Welcome to the Introduction to EPA Grants training. The webinar will begin shortly.

Note: This training is intended to provide basic information on the EPA grant process for those who may be first-time applicants. This webinar will not cover the specific technical requirements of the upcoming American Rescue Plan (ARP) competitive grant for enhanced air quality monitoring.

EPA continues to draft the ARP request for applications (RFA) and consider comments that we received during August’s Insight & Feedback sessions. Today’s webinar is a result of feedback requesting additional guidance on the general grants process.

Later this fall, EPA anticipates holding an informational webinar on the ARP competitive grant once the final RFA is posted.
Additional Training: Grants Management Training

Module 1: Introduction
Module 2: Demonstrating Financial Management System and Internal Controls Capability
Module 3: Applying for a Grant
Module 4: Accepting a Grant Award
Module 5: Managing a Grant
Module 6: Closing Out a Grant

Check it out: https://www.epa.gov/grants/epa-grants-management-training-applicants-and-recipients
Additional Training: How to Develop a Budget Training

Module 1: General Principles and Considerations
Module 2: Direct Costs
Module 3: Other Direct Cost
Module 4: Indirect Costs

Check it out: https://www.epa.gov/grants/how-develop-budget
Competition

The basics on competing for EPA assistance programs

September 2021
EPA Grants Update Listserv

Sign up today to receive timely notifications about:

• new guidance and information posted on this website
• new trainings and webinars available to potential applicants and recipients
• changes in grants management requirements
• other pertinent general grants information

Sign up here: [EPA Grants Info Listserv](#)
COVID-19 Grant Flexibilities

EPA’s Office of Grants and Debarment has issued
RAIN-2020-G02 EPA Frequent Questions on Grant Issues in Response to the Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) Public Health Emergency

FQs relating to:
• Grant procedures
• Allowable costs
• Disruption of operations
• Procurements
• Extensions
• Grant competitions
• Suspension and debarment
Update to 2 CFR 200

• See Guidance for Grants and Agreements published in the Federal Register for details
  • Sec. 200.216 and 200.340 went into effect August 13, 2020
  • See RAIN-2020-G05 for details
Communications with Applicants

• See Section 11 of the Competition Policy

• Limitations on what can be discussed and when

• Pre-proposal Assistance
  – Many programs will post Q&As on a website
  – Some programs offer conference calls/webinars where applicants can ask questions
  – This type of information is usually in Section IV or VII of announcements, if applicable
Communications with Applicants

• EPA *can*:
  – Answer applicant eligibility questions-if uncertain if you are eligible or your project is eligible ask before proposal submission
  – Clarify info on administrative aspects of proposal submission
  – Respond to requests for clarification of the announcement

**NOTE:** Clarifications that result in changes to the announcement must be communicated (via modification to the announcement) to all potential applicants
Communications with Applicants

- EPA cannot:
  - Offer to write applications for applicants
  - Review or comment on draft applications
  - Provide information on the Agency’s approach to evaluating applications beyond what is described in Section V of the announcement
  - Provide a competitive advantage to any applicant
Finding EPA Competitive Opportunities on Grants.gov

• Find current competitive opportunities
  – Synopses includes important info: funding amounts, eligible entities, submission deadline, and more

• Searchable by Assistance Listing number (CFDA number), keyword, agency, type of entity, etc
  – Discretionary Competitive Grant Programs at EPA
  – OAR’s American Rescue Plan competition will be listed under 66.034 and linked from https://www.epa.gov/amtic/american-rescue-plan

• Sign up for automatic notifications of opportunities
Applying on Grants.gov

- Apply online using Grants.gov (required for initial application)
  
  - Must Register – Obtain Unique Entity Identifier (e.g. DUNS), register with SAM, Setup Username/password, authorization
  
  Please Note: As of April 2022, the DUNS number will no longer be the official identifier for doing business with the U.S. Government. Information about this transition can be found at The U.S. General Services Administration (GSA)’s [website](#). See EPA’s [RAIN-2021-G01](#).

- Ensure when you apply for an opportunity that the DUNS listed on the application is assigned to your organization; if it isn’t you may be deemed ineligible
Applying on Grants.gov Workspace

• Workspace is the **only** method of submitting an application
  – Reuse forms & auto-populate data
  – Collaborative
  – Detect errors earlier
  – Best submission process for users with connectivity issues

• Learn more about [Workspace](#)

View our [recorded webinar](#) training about Workspace
Reminder: Federal agencies do not publish personal financial assistance opportunities on Grants.gov. Federal funding opportunities published on Grants.gov are for organizations and entities supporting the development and management of government-funded programs and projects. For more information about personal financial assistance benefits, please visit Benefits.gov.

Convenience Comes to Federal Grants
Download the Grants.gov Mobile App to search and submit on the go.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Funding Opportunity #</th>
<th>Opportunity Title</th>
<th>Agency</th>
<th>Open Date</th>
<th>Close Date</th>
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<tr>
<td>AMS-NOP-13-0061</td>
<td>Agricultural Management Assistance Organic Certification Cost-Share Program FY 2013</td>
<td>Agricultural Marketing Service</td>
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<td>SA-SYLEP-800-13-GR-51</td>
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<td>U.S. Mission to Saudi Arabia</td>
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<td>Geological Survey</td>
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<td>NFS-13-NER0-0107</td>
<td>Assessment of natural resource conditions at Hopewell Furnace NHS, Gettysburg NMP, and Eisenhower NS-I</td>
<td>National Park Service</td>
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<td>08/05/2013</td>
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<td>PAR-13-300</td>
<td>NLM Express Research Grants in Biomedical Informatics (R01)</td>
<td>National Institutes of Health</td>
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<td>The Role of the Cytoskeleton in Cellular Aging (R21/R33)</td>
<td>National Institutes of Health</td>
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<td>Biomarkers: Bridging Pediatric and Adult Therapeutics (R21)</td>
<td>National Institutes of Health</td>
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<td>L13AS00170</td>
<td>BLM AK CESU - Scenario Planning for Energy and Resources Development</td>
<td>Bureau of Land Management</td>
<td>08/01/2013</td>
<td>08/23/2013</td>
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<td>NOAA-NMFS-FRPC-2014-2003832</td>
<td>FY 2014 Species Recovery Grants to Tribes</td>
<td>Department of Commerce</td>
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<td>NOAA-NMFS-FRPC-2014-2003811</td>
<td>Species Recovery Grants to States (Section 6 Program)</td>
<td>Department of Commerce</td>
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<td>NNH132DA001IN-FMDAP</td>
<td>ROSES 2013: Planetary Mission Data Analysis Program</td>
<td>NASA Headquarters</td>
<td>08/01/2013</td>
<td>10/11/2013</td>
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<td>FP-FPH-14-022</td>
<td>FY14 Region 9 Nevada (not including Clark, Douglas or Washoe counties) Announcement of Anticipated Availability of Funds for Family Planning Services Grants</td>
<td>Office of the Assistant Secretary for Health</td>
<td>08/01/2013</td>
<td>04/01/2014</td>
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<tr>
<td>PA-FPH-14-020</td>
<td>FY14 Region 9 Republic of the Marshall Islands Announcement of Anticipated Availability of Funds for Family Planning Services Grants</td>
<td>Office of the Assistant Secretary for Health</td>
<td>08/01/2013</td>
<td>04/01/2014</td>
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Convenience Comes to Federal Grants

Download the Grants.gov Mobile App to search and submit on the go.

Download on the App Store  GET IT ON Google Play
Manage Subscriptions

Customize your Grants.gov opportunity subscriptions, including expanded criteria for saved searches and the ability to view and manage existing subscriptions. To subscribe to Grants.gov email notifications, users must first create a Grants.gov account. Don’t worry - the account registration process is quick and easy.

Custom Email Notifications

When you create a Grants.gov account, you can customize the type of email notifications you receive. Log in and click the links below to subscribe to news updates about system enhancements, notifications about saved searches and new funding opportunities, and more.

» Subscribe to Grants.gov News
Receive Alerts and Newsletters containing updates about system enhancements and training resources

» Subscribe to all new grant opportunities
Receive a daily email listing all new grant opportunities

» Subscribe to opportunities
Receive notifications when changes are made to a specific opportunity’s forecast, synopsis and/or packages

» Subscribe to saved searches for grant opportunities
Receive notifications for new opportunities matching saved search criteria

For more information on Grants.gov Subscriptions, please review the Connect with Grants.gov help article.

Unsubscribe from Email Notifications

Log in and unsubscribe from one (or more) of your Grants.gov email notifications. We strongly recommend that you stay subscribed to Grants.gov Alerts so that you will receive time-sensitive updates about the Grants.gov system.

» Unsubscribe from Grants.gov email notifications
Competitive Opportunities

• EPA Program Office Websites
  – In addition to Grants.gov, some program office websites have funding opportunity information (ex: Office of Air and Radiation: http://www.epa.gov/grants/air-grants-and-funding)
  – ARP RFA will also be posted to https://www.epa.gov/amtic/american-rescue-plan

• Assistance Listings/Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance (CFDA):
  – https://sam.gov/content/assistance-listings
  – Read more about assistance programs
  – Typical funding amounts, types of projects funded, eligible entities, and more
  – ARP will be using assistance listing 66.034
Other Resources

• **Competition Resources**

• **Grants.gov Resources**
  – Applicant Resources
  – Organization Registration
  – Grants.gov User Guide
  – Workspace Information
Preparing Applications

• Each funding opportunity announcement has unique instructions and requirements

• Read the announcement for:
  – Eligibility information, deadlines, application content, review criteria, and more

• **EPA’s Competition Policy**
  – Familiarize yourself with EPA’s policy on competition
Type of Announcement for ARP

• Request for Application (RFA)
  – Submission includes all forms and certifications necessary for award
  – EPA’s standard type of solicitation
  – For a list of forms, see RAIN 2018-G07 Full Application Submission with Initial Proposal Submission Requirement
See **OMB Format in Title 2 of the CFR**

- **Section I: Program Description**
  
  Describes:
  - types of projects
  - what the application has to address
Announcement Content/Highlights

• Section II: Federal Award Information
  – expected number of awards
  – expected funding amount

• Section III: Eligibility Info
  – list of eligible entities
  – Cost share/matching requirements if any
  – Threshold eligibility criteria:
    may include legal, policy, relevance, programmatic, administrative, and/or financial criteria that have the effect of making an applicant, application, or project eligible or ineligible for award
Announcement Highlights

• Section IV: Application and Submission Info
  – Content and form of application
    • Address Section I (program info), Section III (threshold criteria) and Section V (evaluation criteria)
  – Submission method (electronically through grants.gov is required for initial applications)
  – Submission dates and times
    • Open period is at least 45 calendar days for competitions over $100K
  – Pay attention to deadlines and page limits
  – Administrative and National Policy Requirements
Announcement Highlights

• Section V: Application Review Info
  – Ranking criteria
    • Criteria used to evaluate applications
    • Must address ranking criteria in applications such as
      – Programmatic Capability
      – Past Performance under grants
      – Environmental Results-plan for measuring progress towards achieving outputs/outcomes
      – Timely Expenditure of Grant Funds
      – Budget and Leveraging
      – Technical approach
    • Other factors (in some announcements)
      – Review and selection process
Announcement Highlights

• Section VI: Federal Award Administration Info
  – Award notices
  – Federal Award Requirements
  – Reporting requirements
  – Dispute Resolution Process and Debriefings
    • Debriefings are used for constructive feedback
Announcement Highlights

• Section VII: Federal Awarding Agency Contacts
  – Who to contact with questions about the funding opportunity

• Section VIII: Other Information
  – This section is optional
Modifications

• EPA occasionally modifies announcements
  – Due dates, clarification of requirements, etc

• Automatic Notification
  – Sign up on Grants.gov for automatic notification of modifications to specific announcements
  – Modifications posted on Grants.gov
  – OAR will also post any changes to
    https://www.epa.gov/amtic/american-rescue-plan and
    https://www.epa.gov/grants/air-grants-and-funding
Competitive Process

1. EPA prepares announcement
2. EPA posts announcement on program office website and grants.gov
3. EPA receives applications from applicants
4. EPA evaluates applications and makes selections
5. Issues awards

Note: Award Official will check the Federal Awardee Performance and Integrity Information System (FAPIIS) prior to award to ensure applicant is qualified (see 2 CFR 200.205)
Competitive Grants: Review & Selection Process

1. The EPA evaluation team, which will include EPA Headquarters and Regional staff, will review each eligible application.

2. The EPA evaluation team will score and rank the proposals using the evaluation criteria outlined in the request for applications (RFA).

3. The EPA evaluation team will provide preliminary funding recommendations to the EPA Selection Official based on the proposal scores.

4. The EPA Selection Official will make final funding decisions based on ranking, preliminary recommendations of the evaluation team, and other potential factors.
American Rescue Plan Competition

• Target Dates
  – Fall 2021 - Post RFA
  – Late December 2021 - Close Announcement
  – Summer 2022 – Award Grants

Air Grants and Funding | US EPA and
https://www.epa.gov/amtic/american-rescue-plan
Introduction to EPA Grants: Questions & Answers

Instructions:

- Please raise your hand or enter your question into the chat.
- Keep your microphone on mute when not speaking.
- You may turn on your camera or leave it off.

Reminders:

- Questions should be about the general EPA grants process and not the specific technical requirements of the upcoming ARP competitive grant.
- Later this fall, EPA anticipates holding informational webinars on the ARP competitive grant once the RFA is posted.
- EPA will post a recording of this webinar and the slides at https://www.epa.gov/amtic/american-rescue-plan. We will email a link to all registered attendees after we update the website.