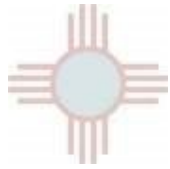




# FY21 Clarifications

- **Supporting Materials**, (page 20)
  - Not included in 15-page application limit.
  - E.g., letters of support, data graphs, site photos, BMP diagrams
  - \*Items explicitly required under the evaluation criteria do not qualify as supporting materials and are counted towards the 15-page limit. E.g., work plan table, budget table, project schedule.





# FY21 Clarifications

- **NPS Pollution Categories/Subcategories**
  - In previous years, a list of examples was included in the RFA as an appendix.
  - This list was outdated and so was removed from the FY21 RFA.
  - Please refer to your Tribe's NPS program documents and the EPA Tribal NPS Handbook when identifying pollution categories for evaluation criterion (a).



# Navigating the RFA

\*The RFA looks very  
similar to last year

TABLE OF CONTENTS	
I. FUNDING OPPORTUNITY DESCRIPTION .....	4
A. Program Objectives.....	4
B. EPA’s Strategic Plan and Anticipated Environmental Results.....	6
C. Statutory Authority .....	7
II. AWARD INFORMATION.....	8
A. Amount of Funding.....	8
B. Type of Funding.....	8
III. ELIGIBILITY INFORMATION .....	9
A. Eligible Applicants.....	9
B. Cost Sharing or Matching Requirements.....	9
C. Example Cost Share Amounts and how to Adjust Tribal Cost Share Under a Performance Partnership Grant (PPG).....	10
D. Threshold Evaluation Criteria.....	12
E. Funding Restrictions .....	14
F. Performance Partnership Grants (PPG) .....	15
IV. APPLICATION AND SUBMISSION INFORMATION .....	15
A. Requirement to Submit Through Grants.gov and Limited Exception Procedures .....	15
B. Grants.gov Application Submission Instructions .....	16
C. Content of Application Package Submission.....	19
D. Submission Dates and Times .....	26
E. Additional Provisions for Applicants Incorporated into the Solicitation.....	26
F. Communications with Applicants.....	26
G. Information Sessions.....	26
V. APPLICATION REVIEW INFORMATION .....	27
A. Ranking Criteria.....	27
B. Review and Selection Process .....	30
C. Additional Provisions for Applicants Incorporated into the Solicitation.....	30
VI. AWARD ADMINISTRATION INFORMATION.....	30
A. Award Notices .....	30
B. Additional Provisions for Applicants Incorporated into the Solicitation.....	31
C. Administrative and National Policy Requirements.....	31
D. Reporting.....	32
E. Debriefings.....	33
F. Disputes.....	33
VII. AGENCY CONTACTS: EPA HEADQUARTERS AND REGIONAL TRIBAL NPS COORDINATORS .....	34
VIII. OTHER INFORMATION.....	35
A. Quality Assurance/Quality Control (QA/QC) .....	35
B. Data Sharing.....	35
<i>Appendix A – Nine Elements of a Watershed-Based Plan Developed by a Tribe .....</i>	<i>36</i>

**TABLE OF CONTENTS**

I. FUNDING OPPORTUNITY DESCRIPTION ..... 4

    A. Program Objectives..... 4

    B. EPA’s Strategic Plan and Anticipated Environmental Results..... 6

    C. Statutory Authority ..... 7

II. AWARD INFORMATION..... 8

    A. Amount of Funding..... 8

    B. Type of Funding..... 8

III. ELIGIBILITY INFORMATION ..... 9

    A. Eligibility Requirements ..... 9

    B. Share Under a Performance ..... 10

    C. Application Procedures ..... 12

    D. Application Package ..... 14

    E. Application Review ..... 15

    F. Selection Procedures ..... 15

    G. Grants.gov Application Submission Instructions ..... 16

    H. Content of Application Package Submission..... 19

    I. Submission Dates and Times ..... 26

    J. Additional Provisions for Applicants Incorporated into the Solicitation..... 26

    K. Communications with Applicants..... 26

    L. Information Sessions..... 26

V. APPLICATION REVIEW INFORMATION ..... 27

    A. Ranking Criteria..... 27

    B. Review and Selection Process ..... 30

    C. Additional Provisions for Applicants Incorporated into the Solicitation..... 30

VI. AWARD ADMINISTRATION INFORMATION..... 30

    A. Award Notices ..... 30

    B. Additional Provisions for Applicants Incorporated into the Solicitation..... 31

    C. Administrative and National Policy Requirements..... 31

    D. Reporting..... 32

    E. Debriefings..... 33

    F. Disputes..... 33

VII. AGENCY CONTACTS: EPA HEADQUARTERS AND REGIONAL TRIBAL NPS COORDINATORS ..... 34

VIII. OTHER INFORMATION..... 35

    A. Quality Assurance/Quality Control (QA/QC) ..... 35

    B. Data Sharing..... 35

*Appendix A – Nine Elements of a Watershed-Based Plan Developed by a Tribe ..... 36*

## I. Funding Opportunity Description

- Describes the types of projects EPA is looking to fund
- Language about EPA’s Strategic Plan, outputs and outcomes (see Criterion f)

TABLE OF CONTENTS

I. FUNDING OPPORTUNITY DESCRIPTION ..... 4

    A. Program Objectives..... 4

    B. EPA’s Strategic Plan and Anticipated Environmental Results ..... 6

    C. Statutory Authority ..... 7

II. AWARD INFORMATION ..... 8

    A. Amount of Funding..... 8

    B. Type of Funding..... 8

III. ELIGIBILITY INFORMATION ..... 9

    A. Eligibility ..... 9

    B. Eligible Activities ..... 9

    C. Eligible Locations ..... 9

    D. Eligible Organizations ..... 9

    E. Eligible Personnel ..... 9

    F. Eligible Under a Performance ..... 10

    G. Eligible Activities ..... 12

    H. Eligible Locations ..... 14

    I. Performance Partnership Grants (PPG) ..... 15

IV. APPLICATION AND SUBMISSION INFORMATION ..... 15

    A. Requirement to Submit Through Grants.gov and Limited Exception Procedures ..... 15

    B. Grants.gov Application Submission Instructions ..... 16

    C. Content of Application Package Submission..... 19

    D. Submission Dates and Times ..... 26

    E. Additional Provisions for Applicants Incorporated into the Solicitation..... 26

    F. Communications with Applicants..... 26

    G. Information Sessions..... 26

V. APPLICATION REVIEW INFORMATION ..... 27

    A. Ranking Criteria..... 27

    B. Review and Selection Process ..... 30

    C. Additional Provisions for Applicants Incorporated into the Solicitation..... 30

VI. AWARD ADMINISTRATION INFORMATION..... 30

    A. Award Notices ..... 30

    B. Additional Provisions for Applicants Incorporated into the Solicitation..... 31

    C. Administrative and National Policy Requirements..... 31

    D. Reporting..... 32

    E. Debriefings..... 33

    F. Disputes..... 33

VII. AGENCY CONTACTS: EPA HEADQUARTERS AND REGIONAL TRIBAL NPS COORDINATORS ..... 34

VIII. OTHER INFORMATION ..... 35

    A. Quality Assurance/Quality Control (QA/QC) ..... 35

    B. Data Sharing..... 35

Appendix A – Nine Elements of a Watershed-Based Plan Developed by a Tribe ..... 36

## II. Award Information

- Funding available for competition (max \$100K/project)
- Funding is for grants and cooperative agreements



TABLE OF CONTENTS

I. FUNDING OPPORTUNITY DESCRIPTION ..... 4

    A. Program Objectives..... 4

    B. EPA’s Strategic Plan and Anticipated Environmental Results..... 6

    C. Statutory Authority ..... 7

II. AWARD INFORMATION..... 8

    A. Amount of Funding..... 8

    B. Type of Funding..... 8

III. ELIGIBILITY INFORMATION ..... 9

    A. Eligible Applicants..... 9

    B. Cost Sharing or Matching Requirements..... 9

    C. Example Cost Share Amounts and how to Adjust Tribal Cost Share Under a Performance Partnership Grant (PPG)..... 10

    D. Threshold Evaluation Criteria..... 12

    E. Funding Restrictions ..... 14

    F. Performance Partnership Grants (PPG) ..... 15

IV. APPLICATION AND SUBMISSION INFORMATION ..... 15

    A. Application Process ..... 15

    B. Application Requirements ..... 16

    C. Application Review ..... 19

    D. Award Process ..... 26

    E. Debriefings..... 33

    F. Disputes..... 33

VII. AGENCY CONTACTS: EPA HEADQUARTERS AND REGIONAL TRIBAL NPS COORDINATORS ..... 34

VIII. OTHER INFORMATION..... 35

    A. Quality Assurance/Quality Control (QA/QC) ..... 35

    B. Data Sharing..... 35

Appendix A – Nine Elements of a Watershed-Based Plan Developed by a Tribe ..... 36

**III. Eligibility Information**

- Who is eligible? CWA Section 319-eligible tribes.
- Cost-share/match info (40%, but less if hardship waiver or PPG).
- **Threshold Evaluation Criteria (i.e., what EPA reviews to make sure you submitted a complete, eligible application before sending to the review committee).**
- Funding restrictions on watershed planning, Admin costs, WQ monitoring, intertribal consortia.
- PPG info



I. FUNDING OPPORTUNITY DESCRIPTION ..... 4

..... 4

..... 6

..... 7

..... 8

..... 8

..... 9

..... 9

..... 9

..... 10

..... 12

E. Funding Restrictions ..... 14

F. Performance Partnership Grants (PPG) ..... 15

IV. APPLICATION AND SUBMISSION INFORMATION ..... 15

A. Requirement to Submit Through Grants.gov and Limited Exception Procedures ..... 15

B. Grants.gov Application Submission Instructions ..... 16

C. Content of Application Package Submission..... 19

D. Submission Dates and Times ..... 26

E. Additional Provisions for Applicants Incorporated into the Solicitation..... 26

F. Communications with Applicants..... 26

G. Information Sessions..... 26

V. APPLICATION REVIEW INFORMATION ..... 27

A. Ranking Criteria..... 27

B. Review and Selection Process ..... 30

C. Additional Provisions for Applicants Incorporated into the Solicitation..... 30

VI. AWARD ADMINISTRATION INFORMATION..... 30

A. Award Notices ..... 30

B. Additional Provisions for Applicants Incorporated into the Solicitation..... 31

C. Administrative and National Policy Requirements..... 31

D. Reporting..... 32

E. Debriefings..... 33

F. Disputes..... 33

VII. AGENCY CONTACTS: EPA HEADQUARTERS AND REGIONAL TRIBAL NPS COORDINATORS ..... 34

VIII. OTHER INFORMATION..... 35

A. Quality Assurance/Quality Control (QA/QC) ..... 35

B. Data Sharing..... 35

Appendix A – Nine Elements of a Watershed-Based Plan Developed by a Tribe ..... 36

## IV. Application and Submission Information

- Must apply through Grants.gov “Workspace”, a few limited exceptions
- Application Due Date! (**January 14, 2021**)
- What to include in your application package.
- **How to format your application (Section IV.C.2) and what to include to address each ranking criterion. \*15-page limit for project narrative.**

TABLE OF CONTENTS

I. FUNDING OPPORTUNITY DESCRIPTION ..... 4

    A. Program Objectives..... 4

    B. EPA’s Strategic Plan and Anticipated Environmental Results..... 6

    C. Statutory Authority ..... 7

II. AWARD INFORMATION..... 8

    A. Amount of Funding..... 8

    B. Type of Funding..... 8

III. ELIGIBILITY INFORMATION ..... 9

    A. Eligible Applicants..... 9

    B. Cost Sharing or Matching Requirements..... 9

    C. Example Cost Share Amounts and how to Adjust Tribal Cost Share Under a Performance ..... 10

    D. Submission Dates and Times ..... 26

    E. Additional Provisions for Applicants Incorporated into the Solicitation..... 26

    F. Communications with Applicants..... 26

    G. Information Sessions..... 26

V. APPLICATION REVIEW INFORMATION ..... 27

    A. Ranking Criteria..... 27

    B. Review and Selection Process ..... 30

    C. Additional Provisions for Applicants Incorporated into the Solicitation..... 30

VI. AWARD ADMINISTRATION INFORMATION..... 30

    A. Award Notices ..... 30

    B. Additional Provisions for Applicants Incorporated into the Solicitation..... 31

    C. Administrative and National Policy Requirements..... 31

    D. Reporting..... 32

    E. Debriefings..... 33

    F. Disputes..... 33

VII. AGENCY CONTACTS: EPA HEADQUARTERS AND REGIONAL TRIBAL NPS COORDINATORS ..... 34

VIII. OTHER INFORMATION..... 35

    A. Quality Assurance/Quality Control (QA/QC) ..... 35

    B. Data Sharing..... 35

Appendix A – Nine Elements of a Watershed-Based Plan Developed by a Tribe ..... 36

**V. Application Review Information**

- **Ranking Criteria (Section V.A): point values, how each criterion will be evaluated.**
- **How EPA will review and select applications**

**TABLE OF CONTENTS**

I. FUNDING OPPORTUNITY DESCRIPTION ..... 4  
 A. Program Objectives..... 4  
 B. EPA’s Strategic Plan and Anticipated Environmental Results ..... 6  
 C. Statutory Authority ..... 7  
 II. AWARD INFORMATION ..... 8  
 A. Amount of Funding..... 8  
 B. Type of Funding..... 8  
 III. ELIGIBILITY INFORMATION ..... 9  
 A. Eligible Applicants..... 9  
 B. Cost Sharing or Matching Requirements..... 9  
 C. Example Cost Share Amounts and how to Adjust Tribal Cost Share Under a Performance ..... 10  
 D. Solicitation ..... 12  
 E. Selection Procedures ..... 14  
 F. Award Procedures ..... 15  
 G. Dispute Resolution ..... 15  
 H. Reporting Requirements ..... 16  
 I. Additional Provisions for Applicants Incorporated into the Solicitation ..... 19  
 J. Award Administration ..... 26  
 K. Solicitation ..... 26  
 L. Award Administration ..... 26  
 M. Dispute Resolution ..... 26  
 N. Reporting Requirements ..... 26  
 O. Additional Provisions for Applicants Incorporated into the Solicitation ..... 27  
 P. Award Administration ..... 27  
 Q. Solicitation ..... 30  
 R. Award Administration ..... 30  
 S. Dispute Resolution ..... 30  
 T. Reporting Requirements ..... 30  
 U. Additional Provisions for Applicants Incorporated into the Solicitation ..... 30  
 VI. AWARD ADMINISTRATION INFORMATION ..... 30  
 A. Award Notices ..... 30  
 B. Additional Provisions for Applicants Incorporated into the Solicitation..... 31  
 C. Administrative and National Policy Requirements..... 31  
 D. Reporting..... 32  
 E. Debriefings..... 33  
 F. Disputes..... 33  
 VII. AGENCY CONTACTS: EPA HEADQUARTERS AND REGIONAL TRIBAL NPS COORDINATORS ..... 34  
 VIII. OTHER INFORMATION ..... 35  
 A. Quality Assurance/Quality Control (QA/QC) ..... 35  
 B. Data Sharing..... 35  
 Appendix A – Nine Elements of a Watershed-Based Plan Developed by a Tribe ..... 36

**VI. Award Administration Information**

- When EPA will notify applicants after **threshold** and **evaluation** reviews.
- What you’ll need to include in final work plan, if selected.
- Reporting requirements during grant period.
- Additional requirements (e.g., Satisfactory Progress, O&M)
- Filing a dispute

**TABLE OF CONTENTS**

I. FUNDING OPPORTUNITY DESCRIPTION ..... 4

    A. Program Objectives..... 4

    B. EPA’s Strategic Plan and Anticipated Environmental Results ..... 6

    C. Statutory Authority ..... 7

II. AWARD INFORMATION ..... 8

    A. Amount of Funding..... 8

    B. Type of Funding..... 8

III. ELIGIBILITY INFORMATION ..... 9

    A. Eligible Applicants..... 9

    B. Cost Sharing or Matching Requirements..... 9

    C. Example Cost Share Amounts and how to Adjust Tribal Cost Share Under a Performance Partnership Grant (PPG)..... 10

    D. Threshold Evaluation Criteria..... 12

IV. APPLICATION REVIEW INFORMATION ..... 14

    A. Ranking Criteria..... 15

    B. Review and Selection Process ..... 15

    C. Additional Provisions for Applicants Incorporated into the Solicitation..... 16

V. AWARD ADMINISTRATION INFORMATION..... 19

    A. Award Notices ..... 19

    B. Additional Provisions for Applicants Incorporated into the Solicitation..... 26

    C. Administrative and National Policy Requirements..... 26

    D. Reporting..... 26

    E. Debriefings..... 26

    F. Disputes..... 26

VII. AGENCY CONTACTS: EPA HEADQUARTERS AND REGIONAL TRIBAL NPS COORDINATORS ..... 26

VIII. OTHER INFORMATION ..... 26

    A. Quality Assurance/Quality Control (QA/QC) ..... 26

    B. Data Sharing..... 26

*Appendix A – Nine Elements of a Watershed-Based Plan Developed by a Tribe ..... 36*

**VII. Agency Contacts**

- Who to contact at EPA (in most cases, [tribal319grants@epa.gov](mailto:tribal319grants@epa.gov))

**VIII. Other Information**

- QA/QC, data sharing

**Appendix A – Watershed Plan Elements**

# VIEW GRANT OPPORTUNITY



**EPA-OW-OWOW-21-01**  
Fiscal Year (FY) 2021 Request for Applications from Indian Tribes and Intertribal Consortia for Nonpoint Source Management Grants Under Clean Water Act Section 319  
Environmental Protection Agency

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**SYNOPSIS**

VERSION HISTORY

RELATED DOCUMENTS

PACKAGE

Print Synopsis Details 

## General Information

<b>Document Type:</b> Grants Notice	<b>Version:</b> Synopsis 1
<b>Funding Opportunity Number:</b> EPA-OW-OWOW-21-01	<b>Posted Date:</b> Nov 13, 2020
<b>Funding Opportunity Title:</b> Fiscal Year (FY) 2021 Request for Applications from Indian Tribes and Intertribal Consortia for Nonpoint Source Management Grants Under Clean Water Act Section 319	<b>Last Updated Date:</b> Nov 13, 2020
<b>Opportunity Category:</b> Discretionary	<b>Original Closing Date for Applications:</b> Jan 14, 2021 See Section IV of the funding opportunity announcement for close date information.
<b>Opportunity Category Explanation:</b>	<b>Current Closing Date for Applications:</b> Jan 14, 2021 See Section IV of the funding opportunity announcement for close date information.



# Grants.gov Resources



## Support Center available 24/7 (closed on Federal holidays)

- Email: [support@grants.gov](mailto:support@grants.gov)
- Phone: 1-800-518-4726 (toll-free) | 1-606-545-5035 (international)

## Resources

- Workspace Overview:  
<https://www.grants.gov/web/grants/applicants/workspace-overview.html>
- YouTube Training & Webinar Videos:  
<https://www.youtube.com/user/GrantsGovUS/featured>
- Online User Guide:  
[https://www.grants.gov/help/html/help/GetStarted/Get\\_Started.htm](https://www.grants.gov/help/html/help/GetStarted/Get_Started.htm)
- FAQs: <http://www.grants.gov/web/grants/applicants/applicant-faqs.html>
- Grants.gov Self-Service Web Portal: <https://grants-portal.psc.gov>
- Blog: <https://blog.grants.gov/>



# The Competitive Grant Process

Applicant questions due to EPA by **January 5, 2021**  
(email [tribal319grants@epa.gov](mailto:tribal319grants@epa.gov))

Applications must submitted online at Grants.gov by  
**January 14, 2021 (11:59pm EST)**

**Threshold Review:** EPA Regions review applications to ensure they are eligible and meet RFA threshold criteria

**Evaluation Review:** Eligible applications reviewed by National Review committee. Scored out of 100 points.

**EPA Selection Official:** Selected applications for award, based primarily on ranking.

**Awards announced in ~April 2021**





# Difference between Threshold Criteria and Ranking Criteria



## Threshold Criteria (Section III.D)

- EPA Regional review
- Must substantially comply with Section IV.C
- No score

\*Is the proposed work eligible?

\*Is the application package complete?

## Ranking Criteria (Section V.A)

- National Committee review
- Applications evaluated, scored, then ranked
- Maximum score of 100 points







# Nine Ranking Criteria

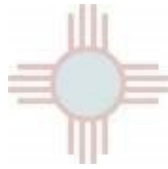
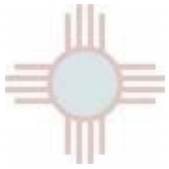
## Section V.A. of RFA



Application Tips

25





# Ranking Criterion (a)

## ***Subcategories of NPS pollution (10 points total)***

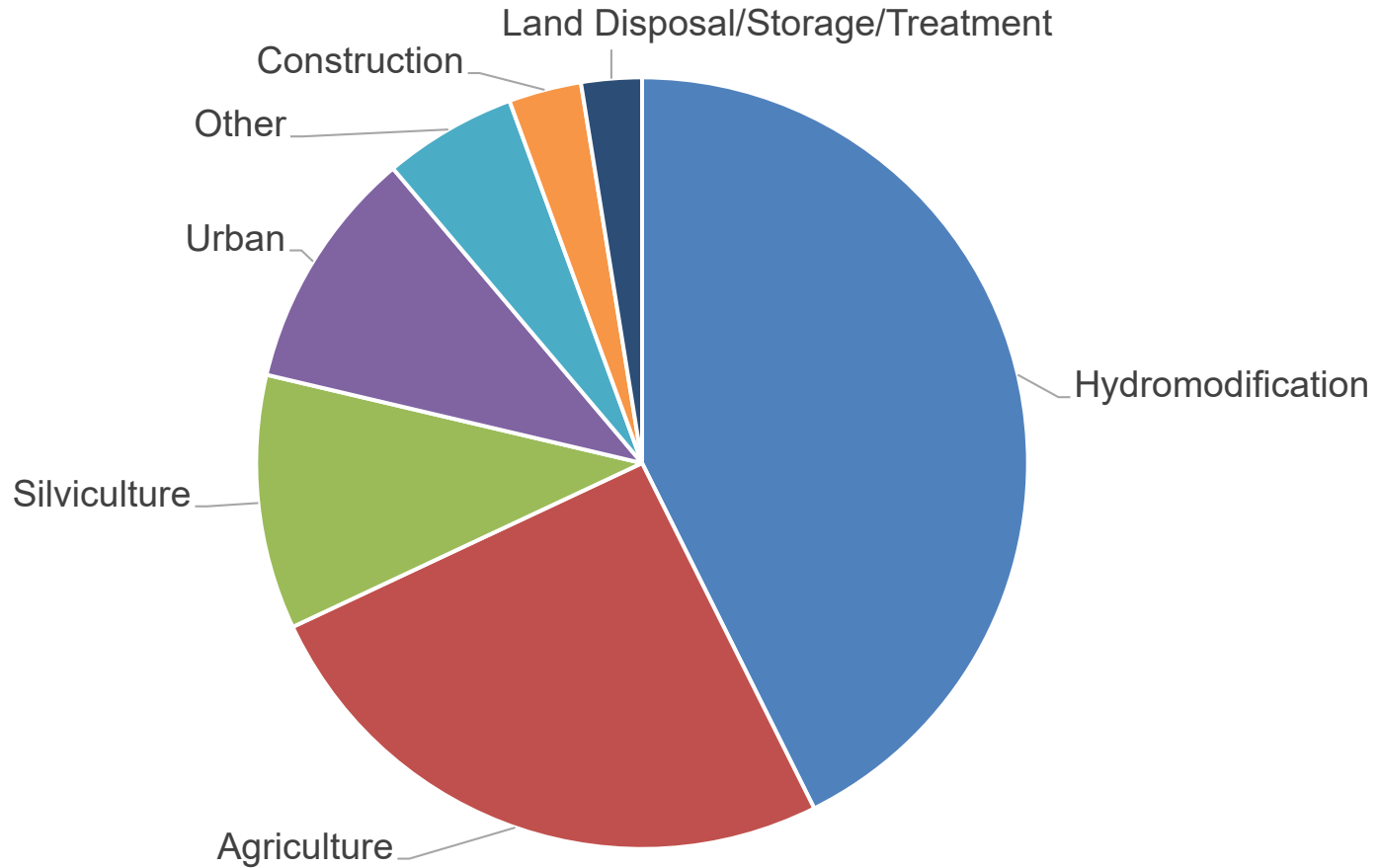
- Identify and describe each subcategory of NPS pollution contributing to water quality problem/threat, and specific subcategories to be addressed through application (5 points)
- Describe extent to which these subcategories are present in the watershed (5 points)

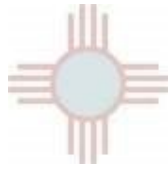
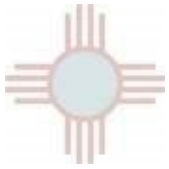
\*Refer to your Tribe's NPS program documents and [EPA Tribal NPS Handbook](#) for NPS pollution sources.

- Describe sources at both watershed and site-scale.
- Focus primarily on sources you will be addressing in project.
- Quantify sources, when possible.



# NPS pollution sources addressed by past competitive 319 projects (FY16-20)





# Ranking Criterion (b)

## **Water Quality Problem/Threat (10 points)**

- Describe water quality problem(s) or threat(s) to be addressed caused by the subcategories of NPS pollution identified in the work plan
- Incorporate specific descriptions of water quality problems or threats, for example, in relation to impairments to water quality standards or other parameters that indicate waterbody health (e.g., decreases in fish or macroinvertebrate counts).

- Focus primarily on problem/threat you will be addressing in project.
- If including water quality data...
  - Where were data collected?
  - What are graphs showing?

28



# Show the water quality threat or problem.



Failing septic system



Eroding streambank





- Break down work plan into specific tasks (could a new staff person pick up work plan and complete project?)
- Provide detailed info on BMPs including planned or conceptual design, when applicable.

## Ranking Criterion (c)

***Project goals and objectives, work plan components, specific NPS BMPs and eligible project activities to be implemented, project location (30 points total)***

- The goal(s) and objective(s) of the project (3 points)
- The work plan components, which includes an outline of all activities to be implemented (11 points)
- The level of detail provided in relation to specific NPS BMPs and eligible project activities to be implemented (11 points)
- Specificity in identifying where NPS project will take place in relation to waterbody affected by NPS pollutants (5 points)

30



# Example Goals, Objectives, and Proposed Activities

## Goal 1:

Decrease sediment and bacteria loading to meet water quality targets to support designated beneficial uses in Oak Creek.

### Objective 1:

Remove livestock access to Oak Creek.

#### Management Actions:

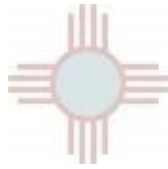
1. Install livestock exclusion fencing
2. Install off-site water supply for livestock

### Objective 2:

Stabilize eroding streambank and restore riparian area at former livestock access point.

#### Management Actions:

1. Stabilize 100 ft. of streambank
2. Riparian planting on 0.25 acres



# Ranking Criterion (c) - *continued*

***Project goals and objectives, work plan components, specific NPS BMPs and eligible project activities to be implemented, project location (30 points total)***

**CHOOSE ONE:**

(WBP = watershed-based plan)

- (i) Develop/continue work on WBP and implement a WBP
- (ii) Develop/continue work on WBP and implement a watershed project (that does not implement a WBP)
- (iii) Implement a WBP.
- (iv) Implements a watershed project that is a significant step towards solving NPS impairments or threats on a watershed-wide basis.

**Indicate the following:**

- ✓ Are you developing a watershed plan as part of this proposal?
- ✓ Are you implementing an existing watershed plan?

(if No, your work is still eligible!)





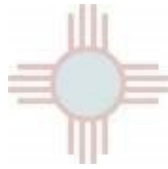
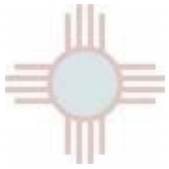


## 10 most common BMPs implemented by competitive 319 projects (FY16-20)



<b>Best Management Practice</b>	<b># Projects (FY16-20)</b>
Streambank & Shoreline Protection	56
Riparian Planting	41
Fencing	40
Outreach & Education	38
Stream Crossing Improvements	28
Erosion & Sediment Control Practices	26
Wetland Restoration	24
Native Plant Propagation & Planting	18
Invasive Species Management	17
Vegetative Buffer Strips	15





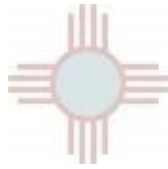
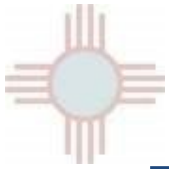
# Ranking Criterion (d)

***Link between work plan components and NPS pollution subcategories; Water quality benefits (10 points total)***

- How proposed work will address NPS pollution subcategories contributing to problem/threat (5 points)
- Water quality benefits that will be achieved (may included quantitative or narrative descriptions) (5 points)

• Connect criteria A, B and C. How will proposed work address sources and problems outlined earlier?

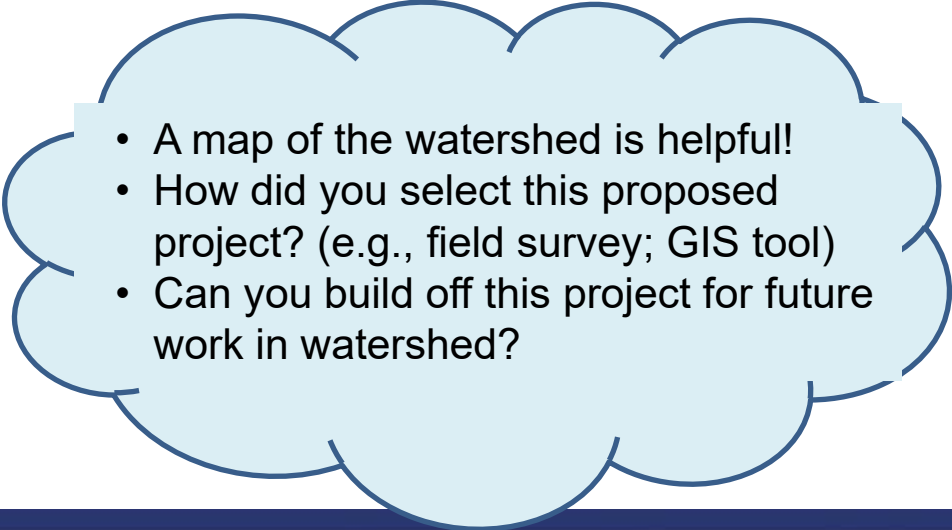




# Ranking Criterion (e)

## ***Watershed Approach*** (10 points total)

- Demonstrate how a watershed-based approach was adopted in developing proposed project (i.e., why is this proposed work a priority in the watershed?) (5 points)
- Demonstrate how project can be linked to or expanded upon in future. (5 points)

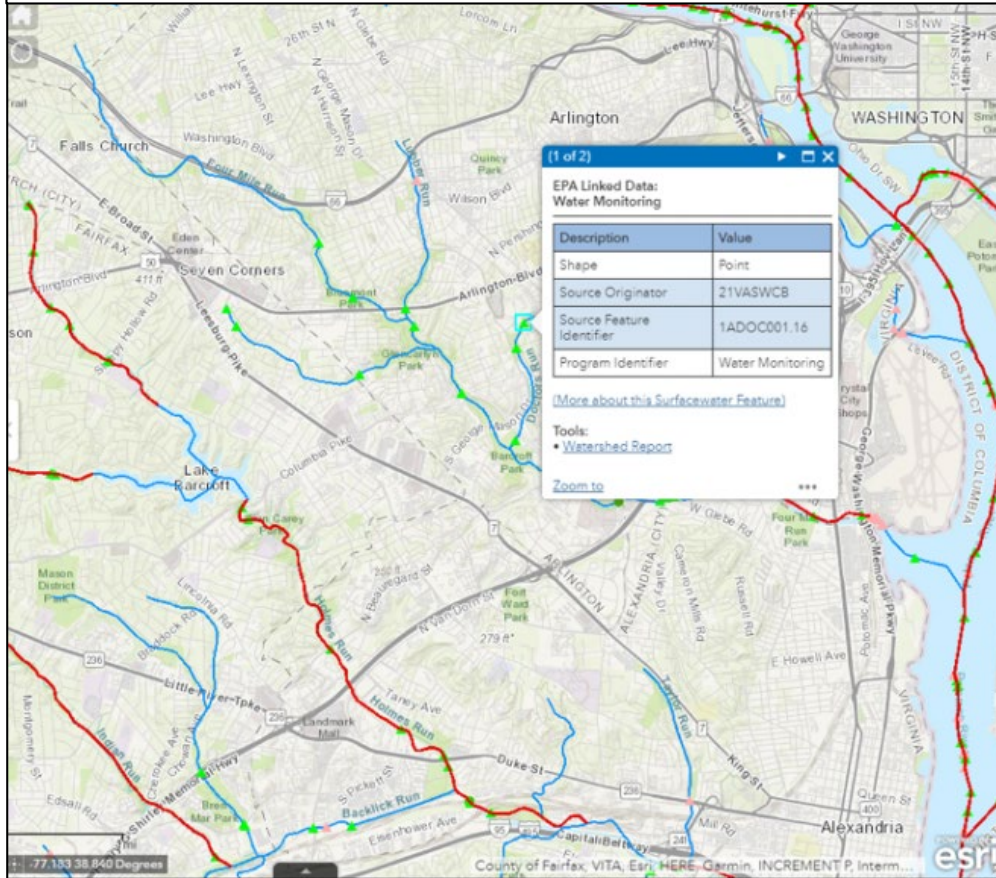
- 
- A map of the watershed is helpful!
  - How did you select this proposed project? (e.g., field survey; GIS tool)
  - Can you build off this project for future work in watershed?





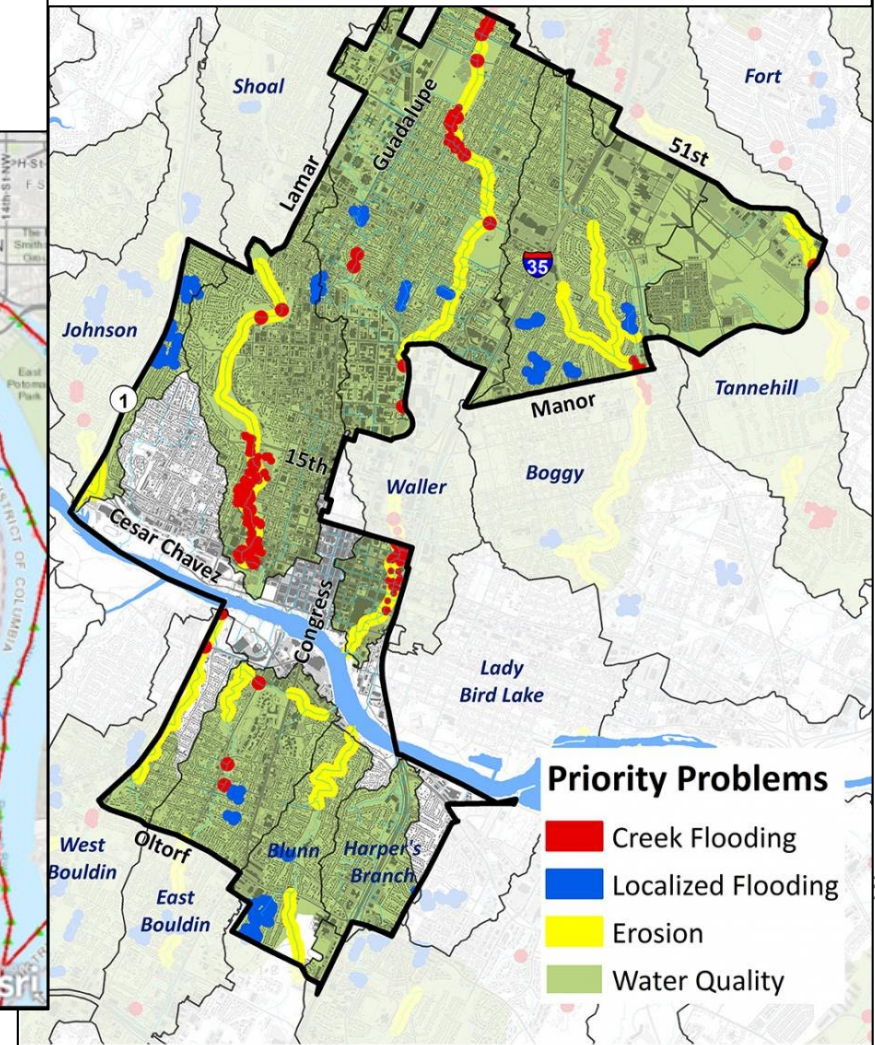
# Examples of demonstrating a “watershed approach”

Linking water quality monitoring data to problem and proposed project location.



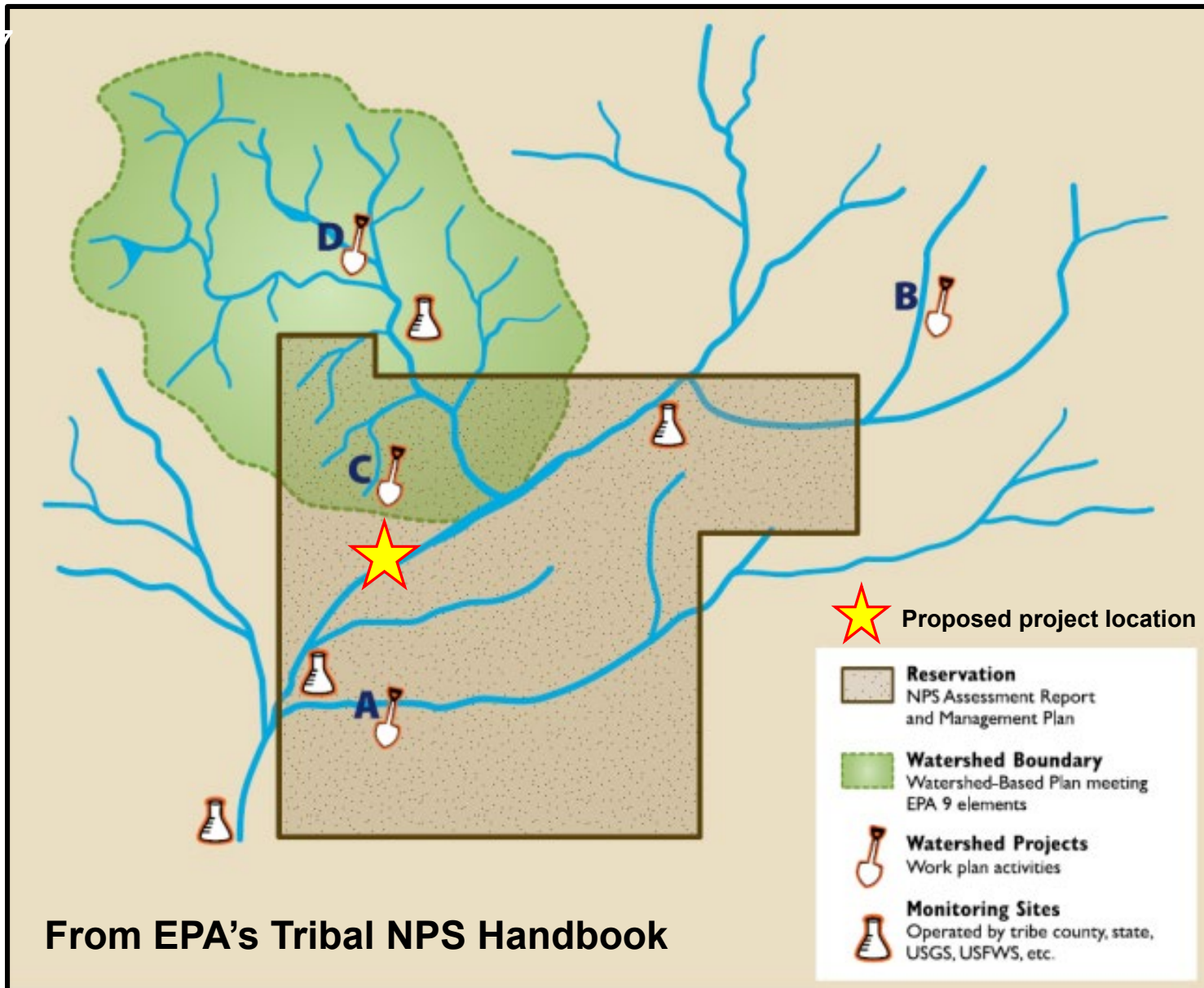
<https://www.epa.gov/waterdata/waters-geoviewer>

Prioritization of existing NPS problem areas (e.g., eroding streambanks)



<http://www.austintexas.gov/page/district-9-watershed-profile>

# Watershed Approach



From EPA's Tribal NPS Handbook





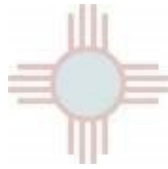
# Ranking Criterion (f)

***The extent and quality to which the application meets each of the following sub-criteria: (10 points total)***

- Demonstrates potential environmental results, outputs and outcomes, and linked to EPA's Strategic Plan (3 points)
- Demonstrates a sound plan for measuring and tracking progress (3 points)
- Past (last 3 years) performance under the federally funded assistance agreements. (4 points)

- Outputs = deliverables you will achieve during the project period.
- Past performance – how did you track and report progress under previous grants?





# Ranking Criterion (g)

## **Budget (10 points total)**

- Reasonable and allowable budget with detailed estimated funding amounts for each work plan component/task. Total project costs must include both federal and the required cost share/match (non-federal) components. (8 points)
- Approach, procedures, and controls for ensuring that awarded grant funds will be expended in a timely and efficient manner (2 points)

- Match level of detail in Criterion C (i.e., provide cost estimate for each work plan component)
- Specify direct, indirect and match costs, when applicable.



## Example project budget table

<b>Project Goal: Decrease sediment and bacteria loading to meet water quality targets to support designated beneficial uses in Oak Creek.</b>			
<i>Activity</i>	<i>Amount</i>	<i>Cost</i>	<i>Total</i>
<b>Objective 1: Remove livestock access to Oak Creek</b>			
Fencing materials	0.5 miles	\$400/mile	\$200
Work crew to complete fencing and restoration	60 hours	\$80/hr	\$4,800
Livestock off-site watering structures	2 units	\$1,500 per unit	\$3,000
<b>Objective 2: Stabilize eroding streambank and restore riparian area at former livestock access point</b>			
Bank stabilization materials	100 ft	\$20/ft	\$2,000
Native riparian plants	50 plantings	\$30/planting	\$1,500
Native grass seed mix	50 lbs	\$10/lb	\$500
<b>Total</b>			<b>\$12,000</b>



# Calculating the Match

Federal Share	Non-Federal Match Percent	Federal Share Percent	Non-Federal Match	Total Project Cost
\$100,000	40%	60%	\$66,667	\$166,667
\$100,000	10%	90%	\$11,111	\$111,111
\$100,000	5%	95%	\$5,263	\$105,263

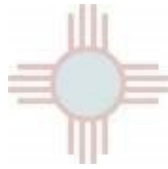
## *Example Calculation:*

If you know the total project costs:

- (1) Multiply the total project costs by the cost share/match % needed.**
- (2) The total is your cost share/ match amount.**

*For example: If your total project cost = \$166,667 and you need 40% cost share/match, then  $\$166,667 \times .40 = \$66,667$  (Cost Share/Match).*





# Ranking Criterion (h)

## **Milestone Schedule (5 points)**

- Detailed schedule with timeframes and major milestones to complete significant project tasks
- May include: a specific “start” and “end” date for each work plan component and task or activity; an estimate of the specific work years for each work plan component

- Match level of detail in Criterion C (i.e., provide timeline for each work plan component)
- Divide ‘heavy work periods’ into specific steps



# Example Project Schedule

	2021				2022							
Task	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	
1												
2												
3												
4												
5												
6												
7												
Final Report												

**Task 1:** Pre-project water quality monitoring

**Task 2:** Install livestock exclusion fencing

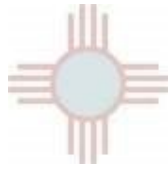
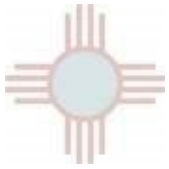
**Task 3:** Install off-site water supply for livestock

**Task 4:** Streambank stabilization design

**Task 5:** Streambank stabilization

**Task 6:** Riparian planting

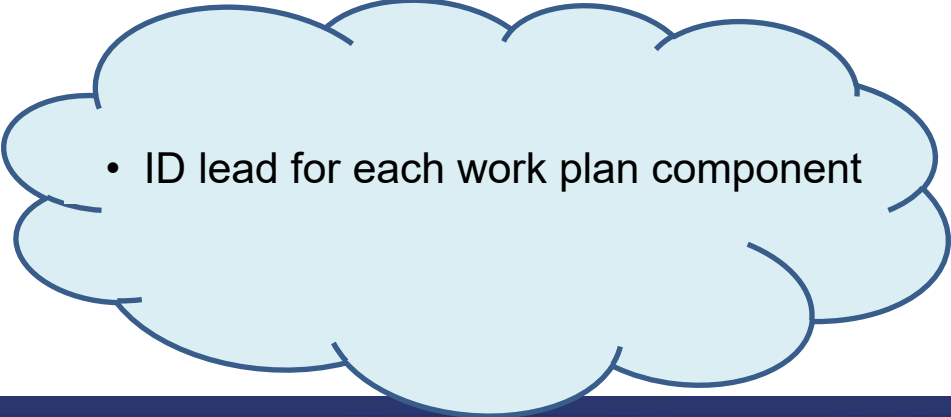
**Task 7:** Post-project water quality monitoring



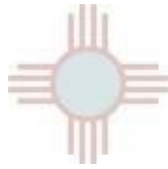
# Ranking Criterion (i)

## *Roles and Responsibilities (5 points)*

- **Roles and responsibilities of each responsible party in relation to each work plan component, including:**
  - Specific level of effort for each responsible party
  - Lead party for carrying out work plan component
  - Other programs, parties, and agencies that will provide additional technical and/or financial assistance.

- 
- ID lead for each work plan component





# Key Dates

- **October 9, 2020:** date by which your tribe must have obtained TAS for CWA 319 program.
- **January 5, 2021:** Last day to submit questions ([tribal319grants@epa.gov](mailto:tribal319grants@epa.gov))
- **January 14, 2021: Submission deadline for applications**
  - Submissions via Grants.gov – by 11:59pm EST
  - Late applications will not be considered for funding



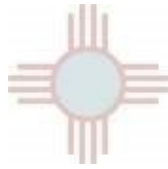
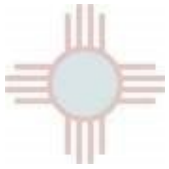


# Important Reminders



- You must submit through Grants.gov.
- Maximum federal request amount: \$100,000
- 15-page (single-spaced) limit on the project narrative
  - Additional pages allowed for Supporting materials (maps, data graphs, site photos, etc.)
- Review committee can only evaluate application based on information provided. They will not have access to your NPS Assessment Report or NPS Management Program Plan





# Questions?

[tribal319grants@epa.gov](mailto:tribal319grants@epa.gov)

See the “Current Grant Info” tab at  
[www.epa.gov/nps/tribal](http://www.epa.gov/nps/tribal)  
for more information about the FY2021  
Competitive Grant.

