

**U.S. Environmental Protection Agency GULF OF MEXICO DIVISION
Gulf of Mexico Environmental Justice Grants Program Request for Applications**

Federal Agency Name: Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 4
Funding Opportunity Title: Gulf of Mexico Environmental Justice Grants Program
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Funding Opportunity Number: EPA-R4-GM-EJGrantsProgram-2023
Assistance Listing: 66.475

KEY DATES - All dates listed below are tentative.

February 6, 2023	Request for Applications (RFA) Posted
February 6, 2023 3pm Eastern; 2pm Central	A recorded webinar presentation will be posted to provide helpful hints to developing your application. You can find the presentation, Q&A, and the common errors document at the Gulf of Mexico Environmental Justice Grants Program link at www.epa.gov/gulfofmexico . If you have a question not included in the Q&A or presentation, please submit questions to GMP-RFP@epa.gov . Q&A will be updated weekly if new questions are received. EPA will respond to questions through May 2, 2023 but cannot guarantee a response to questions received thereafter.
May 8, 2023	Applications due to the Gulf of Mexico Division (GMD) no later than 11:59pm ET
June 8, 2023	Anticipated Notification of Selection
October 8, 2023	Anticipated Award Date

EPA will consider all applications submitted on or before 11:59 pm ET on **May 8, 2023**. Any applications submitted after the due date and time will not be considered for funding. EPA will only accept applications submitted via grants.gov, except in limited circumstances where applicants have no or very limited Internet access (see Section IV.).

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I. FUNDING OPPORTUNITY DESCRIPTION

I.A. EPA Gulf of Mexico Division (GMD) Background and Authority

The GMD is a non-regulatory Great Water Body program of the EPA founded to facilitate collaborative actions to protect, maintain, and restore the health and productivity of the Gulf of Mexico in ways consistent with the environmental, public health, and economic well-being of the region. To carry out this mission, GMD continues to maintain and expand partnerships with state and federal agencies, tribes, local governments and authorities, academia, regional business, industry, agricultural and environmental organizations, communities, and individual citizens. For more information, please see <https://www.epa.gov/gulfofmexico>. This RFA is expected to result in the award of assistance agreements. GMD's statutory authority to award assistance agreements is the Clean Water Act, §104(b)(3), which authorizes the award of assistance agreements to conduct and promote the coordination and acceleration of research, investigations, experiments, training, demonstrations, surveys, and studies relating to the causes, effects, extent, prevention, reduction, and elimination of pollution as codified in [33 U.S Code 1254\(b\)\(3\)](#). Funded awards must advance protection and restoration of the Gulf of Mexico watershed in support of [EPA's FY 2022-2026 Strategic Plan](#). Awards made under this solicitation will support Goal 5: Ensure Clean and Safe Water for All Communities, Objective 5.2: Protect and Restore Waterbodies and Watersheds.

Previous projects funded by the GMD can be found on the [EPA Gulf of Mexico story map](#).

I.A.1 Environmental Justice

Many communities around the country continue to suffer from the devastating impact of systemic inequities and a lack of resources needed for a quality livelihood. The marginalization endured by these communities is exemplified through industrial zoning in low-income communities, the lack of resources invested in education and infrastructure, and the perpetual segregation of non-English speaking communities, can significantly impair the quality of environmental health and protection. The GMD, a non-regulatory geographic program of the EPA, supports Administration and Agency priorities through actions to improve conditions in communities adversely and disproportionately affected by environmental and human health harms or risks, including affected underserved communities by investing in tools or projects to improve water quality, habitats, community resilience, and environmental education. The projects resulting from this RFA will pave the way for capacity building, vital stakeholder engagement and actions responsive to the critical needs of communities adversely and disproportionately affected by environmental and human health harms or risks, including affected underserved communities. Creating a thriving ecosystem takes a vibrant community and the GMD's actions will focus on the core of systemic inequities and stimulate a trajectory for robust environmental justice practices.

For purposes of this competition and the evaluation of applications, *environmental justice* is defined 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 group of people should bear a disproportionate share of the negative environmental consequences resulting from industrial, governmental, and commercial operations or policies. *Meaningful involvement* means people have an opportunity to participate in decisions about activities that may affect their environment and/or health; the public's contribution can influence the regulatory agency's decision; community concerns will be considered in the decision-making process; and decision makers will seek out and facilitate the involvement of those potentially affected.

For purposes of this competition and the evaluation of applications, “underserved communities” 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 [Biden Administration’s Executive Order 13985: Advancing Racial Equity and Support for Underserved Communities](#).

EPA Gulf of Mexico Environmental Justice objectives for this RFA are:

1. Fund projects that are authorized under CWA 104 (b)(3) to communities adversely and disproportionately affected by environmental and human health harms or risks, including affected underserved communities. All proposed projects should include activities designed to engage, educate, and empower communities to understand local environmental and public health issues;
2. Enhance environmental and/or resilience collaboration, including within and among communities adversely and disproportionately affected by environmental and human health harms or risks, including affected underserved communities, municipal and state governments, Non-profit organizations (NPOs), and academic institutions;
3. Document the beneficial impact the project has on the community; and
4. Effectively communicate project results to inform future environmental justice approaches.

EPA will evaluate applications focused on these environmental justice objectives as explained in Section V.A. of this RFA. Therefore, applicants are encouraged, as appropriate, to describe as part of their application how they plan to identify communities adversely and disproportionately affected by environmental and human health harms or risks.

I.B. Scope of Work

This RFA is seeking applicants for a direct award from EPA to become a “pass-through entity” to develop and administer a competitive subaward program to fund projects/activities authorized by CWA 104(b)(3) in communities adversely and disproportionately affected by environmental and human health harms or risks, including affected underserved communities and provide technical assistance as described in [Section 1.B.2](#). Applicants should demonstrate their ability and approach for developing a competitive subaward program and for administering or procuring services to administer technical assistance. In addition, applicants should demonstrate how their organization has successfully established and maintained relationships with the broader communities and has the experience and/or expertise working with communities affected by adverse and disproportionate environmental and human health risks or harms; how their efforts would improve communities adversely and disproportionately affected by environmental and human health harms or risks, including affected underserved communities; and how they would use these funds. Technical assistance may include trainings, workshops, and other educational opportunities and can be provided by the applicant or through the procurement of services.

EPA plans to award approximately five cooperative agreements of up to \$2,500,000 each and plans to fund at least one cooperative agreement per Gulf of Mexico state (Texas, Louisiana, Mississippi, Alabama, and Florida). Subaward projects must be located within eligible counties of only one Gulf state (see Figure 1 and Appendix E).

Gulf of Mexico Environmental Justice Grants Program FON: EPA-R4-GM-EJGrantsProgram-2023

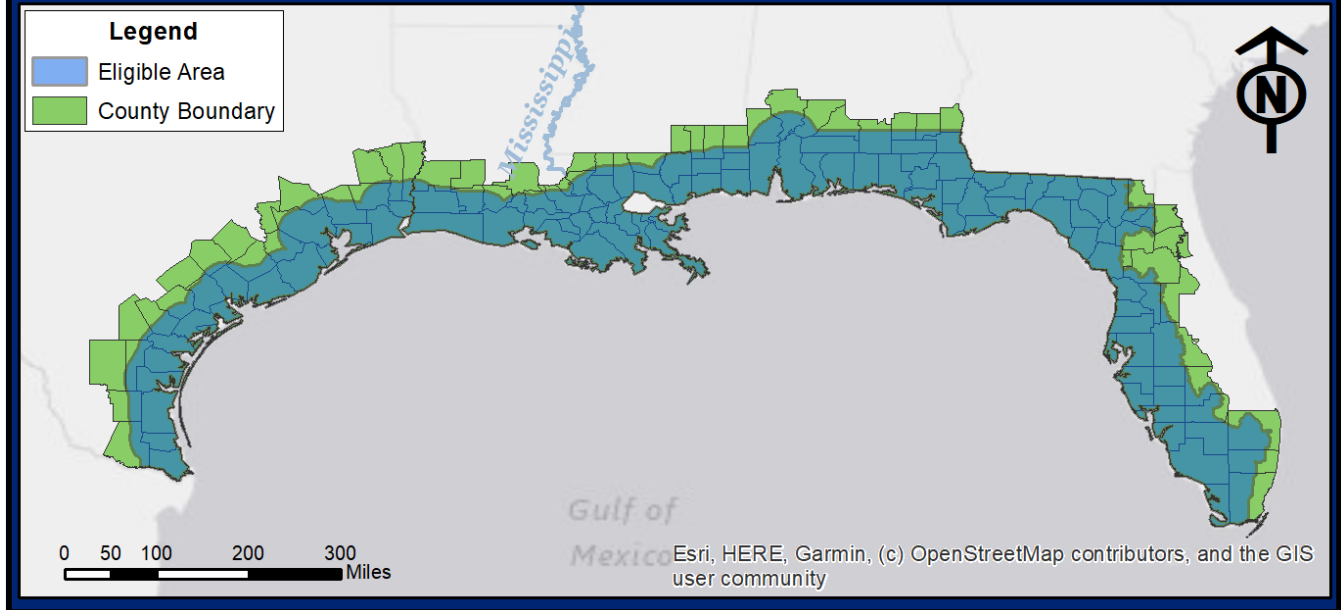


Figure 1: Map of eligible areas. See Appendix E for a county list.

Responsibilities of the successful applicant(s) include, but are not limited to:

- Provide technical assistance to potential subaward applicants and subrecipients according to I.B.2.
- As described in I.B.1., develop and administer a competitive subaward grant program for eligible entities to directly collaborate with communities adversely and disproportionately affected by environmental and human health harms or risks, including affected underserved communities on projects within Gulf coastal counties (as shown in Figure 1 above) of one of the Gulf of Mexico states; Support the Gulf of Mexico environmental justice objectives identified in I.A.1., including establishing guidelines for the program, issuing an RFA and coordinating the review of the applications. Award recipients MUST directly collaborate with leadership from communities adversely and disproportionately affected by environmental and human health harms or risks, including affected underserved communities.
- Attend a virtual meeting to connect with the other EPA award recipients.
- Develop a communication strategy to promote awareness of the technical assistance program, ensuring hard-to-reach organizations servicing communities adversely and disproportionately affected by environmental and human health harms or risks, including affected underserved communities are aware of the opportunity.
- Advertise the program and assist potential applicants transparently, ensuring that no applicant or group of applicants has an unfair competitive advantage during the competitions.
- Coordinate with EPA to amplify technical assistance and competition announcements.
- Issue subawards to achieve the program objectives and environmental results in a cost-effective manner.
- Disburse monies to subaward recipients in a timely manner to reduce unliquidated obligations and as required by the applicable regulations.
- Establish and follow a system for monitoring subrecipient performance that includes the elements required by 2 CFR 200.332(d) and report the monitoring results in performance reports submitted to

EPA.

- Comply with [EPA's Subaward Policy](#) (see section I.B.1) and Establishing and [Managing Subawards General Term and Condition](#).
- Track the environmental results (quantitative and qualitative outputs and outcomes) of the subawards and ensure that data and results are communicated to EPA GMD, stakeholders, and partners.
- Document lessons learned from the subaward projects and ensure subaward project results are disseminated to the broader stakeholder community to inform future practices.
- Ensure redundant subawards are not being issued by related federal or non-federal partners.

I.B.1 Competitive Subaward Program

The direct awards (up to \$2.5 million per cooperative agreement) from EPA to develop and administer a competitive subaward program must focus on projects authorized by CWA 104 (b) (3) that address challenges and provide opportunities for communities experiencing or affected by adverse and disproportionate environmental and human health risks. Successful applicants will be *Pass-through entities* as that term is used in 2 CFR Part 200. Project activities must occur within coastal counties of **one** Gulf of Mexico state (Figure 1 Map). EPA expects funding for each subaward to range from \$25,000 to \$250,000; however, applicants may justify a different subaward range as part of their application narratives. The subawards funded under the cooperative agreement are anticipated to have project periods up to four years and must be completed in sufficient time to allow the EPA award recipient to aggregate results, lessons learned, and ensure subrecipient have been reimbursed for eligible incurred costs. Funds should be directed to subawards except those required to carry out the responsibilities [above](#), or for communications, outreach, and administrative and technical assistance activities that directly support subrecipients. The environmental and financial benefits of the competitive subaward program should be targeted to communities adversely and disproportionately affected by environmental and human health harms or risks, including affected underserved communities that have been systematically denied a full opportunity to participate in aspects of economic, social, and civic life. Projects should be community-driven. A list of potential subaward projects can be found in [Appendix D](#). **Subrecipients MUST address at least one objective identified in GMD's [environmental justice objectives](#) in I.A.1.**

The applicant should describe how they will ensure their competitive subaward program will solicit applications for eligible projects and activities and will meet EPA requirements for reporting environmental and/or programmatic outputs, outcomes, and metrics for the competitive subaward program and all subawards. This includes identifying how metrics will be collected from subrecipients and reported to EPA. The recipient must comply with applicable provisions of 2 CFR Part 200 and the EPA Subaward Policy, which may be found at <https://www.epa.gov/grants/grants-policy-issuance-gpi-16-01-epa-subaward-policy-epa-assistance-agreement-recipients>, including the National Term and Condition for Subawards, which may be found at https://www.epa.gov/system/files/documents/2022-09/fy_2022_epa_general_terms_and_conditions_effective_october_1_2022_or_later.pdf. Additional guidance on compliance is available in EPA's [Subaward Frequent Questions](#). If your organization does not have experience with developing and administering a competitive subaward program, you may want to consider applying to the competitive subaward program funded by this cooperative agreement. When announced, the subaward competition information will be sent to EPA's GMD email list. Please send an email to gmp-rfp@epa.gov to be added to the list.

I.B.2 Technical Assistance Program

Applications should describe the development of a technical assistance program for potential competitive subaward applicants. The applicant must dedicate no more than \$250,000 to technical assistance. This should address the applicant's relevant technical assistance expertise or plans to procure such services. The applicant must outline how subaward applicants will be identified, detailing a transparent and equitable outreach strategy. The applicant for the EPA award must make participation in the technical assistance program a condition for subaward applicants to apply for competitive subawards and design a process for ensuring that this requirement is met.

Technical assistance should focus on grant application and oversight training for the purposes of water quality improvement, environmental education, community resilience, and/or habitat restoration in communities adversely and disproportionately affected by environmental and human health harms or risks, including affected underserved communities authorized by CWA 104(b)(3).

Connecting potential subrecipients to EPA funded trainings and technical assistance that are already available is encouraged to prevent duplication of effort. However, this does not eliminate the requirement to provide technical assistance to applicants by the award recipient.

Contractors must be procured competitively as required by the Procurement Standards in 2 CFR Parts 200 and 1500. Please refer to clause *d. Contracts and Subawards* in Section IV of the incorporated [EPA Solicitation Clauses](#). Additional guidance may be found at [Best Practice Guide for Procuring Services, Supplies, and Equipment Under EPA Assistance Agreements](#).

I.B.3 Minority Serving Institutions (MSIs)

EPA recognizes that it is important to engage a diverse group of stakeholders to address the environmental challenges the nation faces. At the same time, EPA seeks to expand the environmental conversation by including members of communities which may not have previously participated in such dialogues to participate in EPA programs. For this reason, EPA strongly encourages all eligible applicants identified in Section III.A., including MSIs, to apply under this opportunity. For purposes of this solicitation, the following are considered MSIs:

1. Historically Black Colleges and Universities, as defined by the Higher Education Act (20 U.S.C. § 1061(2)). A list of these schools can be found at [Historically Black Colleges and Universities](#)
2. Tribal Colleges and Universities (TCUs), as defined by the Higher Education Act (20 U.S.C. § 1059c(b)(3) and (d)(1)). A list of these schools can be found at [American Indian Tribally Controlled Colleges and Universities](#)
3. Hispanic-Serving Institutions (HSIs), as defined by the Higher Education Act (20 U.S.C. § 1101a(a)(5)). A list of these schools can be found at [Hispanic-Serving Institutions](#)
4. Asian American and Native American Pacific Islander-Serving Institutions; (AANAPISIs), as defined by the Higher Education Act (20 U.S.C. § 1059g(b)(2)). A list of these schools can be found at [Asian American and Native American Pacific Islander-Serving Institutions](#); and
5. Predominately Black Institutions (PBIs), as defined by the Higher Education Act of 2008, 20 U.S.C. 1059e(b)(6). A list of these schools can be found at [Predominately Black Institutions](#)

I.C. EPA Strategic Plan Linkage, Anticipated Outputs/Outcomes and Performance Measures

Pursuant to Section 6a of EPA Order 5700.7A1, “Environmental Results under EPA Assistance Agreements,” EPA must link proposed assistance agreements with the Agency’s Strategic Plan. EPA also requires that grant applicants and recipients adequately describe environmental outputs and outcomes to be achieved under assistance agreements (see EPA Order 5700.7A1, Environmental Results under Assistance Agreements, <https://www.epa.gov/grants/epa-order-57007a1-epas-policy-environmental-results-under-epa-assistance-agreements>).

1. Linkage to EPA Strategic Plan The activities to be funded under this solicitation support the [FY2022-2026 EPA Strategic Plan](#). Awards made under this solicitation will support Goal 5: Ensure Clean and Safe Water for All Communities, Objective 5.2: Protect and Restore Waterbodies and Watersheds. All applications must be for projects that support the goal and objective identified above.

2. Environmental Results 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 objectives described above.

a. Outputs

Outputs (or deliverables) refer to an environmental activity, effort, and/or associated work product related to an environmental goal or objective that will be produced or provided by a specified date. Outputs may be quantitative or qualitative but must be measurable during an assistance agreement project period. Outputs as a result of training, education, monitoring, surveys, demonstrations and other activities authorized by CWA 104(b)(3) are required and may include, but are not limited to, the following:

- Provide technical assistance to potential applicants and successful grantees of the competitive subaward, including tracking the number of individuals who receive technical assistance;
- The number of subawards to environmental justice-focused organizations that perform the work to support the objectives identified in Section I.A.1;
- Development and verification of subrecipient tracking (reporting) process to track expenditures and environmental results/data; this must include quarterly progress reports of subrecipient activities such as:
 - Number of communities educated/trained on adopting resiliency practices
 - Number of habitat acres enhanced, protected, or restored resulting from training/education
 - Number of individuals reached through education and outreach activities
 - Estimated number of water segments or water bodies improved
- Environmental justice education events/presentations (report number of events and participants) that share the successful outcomes, lessons learned, technologies developed, approaches gleaned, and best practices employed.

Progress reports and a final report are required outputs, as specified in Section VI.B. Reporting Requirements of this announcement.

b. Outcomes

Outcomes are the result, effect, or consequence that will occur from carrying out a program or activity that is related to an environmental or programmatic goal or objective and are used to gauge a project’s performance. Outcomes may be qualitative and environmental, behavioral, health-related, or programmatic in nature, but

must also be quantitative. Outcomes may be short term (changes in learning, knowledge, attitude, skills), intermediate (changes in behavior, practice, or decisions), or long-term (changes in condition of the natural resource).

Applicants **should** describe how their proposed project will achieve environmental justice objectives in Section I.A.1.

The following outcome is required for the award recipient:

- Subrecipients have improved abilities to identify, successfully apply for, and effectively manage grants related to water quality improvement, and prevention, reduction and/or elimination of pollution in communities adversely and disproportionately affected by environmental and human health harms or risks, including affected underserved communities.

One or more of the following outcomes as a result of training, education, monitoring, surveys, demonstrations and other activities authorized by CWA 104(b)(3) are required:

- Acres of habitat enhanced, protected, or restored over the life of the project, with quarterly milestones clearly reflected. An initial baseline must be included to provide an accurate view of progress
- Improvement in at least one water quality parameter in a water body and/or segment over the life of the project, with quarterly milestones clearly reflected. Applicant should evaluate the baseline conditions as a part of their project to provide an accurate view of progress.
 - Examples of water quality parameters that could be used include nutrients (primarily nitrogen and phosphorus) and associated indicators (chlorophyll, turbidity, total suspended solids, dissolved oxygen, and pH).
- Number of communities that are more resilient over the life of the project as a result of increased willingness to adopt, fund, and implement resiliency projects. The applicant should describe how the change will be measured and how resiliency was improved.
- Number of individuals with improved understanding of environmental issues in their community. The applicant should describe how the change will be measured.

Additional outcomes may include, but are not limited to, the following:

- Pollutant (e.g., load reductions in the Gulf of Mexico watershed)
- Stormwater and/or flood mitigation improvements
- Improvements made to state, county, or local environmental programs, requirements or policies that better protect human health and the environment

Additional information regarding the EPA's discussion of environmental results in terms of "outputs" and "outcomes" can be found at: www.epa.gov/grants/epa-order-57007a1-epas-policy-environmental-results-under-epa-assistance-agreements.

3. Performance Measures The applicant must develop milestones and deliverables and describe how they plan to achieve those through the proposed activities in their application. These performance measures will help gather insights and will be the mechanism to track progress concerning successful processes, output strategies, outcome strategies, and will provide the basis for developing lessons to inform future recipients. The following are questions to consider when developing milestones and deliverables:

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

I.D. RFA Terms

Community – Either a group of individuals living in geographic proximity to one another, or a geographically dispersed set of individuals (such as migrant workers or Native Americans), where either type of group experiences common conditions.

Community-driven – a community of individuals, partners, and stakeholders, including residents, businesses, nonprofits, and public agencies who are committed and eager to accomplish a common goal

Demonstration - For the purposes of this RFA, EPA is defining “demonstration” as new or experimental technologies, methods, or approaches, where the results of the project will be disseminated so that others can benefit from the knowledge gained in the demonstration project. The applicant must clearly explain in the proposal how the technologies, methods, or approaches used are new or experimental and how the project otherwise meets the requirements of a demonstration as described in this RFA. If your project uses technologies, methods or approaches that have been used previously in other geographic areas and/or other situations, then your proposal must include an explanation as to how your demonstration project is different from prior projects. The applicant must also explain what will be learned from the demonstration project.

Environmental justice (EJ) - is 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 no group of people should bear a disproportionate share of the adverse environmental and human health risks or harms resulting from industrial, governmental, and commercial operations or policies.

Meaningful involvement - means people have an opportunity to participate in decisions about activities that may affect their environment and/or health; the public's contribution can influence the regulatory agency's decision; community concerns will be considered in the decision-making process; and decision makers will seek out and facilitate the involvement of those potentially affected.

Partner - generally refers to a mutually understood, documented relationship between an applicant and one or more third parties to collaboratively carry out a proposed project.

Stakeholders - are individuals or representatives from organizations or interest groups that have a strong interest in the Agency's work and policies.

Underserved - means 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.

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

Additional provisions that apply to sections III, IV, V, and VI of this solicitation and/or awards made under this solicitation, can be found at [EPA Solicitation Clauses](#). These provisions are important for applying to this solicitation and applicants must review them when preparing applications for this solicitation. If you are unable to access these provisions electronically at the website above, please contact the EPA point of contact listed in this solicitation (usually in Section VII) to obtain the provisions.

II. AWARD INFORMATION

II.A. Award Amounts

The estimated amount available under this announcement is approximately \$12,000,000. The amount of federal funding per award is up to \$2,500,000. **Applications seeking EPA funding more than that amount will be rejected.** EPA anticipates awarding five cooperative agreements (one per state) under this solicitation. The number of cooperative agreements EPA will fund as a result of this RFA will be based on the quality of applications received, the availability of funding, and other applicable considerations. The successful applicants should provide EPA with a negotiated workplan covering distinct one-year periods of performance for each year of the project. Subawards under the cooperative agreement are anticipated to have project periods up to four years but need to be completed in sufficient time for the recipient to aggregate results and ensure the subrecipients have been reimbursed for eligible incurred costs prior to the end of the project period for the cooperative agreement. EPA expects funding for each subaward will range from \$25,000 to \$250,000. Applicants can identify a slightly different range for each subaward as part of their project narrative and explain why they have chosen a different range.

II.B. Anticipated Project Start and End Dates

The estimated project period for awards resulting from this solicitation will begin in the fall of 2023. Proposed project period may be up to five years.

II.C. Funding Type

Successful applicants will be issued a cooperative agreement as appropriate. A cooperative agreement is an assistance agreement that is used when there is substantial federal involvement with the recipient during the performance of an activity or project. EPA awards cooperative agreements for those projects in which it expects to have substantial interaction with the recipient throughout the performance of the project. The grantee will make the final subaward selections and administer the subawards. Although EPA will negotiate precise terms and conditions relating to substantial involvement as part of the award process, the anticipated substantial EPA involvement for the project selected may include:

1. Close monitoring of the recipient's performance to verify the results proposed by the applicant;
2. Collaboration during the performance of the scope of work and budget;
3. In accordance with the applicable regulations at 2 CFR Part 200, Subpart D (200.317 through 200.326), as appropriate, review of proposed procurements;
4. Review of evaluation criteria (the final decision on the evaluation criteria rests with the recipient);
5. Review the subaward competitive solicitation and may provide comments to ensure consistency with the applicant's scope of work (the recipient is responsible for the content of, and all final decisions regarding, the subaward competitive solicitation including the disposition of any EPA comments on the subaward competitive solicitation);
6. Participation in the review process for selection of subrecipients to the extent permitted by EPA's Subaward Policy (the majority of the selection panel members must be non-federal members);
7. Review and approval of the substantive terms of subawards to verify compliance with federal requirements (the final decision on the selection of subrecipients rests with the recipient); and
8. Provide the recipient with access to EPA scientific expertise, sampling protocols, publicly available data, and other forms of technical assistance, should the request be made by the recipient and EPA has available personnel.

II.D. Additional Funding Information

Additional Awards: EPA reserves the right to make additional awards under this announcement, consistent with Agency policy and guidance, if additional funding becomes available after the original selections are made. Any additional selections for awards will be made no later than six months after the original selection decisions.

Award Funding: Awards may be fully or incrementally funded, as appropriate, based on funding availability, satisfactory performance, and other applicable considerations.

Future Funding: Selection or award of funding under this RFA is not a guarantee of future funding.

Partial Funding: 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 application, or portion thereof, was evaluated and selected for award, and therefore maintains the integrity of the competition and selection process.

Pre-Award Costs: Recipients may incur otherwise eligible and allowable pre-award costs up to 90 days prior to award at their own risk without prior approval from EPA's award official. Pre-award costs must comply with 2 CFR 200.458 and 2 CFR 1500.9. If EPA determines that the requested pre-award costs comply with the relevant authorities, and that the costs are justified as allocable to the project, then these costs may be included as allowable expenditures at the time that the assistance award document is prepared. However, if for any reason EPA does not fund the application or the amount of the award is less than the applicant anticipated, then EPA is under no obligation to reimburse the applicant for these costs incurred. Thus, applicants incur pre-award costs at their own risk. Costs incurred more than 90 days prior to award require the approval of EPA Region 4's grant official.

III. ELIGIBILITY INFORMATION

Note: Additional provisions that apply to this section can be found at [EPA Solicitation Clauses](#).

III.A. Eligible Entities

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.

An intertribal consortium must meet the definition of eligibility in the Environmental Program Grants for Tribes Final Rule, at 40 CFR 35.504 (66 FR 3782, January 16, 2001) (FRL-6929-5) and be a non-profit organization within the meaning of 2 CFR 200. For certain competitive funding opportunities under this assistance listing, the Agency may limit eligibility to compete to a number or subset of eligible applicants consistent with the Agency's Assistance Agreement Competition Policy.

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. Note that 2 CFR 200.1 specifically excludes Institutions of Higher Education from the definition of non-profit organization because they are separately defined in the regulation. While not considered to be a nonprofit organization(s) as defined by 2 CFR 200.1, public or nonprofit Institutions of Higher Education are, nevertheless, eligible to submit applications under this RFA. For-profit colleges, universities, trade schools, and hospitals are ineligible.

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. Nonprofit organizations exempt from taxation under section 501(c)(4) of the Internal Revenue Code that lobby are not eligible for EPA funding as provided in the Lobbying Disclosure Act, 2 U.S.C. 1611.

For-profit organizations are not an eligible entity for this funding opportunity.

III.B. Coalitions

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. Coalitions must identify which eligible organization will be the recipient of the cooperative agreement and which eligible organization(s) will be subrecipients of the recipient (the “pass-through entity”). Subawards must be consistent with the definition of that term in 2 CFR 200.1 and comply with [EPA’s Subaward Policy](#). The pass-through entity that administers the cooperative agreement and subawards will be accountable to EPA for proper expenditure of the funds and reporting and will be the point of contact for the coalition. As provided in 2 CFR 200.332, subrecipients are accountable to the pass-through entity for proper use of EPA funding. For-profit organizations are not eligible for subawards under this grant program but may receive procurement contracts. Any contracts for services or products funded with EPA financial assistance must be awarded under the competitive procurement procedures of 2 CFR Part 200 and/or 2 CFR Part 1500, as applicable. The regulations at 2 CFR 1500.10 contain limitations on the extent to which EPA funds may be used to compensate individual consultants. Refer to the [Best Practice Guide for Procuring Services, Supplies, and Equipment Under EPA Assistance Agreements](#) for guidance on competitive procurement requirements and consultant compensation. Do not name a procurement contractor (including a consultant) as a “partner” or otherwise in your application unless the contractor has been selected in compliance with competitive procurement requirements.

III.C. Match or Cost-Share

There is no cost-sharing or matching requirement as a condition of eligibility under this RFA.

III.D. Threshold Eligibility Criteria

These are requirements that, if not met by the applicant by the time of application submission, will result in elimination of the application from consideration for funding. Only applications from eligible entities listed in Section III.A that meet these criteria by the time of application submission will be evaluated against the ranking factors in Section V.A. of this RFA. Applicants deemed ineligible for funding consideration as a result of the threshold eligibility review will be notified by e-mail within 15 calendar days of the ineligibility determination.

- **Substantial Compliance:** Applications must substantially comply with the application submission instructions and requirements set forth in Section IV.B of this announcement or else they will be

rejected. **Where a page limit is stated for the Project Narrative in Section IV.B, pages in excess of the limitation will not be reviewed.** Applicants are advised that readability is of paramount importance and should take precedence in application format, including selecting a legible font type and size for use in the application.

- **Grant.gov submission:** In addition, initial applications must be submitted through Grants.gov as stated in Section IV.A of this announcement (except in the limited circumstances where another mode of submission is specifically allowed for as explained in Appendix A) on or before the application submission deadline published in Section IV.A of this announcement. **Applicants are responsible for following the submission instructions in Appendix A of this announcement to ensure that their application is timely submitted. Please note that applicants experiencing technical issues with submitting through Grants.gov should follow the instructions provided in Appendix A, which include both the requirement to contact Grants.gov and email a full application to EPA prior to the deadline.**
- **Application Deadline:** Applications 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 timely submit their application through Grants.gov because they did not timely or properly register in SAM.gov or Grants.gov will not be considered an acceptable reason to consider a late submission.** Applicants should confirm receipt of their application with Jeanne Allen (GMP-RFP@epa.gov) as soon as possible after the submission through Grants.gov—failure to do so may result in your application not being reviewed.
- **Project Scope:** Applications must address how the applicant will establish and manage a competitive subaward program and provide technical assistance to eligible entities to support the GMD's Environmental Justice objectives identified in [Section I.A.1](#).
- **Project Results:** Applicants must identify anticipated project results in their application and identify major anticipated results on the Summary Information page.
- **Project Location:** For an application to be considered eligible for funding, planned geographic focus of your subaward competition must be within 25 miles of the coastal counties identified in Figure 1 and in one of the Gulf of Mexico states (Texas, Louisiana, Mississippi, Alabama, Florida). Applicants must provide a description or map of the area that they plan to focus on for their competitive subaward program. Applicants may submit more than one application under this RFA provided each application addresses the geographic area for the subaward competition in ONE of the Gulf of Mexico states. Applicants must submit each application through Grants.gov. **Applications that address geographic areas in more than one state will be rejected.**
- **Funding Request Limit:** Applications seeking EPA funding in excess of the specified maximum amount of \$2,500,000 will be rejected.
- **Ineligible activities:** If an application is submitted that includes any ineligible tasks or activities, that portion of the application will be ineligible for funding and may, depending on the extent to which it affects the application, render the entire application ineligible for funding.

III.E. Ineligible Activities

The following are ineligible activities:

- Projects that do not comply with Clean Water Act Section 104(b)(3), which authorizes the award of assistance agreements to conduct and promote the coordination and acceleration of research, investigations, experiments, training, demonstrations, surveys and studies relating to the causes, effects, extent, prevention, reduction, and elimination of pollution
- Actions required to settle a formal enforcement action or included in a court order; or that are specified

as a required mitigation measure under a state, local, or federal permit for a specific project; however, grant funding may be used to enhance or expand such projects beyond minimum requirements for compliance.

- Work involving only routine maintenance of storm water infrastructure and other facilities
- Projects which fall under the existing planning responsibilities of an individual state or local government (e.g., development of TMDLs or MS4 permits)
- Solely “gray infrastructure” projects (e.g., installation of sewer lines)
- Construction activities that are not a part of a demonstration project. This includes, but is not limited to, preliminary planning to determine the economic and engineering feasibility of a facility; engineering, architectural, legal, fiscal, and economic investigations and studies; surveys, designs, plans, working drawings, specifications, procedures, and other actions necessary to the construction of a facility; the erection, acquisition, alteration, remodeling, improvement, or extension of a facility; and the inspection and supervision of the construction of a facility.

IV. APPLICATION AND SUBMISSION INFORMATION

Note: Additional provisions that apply to this section can be found at [EPA Solicitation Clauses](#).

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

Complete application packages must be submitted electronically through Grants.gov **by 11:59 pm Eastern Time on May 8, 2023**. Please see the complete instructions for submitting applications via Grants.gov and the limited exception procedures in [Appendix A](#) of this announcement.

IV.B. Content of Application Submission

Unless otherwise stated, the application package must include the following materials:

1. **Standard Form (SF) 424, Application for Federal Assistance:** Complete the form. Include applicant (organization) name, address, contact person, phone number, fax and e-mail address. This form also requires a registration in the System for Award Management (SAM.gov), and a Unique Entity Identifier (UEI) number. See [Appendix A](#) for more information. The contact person you provide in Block 8.f. should be different than the Authorized Representative listed in Block 21.
2. **SF-424A, Budget Information - Non-Construction Programs:** Complete the form. Provide overall budget information. The total amount of federal funding requested for the project period should be shown on line 5(e) and on line 6(k) of SF-424A. If indirect costs are included, the amount of indirect costs should be entered on line 6(j). The indirect cost rate (i.e., a percentage), the base (e.g., personnel costs and fringe benefits), and the amount should also be indicated on line 22.
3. **EPA Form 5700-54, EPA Key Contacts Form:** Complete the form. A minimum of two different people (contacts) should be identified. Please be sure the contacts on this form are consistent with all other forms, as applicable.
4. **EPA Form 4700-4, Pre-Award Compliance Review Report:** Complete the form. See [Tips for Completing EPA Form 4700-4](#) for guidance on filling out this form.

5. **Project Narrative Attachment Form – Prepared as described in [Appendix C](#):** Includes the **Summary Information Page; Workplan; Detailed Budget Narrative; and Maps**. The project narrative must explicitly describe how the proposed project meets the threshold eligibility criteria in [Section III.D.](#), the objectives in I.A.1, the requirements in [Section I.B.](#), and address the evaluation criteria set forth in [Section V.A.](#) The project narrative cannot exceed a maximum of 12, single-spaced typewritten pages, including the summary page, workplan, and detailed budget narrative. Excess pages will not be reviewed. **The project narrative must substantially comply with the specific instructions, format and content as defined in [Appendix C](#) or it will be rejected.**
6. **Other Attachments Form – Budget Table.** A fill-able template for the budget table is available for download with the RFA on [grants.gov](https://www.epa.gov/grants.gov) and by following the Gulf of Mexico Environmental Justice Grants Program RFA Announcement link at <https://www.epa.gov/gulfofmexico>. Prepare as described in the [budget table](#) section of the announcement. Applicants are strongly encouraged to use the budget table template. This file should be submitted using the “Other Attachments Form” in Grants.gov. and may be uploaded as an excel file.
7. **Other Attachments Form - Resumes or curriculum vitae of Principal Investigators and critical staff.** Use the “Other Attachments Form” to attach a copy of the resume or curriculum vitae of principal investigators and critical staff for the proposed project. Such documentation should outline the education, work history, and knowledge/expertise of the individual(s) that relate to managing the proposed project. ***Please consolidate all resumes into one file and include the word “resume” in the filename.***
8. **Other Attachments Form – Negotiated Indirect Cost Rate Agreement, if applicable.** Use if indirect costs other than the 10% *de minimis* are included in the project budget. Use the “Other Attachments Form” to attach a copy of your organization’s Indirect Cost Rate Agreement, if applicable. See Application Preparation and Submission Instructions below for more details. You must submit a copy of your organization’s Indirect Cost Rate Agreement as part of the application package if your proposed budget includes indirect costs. Please include the words “cost agreement” in the filename.
9. **Other Attachments Form – Support Letters, if applicable.** Use the “Other Attachments Form” to attach any relevant letters from collaborators, partners, or communities in support of the applicant. Specifically indicate how the applicant has the ability to reach the broader community by demonstrating past successes. The letter should not speak to the relationship between the applicant and the letter’s contributor. Please consolidate all letters into one file and include the word “Letters of support” or “LOS” in the file name.

Communications: See [EPA Solicitation Clauses](#) for general provisions regarding communications with applicants. A recorded presentation with helpful hints to develop your application, a Q&A and common errors document can be found by following the Gulf of Mexico Environmental Justice Grants Program link here: <https://www.epa.gov/gulfofmexico>. Any questions you have after reading the Q&A and the common errors document should be submitted to gmp-rfp@epa.gov. EPA will update the Q&A weekly with responses to questions received through May 2, 2023 but cannot guarantee that it will respond to questions received thereafter.

IV.C. Submission Date and Times:

The closing date and time for submission of applications is **May 8, 2023, 11:59 p.m., Eastern Time (ET)**. Applications submitted after the closing date and time will not be considered for funding.

V. APPLICATION REVIEW INFORMATION

Application Review: Applications meeting the threshold eligibility criteria in Section III.D will be evaluated based on the criteria set forth below. **Applicants should explicitly address these criteria as part of their application package submittal in the project narrative, following the content requirements set forth in [Appendix C](#).** If not, you risk the possibility of information being left out by you as the applicant or overlooked or not fully comprehended by the reviewers when the project is scored. Each application will be rated under a points system, with a total of 130 points possible.

Applicants will be evaluated based on the quality and extent to which they address the criteria; the failure to provide applicable information in the application may affect the score assigned for a criterion.

V.A. Evaluation Criteria

Note: Additional provisions that apply to this section can be found at [EPA Solicitation Clauses](#).

<p>Project Approach (30 points)</p>	<p>Applications will be evaluated based on the completeness and strength to which the project narrative demonstrates the applicant’s ability to:</p> <p>A. Prepare, issue, and manage a federally funded subaward competitive solicitation and program, establish criteria and panels for evaluation, and select subaward projects in the eligible project area that meet environmental justice objectives (I.A.1) focused on any community adversely and disproportionately affected by harms or risks including underserved communities. (10 points)</p> <p>B. Describe how their organization is knowledgeable about communities adversely and disproportionately affected by harms or risks that affect coastal communities in the identified project area. This must include a brief description of how the project supports <i>EPA Strategic Plan Goal 5: Ensure Clean and Safe Water for All Communities, Objective 5.2: Protect and Restore Waterbodies and Watersheds</i> (10 points)</p> <p>C. Provide technical assistance (I.B.2.) to organizations/groups prior to applying and describe how technical assistance provided will be available to the community and/or transferred to others after the project is completed (i.e. training posted to a website for later viewing, etc). Manage, monitor, and provide technical assistance to subrecipients for timely and successful completion of projects and ensure subrecipients comply with quality assurance, financial and reporting requirements (10 points)</p> <p>Applicants should refer here for information to include in this section</p>
<p>Environmental Results (15 points)</p>	<p>Applicants will be evaluated based on the completeness and strength to which the application demonstrates:</p> <p>1) Anticipated results (outputs and outcomes) for the recipient organization and</p>

	<p>where practicable for the subawards (5 points)</p> <p>2) Develop a plan for monitoring subrecipient progress and environmental results from subaward projects and report outputs and outcomes to EPA (10 points)</p> <p>Applicants should refer here for information to include in this section.</p>
Milestone Schedule (10 points)	<p>Applications will be evaluated based on the extent and quality to which they demonstrate a clearly articulated milestone schedule for project tasks including, but not limited to, major outreach activities, technical assistance (applicant and subrecipient), release of the subaward competitive solicitation, and the approximate time of award of the subawards. This should include a clearly articulated approach to ensure that subaward projects are completed in sufficient time to allow the cooperative agreement recipient to aggregate results, lessons learned, and ensure subrecipients have been reimbursed for eligible incurred costs. This must include a detailed table (10 points).</p> <p>Applicants should refer here for information to include in this section.</p>
Outreach (10 points)	<p>Under this criterion, the applicant will be evaluated on the extent and quality to which the project workplan includes a plan to communicate the technical assistance program and the competitive subaward opportunity to communities adversely and disproportionately affected by environmental and human health harms or risks, including affected underserved communities in need of funding of authorized CWA 104 (b) (3) activities.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Activities designed to engage, educate, and empower communities to understand local environmental and public health issues. (5 points) 2) Plan for community engagement, sharing results with EPA and stakeholders. (5 points) <p>Applicants should refer here for information to include in this section.</p>
Timely Expenditure of Award (5 points)	<p>Under this criterion, applicants will be evaluated based on their approach, procedures, and controls for ensuring that awarded funds will be expended in a timely and efficient manner. (5 points)</p> <p>Applicants should refer here for information to include in this section.</p>
Programmatic Capability (40 points)	<p>Under this criterion, applications will be evaluated based on the applicant’s ability to successfully complete and manage the proposed project considering their:</p> <p>A. The applicant’s organizational knowledge and experience in working with communities in the targeted geographic area, including having the necessary partnerships, contacts, or established network in the targeted geographic area. (20 points)</p> <p>Note: Applicants who demonstrate they are experienced and familiar with local community issues and demonstrate credibility with the communities, either through their local presence in the communities or through other means (such as letters of support), may improve their score for this criterion.</p>

	<p>B. Organizational capacity to manage a competitive subaward program as well as develop and provide technical assistance as discussed in Section I.B.2. This must include staff expertise and qualifications. If technical assistance experience does not exist, please explain how services will be procured to achieve the goals of the proposed project. (20 points)</p> <p>Applicants should refer here for information to include in this section.</p>
<p>Past Performance (5 points)</p>	<p>Under this criterion, applicants will be evaluated based on their organization’s ability to successfully complete and manage the proposed project considering their past performance:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) completing and managing assistance agreements identified in response to Section 7 of Appendix C and (ii) meeting the reporting requirements under the assistance agreements identified in response to Section 7 of Appendix C, 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. If such progress was not being made, whether the applicant adequately reported why not. <p>Note: In evaluating applicants under this criterion, the Agency will consider the information provided by the applicant and may also consider relevant information from other sources including agency files and prior/current grantors (e.g., to verify and/or supplement the information supplied by the applicant). If you do not have any relevant or available past performance or past reporting information, please indicate this in the application and you will receive a neutral score (2.5 points) for these subfactors. If you do not provide any response for these items, you may receive a score of 0 for these factors.</p> <p>Applicants should refer here for information to include in this section.</p>
<p>Budget (15 points)</p>	<p>Applications will be evaluated based on the reasonableness, necessity, allowability (of costs) and cost-effectiveness of the proposed budget. Projects that allocate at least 70% of the funds to the competitive subawards (environmental justice projects) will be evaluated more favorably. The applicant should dedicate no more than \$250,000 to technical assistance.</p> <p>This section will be evaluated by reviewing two items: 1) budget table and 2) budget narrative (located within the project narrative workplan). The budget table should be easy to understand and link the expenses to the tasks and deliverables from the project workplan. The budget narrative should be used to provide a description of costs in the budget table.</p> <p><i>Utilizing the suggested budget table template is strongly encouraged or you risk the possibility of information being left out by you as the applicant, or overlooked, or not fully comprehended by the reviewers when the project is scored.</i></p> <p>Applicants should refer here and here for information to include in Budget.</p>

V.B. Review and Selection Process

Applications will first be evaluated against the threshold eligibility criteria listed in [III.D](#). Only those applications which meet all the threshold eligibility criteria will be considered using the evaluation criteria listed above. Eligible applications will be evaluated based on the criteria above by review panels composed of federal agency staff. There may be separate review panels based on geographic location, areas of focus and/or funding level requested. Review panels will rank the applications based on the criteria above and develop preliminary funding recommendations for presentation to the selection official. Under this competition, EPA reserves the right to fund the top ranked application from each applicable state (Texas, Louisiana, Mississippi, Alabama and Florida) contingent on the quality of the application, Agency priorities, and funding availability. Each state will have its own ranking list and funding recommendations. Information pertaining to proposed recommendations may be shared with appropriate governmental departments or agencies before selections are made in order to determine whether potential selections (a) are expected to be funded by another funding source or (b) could be affected by permitting or regulatory issues.

V.C. Other Factors

Final funding decisions for each funding opportunity will be made by the selection official. In making the final funding decisions, the selection official will consider the review panel rankings and recommendations and may also consider the following factors: any duplicate funding issues; the amount of the organization's unliquidated obligations on previous GMD grants; program priorities; funding availability; appropriate balances of geographic and jurisdictional distribution of projects; and organizational diversity in terms of applicant type selected to receive awards (e.g., local government, state agency, Indian Tribe, college and university, other not for profit entity) in order to help ensure a broad representation of entity types receiving awards to promote program effectiveness.

Any final selections made out of rank order must be documented and justified based on the factors listed above. Once selections have been made, a funding recommendation will be developed and forwarded to the EPA approving and awarding official.

VI. AWARD ADMINISTRATION INFORMATION

Note: Additional provisions that apply to this section can be found at [EPA Solicitation Clauses](#).

VI. A. Award Notices and Status

Following evaluation of applications, all applicants will be notified regarding their status, as follows:

1. EPA anticipates that notification to unsuccessful applicants will be made via email to the original signer of the application or the project contact listed in the application within 60 days after the closing date of this RFA.
2. EPA anticipates that notification to successful applicants will be made via electronic mail to the original signer of the application or the project contact listed in the application within 60 days after the closing date of this RFA. The notification will advise them that their proposed project has been evaluated and forwarded to the EPA approving official for further consideration and possible award. This notification, which advises finalists that their proposed project has been forwarded to the approving official, **is not and should not be considered as an authorization to begin work**. Applicants are cautioned that only the EPA award official 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 the EPA award official, is the authorizing document and will be provided through electronic or postal mail. The successful applicant may need to prepare and submit additional documents and forms (e.g., work plan), which must be approved by EPA, before the grant can officially be awarded. The time between notification to finalists and award of a grant can take up to 90 days or longer.

Administrative and National Policy Requirement: The successful applicants will be required to adhere to federal grants requirements, particularly those found in applicable Cost Principles (2 CFR 200 Subpart E), Administrative Requirements (2 CFR 200 and 1500), and Audit Requirements (A-133). This includes government-wide requirements pertaining to accounting standards, lobbying, minority or woman business enterprise, publication, meetings, construction, and disposition of property. Additional EPA regulations are codified in Title 40 of the Code of Federal Regulations. 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>.

VI.B. Reporting Requirements

Applicants selected for funding shall provide narrative and technical progress reports addressing financial and work progress. Special conditions requiring quarterly progress reporting and a detailed final technical report will be added to awards. Applicants should budget time and resources for these activities.

VI.C. Disputes

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 [Grant Competition Dispute Resolution Procedures](#). Copies of these procedures may also be requested by contacting the person listed in Section VII. of the announcement. Note, the Federal Register notice references regulations at 40 CFR 30 and 31 that have been superseded by regulations in 2 CFR 200 and 1500. Notwithstanding the regulatory changes, the procedures for competition-related disputes remains unchanged from the procedures described at 70 FR 3629, 3630, as indicated in 2 CFR. 1500, Subpart E.

VI.D. Additional Programmatic Items of Note

Issuance of Awards: EPA reserves the right to negotiate appropriate changes in project terms and amounts (*i.e.*, changes that do not affect the integrity of the competition or materially change the application) consistent with EPA Order 5700.5A1 and other applicable policies before making final decisions and awards. EPA reserves the right to reject all applications and make no awards. Applicants may be asked to include greater detail and specificity for their workplans before final awards are issued. Applicants may also be requested to satisfy data quality or peer review requirements before or shortly after the awarding of grants.

Other Programmatic Requirements: Additional applicable programmatic terms and conditions will be included in grant agreements, including provisions for signage for on-the ground projects, and EPA pre-approval of subcontracting and of conference participation. Applicants should budget time and resources for these activities.

VII. AGENCY CONTACT

For administrative and technical issues regarding this RFA, please contact Jeanne Allen via email at gmp-rfp@epa.gov. All questions must be received in writing via email with the reference line referring to this RFA (Re: RFA EPA-R4-GM-EJGrantsProgram-2023). Please review the Q&A, presentation and the helpful hints for developing an application, posted at www.epa.gov/gulfofmexico, before submitting questions. The Q&A will be updated weekly if new questions are received. EPA will respond to questions received through May 2, 2023 but cannot guarantee that it will respond to questions received thereafter.

VIII. OTHER INFORMATION

VIII.A. Quality Assurance

Assistance agreements that involve environmental information and that are expected to exceed \$200,000 (in federal funding) at solicitation issuance or award shall develop a written QA system commensurate with the degree of confidence needed for environmentally related data operations as defined in 2 CFR 1500.12. Environmental information is defined as data and information that describe environmental processes or conditions which support EPA's mission of protecting human health and the environment. Environmental information includes but is not limited to data from direct measurements or analytical testing results; data produced from environmental modeling; and data compiled from other sources such as databases or literature.

GMD uses a graded approach to QA requirements for awardees depending on the environmental information being collected and how it will be used. Prior to collecting environmental information, the recipient must develop and implement QA procedures, specifications, and documentation that are sufficient to produce data of adequate quality to meet project objectives through a Quality Management Plan (QMP), a Quality Assurance Project Plan (QAPP) and/or another agreed upon QA document such as a combined QMP/QAPP. A QMP is an organization-specific document that describes the quality control, policies, qualifications, and procedures for planning, implementing, and evaluating work and may apply to multiple projects. A QAPP is a project-specific planning document that describes comprehensive details about the QA requirements and technical activities that must be implemented to ensure the project objectives are met and are of sufficient and known quality. The QMP should be prepared in accordance with EPA QA/R2: EPA Requirements for Quality Management Plans, and the QAPP should be prepared in accordance with EPA QA/R-5: EPA Requirements for Quality Assurance Project Plans. EPA can assist successful applicants in determining which QA document(s) is required for the proposed project. The recipient shall ensure that subawards involving environmental information issued under this agreement include appropriate quality requirements for the work. The recipient shall ensure those sub-award recipients develop and implement QA planning document(s) in accordance with EPA Quality policy and terms and conditions of the award. The QMP and/or QAPP must be approved by EPA at least 30 days prior to the initiation of data collection or data compilation. Successful applicants should allow sufficient time and resources for this process.

Organizations may be granted an exception or modification to the QMP requirement if they meet certain criteria, which may include but is not limited to one-time, short-term, and special projects or projects of limited scope; and/or organizations generating, collecting, compiling, and/or using environmental data for public education purposes. EPA Requirements for QMPs and QAPPs can be found here: <http://www.epa.gov/grants/implementation-quality-assurance-requirements-organizations-receiving-epa-financial>.

See [Section VII, AGENCY CONTACTS](#) for Agency Contact information for referral to an EPA QA staff member.

VIII.B. Water Quality (WQ) Exchange

If WQ data are generated, either directly or by subaward, the successful applicant must ensure all WQ data are transmitted into the Agency's Data Warehouse annually or by project completion using the Water Quality Exchange (WQX) in accordance with an EPA approved QAPP. WQ data that are appropriate include physical, chemical, and biological sample results for water, sediment and fish tissue. The data include toxicity data, microbiological data, and the metrics and indices generated from biological and habitat data. WQX is an online tool for EPA data partners to upload and share data with EPA and the public. WQ data collected using continuous monitors, either by the recipient or by subaward, are not required to be uploaded into the EPA Data Warehouse. More information about WQX including tutorials, can be found at www.epa.gov/waterdata/water-quality-data-wqx.

Appendix A. Grants.gov Application Submission Instructions

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

Applicants must apply electronically through [Grants.gov](https://www.grants.gov) under this funding opportunity based on the Grants.gov instructions in this announcement. If your organization has no access to the internet or access is very limited, you may request an exception for the remainder of this calendar year by following the procedures outlined [here](#). Please note that your request must be received at least 15 calendar days before the application due date to allow enough time to negotiate alternative submission methods. Issues with submissions with respect to this opportunity only are addressed in section Appendix A. under Technical Issues with Submission.

B. Submission Instructions

1. SAM.gov (System for Award Management) Registration Instructions

Organizations applying to this funding opportunity must have an active SAM.gov registration. If you have never done business with the Federal Government, you will need to register your organization in SAM.gov. If you do not have a SAM.gov account, then you will need to create an account using [login.gov](https://www.login.gov) to complete your SAM.gov registration. SAM.gov registration is FREE. The process for entity registrations includes obtaining a Unique Entity Identification (UEI). This is a 12-character alphanumeric ID that is assigned to an entity by SAM.gov, and requires assertions, representations and certifications, and other information about your organization. Please review the [Entity Registration Checklist](#) for details on this process.

If you have done business with the Federal Government previously, you can check your entity status using your government issued UEI to determine if your registration is active. SAM.gov requires you to renew your registration every 365 days to keep it active.

Please note that SAM.gov registration is different than obtaining a UEI only. Obtaining a UEI only validates your organization's legal business name and address. Please review the [Frequently Asked Question](#) on the difference for additional details.

Organizations should ensure that their SAM.gov registration includes a current eBusiness (EBiz) point of contact name and email address. The EBiz point of contact is critical for Grants.gov Registration and system functionality.

Contact the [Federal Service Desk](#) for help with your SAM.gov account to resolve technical issues or chat with a help desk agent: (866) 606-8220. The Federal Service desk hours of operation are Monday – Friday, 8am – 8pm ET.

2. Grants.gov Registration Instructions

Once your SAM.gov account is active, you must register in Grants.gov. Grants.gov will electronically receive your organization information, such as e-Business (EBiz) point of contact email address and UEI. Organizations applying to this funding opportunity must have an active Grants.gov registration. Grants.gov registration is FREE. If you have never applied for a federal grant before, please review the [Grants.gov Applicant Registration instructions](#). As part of the Grants.gov registration process, the EBiz point of contact is

the only person that can affiliate and assign applicant roles to members of an organization. In addition, at least one person must be assigned as an Authorized Organization Representative (AOR). **Only person(s) with the AOR role can submit applications in Grants.gov.** Please review the [Intro to Grants.gov-Understanding User Roles and Learning Workspace – User Roles and Workspace Actions](#) for details on this important process.

Please note that this process can take a month or more for new registrants. 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 application submission deadline.

Contact [Grants.gov](#) for assistance at 1-800-518-4726 or support@grants.gov to resolve technical issues with Grants.gov. 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. The Grants.gov Support Center is available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, excluding federal holidays.

3. Application Submission Process

To begin the application process under this grant announcement, go to [Grants.gov](#) and click on the red “Apply” button at the top of the view grant opportunity page associated with this opportunity.

The electronic submission of your application must be made by an official representative of your institution who is registered with Grants.gov and is authorized to sign applications for Federal assistance. If the submit button is grayed out, it may be because you do not have the appropriate role to submit in your organization. Contact your organization’s EBiz point of contact or contact [Grants.gov](#) for assistance at 1-800-518-4726 or support@grants.gov.

Applicants need to ensure that the Authorized Organization Representative (AOR) who submits the application through Grants.gov and whose UEI is listed on the application is an AOR for the applicant listed on the application. Additionally, the UEI listed on the application must be registered to the applicant organization's SAM.gov account. If not, the application may be deemed ineligible.

Please Note: All applications must now be submitted through Grants.gov using the “Workspace” feature. Information on the Workspace feature can be found at the [Grants.gov Workspace Overview Page](#).

4. Application Submission Deadline

Your organization’s AOR must submit your complete application package electronically to EPA through [Grants.gov](#) **no later than May 8, 2023, 11:59pm (ET)**. Please allow for enough time to successfully submit your application process and allow for unexpected errors that may require you to resubmit.

Applications submitted through Grants.gov will be time and date stamped electronically. Please note that successful submission of your application through Grants.gov does not necessarily mean your application is eligible for award. Any application submitted after the application deadline time and date deadline will be

deemed ineligible and not be considered.

C. **Technical Issues with Submission** If applicants experience technical issues during the submission of an application that they are unable to resolve, follow these procedures **before** the application deadline date:

1. Contact Grants.gov Support Center before the application deadline date.
2. Document the Grants.gov ticket/case number.
3. Send an email with the Funding Opportunity Number: **EPA-R4-GM-EJGrantsProgram-2023** in the subject line to gmp-rfp@epa.gov **before** the application deadline time and date and **must** include the following:
4. Grants.gov ticket/case number(s)
5. Description of the issue
6. The entire application package in PDF format.

Without this information, EPA may not be able to consider applications submitted outside of Grants.gov. Any application submitted after the application time and date deadline will be deemed ineligible and **not** be considered.

EPA will make decisions concerning acceptance of each application submitted outside of Grants.gov on a case-by-case basis. EPA will only consider accepting applications that were unable to be submitted through Grants.gov due to Grants.gov or relevant SAM.gov system issues or for unforeseen exigent circumstances, such as extreme weather interfering with internet access. Failure of an applicant to submit prior to the application submission deadline date because they did not properly or timely register in SAM.gov or Grants.gov is not an acceptable reason to justify acceptance of an application outside of Grants.gov.

D. **Application Materials**

Please submit *all* of the application materials described below using the Grants.gov application package, accessed using the instructions above. The following forms and documents are required under this announcement, as described in Section IV.B. of this announcement:

Mandatory Documents

1. Standard Form 424, *Application for Federal Assistance*.
2. Standard Form 424A, *Budget Information for Non-Construction Programs*
3. EPA Form 5700-54, Key Contacts Form
4. EPA Form 4700-4, *Pre-Award Compliance Review Report for All Applicants Requesting Federal Financial Assistance*
5. Project Narrative Attachment Form (See Appendix C for additional information)
6. Other Attachments Form – Budget Table
7. Other Attachments Form – Resumes
8. Other Attachments Form - Negotiated Indirect Cost Rate Agreement (if applicable)
9. Other Attachments Form – Letters of Support/Partnership

Applicants should confirm receipt of their application with Jeanne Allen (gmp-rfa@epa.gov) as soon as possible after the submission deadline—failure to do so may result in your application not being reviewed.

Appendix B. Helpful Links (including Grant and Budget Development Training)

- A. For assistance in filling out forms, please see the Common Errors document found on [EPA's Gulf of Mexico Division website](#). Follow the Gulf of Mexico Environmental Justice Grants Program RFA Announcement for the document and other RFA information.
- B. For EPA Grants Award Process Webinars and other grants information, please follow this [link](#).
- C. For EPA guidance on budget development, please follow this [link](#).
- D. For additional guidance on grant writing and other resources, please follow this [link](#).

Appendix C. Project Narrative and Budget Table Format

The project narrative and budget table must substantially comply with the instructions, format, and content described below. It must also address the evaluation criteria in [Section V.A.](#) of the RFA. The project narrative, including the cover page, workplan, and budget narrative, must not exceed a maximum of 12 single-spaced type-written pages. **Excess pages will not be reviewed.**

Supporting materials, such as project team biographies, partnership letters, and negotiated indirect cost rate agreements can be submitted as attachments and are not included in the 12-page limit. Supporting materials should be submitted using the Optional Attachments form.

Applicants should ensure that their project narratives are written clearly using understandable terms. Doing so will help ensure that the evaluation team members understand the purpose, outputs, and outcomes of the proposed project.

Each Project Narrative must be formatted for 8½” x 11” paper and should use no smaller than an 11- point Calibri font with 1” margins. Do not use a “double column” (aka newspaper) format. Readability is of paramount importance. Do not include more than one application in any file. Please do not zip the file or use a zip extension for your file because it will not be accepted.

Do not include confidential business information in your application.

Project Narrative Format:

Project Narrative (12-page limit including the summary information page)
<p>SUMMARY INFORMATION PAGE (SHOULD NOT EXCEED ONE PAGE)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Project Title. Please limit to 60 characters. EPA reserves the right to change the project title for its administrative convenience.• Applicant Information. Include applicant (organization) name, address, contact person, phone number, e-mail address and UEI number. <i>Do not include private information.</i>• Type of Organization. Specify, consistent with your SF 424, one of the following eligible entities:<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Local Government (as defined in 2 CFR 200.64)○ State Agency (includes Interstate)○ Indian Tribe○ College and University (includes private and state institutions)○ Not for Profit/Non-profit○ Other• Proposed Funding Request. The total dollar amount requested from EPA- If the dollar amount requested from EPA exceeds \$2,500,000 your application will be rejected.• Project Duration. Provide beginning and ending dates. See “Anticipated Start and End Dates” in Section II.B.• Brief Project Description. Summarize the proposed project in 100 words or less in a clear and succinct manner in PLAIN LANGUAGE. Include environmental KEY TERMS that could be used as search terms (e.g., water quality, habitat restoration, community resilience). Do not use acronyms. If the application is selected and a cooperative agreement awarded, this description may be posted to the EPA Web. EPA reserves the right to make unilateral changes to conform to posting requirements.

- **Environmental Results.** Please describe major anticipated environmental results from this project.
- **Place of Performance.** Identify the geographic focus of your subaward competition. The planned geographic focus must be in ONE of the Gulf of Mexico states (Texas, Louisiana, Mississippi, Alabama, Florida) and within the coastal counties of that state or your application will be rejected.
* For more details on location, please see Figure 1.

PROJECT WORKPLAN (should not exceed 11 pages, excess pages will not be reviewed) *Applicants must ensure that the workplan addresses the evaluation criteria in [Section V.A.](#) of the RFA. Applicants should use the section and subsection numbers and headings below which correspond with the evaluation criteria in Section V.A. of the RFA. The workplan should be written clearly using understandable terms.*

Section 1. Project Approach. Describe your approach for serving as an organization to manage the Environmental Justice competitive subaward program (see Section I.B). The competitive subaward process proposed in the project approach must fund subrecipient projects that address environmental justice issues in the identified project area. The project approach should describe the applicant's:

- Plan to prepare, issue, and manage a federally funded subaward competitive solicitation, establish criteria and panels for evaluation, and select subawards that address priorities as described in the Environmental Justice objectives.
- Knowledge of communities adversely and disproportionately affected by environmental and human health harms or risks, including affected underserved communities, and how communities were identified in the project area. *Include a sentence briefly stating how your project supports EPA Strategic Plan Goal 5: Ensure Clean and Safe Water for All Communities, Objective 5.2: Protect and Restore Waterbodies and Watersheds*
- Plan to provide technical assistance to organizations/groups prior to applying. Plan for how technical assistance provided will be available to the community and-or transferred to others after the project is completed (i.e. training posted to a website for later viewing, etc).
- Plan to manage, monitor, and provide technical assistance to subrecipients for timely and successful completion of projects and ensure subrecipients comply with QA, financial and reporting requirements

NOTE: Applicants are encouraged, as appropriate, to describe as part of their application how they plan to identify communities adversely and disproportionately affected by environmental and human health harms or risks.

Section 2. Environmental Results. The following items should be included in this section.

- Describe anticipated results (outputs and outcomes) for the recipient organization and where practicable for the subawards. Both qualitative and quantitative results should be identified. See Section I.C.2. for more information.
- Describe how you will monitor subrecipient progress and environmental results from subaward projects and report those results (outputs and outcomes) to EPA.

Section 3. Milestone Schedule. Provide a milestone schedule that covers each year of the total project period requested (up to five years for the cooperative agreement) and provide a breakout of the project activities into phases with associated tasks and a timeframe for completion of tasks. The milestone schedule should

show timeframes and major milestones to complete significant project tasks including, but not limited to, major outreach activities, technical assistance (subaward applicant and subrecipient), release of the subaward competitive solicitation, and the approximate time of award of the subawards. Describe how this milestone schedule will ensure that subaward projects are completed in sufficient time to allow the cooperative agreement recipient to aggregate results, lessons learned and ensure subrecipients have been reimbursed for eligible incurred costs.

*The project start date will follow acceptance of the award by the successful applicant.

*This must include a detailed table.

Section 4. Outreach.

- Describe how your organization will communicate the technical assistance program and the competitive subaward opportunity to communities adversely and disproportionately affected by environmental and human health harms or risks, including affected underserved communities in need of funding to solve local environmental justice problems. This includes offering guidance or support on the developed competitive process to ensure that both large and small groups can successfully apply to the competitive process for funding.
- Describe your plan to engage the communities adversely and disproportionately affected by environmental and human health harms or risks, including affected underserved communities and share results with EPA and stakeholders. This could include how the technical assistance, competition and subawards could improve chances of funding to underserved groups who have been historically overlooked but need help to overcome local issues.

Section 5. Timely Expenditure of Award. Describe your organization's approach, procedures, and controls to ensure awarded funds will be expended in a timely and efficient manner.

Section 6. Programmatic Capability.

- Describe your organizational knowledge and experience in working with communities in the targeted geographic area.
- Include a discussion of the network you have in place to identify and mobilize resources within your geographical area and knowledge or expertise that will assist you in successfully working with communities in the geographic area.
- Identify all proposed partnerships, stakeholder groups, or other networks that will be involved and their role in the successful accomplishment of the program.
- Note: Applicants who demonstrate they are experienced and familiar with local community issues and demonstrate credibility with the communities, either through their local presence in the communities or through other means (such as letters of support), may improve their score for this criterion.
- Describe your organizational capability to manage a competitive subaward program as well as develop and provide technical assistance as discussed in section I.B.2. This must include staff expertise and qualifications. If technical assistance experience does not exist, please explain how services will be procured to achieve the goals of the proposed project. Resumes of applicant's key staff are encouraged and should be included in grants.gov as an Optional Attachment. These are not included in the page limit.

Section 7. Past Performance.

Submit a list of federally or non-federally funded assistance agreements (assistance agreements include Federal grants and cooperative agreements but not Federal contracts) that your organization performed within the last three years (no more than 3 agreements, and preferably EPA agreements) and:

- describe whether, and how, you were able to successfully complete and manage those agreements,
- describe 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

Note: 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 application 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.**

Section 8. Detailed Budget Narrative (15 points evaluated in conjunction with budget table).

In the [budget table](#), you should provide a detailed budget and estimated funding amounts for each work plan component/task. In this section, please provide a narrative description of costs in the budget table. Common examples include: 1) description of the roles and responsibilities of personnel, 2) description of what supplies will be used for, 3) description of why the equipment is needed and why purchase is preferable to rental of equipment, 4) description of activities of the contract, whether it will be sole source or competed, and why that choice was made, and 5) description of activities of a Subrecipient, etc. All subaward funding should be located under the “other” cost category. Please refer to Appendix B for EPA guidance on budget development.

Describe each item in sufficient detail for EPA to determine cost-effectiveness, reasonableness and allowability of costs. ***Projects that allocate at least 70% of the funds to the competitive subawards (environmental justice projects) will be evaluated more favorably.*** The applicant should dedicate no more than \$250,000 to technical assistance.

Section 9. Map(s) (not counted towards page limit)

Include a map that delineates the project boundaries and/or shows the expected location(s) of the project(s)

Section 10. Quality Assurance (not counted in page limit)

- For awards under this competition that are expected to exceed \$200,000 in federal funding AND involve the generation or use of environmental data, please provide a statement acknowledging: 1) your need to demonstrate competency prior to beginning work and 2) your understanding that a Quality Management Plan (QMP) and/or a Quality Assurance Project Plan (QAPP) may be required. Please see Section VI.O. at the following link for more information: [EPA Solicitation Clauses](#). For further information, please see the Frequently Asked Questions Document regarding this EPA requirement: <https://www.epa.gov/measurements-modeling/documents-about-measurement-competency-under-assistance-agreements>.
- If you or a Subrecipient plan to collect or use environmental data or information, explain how you will comply with the QA requirements (see Section VIII.A, QUALITY ASSURANCE, of this announcement for additional information).

Budget Table Format (15 points - Evaluated in Conjunction with budget narrative).

A budget table must be provided that identifies major costs associated with the application in an easily understandable format. Where possible, the budget table should link expenses to tasks and deliverables from the project description. Budget resources necessary for completing a QMP or QAPP or appropriate QA document, if applicable, sharing project information broadly, and reporting progress, should be included.

Utilizing the suggested budget table template is strongly encouraged or you risk the possibility of information being left out by you as the applicant, or overlooked, or not fully comprehended by the reviewers when the project is scored. The template is available for download with the RFA on <https://www.grants.gov> and by following the Environmental Justice Grants Program RFA announcement link at <https://www.epa.gov/gulfofmexico>. Projects that allocate at least 70% of the funds to competitive subawards (environmental justice projects) will be evaluated more favorably. Additional budget development guidance and a sample budget detail is available at <https://www.epa.gov/grants/rain-2019-g02>.

Appendix D. Potential Subaward Projects

Subrecipient projects **must** meet the requirements of GMD's statutory authority under Clean Water Act, 104(b)(3), which authorizes the award of assistance agreements to conduct and promote the coordination and acceleration of research, investigations, experiments, training, demonstrations, surveys, and studies relating to the causes, effects, extent, prevention, reduction, and elimination of pollution. Subrecipient projects may include, **but are not limited to:**

- Habitat Restoration enhancement, Protection, or Preservation
 - Conservation (dunes, wetland, forest, riparian)
 - Urban Tree Planting
 - Urban Green Space
 - Restorative Aquaculture (fish population, shellfish, etc.)
 - Regenerative Agriculture
- Community Resilience
 - Green or Blue Infrastructure
 - Multi-Use Conservation/Restoration
 - Flood Mitigation
 - Vulnerability Assessments
 - Community planning
 - Climate Change Resilience/Adaptation
 - Nature-Based Resilience
- Environmental Education and Outreach
 - Environmental Education
 - Nature-Based Education
 - Climate/Climate Change Education
 - Water Quality Monitoring Education
 - STEM Curriculum Development
 - Training and Certifications (Habitat Restoration, Environmental Education and Green Infrastructure)
- Water Quality Improvements
 - Nutrient Reduction
 - Water quality monitoring
 - Microbial Source Tracking
 - Harmful Algal Blooms (HABs)
 - Trash/Littering Reduction/Prevention
 - Marine Debris (microplastics, trash, reduction/prevention)

Appendix E. Eligible County List

STATE	COUNTY	ELIGIBILITY-ENTIRE COUNTY/PARTIAL COUNTY
Alabama	Baldwin	Entire
Alabama	Clarke	Partial - see map
Alabama	Coffee	Partial - see map
Alabama	Conecuh	Partial - see map
Alabama	Covington	Partial - see map
Alabama	Dale	Partial - see map
Alabama	Escambia	Entire
Alabama	Geneva	Entire
Alabama	Henry	Partial - see map
Alabama	Houston	Entire
Alabama	Mobile	Entire
Alabama	Monroe	Partial - see map
Alabama	Washington	Partial - see map
Florida	Alachua	Partial - see map
Florida	Baker	Partial - see map
Florida	Bay	Entire
Florida	Bradford	Partial - see map
Florida	Broward	Partial - see map
Florida	Calhoun	Entire
Florida	Charlotte	Entire
Florida	Citrus	Entire
Florida	Clay	Partial - see map
Florida	Collier	Entire
Florida	Columbia	Partial - see map
Florida	DeSoto	Entire
Florida	Dixie	Entire
Florida	Escambia	Entire
Florida	Franklin	Entire
Florida	Gadsden	Entire
Florida	Gilchrist	Entire
Florida	Glades	Partial - see map
Florida	Gulf	Entire
Florida	Hamilton	Entire
Florida	Hardee	Entire
Florida	Hendry	Partial - see map
Florida	Hernando	Entire
Florida	Highlands	Partial - see map
Florida	Hillsborough	Entire

Florida	Holmes	Entire
Florida	Jackson	Entire
Florida	Jefferson	Entire
Florida	Lafayette	Entire
Florida	Lake	Partial - see map
Florida	Lee	Entire
Florida	Leon	Entire
Florida	Levy	Partial - see map
Florida	Liberty	Entire
Florida	Madison	Entire
Florida	Manatee	Entire
Florida	Marion	Partial - see map
Florida	Miami-Dade	Partial - see map
Florida	Monroe	Entire
Florida	Okaloosa	Entire
Florida	Palm Beach	Partial - see map
Florida	Pasco	Entire
Florida	Pinellas	Entire
Florida	Polk	Partial - see map
Florida	Putnam	Partial - see map
Florida	Santa Rosa	Entire
Florida	Sarasota	Entire
Florida	Sumter	Entire
Florida	Suwannee	Entire
Florida	Taylor	Entire
Florida	Union	Partial - see map
Florida	Wakulla	Entire
Florida	Walton	Entire
Florida	Washington	Entire
Louisiana	Acadia	Partial - see map
Louisiana	Allen	Partial - see map
Louisiana	Beauregard	Partial - see map
Louisiana	Calcasieu	Entire
Louisiana	Cameron	Entire
Louisiana	Iberia	Entire
Louisiana	Jefferson	Entire
Louisiana	Jefferson Davis	Partial - see map
Louisiana	Lafayette	Partial - see map
Louisiana	Lafourche	Entire
Louisiana	Orleans	Entire
Louisiana	Plaquemines	Entire
Louisiana	St. Bernard	Entire

Louisiana	St. Charles	Entire
Louisiana	St. James	Entire
Louisiana	St. John the Baptist	Entire
Louisiana	St. Landry	Partial - see map
Louisiana	St. Martin	Partial - see map
Louisiana	St. Mary	Entire
Louisiana	St. Tammany	Entire
Louisiana	Tangipahoa	Partial - see map
Louisiana	Terrebonne	Entire
Louisiana	Vermilion	Entire
Louisiana	Washington	Partial - see map
Mississippi	Forrest	Partial - see map
Mississippi	George	Entire
Mississippi	Greene	Partial - see map
Mississippi	Hancock	Entire
Mississippi	Harrison	Entire
Mississippi	Jackson	Entire
Mississippi	Lamar	Partial - see map
Mississippi	Pearl River	Partial - see map
Mississippi	Perry	Partial - see map
Mississippi	Stone	Entire
Texas	Aransas	Entire
Texas	Bee	Partial - see map
Texas	Brazoria	Entire
Texas	Brooks	Partial - see map
Texas	Calhoun	Entire
Texas	Cameron	Entire
Texas	Chambers	Entire
Texas	Colorado	Partial - see map
Texas	DeWitt	Partial - see map
Texas	Duval	Partial - see map
Texas	Fort Bend	Partial - see map
Texas	Galveston	Entire
Texas	Goliad	Partial - see map
Texas	Hardin	Partial - see map
Texas	Harris	Partial - see map
Texas	Hidalgo	Partial - see map
Texas	Jackson	Entire
Texas	Jasper	Partial - see map
Texas	Jefferson	Entire
Texas	Jim Wells	Partial - see map
Texas	Kenedy	Entire

Texas	Kleberg	Entire
Texas	Lavaca	Partial - see map
Texas	Liberty	Partial - see map
Texas	Live Oak	Partial - see map
Texas	Matagorda	Entire
Texas	Montgomery	Partial - see map
Texas	Newton	Partial - see map
Texas	Nueces	Entire
Texas	Orange	Entire
Texas	Refugio	Entire
Texas	San Patricio	Entire
Texas	Tyler	Partial - see map
Texas	Victoria	Partial - see map
Texas	Waller	Partial - see map
Texas	Wharton	Partial - see map
Texas	Willacy	Entire
