

TOPIC	QUESTION	ANSWER
Location	<b>Land acquisition/land banking</b>	CWA 104(b)(3) authorizes use of grant funds for activities involving research, investigations, experiments, training, demonstrations, surveys and studies relating to the causes, effects, extent, prevention, reduction, and elimination of pollution. <b>Although this provision does not authorize the acquisition of land, CWA § 104(k) permits land acquisition in situations “relating to the conduct of demonstration projects, and to the development of field laboratories and research facilities.”</b> Based on CWA 104(k), a grantee may acquire land only when it is a component of a demonstration project. Land cannot be acquired for land banking.
	<b>Projects involving work on Federal Lands</b>	Per the Federal Grants and Cooperative Agreement Act of 1977, GMD cannot fund work that significantly improves federal lands. Any improvements to Federal land must be incidental to the overall purpose of the project and reviewed by EPA legal personnel is required before the activity on Federal land commences." Essentially this can be seen as a duplication of efforts. Money is already being spend on federal lands.
	<b>Must be in underserved areas</b>	Definition from last RFA: Underserved refers to populations sharing a particular characteristic, as well as geographic communities, that have been systematically denied a full opportunity to participate in aspects of economic, social, and civic life, examples of which are identified in Section 2 of the <a href="#">Biden Administration’s Executive Order 13985: Advancing Racial Equity and Support for Underserved Communities</a> .
Eligible Organizations	<b>What organizations are eligible to apply?</b>	In accordance with Assistance Listing 66.475, applications will be accepted from State and local governments (includes State-designated Indian Tribes), interstate agencies, Federally Recognized Indian Tribal Governments, public and private universities and colleges, public or private nonprofit institutions (as defined at 2 CFR 200.1), and intertribal consortia.
	<b>I am a nonprofit but do not have a 501c3. Am I eligible to apply?</b>	Consistent with the definition of Nonprofit organization at 2 CFR § 200.1, the term nonprofit organization means any corporation, trust, association, cooperative, or other organization that is operated mainly for scientific, educational, service, charitable, or similar purpose in the public interest and is not organized primarily for profit; and uses net proceeds to maintain, improve, or expand the operation of the organization. The term includes tax-exempt nonprofit neighborhood and labor organizations. Nonprofit organizations that are not exempt from taxation under section 501 of the Internal Revenue Code must submit other forms of documentation of nonprofit status such as certificates of incorporation as nonprofit under state or tribal law.
	<b>Would you consider collaborative applications between multiple organizations doing similar work/projects?</b>	Collaboration is always encouraged when applying for a Gulf of Mexico grant. Groups of two or more eligible applicants may choose to form a coalition and submit a single application under this RFA; however, one entity must be responsible for the cooperative agreement or grant.
	<b>Can one eligible entity apply for more than one regional award?</b>	Yes, an entity can apply for more than one regional award. However, the entity must submit an application for each region as the review teams will be different for each region. If an organization

		scores the highest based on the merit review in more than one region, that organization will receive an award in each region in which it is evaluated as the top applicant.
<b>Eligible Projects</b>	<b>What projects are eligible?</b>	GMD is utilizing the input of listening sessions to develop the RFA and the types of projects that will be eligible for funding. Comments will be taken into consideration as GMD works to develop the RFA; however, all projects must meet CWA 104(b)(3), which includes activities such as research, studies and demonstrations that reduce pollution.
	<b>Will the RFA require an applicant to address all 4 measures i.e., Habitat Restoration, Environmental Education &amp; Outreach, Community Resilience, and Water Quality or all 4?</b>	The RFA requirements are yet to be determined. GMD will take the feedback from each of the listening sessions into consideration when developing the RFA. In prior RFAs, the requirement was that the applicant's project have activities that support at least one of the measures. Many projects will touch on more than just one measure, but there is no requirement to address all four.
	<b>Will the RFA require a compulsory outreach component?</b>	The RFA requirements are yet to be determined. GMD will take the feedback from each of the listening sessions into consideration when developing the RFA.
	<b>Please clarify/explain what "Community Resilience" means.</b>	Community Resilience focuses on supporting the development and implementation of coastal improvement programs, projects, and tools to enhance community planning, risk assessment, green infrastructure, and smart growth implementation."
	<b>Will heat island mitigation be an allowable project type?</b>	GMD is utilizing the input of listening sessions to develop the request for applications and the types of projects that will be eligible for funding. GMD will take the feedback from each of the listening sessions into consideration when developing the RFA.
<b><u>Ineligible Projects</u></b>	<b>Infrastructure/Construction</b>	Pure infrastructure and construction projects are generally ineligible projects (no metal or concrete). See language listed under "Use of Assistance" here ( <a href="https://sam.gov/fal/3b07ada3ef2f4b2eaa3a78b5d17203d0/view">https://sam.gov/fal/3b07ada3ef2f4b2eaa3a78b5d17203d0/view</a> ) and see language used under the recent EJ RFA (Section III.E. Ineligible Activities)
	<b>Gray Infrastructure (sewer lines, septic to sewer)</b>	Septic to sewer or sewer line replacement are traditional infrastructure (gray) which are ineligible activities currently under GMD's statutory authority <i>unless</i> this project can somehow be tied to any of the allowable activities (e.g., experiments, demonstration, research). Proposed projects must qualify under our statutory authority in CWA 104(b)(3) which says: <i>EPA is authorized to "make grants to State water pollution control agencies, interstate agencies, other public or nonprofit private agencies, institutions, organizations, and individuals," ... "to conduct and promote the coordination and acceleration of <b>research, investigations, experiments, training, demonstrations, surveys, and studies</b> relating to the causes, effects, extent, prevention, reduction, and elimination of pollution."</i>
<b>Funding/RFA type</b>	<b>How are we dividing up money among the states?</b>	The minimum and maximum of each award has not been determined, but the anticipated amount is approximately \$5M per state. GMD will take the feedback from each of the listening sessions into consideration when developing the RFA and determining the final maximum award amount.
	<b>Will it be Fund the Funder (recipient is pass through org to run competitive subawards)?</b>	The RFA requirements are yet to be determined. GMD will take the feedback from each of the listening sessions into consideration when developing the RFA.
	<b>How much funding is available for this RFA?</b>	The total estimated funding expected to be available is approximately \$25 million.

	<b>Is this funding opportunity available each year? Will it be available next fiscal year?</b>	Funding for the EPA Gulf of Mexico Program is dependent each year on allocations in the federal budget approved by Congress and the program priorities during that time.
	<b>Is there a match requirement?</b>	No matching funds are anticipated under this competition.
<b>Communication</b>	<b>Can potential applicants request a conference call to discuss potential projects?</b>	In order to ensure a fair competitive process, the EPA's Gulf of Mexico Program does not provide specific input on project ideas to applicants.
	<b>How do I submit an additional question that has not been addressed in this listening session?</b>	Please submit questions or suggestions to <a href="mailto:GCEJLS_GMD@epa.gov">GCEJLS_GMD@epa.gov</a>
<b>Application</b>	<b>How to apply?</b>	The RFA is still being determined. Once it is released, you can apply at <a href="http://www.grants.gov">www.grants.gov</a> . Please send us an email at <a href="mailto:gmp-rfp@epa.gov">gmp-rfp@epa.gov</a> to be added to our RFA email list to receive the announcement that the RFA has been posted.