



GREENHOUSE GAS REDUCTION FUND

**NATIONAL CLEAN INVESTMENT FUND (NCIF) NOTICE OF
FUNDING OPPORTUNITY WEBINAR**

JULY 26, 2023

Disclaimer: The information presented in this webinar does not supersede the statute, regulations, or Notice of Funding Opportunity.

CONTENTS AND AGENDA

Topics




1. Overview

2. Eligible Applicants
3. Deep Dive on Important Use of Funds Definitions:
 - Financial Assistance
 - Qualified Project
 - Priority Project Categories
 - Predevelopment, Market-Building, and Program Administration Activities
 - Low-Income and Disadvantaged Communities
 - Program Income
4. Threshold Eligibility
5. Named Contractors and Named Subrecipients
6. Application Materials
7. Evaluation Criteria
8. Administrative and National Policy Requirements
9. Reporting, Audits, and Remedies for Non-Compliance
10. Resources

EPA will collect questions during the webinar today and respond to questions publicly on EPA's GGRF website (epa.gov/GGRF)

EPA is recording this webinar and will publish the recording and the PowerPoint materials on EPA's GGRF website

1 | NCIF IS ONE OF THE GREENHOUSE GAS REDUCTION FUND'S (GGRF) THREE COMPETITIONS

| |  National Clean Investment Fund (NCIF) |  Clean Communities Investment Accelerator (CCIA) |  Solar for All (SFA) |
|--------------------------------|--|---|---|
| Competition description | <p>Fund national nonprofit financing entities to create national clean financing institutions capable of partnering with the private sector to provide accessible, affordable financing for tens of thousands of clean technology projects nationwide</p> | <p>Fund hub nonprofits to provide funding and technical assistance to specific networks of community lenders, financing clean technology projects in low-income and disadvantaged communities while simultaneously building the capacity of community lenders that serve those communities</p> | <p>Fund states, territories, Tribal governments, municipalities & nonprofits to develop long-lasting program that enable low-income & disadvantaged communities to deploy and benefit from distributed residential solar</p> |
| Grantees | 2-3 national nonprofit financing entities | 2-7 hub nonprofits | Up to 60 government and nonprofit grantees |
| Funding amount | \$14 billion | \$6 billion | \$7 billion |
| Deadline to apply | October 12th, 2023 | October 12th, 2023 | September 26th, 2023 |

1 | NCIF AND CCIA ARE DISTINCT COMPETITIONS DESIGNED FOR DIFFERENT APPLICATIONS



National Clean Investment Fund (NCIF)

Competition Description

Provide 2-3 grants to national nonprofit financing entities to create **national clean financing institutions** capable of partnering with the private sector to provide accessible, affordable financing for tens of thousands of clean technology projects nationwide

Key Differences for How Grantees May Engage with Community Lenders *(Non-Exhaustive)*

- Grantees may deliver financial assistance to community lenders and other similar institutions through **financial products such as warehouse loans, preferred equity investments, and loan guarantees as well as participate in loan purchasing programs** that directly enable them to provide financial products to deploy qualified projects in their communities
- Subgrantees (such as coalition members) may engage in any of the grant's eligible activities other than providing subgrants to **other organizations for those organizations to provide financial assistance to qualified projects**



Clean Communities Investment Accelerator (CCIA)

Provide 2-7 grants to hub nonprofits to provide **funding and technical assistance to specific industry networks** of public, quasi-public, not-for-profit, and non-profit community lenders

- Grantees will provide **capitalization funding** to community lenders through either **(a) subgrants and/or (b) subsidies**
- Grantees will provide **technical assistance subawards** to build the capacity of existing community lenders
- Grantees will provide **technical assistance services** to establish new and build the capacity of existing community lenders

1 | NCIF COMPETITION OVERVIEW



Opportunity Description

Provide grants to 2–3 national nonprofit financing entities to create national clean financing institutions capable of partnering with the private sector to provide accessible, affordable financing for tens of thousands of clean technology projects nationwide



Eligibility Information

| | |
|---------------------------------|---|
| Eligible Applicants | “Eligible recipients” submitting individual or coalition applications |
| Cost Sharing or Matching | No |



Important Dates

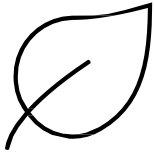
| | |
|--|------------------|
| Deadline to Apply | October 12, 2023 |
| Anticipated Start of Performance Period | July 2024 |



Federal Award Information

| | |
|-------------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| Total Funding Available | \$13.97 billion |
| Anticipated Number of Awards | 2-3 awards |
| Award Ranges | N/A |
| Period of Performance | 7 years |
| Funding Type | Grants or cooperative agreements |

1 | NCIF WILL ADVANCE THE GGRF'S THREE PROGRAM OBJECTIVES



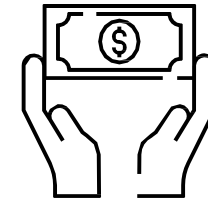
Reduce emissions of greenhouse gases and other air pollutants

Grantees will accelerate progress toward the climate goals of the United States, including reducing greenhouse gas emissions 50-52 percent below 2005 levels in 2030, reaching 50 percent zero-emission vehicles share of all new passenger cars and light trucks sold in 2030, achieving a carbon pollution-free electricity sector by 2035, and achieving net-zero emissions by no later than 2050



Deliver benefits to American communities—especially low-income and disadvantaged communities

Grantees will ensure that the projects they invest in directly benefit Americans by improving health outcomes, lowering energy costs, creating high-quality jobs, and more—with at least 40% of funds awarded under this competition used for the purposes of providing financial assistance in low-income and disadvantaged communities



Mobilize financing and private capital to stimulate additional deployment

Grantees will mobilize financing and private capital for underinvested projects and underinvested communities, which will demonstrate the market-wide opportunity for financial markets and institutions to finance clean technology projects

1 | NCIF TIMELINE

Anticipated

We are here

July 14, 2023

Applications open via
Notice of Funding
Opportunity

October 12, 2023

Applications due

September 30, 2024

Statutory deadline to
obligate funds

90-day application period

By March 2024

Selections made and
notified

By July 2024

Period of
performance begins

CONTENTS AND AGENDA – Section 2

Topics

1. Overview
- 2. Eligible Applicants**
3. Deep Dive on Important Use of Funds Definitions:
 - Financial Assistance
 - Qualified Project
 - Priority Project Categories
 - Predevelopment, Market-Building, and Program Administration Activities
 - Low-Income and Disadvantaged Communities
 - Program Income
4. Threshold Eligibility
5. Named Contractors and Named Subrecipients
6. Application Materials
7. Evaluation Criteria
8. Administrative and National Policy Requirements
9. Reporting, Audits, and Remedies for Non-Compliance
10. Resources

EPA will collect questions during the webinar today and respond to questions publicly on EPA's GGRF website (epa.gov/GGRF)

EPA is recording this webinar and will publish the recording and the PowerPoint materials on EPA's GGRF website

2 | ALL APPLICATIONS MUST BE SUBMITTED BY AN ELIGIBLE RECIPIENT

Consistent with Section 134(c)(1) of the Clean Air Act, **an applicant that is eligible to receive a grant under the National Clean Investment Fund competition must be an “eligible recipient,”** which is an organization that: (a) is a nonprofit; (b) is designed to provide capital, leverage private capital, and provide other forms of financial assistance for the rapid deployment of low- and zero-emission products, technologies, and services; (c) does not take deposits other than deposits from repayments and other revenue received from financial assistance provided using grant funds under this program; (d) is funded by public or charitable contributions; and (e) invests in or finances projects alone or in conjunction with other investors.

Key requirements for the application, as described in the NOFO:

- Explain how the applicant meets the definition of eligible recipient and provide supporting evidence for that explanation
- Be incorporated in the United States
- Not be controlled by one or several entities that are not eligible recipients

2 | TWO TYPES OF APPLICATIONS THAT CAN BE SUBMITTED BY AN ELIGIBLE RECIPIENT

Individual Application

An individual application is composed of an individual eligible recipient **without any named subrecipients.**

Coalition Application

A coalition application is composed of one lead applicant, which partners with one or more non-lead coalition members that are **named in the application and that would receive subawards to carry out a portion of the grant's activities if the application is selected.** The lead applicant must be an eligible recipient and submit the application on its own behalf and on behalf of coalition members. The non-lead coalition member(s) may be eligible recipients or other types of organizations eligible for subawards under the EPA Subaward Policy. Coalition applications must include a signed Memorandum of Agreement that confirms participation of each coalition member. **As explained in Appendix A of the EPA Subaward Policy, for-profit firms and individual consultants that would receive grant funds are, in almost all cases, contractors who are not eligible for subgrants under this program and therefore may not be coalition members.**

Note: For this competition, EPA requires applicants that name subrecipients to submit coalition applications and include the named subrecipients as coalition members; all named subrecipients must be coalition members.

CONTENTS AND AGENDA – Section 3

Topics

1. Overview
2. Eligible Applicants
- 3. Deep Dive on Important Use of Funds Definitions:**
 - **Financial Assistance**
 - **Qualified Project**
 - **Priority Project Categories**
 - **Predevelopment, Market-Building, and Program Administration Activities**
 - **Low-Income and Disadvantaged Communities**
 - **Program Income**
4. Threshold Eligibility
5. Named Contractors and Named Subrecipients
6. Application Materials
7. Evaluation Criteria
8. Administrative and National Policy Requirements
9. Reporting, Audits, and Remedies for Non-Compliance
10. Resources

EPA will collect questions during the webinar today and respond to questions publicly on EPA's GGRF website (epa.gov/GGRF)

EPA is recording this webinar and will publish the recording and the PowerPoint materials on EPA's GGRF website

3 | FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE CONSTITUTES FINANCIAL PRODUCTS

Section 134(b)(1) of the Clean Air Act directs that grantees use funds for **“financial assistance to qualified projects”**

Key requirements to consider for the application, as described in the NOFO:

- Financial assistance constitutes financial products, including:
 - Debt (such as loans, partially forgivable loans, forgivable loans, zero-interest and below-market interest loans, loans paired with interest rate buydowns, secured and unsecured loans, lines of credit, subordinated debt, warehouse lending, loan purchasing programs, and other debt instruments)
 - Equity (such as equity project finance investments, private equity investments, and other equity instruments)
 - Hybrids (such as mezzanine debt, preferred equity, and other hybrid instruments)
 - Credit enhancements (such as loan guarantees, loan guarantee funds, loan loss reserves, and other credit enhancement instruments)
- Subgrants are not eligible as financial assistance to qualified projects
- Expenditures for financial assistance will be in the form of *Subawards*, *Participant support costs*, and acquisitions of *Intangible property* for a financial assistance purpose (information provided in *Appendix D.B: Guidance for Financial Assistance in the Detailed Budget Table*)
- Grantees may provide financial assistance to various types of counterparties, which include (as examples) project sponsors as well as community lenders and other similar institutions

3 | A QUALIFIED PROJECT MUST MEET SIX REQUIREMENTS FOR ELIGIBILITY

Section 134(c)(3) of the Clean Air Act provides that a **qualified project** is any project, activity, or technology that (A) reduces or avoids greenhouse gas emissions and other forms of air pollution in partnership with, and by leveraging investment from, the private sector; or (B) assists communities in the efforts of those communities to reduce or avoid greenhouse gas emissions and other forms of air pollution.

Key requirements to consider for the application, as described in the NOFO:

A project must meet all requirements listed below at the time of financing to be eligible as a “qualified project.” **Note that any project that meets the requirements of a qualified project is eligible for support.**

- a. The project, activity, or technology **would reduce or avoid greenhouse gas emissions**, consistent with the climate goals of the United States to reduce greenhouse gas emissions 50-52 percent below 2005 levels in 2030, reach 50 percent zero-emission vehicles share of all new passenger cars and light trucks sold in 2030, achieve a carbon pollution-free electricity sector by 2035, and achieve net-zero emissions by no later than 2050. The project, activity, or technology may reduce or avoid such emissions through its own performance or through assisting communities in their efforts to deploy projects, activities, or technologies that reduce or avoid such emissions.
- b. The project, activity, or technology **would reduce or avoid emissions of other air pollutants**. The project, activity, or technology may reduce or avoid such emissions through its own performance or through assisting communities in their efforts to deploy projects, activities, or technologies that reduce or avoid such emissions.
- c. The project, activity, or technology would **deliver additional benefits** (i.e., in addition to reducing or avoiding emissions of greenhouse gases and other air pollutants) to American communities within one or more of the following four categories: clean energy and energy efficiency; clean transportation; affordable and sustainable housing; and training and workforce development.
- d. The project, activity, or technology **may not have otherwise been financed**.
- e. The project, activity, or technology **would mobilize private capital**.
- f. The project, activity, or technology **would support only commercial technologies**, defined as technologies that have been deployed for commercial purposes at least three times for a period of at least five years each in the United States for the same general purpose as the project, activity, or technology.

3 | PRIORITY PROJECT CATEGORIES INCLUDE THREE CATEGORIES

A

Distributed Energy Generation and Storage

Projects, activities, and technologies that deploy small-scale power generation and/or storage technologies (typically from 1 kW to 10,000 kW), plus enabling infrastructure necessary for deployment of such generation and/or storage technologies. For this competition, the projects, activities, and technologies must support *carbon pollution-free electricity*, which is electrical energy produced from resources that generate no carbon emissions, consistent with the definition specified in Executive Order 14057 (*Catalyzing Clean Energy Industries and Jobs Through Federal Sustainability*).

B

Net-Zero Emissions Buildings

Projects, activities, and technologies that either (1) retrofit an existing building, making a substantial contribution to that building being a net-zero emissions building and as part of a plan for that building achieving zero-over-time, or (2) construct a new net-zero emissions building in a low-income and disadvantaged community. Net-zero emissions buildings are defined in Executive Order 14057 Implementing Instructions...and include residential (e.g., 1- to 4-family homes, manufactured homes, multifamily housing), commercial, industrial, and other buildings.

C

Zero-Emissions Transportation

Projects, activities, and technologies that deploy zero-emissions transportation modes, plus enabling infrastructure necessary for zero-emissions transportation modes—especially in communities that are overburdened by existing diesel pollution, particulate matter concentration, and degraded air quality. Zero-emissions transportation should be consistent with the zero-emissions transportation decarbonization strategies in The U.S. National Blueprint for Transportation Decarbonization.

Applications are expected to either cover each of the priority project categories in their investment strategies or provide a rationale for why any of the priority project categories are not covered; any application with such a rationale will not be penalized and will instead be awarded points based on the strength of the rationale. **Note that any project that meets the requirements of a qualified project is eligible for support under this competition.**

3 | PREDEVELOPMENT, MARKET-BUILDING, AND PROGRAM ADMINISTRATION ACTIVITIES ARE ALLOWABLE COSTS

| | Predevelopment Activities | Market-Building Activities | Program Administration Activities |
|-------------------|---|---|---|
| Definition | Activities that (1) improve the likelihood of the grantee financing qualified projects, (2) are tied directly to qualified projects the grantee intends to finance, and (3) are necessary and reasonable for the deployment of financial assistance to qualified projects | Activities that (1) build the market for financeable qualified projects, (2) are not tied directly to qualified projects the grantee intends to finance, and (3) are necessary and reasonable for the deployment of financial assistance to qualified projects | Activities that are necessary and reasonable for the performance of the grant award and support administration of the grant program |
| Examples | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Site and building assessments (e.g., energy audits) • Financial and technological feasibility studies (e.g., solar resource studies) • Design and engineering support • Permitting support | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Activities to generate market-wide demand for qualified projects (e.g., marketing, customer education and engagement, etc.) • Activities to build a more supportive financial market for financing qualified projects (e.g., standardization of documentation) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conducting due diligence and underwriting financial transactions • Conducting program performance and other reporting activities • Supporting, monitoring, overseeing, and auditing subrecipients, contractors, and program beneficiaries |

All costs must meet the requirements for allowability under 2 CFR Part 200, Subpart E as well as applicable provisions of 2 CFR Part 1500

3 | LOW-INCOME AND DISADVANTAGED COMMUNITIES ENCOMPASSES FOUR CATEGORIES...

At least 40% of funds must be used for the purposes of providing financial assistance in low-income and disadvantaged communities

Low-Income and Disadvantaged Communities includes:

| Category | Description |
|--|--|
| a) CEJST-Identified Disadvantaged Communities | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> All communities (i.e., geographic areas) identified as disadvantaged through the Climate and Economic Justice Screening Tool (CEJST) |
| b) EJScreen-Identified Disadvantaged Communities | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Limited supplemental set of census block groups that are at or above the 90th percentile for any of EJScreen's supplemental indexes when compared to nation or state Geographic areas within Tribal lands as included in EJScreen |
| c) Geographically-Dispersed Low-Income Households | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Individuals/households with incomes generally at or below the greater of 80% Area Median Income and 200% Federal Poverty Level (<i>slightly broader coverage for those living in non-metropolitan areas</i>) Individuals/households approved for a list of named federal assistance programs, with award letter in last 12 months |
| d) Properties Providing Affordable Housing | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Multifamily housing with rents not exceeding 30% of 80% AMI for at least half of residential units and with an active affordability covenant from a list of housing assistance programs Naturally-occurring (unsubsidized) affordable housing with rents not exceeding 30% of 80% AMI for at least half of residential units |

3 | ...WITH FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE TO LOW-INCOME AND DISADVANTAGED COMMUNITIES VARYING BY CATEGORY

Guidance for Low-Income and Disadvantaged Community Expenditures

| Category | Description |
|--|--|
| a) CEJST-Identified Disadvantaged Communities | <p>Would the expenditure be for the purposes of providing financial assistance for a qualified project (or set of qualified projects) in areas identified as disadvantaged by the Climate and Economic Justice Screening Tool (CEJST)?</p> |
| b) EJScreen-Identified Disadvantaged Communities | <p>Would the expenditure be for the purposes of providing financial assistance for a qualified project (or set of qualified projects) in areas identified by EJScreen within either of the following two categories?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Within census block groups that are at or above the 90th percentile for any of EJScreen’s supplemental indexes when compared to the nation or state • Within Tribal lands as included in EJScreen |
| c) Geographically-Dispersed Low-Income Households | <p>Would the expenditure be for the purposes of providing financial assistance to low-income individuals/households within either of the following two categories for them to deploy qualified projects?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Is in a Metropolitan Area and has an income at or below the greater of (1) 80% AMI (Area Median Income) and (2) 200% of the Federal Poverty Level or is in a Non-Metropolitan Area and has an income at or below the greater of (1) 80% AMI, (2) 80% Statewide Non-Metropolitan Area AMI, and (3) 200% of the Federal Poverty Level • Is currently approved for assistance from or participation in at least one of the following programs... |
| d) Properties Providing Affordable Housing | <p>Would the expenditure be for the purposes of providing financial assistance to qualified projects on properties providing affordable housing that are within either of the following two categories?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Multifamily housing with rents not exceeding 30% of 80% AMI for at least half of residential units and with an active affordability covenant from one of the following federal or state housing assistance programs... • Naturally-occurring (unsubsidized) affordable housing with rents not exceeding 30% of 80% AMI for at least half of residential units |

3 | PROGRAM INCOME IS DEFINED IN 2 CFR § 200.1 AND FURTHER EXPLAINED FOR THIS COMPETITION IN THE NOFO

Consistent with 2 CFR § 200.1, **Program income** means **gross income earned by a grantee (or a subgrantee) that is directly generated by a supported activity or earned as a result of the grant award.** For this competition, program income includes but is not limited to loan and other origination fees, interest payments, principal repayments, dividends from equity investments, interest from short-term securities (e.g., cash deposits), asset sales, and other sources of program income. EPA-specific rules on program income are provided at 2 CFR § 1500.8 and on the coverage of allowable fund raising costs are provided under 2 CFR § 200.442 (with additional details in Item 4 of the EPA Guidance on Selected Items of Cost for Recipients). These rules apply to grantees as well as subgrantees (such as non-lead coalition members) that are provided subgrants for the purposes of carrying out a portion of the grant's activities. Additional guidance will be provided in the terms and conditions of the grant agreement.

Program income requirements

In accordance with Clean Air Act Section 134(b)(1)(C) as well as 2 CFR § 200.307(e)(2) and 2 CFR § 1500.8(b), which “flow down” to subgrantees as provided in 2 CFR § 200.332 and EPA General Terms and Conditions, **grantees will be required to retain program income earned during the period of performance.** Program income will be added to funds committed to the program by EPA and used for the purposes and under the conditions of the assistance agreement and beyond the period of performance based on close-out agreements. Grantees will report on the amount of program income earned during the period of performance through the quarterly Federal Financial Report, Standard Form 425. **In accordance with 2 CFR § 1500.8(d) as supplemented by the terms and conditions of the grant award, each grantee will only be authorized to use program income once the grant award is fully drawn down, at which point EPA will enter into a closeout agreement with the grantee.** Note that EPA plans to establish programmatic requirements in a closeout agreement to implement program income requirements.

CONTENTS AND AGENDA – Section 4

Topics

1. Overview
2. Eligible Applicants
3. Deep Dive on Important Use of Funds Definitions:
 - Financial Assistance
 - Qualified Project
 - Priority Project Categories
 - Predevelopment, Market-Building, and Program Administration Activities
 - Low-Income and Disadvantaged Communities
 - Program Income
- 4. Threshold Eligibility**
5. Named Contractors and Named Subrecipients
6. Application Materials
7. Evaluation Criteria
8. Administrative and National Policy Requirements
9. Reporting, Audits, and Remedies for Non-Compliance
10. Resources

EPA will collect questions during the webinar today and respond to questions publicly on EPA's GGRF website (epa.gov/GGRF)

EPA is recording this webinar and will publish the recording and the PowerPoint materials on EPA's GGRF website

4 | THERE ARE NINE THRESHOLD CRITERIA FOR NCIF APPLICATIONS (I/II)

All applications will be reviewed for eligibility and must meet the threshold eligibility criteria. **Applications that do not meet all of the threshold eligibility criteria will be deemed ineligible for funding consideration and will not be considered further; as a result, applicants are strongly encouraged to ensure that their applications meet all of the threshold eligibility criteria prior to submitting their applications.**

1. Applications must comply with the content and submission requirements.
2. Applications must explain and provide supporting evidence for how the applicant (either the individual applicant or the lead applicant in a coalition application) is an eligible recipient, as described in Section III.A: Eligible Applicants. This includes explaining and providing supporting evidence for being incorporated in the United States and not being controlled by one or several entities that are not eligible recipients.
3. Applications must comply with the requirements for named contractors and named subrecipients, as described in Section III.B: Named Contractors and Named Subrecipients. **For this competition, EPA requires applicants that name subrecipients to submit coalition applications and include the named subrecipients as coalition members; all named subrecipients must be coalition members. As explained in Appendix A of the EPA Subaward Policy, for-profit firms and individual consultants that would receive grant funds are, in almost all cases, contractors who are not eligible for subgrants under this program and therefore may not be coalition members.** If applicants name contractors, they must demonstrate that the contractor was selected in compliance with competitive procurement requirements described in the NOFO.
4. Applications must demonstrate that they will expend the requested funding amount over a period of performance of up to 7 years.
5. Applications must include a program plan that provides financial assistance to qualified projects at the national, regional, State, and local levels; prioritizes investment in qualified projects that would otherwise lack access to financing; and retains, manages, recycles, and monetizes all repayments and other revenue received from fees, interest, repaid loans, and all other types of financial assistance provided using grant funds to ensure continued operability. **Applications that do not propose providing financial assistance to qualified projects in each of the ten EPA regions will not be considered as “national” and therefore will not be considered as eligible.**

4 | THERE ARE NINE THRESHOLD CRITERIA FOR NCIF APPLICATIONS (II/II)

All applications will be reviewed for eligibility and must meet the threshold eligibility criteria. **Applications that do not meet all of the threshold eligibility criteria will be deemed ineligible for funding consideration and will not be considered further; as a result, applicants are strongly encouraged to ensure that their applications meet all of the threshold eligibility criteria prior to submitting their applications.**

6. Applications must include a program budget that allocates at least 40% of grant funds for the purposes of providing financial assistance in low-income and disadvantaged communities. Expenditures for these purposes include costs for financial assistance as well as other costs that are reasonable and necessary for the deployment of such financial assistance, including costs for predevelopment activities, market-building activities, and program administration activities. Appendix C: Guidance for Low-Income and Disadvantaged Community Expenditures provides guidance for assessing expenditures against this requirement.
7. Applications must not include unallowable costs, as described in Section III.D: Allowable and Unallowable Costs.
8. Applications must be submitted by an individual applicant or a lead applicant of a coalition that has not already submitted an application to this competition as an individual applicant or a lead applicant of a coalition. Applicants submitting more than one application will be contacted to determine which application EPA will evaluate, with the remaining application(s) deemed ineligible. While eligible applicants are welcome to submit applications for each of the three GGRF competitions, they may submit only one application for each competition as either an individual applicant or a lead applicant of a coalition application.
9. Coalitions: Coalition applications must include a signed Memorandum of Agreement that confirms participation of each coalition member.

CONTENTS AND AGENDA – Section 5

Topics

1. Overview
2. Eligible Applicants
3. Deep Dive on Important Use of Funds Definitions:
 - Financial Assistance
 - Qualified Project
 - Priority Project Categories
 - Predevelopment, Market-Building, and Program Administration Activities
 - Low-Income and Disadvantaged Communities
 - Program Income
4. Threshold Eligibility
- 5. Named Contractors and Named Subrecipients**
6. Application Materials
7. Evaluation Criteria
8. Administrative and National Policy Requirements
9. Reporting, Audits, and Remedies for Non-Compliance
10. Resources

EPA will collect questions during the webinar today and respond to questions publicly on EPA's GGRF website (epa.gov/GGRF)

EPA is recording this webinar and will publish the recording and the PowerPoint materials on EPA's GGRF website

5 | IN APPLICATIONS, APPLICANTS MUST DEMONSTRATE COMPLIANCE WITH REQUIREMENTS ON TRANSFER OF FUNDS

Named contractors and named subrecipients (for the purposes of the application)

Named contractors

- EPA does not require or encourage applicants to name procurement contractors (including consultants) in applications for grant funding.
- An applicant that identifies a procurement contractor(s) in its application where the amount of the contract will be more than the micro-purchase threshold in 2 CFR § 200.320(a)(1) (\$10,000 for most applicants) must **demonstrate in their application how the contractor (including consultants) was selected in compliance with the full and open competition requirements in 2 CFR Parts 200 and 1500**. For example, EPA will not accept sole source justifications for proposed procurement contracts for services that are available in the commercial marketplace based on a proposed contractor’s “unique qualifications”.
- An applicant must **describe the procurement procedures that were followed to hire the contractor(s) in the Cover Page**.
- Failure to demonstrate compliance for named contractors in the application will **result in rejection of the application. EPA is serious about this requirement.**

Named subrecipients

- For this competition, EPA requires applicants that name subrecipients in applications for grant funding to submit coalition applications and include the named subrecipients as coalition members.
- If an applicant chooses to identify a subrecipient(s), the applicant must not only submit a coalition application but also demonstrate that the named subrecipient is eligible for a subaward in compliance with Appendix A of the EPA Subaward Policy.
- An applicant must **demonstrate compliance with these requirements in the Cover Page**.
- Failure to demonstrate compliance for named subrecipients in the application will **result in rejection of the application. EPA is serious about this requirement.**

5 | SUBAWARDS AND PROCUREMENT CONTRACTS ARE DIFFERENT TRANSACTIONS

Definition of a subaward

- A financial assistance transaction (i.e., profit is unallowable) between an EPA assistance agreement recipient and an eligible subrecipient (or by a subrecipient to a lower subrecipient).
- For the purpose of accomplishing a public purpose authorized by a Federal program statute.
- Does not include payments to a procurement contractor or payments to an individual that is a beneficiary or participant in a Federal program.

Definition of a procurement contract

- In contrast to subawards, as provided in 2 CFR Part 200.331(b), procurement contractors (including individual consultants) typically:
 - Provide goods and services on commercial terms.
 - Provide similar goods and services to many different purchasers.
 - Operate in a competitive environment.
 - A reasonable profit is allowable.

Does EPA consider all “partnership agreements” that establish funding relationships to be subawards that are not subject to competition?

- No. Transactions are either:
 - subawards,
 - procurement contracts,
 - intergovernmental/inter-entity agreements for common procurement,
 - interagency service agreements or services, or
 - participant support costs.
- Characterizing the transactions consistently with the terms used in the Uniform Grant Guidance is important for determining what rules apply.
- Some recipients refer to their contractors (particularly consultants) as “partners” but recipients must still comply with competitive procurement requirements.
- The competitive procurement rules apply even if a consultant receives a IRS 1099 from the recipient

5 | THE TYPE OF ENTITY RECEIVING FUNDS FROM THE PASS-THROUGH ENTITY CAN INDICATE THE TYPE OF TRANSACTION

How to classify a transaction

- To determine the transaction, refer to guidance in [2 CFR 200.331 and Subaward Policy Appendix A. Distinction Between Subrecipients and Contractors](#)
- The UGG at 2 CFR 200.331 and Appendix A of EPA's Subaward Policy emphasize the need to exercise judgment based on the substance of the agreement but EPA has tried to simplify the characterization.
- The fact that the agreement between the pass-through entity and the other party is called a "contract" is not determinative.
- Approval by EPA's Grants Management Office is required before making a subaward to a for profit firm or individual. Approval can be provided at time of award if the type of transaction is described in the scope of work and/or budget narrative.**

What transaction is most likely, based on the entity type that will receive funds from the pass-through entity

| | Subaward | Procurement contract |
|--|----------|----------------------|
| For-Profit | | ✓ |
| Individual Consultant | | ✓ |
| Non-profit | ✓ | |
| Institute of Higher Education | ✓ | |
| Federal Agency | ✓ | |
| Federally Funded Research & Development Center | ✓ | ✓ |

Transactions with for-profit companies and individual consultants are considered procurement contracts with few exceptions. Two examples include:

- Grant recipient provides a **subaward** to a for-profit company to upgrade equipment **owned by the company** (the subrecipient) that will be used to carry out the grant purpose.
- Grant recipient provides a rebate or subsidy to a for-profit company for all or a portion of the costs of the equipment purchased by the company. The rebate or subsidy would be **participant support costs** and the company (owner of the equipment) would be a **program beneficiary**.

5 | ALL APPLICANTS MUST COMPLY WITH THE PROCUREMENT REQUIREMENTS UNDER THE UNIFORM GRANT GUIDANCE

Summary of procurement requirements

- All eligible recipients must comply with the procurement requirements in [2 CFR Part 200](#) with regard to competition.
- EPA has posted a [Best Practice Guide for Procuring Services, Supplies, and Equipment Under EPA Assistance Agreements](#) as guidance for other recipients and subrecipients of states. This guide includes advice on how to comply with EPA's 40 CFR Part 33 rule *on Participation by Disadvantaged Business Enterprises in United States Environmental Protection Agency Programs*.
- Please do not submit creative arguments in support of sole source procurements for services such as consulting, project management, information technology support, or other goods and services that may be procured in the commercial marketplace from multiple sources.

5 | CONSULTANT FEES ARE CAPPED

Summary of consultant fee limits

- **2 CFR 1500.10 caps the amount of compensation for individual consultants that a recipient may charge to EPA agreements to Level IV of the Federal Executive Level.**
 - This is a statutory requirement and EPA cannot waive the requirement.
 - Cap does not include consultant's overhead or travel costs.
- **When the cap applies depends on whether the recipient selects, directs, or controls the consultant along the same lines as an employee.**
 - Contracts for individual consultants will almost always trigger the cap, unless the contract is on a fixed amount basis for a discrete product, such as a report. [2 CFR 1500.10](#).
 - Contracts with multi-employee firms rarely trigger the cap as long as the firm, rather than the recipient, selects, directs, and controls the consultant.

5 | THERE ARE THRESHOLDS FOR THE PROCUREMENT OF GOODS AND SERVICES

Threshold 1: Micro purchase

Purchases up to the micro purchase level (\$10,000 for most recipients) may be made without competition provided the recipient distributes purchases equitably among qualified suppliers to the extent “practicable” and the prices are reasonable. [2 CFR 200.320\(a\)\(1\)](#).

- Generally, for purchases of supplies (including computing devices) but recipients may obtain consulting services PROVIDED the equitable distribution requirement is met.
- A series of micro purchases with the same consultant without using other sources as well will raise compliance issues.

Threshold 2: Simplified acquisition

Recipients may use small purchase procedures for contracts up to the simplified acquisition threshold (\$250,000) by obtaining price or rate quotations from an adequate number of qualified sources. [2 CFR 200.320\(a\)\(2\)](#).

- EPA expects recipients to obtain prices/quotes from at least 3 sources.
- For professional services, recipients may use email solicitations to document their files.
- For equipment, internet searches of price catalogues documented by “screen shots” are acceptable.
- Recipients must justify selection of contractors quoting higher prices/rates based on qualifications or technical factors.
- Good faith efforts must be made to solicit disadvantaged businesses per [40 CFR Part 33](#).

Threshold 3: Formal competitive requirements

Procurements in excess of the simplified acquisition threshold (greater than \$250,000) are subject to formal competitive requirements and must obtain *Competitive Sealed Bids* or *Competitive Proposals*.

- *Sealed bidding* is appropriate when precise specifications can be developed and a firm fixed-priced contract will be awarded to the responsive bidder based principally on price. [2 CFR 200.320\(b\)](#).
 - Typically used for construction projects or purchases of equipment widely available in the commercial marketplace.
- *Procurement by competitive proposals* require more than one proposal and result in a fixed price or cost reimbursement contract. Requests for Proposals must be publicized and include factors to be evaluated and the relative importance of the factors. [2 CFR 200.319](#). Encourage Recipients to “Compete Smart”.
 - Typically used for acquisition of services where the offerors’ experience or technical approaches may be more important than price considerations. However, price must be a selection factor unless the contract is solely for licensed architectural and engineering services.
- Additional Information on pages 10-13 of [EPA’s Best Practice Guide for Procuring Services Supplies, and Equipment Under EPA Assistance Agreements](#)

5 | SOLE SOURCE PROCUREMENT MAY ONLY BE USED IN SPECIFIC CIRCUMSTANCES

Scenarios in which sole source procurement may be used

As provided at [2 CFR 200.320\(c\)](#), procurement by noncompetitive proposals is procurement through solicitation of a proposal from only one source and may be used only when one or more of the following circumstances apply:

- The item is available only from a single source;
- Public exigency or emergency;
- The Federal awarding agency or pass-through entity expressly authorizes noncompetitive proposals in response to a written request; or
- After solicitation of a number of sources, competition is determined inadequate.

Additional considerations for procurement

- EPA's position is that "sole source" procurements are justified by copyrights, patents, equipment maintenance agreements with manufacturers or similar arrangements.
- Sole source contracts for services widely available in the commercial marketplace (e.g., consulting, information technology, construction, architect/engineer services, project management) are not acceptable. **"Unique qualifications" do not qualify as a sole source.**
- Compliance with competitive procurement requirements is frequently a major focus for oversight entities that audit EPA assistance agreements.

CONTENTS AND AGENDA – Section 6

Topics

1. Overview
2. Eligible Applicants
3. Deep Dive on Important Use of Funds Definitions:
 - Financial Assistance
 - Qualified Project
 - Priority Project Categories
 - Predevelopment, Market-Building, and Program Administration Activities
 - Low-Income and Disadvantaged Communities
 - Program Income
4. Threshold Eligibility
5. Named Contractors and Named Subrecipients
- 6. Application Materials**
7. Evaluation Criteria
8. Administrative and National Policy Requirements
9. Reporting, Audits, and Remedies for Non-Compliance
10. Resources

EPA will collect questions during the webinar today and respond to questions publicly on EPA's GGRF website (epa.gov/GGRF)

EPA is recording this webinar and will publish the recording and the PowerPoint materials on EPA's GGRF website

6 | DUE DATE AND SUBMISSION INSTRUCTIONS

Due Date and Submission Instructions

Your organization's Authorized Organization Representative (AOR) must submit your complete application package electronically to EPA through Grants.gov. Application packages must be submitted **on or before October 12, 2023 at 11:59 PM (Eastern Time) through Grants.gov**. Refer to Appendix A: Grants.gov Application Submission Instructions for the requirements to apply through Grants.gov. In order to submit an application through Grants.gov, your organization must:

- Have an active System for Award Management (SAM) account in SAM.gov and a Unique Entity Identifier (UEI) assigned by SAM.gov;
- Be registered in Grants.gov; and
- Have the E-Business Point of Contact designate an AOR in Grants.gov.

The registration process for all the above items may take a month or more to complete. Applicants should begin this process as soon as possible.

Confidential, Privileged, or Sensitive Information

In concert with EPA's commitment to conducting business in an open and transparent manner, copies of applications selected under this funding opportunity may be made publicly available on the GGRF website or another public website for a period of time after the selected applications are announced. EPA recommends that applications not include trade secrets or commercial or financial information that is confidential, privileged, or sensitive and that, if disclosed, would invade another individual's personal privacy (e.g., personal email addresses, etc.). However, if such information is included, it will be treated in accordance with 40 CFR § 2.203 (refer to Section IV.a of [EPA Solicitation Clauses](#) for additional information). However, if you do include such information, clearly indicate which portion(s) of the application you are claiming contains confidential, privileged, or sensitive information. As provided at 40 CFR § 2.203(b), if no claim of confidential treatment accompanies the information when it is received by EPA, it may be made available to the public by EPA without further notice to the applicant.

6 | THE APPLICATION HAS BOTH MANDATORY DOCUMENTS AS WELL AS OPTIONAL DOCUMENTS

Additional detail on attachments on following page

Mandatory documents

1. **Application for Federal Assistance (SF-424)**
2. **Budget Information for Non-Construction Programs (SF-424A)**
3. **EPA Key Contacts Form 5700-54**
4. **EPA Form 4700-4 Preward Compliance Review Report**
5. **Grants.gov Lobbying Form**
6. **Project Narrative:** Use “Project Narrative Attachment Form” in your Workspace on Grants.gov to submit your Project Narrative, prepared as described in Section IV.C: Content of Application Submission (*includes Cover Page + Narrative Proposal*)
7. **Project Narrative Attachments:** Use “Project Narrative Attachment Form” in your Workspace on Grants.gov to submit the attachments listed below, which are mandatory and do not count toward the page limits for the Project Narrative.

Optional documents

8. **Other Attachments:** Use “Other Attachments Form” in your Workspace on Grants.gov to submit the following documentation, which is not required, but encouraged to be submitted, and will not count toward the page limits for the Project Narrative (e.g., 75-page limit for the Narrative Proposal). Please limit the number of files for the attachment items by consolidating all attachment items into one document in the order presented on the following page.
9. **Disclosure of Lobbying Activities (SF-LLL)**

6 | WITHIN THOSE DOCUMENTS, THE APPLICATION HAS MANDATORY AND OPTIONAL ATTACHMENTS

Mandatory attachments

- Supporting Documents for Applicant Eligibility - Applicant_Name
- Supporting Documents for Coalition Member Subaward Eligibility - Applicant_Name (Coalitions Only)
- Coalition Memorandum of Agreement - Applicant_Name (Coalitions Only)
- 1.4.2 Budget Table - Applicant_Name
- 2.1.1 Legal Entity Structure Diagram - Applicant_Name
- 2.1.2 Organizational and Governing Documents - Applicant_Name
- 2.2.1 Resumes of Board Members - Applicant_Name
- 2.2.2 Organizational Chart - Applicant_Name
- 2.2.2 Resumes of Senior Management - Applicant_Name
- 2.4.1 Legal and Compliance Risk Management Policies and Procedures - Applicant_Name
- 2.4.2 Financial Risk Management Policies and Procedures - Applicant_Name
- 2.5.1 Financial Statements - Applicant_Name
- 2.5.2 Financial Projections - Applicant_Name

Additional detail on available templates on following page

Optional other attachments

- 1.2.1 Community Engagement and Accountability Letters of Support - Applicant_Name
- 1.2.4.2 Current Transaction Pipeline Letters of Commitment - Applicant_Name
- 1.2.4.3 Transaction Partnerships Letters of Commitment - Applicant_Name
- 1.2.5.3 Labor and Equitable Workforce Letters of Commitment - Applicant_Name
- 2.2.1 Board Policies and Procedures - Applicant_Name
- 2.2.2 Management Policies and Procedures - Applicant_Name
- 2.3.1 Consumer Protection Policies and Procedures - Applicant_Name
- 2.3.2 Equity Policies and Practices - Applicant_Name

6 | APPLICANTS MUST SUBMIT A DETAILED BUDGET TABLE THAT PROVIDES FURTHER INFORMATION ON FIGURES IN THE SF-424A

A **template for the budget table** is available for download under the related documents within this grant opportunity (EPA-R-HQ-NCIF-23) on Grants.gov. Applicants that do not use the template will not be penalized.

Applicants may **disaggregate costs for financial assistance into different project categories to facilitate consideration of an application for partial funding**, to the extent practicable

Optional excel template for applicants to download

Budget Table Template

An *OPTIONAL* template for applicants to fill in and submit as the detailed budget table, which is described in Section 1.4.2 of the Narrative Proposal

| BUDGET BY YEAR | | | | | | | | | |
|------------------------------------|--|--------------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|-------|
| COST-TYPE | CATEGORY | YEAR 1 | YEAR 2 | YEAR 3 | YEAR 4 | YEAR 5 | YEAR 6 | YEAR 7 | TOTAL |
| | Financial assistance – project category #1 (subawards) | \$4,000,000 | | | | | | | |
| | Financial assistance – project category #2 (subawards) | \$4,000,000 | | | | | | | |
| | Financial assistance – project category #3 (subawards) | \$4,000,000 | | | | | | | |
| | Financial assistance characterized as "participant support costs" (PSCs) | | | | | | | | |
| | Financial assistance – project category #1 (PSCs) | \$4,000,000 | | | | | | | |
| | Financial assistance – project category #2 (PSCs) | \$4,000,000 | | | | | | | |
| | Financial assistance – project category #3 (PSCs) | \$4,000,000 | | | | | | | |
| | TOTAL OTHER | \$24,010,000 | | | | | | | |
| | TOTAL DIRECT | \$37,146,828 | | | | | | | |
| Indirect Costs | Indirect Costs (Indirect Cost Rate) | 10% | | | | | | | |
| | Indirect costs on financial assistance – project category #1 | \$25,000 | | | | | | | |
| | Indirect costs on financial assistance – project category #2 | \$25,000 | | | | | | | |
| | Indirect costs on financial assistance – project category #3 | \$25,000 | | | | | | | |
| | Other indirect costs | \$107,183 | | | | | | | |
| | TOTAL INDIRECT | \$182,183 | | | | | | | |
| Total Funding | | \$37,329,011 | | | | | | | |
| Share for Financial Assistance (%) | | 97% | | | | | | | |

In column C, add and subtract rows to detail itemized costs (and specific descriptions of costs) in each cost category per the guidance in *Appendix D: Program Budget*.

At the bottom of the table, calculate the share of funds used for financial assistance (both the direct costs of funds passed through for financial assistance as well as associated indirect costs).

In columns D through J, fill in the cost for the line item per year. Ensure that costs for financial assistance are aggregated and separated from all other costs for three specific categories: (1) acquisitions of intangible property, (2) subawards, and (3) participant support costs. In **Column L**, calculate the total cost for the line item for the entire program.

6 | THE BUDGET TABLE MUST CHARACTERIZE FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE INTO THREE CATEGORIES

| Type | Definition | EPA Advises Applicants... | Budget Category |
|--|--|---|---|
| Subawards | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2 CFR § 200.1 defines a subaward as “an award provided by a pass-through entity to a subrecipient for the subrecipient to carry out part of a Federal award received by the pass-through entity.” 2 CFR § 200.1 defines a Pass-through entity as “a non-Federal entity that provides a subaward to a subrecipient to carry out part of a Federal program” and a Subrecipient as “an entity...that receives a subaward from a pass-through entity to carry out part of a Federal award; but does not include an individual that is a beneficiary of such award.” | ...to characterize loan originations and full loan guarantees as subawards | Other (aggregated and separated from all other costs) |
| Participant Support Costs | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2 CFR § 200.1 defines participant support costs as “direct costs for items such as stipends or subsistence allowances, travel allowances, and registration fees paid to or on behalf of participants or trainees (but not employees) in connection with conferences, or training projects.” EPA regulations at 2 CFR § 1500.1(a)(1) expands the definition of participant support costs to include “[S]ubsidies, rebates, and other payments to program beneficiaries to encourage participation in statutorily authorized environmental stewardship programs” such as the Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund. | ...to characterize credit enhancements that are “subsidies” (such as partial loan guarantees or loan loss reserves) as participant support costs | Other (aggregated and separated from all other costs) |
| Acquisitions of Intangible Property | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2 CFR § 200.1 defines intangible property as “property having no physical existence, such as trademarks, copyrights, patents and patent applications and property, such as loans, notes and other debt instruments, lease agreements, stock and other instruments of property ownership (whether the property is tangible or intangible).” | ...to characterize equity investments (including project finance equity investments, private equity investments, and other forms of equity) and loan purchases as acquisitions of intangible property through procurement contracts | Contractual (aggregated and separated from all other costs) |

6 | APPLICANTS MUST SUBMIT FINANCIAL PROJECTIONS FOR THE STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION AND ACTIVITIES

A **template for the financial projections** is available for download under the related documents within this grant opportunity (EPA-R-HQ-NCIF-23) on Grants.gov. Applicants that do not use the template will not be penalized.

Applications will **not receive full points unless they provide financial projections for each coalition member** that would receive a subaward of greater than \$10 million.

Applications **may be able to receive full points even if they submit only selected line items for their financial projections**; in this case, the individual line items may not sum together. All financial projections will be evaluated based on the evaluation criteria above, regardless of whether they include all line items or only selected line items.

Optional excel template for applicants to download

| Statement of Financial Position | | Year 1 | |
|---------------------------------|---|-----------------|--------------------|
| | | Program Account | Total Organization |
| Line | Assets | | |
| 1a. | Restricted Cash and Cash Equivalents | | |
| 1b. | Unrestricted Cash and Cash Equivalents | | |
| 1c. | Total Current Assets | | |
| 1d. | Restricted Grants Receivables | | |
| 1e. | Unrestricted Grants Receivables | | |
| 1f. | Loans and Financing Receivables (Gross) | | |
| 1g. | Loan Loss Reserves | | |
| 1h. | Total Assets | | |
| | Liabilities | | |
| 1i. | Short-Term Notes Payable | | |
| 1j. | Current Portion of Long-Term Notes Payable | | |
| 1k. | Total Current Liabilities | | |
| 1l. | Long-Term Notes Payable | | |
| 1m. | Total Liabilities | | |
| | Net Assets, Net Worth, and Other | | |
| 1n. | Unrestricted Net Assets | | |
| 1o. | Temporarily Restricted Net Assets | | |
| 1p. | Permanently Restricted Net Assets | | |
| 1q. | Total Net Assets | | |
| | Supplemental Data | | |
| 1r. | Off-Balance Sheet Obligations, Contingent Liabilities | | |
| 1s. | Portfolio-at-Risk | | |

| Statement of Activities | | Year 1 | |
|-------------------------|--|-----------------|--------------------|
| | | Program Account | Total Organization |
| Line | Income and Other Revenue | | |
| 2a. | Interest Income | | |
| 2b. | Fee Income | | |
| 2c. | Other Income | | |
| 2d. | Grants and Contributions | | |
| 2e. | Other Operating Revenue, Income | | |
| 2f. | Non-Operating Revenue, Income | | |
| 2g. | Total Revenue, Income | | |
| | Expenses | | |
| 2h. | Amortization Expense | | |
| 2i. | Depreciation Expense | | |
| 2j. | Provision for Loan Losses | | |
| 2k. | Operating Expenses | | |
| 2l. | Interest Expense on Loans | | |
| 2m. | Non-Operating Expenses | | |
| 2n. | Total Expenses | | |
| 2o. | Total Change in Net Assets | | |
| 2p. | Total Net Assets, Beginning of Period | | |
| 2q. | Total Net Assets, End of Period | | |

| Definitions | | Definition |
|-------------|---|--|
| 1a. | Restricted Cash and Cash Equivalents | The total value of cash and cash equivalent items, which are restricted as to withdrawal or usage. This includes any cash balances or marketable securities held to satisfy specific covenants or requirements against borrowing agreements or contracts entered into with other parties. |
| 1b. | Unrestricted Cash and Cash Equivalents | The total value of cash and cash equivalent items, which can be converted into cash immediately (such as bank accounts or marketable securities) and are not restricted as to withdrawal or usage. |
| 1c. | Total Current Assets | The value of all assets that are reasonably expected to be converted into cash within one year in the normal course of business, and face no restrictions on such conversion. This includes cash, accounts receivable net of any allowance for uncollected receivables (if applicable), inventory, marketable securities, prepaid expenses, current portion of loans receivable net of any allowance for loan losses (if applicable), and other liquid assets that can be readily converted to cash. |
| 1d. | Restricted Grants Receivables | The value of any money owed to the organization in the form of a committed grant or donation with restrictions on usage. |
| 1e. | Unrestricted Grants Receivables | The value of any money owed to the organization in the form of a committed grant or donation that is unrestricted and can be utilized for any decided-upon purpose. |
| 1f. | Loans and Financing Receivables (Gross) | The gross value of a portfolio of loans and other financial products receivable, excluding any amounts related to undischursed funds and/or holdbacks. This shall be equal to the unpaid principal balance of the entire portfolio of loans. |

CONTENTS AND AGENDA – Section 7

Topics

1. Overview
2. Eligible Applicants
3. Deep Dive on Important Use of Funds Definitions:
 - Financial Assistance
 - Qualified Project
 - Priority Project Categories
 - Predevelopment, Market-Building, and Program Administration Activities
 - Low-Income and Disadvantaged Communities
 - Program Income
4. Threshold Eligibility
5. Named Contractors and Named Subrecipients
6. Application Materials
- 7. Evaluation Criteria**
8. Administrative and National Policy Requirements
9. Reporting, Audits, and Remedies for Non-Compliance
10. Resources

EPA will collect questions during the webinar today and respond to questions publicly on EPA's GGRF website (epa.gov/GGRF)

EPA is recording this webinar and will publish the recording and the PowerPoint materials on EPA's GGRF website

7 | APPLICATIONS WILL BE EVALUATED OUT OF 1,000 POINTS

A Evaluation Criteria for Application Components

| Evaluation Criteria for Application Components | | | | Points Possible | |
|--|--|--|---------------------------------------|--|----|
| 1. Program Plan | 1.1 Program Vision | | | 40 | |
| | 1.2 Investment Strategy | 1.2.1 Community Engagement and Accountability Strategy | 1.2.1.1 Community Engagement Plan | 30 | |
| | | | 1.2.1.2 Community Accountability Plan | 30 | |
| | | | 1.2.2 Investment Objectives | 1.2.2.1 Climate and Air Pollution Benefits | 20 |
| | | | | 1.2.2.2 Equity and Community Benefits | 20 |
| | | | | 1.2.2.3 Market Transformation Benefits | 20 |
| | | | 1.2.3 Portfolio Allocation | 1.2.3.1 Project Categories | 25 |
| | | 1.2.3.2 Market Segments | | 20 | |
| | | 1.2.3.3 Geographies | | 30 | |
| | | 1.2.4 Financial Products and Transactions | 1.2.4.1 Financial Products | 40 | |
| | | | 1.2.4.2 Current Transaction Pipeline | 15 | |
| | | | 1.2.4.3 Transaction Partnerships Plan | 30 | |
| | | | 1.2.5 Market Development Plan | 1.2.5.1 Predevelopment Plan | 15 |
| | 1.2.5.2 Market-Building Plan | 20 | | | |
| | 1.2.5.3 Labor and Equitable Workforce Development Plan | 20 | | | |
| | 1.2.5.4 Coordination Plan | 20 | | | |
| | | 1.2.6 Investment Policies | | | 90 |
| | 1.3 Program Reporting | 1.3.1 Reporting Plan | | | 20 |
| | | 1.3.2 Reporting Capacity | | | 10 |
| | | 1.3.3 Past Performance and Reporting History | | | 10 |
| 1.4 Program Budget | 1.4.1 Expenditure and Disbursement of Awarded Funds | | | 10 | |
| | 1.4.2 Budget Description and Table | | | 50 | |
| 2. Organizational Plan | 2.1 Organizational Background and Track Record | 2.1.1 Description of Business | | 10 | |
| | | 2.1.2 Organizational and Governing Documents | | 10 | |
| | | 2.1.3 Organizational Experience | | 20 | |
| | 2.2 Governance and Management | 2.2.1 Governance Plan | | 45 | |
| | | 2.2.2 Management Plan | | 45 | |
| | 2.3 Equitable Policies | 2.3.1 Consumer Protection Plan | | 30 | |
| | | 2.3.2 Equity Policies and Practices | | 30 | |
| | 2.4 Risk Management | 2.4.1 Legal and Compliance Risk Management Plan | | 40 | |
| | | 2.4.2 Financial Risk Management Plan | | 50 | |
| | 2.5 Financials | 2.5.1 Financial Statements | | 30 | |
| 2.5.2 Financial Projections | | 30 | | | |
| | | | | 925 | |

Additional details behind on “nesting structure” of Narrative Proposal

These directly correspond to specific application components in the Narrative Proposal described in Section IV.C: Content of Application Submission. **Applicants are encouraged to reference the index number and title of these components, especially those with specific point allocations, to ensure appropriate evaluation.**

B Cross-Component Evaluation Criteria

| Cross-Component Evaluation Criteria | | | Points Possible |
|---|-----------------------|--|-----------------|
| 3. Centralization, Comprehensiveness and Cohesiveness | 3.1 Centralization | | 25 |
| | 3.2 Comprehensiveness | | 25 |
| | 3.3 Cohesiveness | | 25 |
| | | | 75 |

These do not correspond to specific application components in the Narrative Proposal described in Section IV.C: Content of Application Submission. **Applicants do not need to reference the index number and title of these criteria in their applications.**

7 | EVALUATION CRITERIA FOR APPLICATION COMPONENTS REFLECTS “NESTING STRUCTURE” OF THE PROJECT NARRATIVE

Example of “nesting structure” for the investment strategy

Investment Strategy: Describe your approach, in detail, to operationalizing the program vision over the entire period of performance, with additional granularity over the first three years.

| <u>Application Component</u> | | <u>Points Possible</u> | |
|------------------------------|--|--|----|
| 1.2 Investment Strategy | 1.2.1 Community Engagement and Accountability Strategy | 1.2.1.1 Community Engagement Plan | 30 |
| | | 1.2.1.2 Community Accountability Plan | 30 |
| | 1.2.2 Investment Objectives | 1.2.2.1 Climate and Air Pollution Benefits | 20 |
| | | 1.2.2.2 Equity and Community Benefits | 20 |
| | | 1.2.2.3 Market Transformation Benefits | 20 |
| | 1.2.3 Portfolio Allocation | 1.2.3.1 Project Categories | 25 |
| | | 1.2.3.2 Market Segments | 20 |
| | | 1.2.3.3 Geographies | 30 |
| | 1.2.4 Financial Products and Transactions | 1.2.4.1 Financial Products | 40 |
| | | 1.2.4.2 Current Transaction Pipeline | 15 |
| | | 1.2.4.3 Transaction Partnerships Plan | 30 |
| | 1.2.5 Market Development Plan | 1.2.5.1 Predevelopment Plan | 15 |
| | | 1.2.5.2 Market-Building Plan | 20 |
| | | 1.2.5.3 Labor and Equitable Workforce Development Plan | 20 |
| | | 1.2.5.4 Coordination Plan | 20 |
| | 1.2.6 Investment Policies | | 90 |

The investment strategy, as described in *Section IV.C: Content of Application Submission*, is ultimately scored based on its **sub-components that have specific point allocations (highlighted to the left in light blue)**, in addition to being assessed as part of the cross-component evaluation criteria (centralization, comprehensiveness, and cohesiveness)

7 | EVALUATION CRITERIA MAY APPLY DIFFERENTLY TO COALITION APPLICATIONS

A coalition application should describe the lead applicant's program plan and organizational plan, incorporating the activities of coalition members as well as the lead applicant's management and oversight of those activities. For example, the portfolio allocation should describe the project categories that will be deployed through activities carried out by the lead applicant and non-lead coalition members, and the legal and compliance risk management plan should describe how the lead applicant will manage legal and compliance risk across its own activities as well as the activities of non-lead coalition members.

Evaluation criteria (*illustrative and non-exhaustive*)

2.1.3 Organizational Experience: The organizational experience of the individual applicant as well as any non-lead coalition members may be evaluated.

2.4 Risk Management: Applications with plans for stronger risk management across all EPA funds requested will score higher; applications with plans for strong risk management for only a portion of the EPA funds requested (i.e., not covering how it will manage legal and compliance risk among coalition members, if submitting a coalition application) will score lower.

2.5.1 Financial Statements: Applications will not receive full points unless they provide financial statements for each coalition member that would receive a subaward of greater than \$10 million.

2.5.2 Financial Projections: Applications will not receive full points unless they provide financial projections for each coalition member that would receive a subaward of greater than \$10 million.

3.1 Centralization: Each application will be evaluated on the extent and quality to which it proposed to create a centralized source of capital, wherein grant funds are centrally controlled and managed. Although applicants may submit either individual or coalition applications, individual applications will tend to score higher on this criterion, and coalition applications will tend to score lower on this criterion—unless the lead applicant can demonstrate that the coalition will operate in a coordinated fashion through standardized programmatic and financial practices as well as effective communication channels.

7 | REVIEW AND SELECTION PROCESS FOLLOWS FIVE STEPS

1. Threshold Eligibility Review Process: All applications will be evaluated for eligibility using the threshold eligibility criteria described in [Section III.C: Threshold Eligibility Criteria](#).

2. Review Panel and Evaluation Process: Review panel(s) will review, score, and rank all eligible applications that pass the threshold eligibility review based on the merit evaluation criteria listed above. The review panel(s) will include EPA staff and may also include staff from other federal agencies and external subject matter experts who are free from any actual or apparent conflicts of interest.

3. Interviews for Top-Ranked Applications: The review panel(s) may conduct virtual or in-person interviews with top-ranked applicants. Applicants designated for such interviews would be provided information regarding the interview process upon designation.

4. Final Selection Process and Other Factors: The review panel(s) will present final rankings and selection recommendations to the Selection Official, who will then make the final selections for awards.

In addition to the information presented by the review panel(s), the Selection Official may also consider any of the following “other factors” in making final selection decisions from among the top-ranked applications: project categories (e.g., to ensure sufficient coverage of priority project categories); geographic diversity (e.g., to ensure sufficient coverage within all EPA regions); organizational capacity considerations due to organizations participating in multiple applications that are top-ranked (i.e., as individual applicants, lead applicants of coalition applications, or non-lead members of coalition applications); GGRF program objectives; EPA strategic goals and objectives; and availability of funds.

5. Anticipated Announcement and Federal Award Date: EPA anticipates it will announce selection decisions in March 2024.

CONTENTS AND AGENDA – Section 8

Topics

1. Overview
2. Eligible Applicants
3. Deep Dive on Important Use of Funds Definitions:
 - Financial Assistance
 - Qualified Project
 - Priority Project Categories
 - Predevelopment, Market-Building, and Program Administration Activities
 - Low-Income and Disadvantaged Communities
 - Program Income
4. Threshold Eligibility
5. Named Contractors and Named Subrecipients
6. Application Materials
7. Evaluation Criteria
- 8. Administrative and National Policy Requirements**
9. Reporting, Audits, and Remedies for Non-Compliance
10. Resources

EPA will collect questions during the webinar today and respond to questions publicly on EPA's GGRF website (epa.gov/GGRF)

EPA is recording this webinar and will publish the recording and the PowerPoint materials on EPA's GGRF website

8 | BUILD AMERICA, BUY AMERICA AND DAVIS-BACON AND RELATED ACTS APPLY TO GGRF

National Clean Investment Fund grantees will be subject to administrative and national policy requirements.

EPA plans to establish programmatic requirements in the terms and conditions of the grant award to implement these administrative and national policy requirements, which will include but not be limited to Build America, Buy America and Davis-Bacon and Related Acts (DBRA)

Build America, Buy America (BABA)

- Certain projects under this competition are subject to the Buy America Sourcing requirements under the Build America, Buy America (BABA) provisions of the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA)(P.L. 117-58, §§70911-70917) that apply when using Federal funds for the purchase of goods, products, and materials on any form of construction, alteration, maintenance, or repair of infrastructure in the United States.
- The Buy America preference requirement applies to all the iron and steel, manufactured products, and construction materials used for the infrastructure project under an award for identified EPA financial assistance funding programs.
- Please consider this information when preparing budget information. EPA will provide further guidance on which projects are subject to BABA provisions and will work with grantees to support implementation as necessary, as applicants comply with applicable Buy America preference requirements or apply for a [waiver](#) for each infrastructure project.

Davis-Bacon and Related Acts (DBRA)

- The Davis-Bacon Act (42 USC §§3141-3144)(DBA) sets out labor standards, including prevailing wages and fringe benefits, and applies to most federally funded contracts for construction of public works.
- The DBA labor standards and reporting requirements also apply to projects assisted with grants authorized by the Clean Air Act as provided in Section 314 of the Clean Air Act (DBRA)(42 USC §7614).
- A term and condition specifying DBRA compliance requirements will be included in the grant agreement.

CONTENTS AND AGENDA – Section 9

Topics

1. Overview
2. Eligible Applicants
3. Deep Dive on Important Use of Funds Definitions:
 - Financial Assistance
 - Qualified Project
 - Priority Project Categories
 - Predevelopment, Market-Building, and Program Administration Activities
 - Low-Income and Disadvantaged Communities
 - Program Income
4. Threshold Eligibility
5. Named Contractors and Named Subrecipients
6. Application Materials
7. Evaluation Criteria
8. Administrative and National Policy Requirements
- 9. Reporting, Audits, and Remedies for Non-Compliance**
10. Resources

EPA will collect questions during the webinar today and respond to questions publicly on EPA's GGRF website (epa.gov/GGRF)

EPA is recording this Webinar and will publish the recording and the PowerPoint on EPA's GGRF website

9 | REPORTING REQUIREMENTS WILL BE PART OF AWARD AGREEMENTS

Grantees will be subject to both **program performance as well as financial and administrative reporting requirements**. Note that EPA will only collect reporting information from each grantee (rather than from any subrecipients), but each grantee may need to collect reporting information from subrecipients in order to meet the reporting requirements.

Note: Requirements on this page are illustrative and non-exhaustive

Program Performance Reporting

EPA will require each grantee to submit **quarterly performance reports** within 30 days after the end of each reporting period (and with additional requirements every fourth quarterly report i.e., annually) as well as a **final performance report** within 90 days after the end of the period of performance. EPA will use information from these reports as part of program-wide public reporting, except to the extent such information includes confidential business information (CBI) or personally identifiable information (PII) pursuant to 2 CFR § 200.338.

Please see the Notice of Funding Opportunity for information that EPA may require in these reports.

Financial and Administrative Reporting

- **Federal Financial Report:** In accordance with 2 CFR § 200.328 and 2 CFR § 200.344, each grantee must submit the Federal Financial Report ([SF-425](#)) at least annually and no more frequently than quarterly.
- **Financial Records Retention:** In accordance with 2 CFR § 200.334, each grantee will be required to retain financial records, supporting documents, statistical records, and all other non-Federal entity records pertinent to the grant award for a period of three years from the date of submission of the final expenditure report.
- **MBE/WBE Utilization:** When required, each grantee must complete and submit a “MBE/WBE Utilization Under Federal Grants and Cooperative Agreements” report ([EPA Form 5700-52A](#)) on an annual basis.
- **Real Property Status Report:** In accordance with 2 CFR § 200.329, each grantee must submit a “Real Property Status Report” ([SF-429](#)) to report real property status or request agency instructions on real property that was/will be provided as Government Furnished Property (GFP) or acquired (i.e., purchased or constructed) in whole or in part under a Federal financial assistance award.

9 | AUDITS AND REMEDIES FOR NON-COMPLIANCE WILL BE PART OF AWARD AGREEMENTS

Audits

In accordance with 2 CFR § 200.501(a), each grantee will be required to obtain a single audit from an independent auditor, if the grantee expends \$750,000 or more in total Federal funds in the grantee's fiscal year. Audits will be made public in accordance with the process described in 2 CFR § 200.512. The grantee must submit the form SF-SAC and a Single Audit Report Package within 9 months of the end of the grantee's fiscal year or 30 days after receiving the report from an independent auditor. The SF-SAC and a Single Audit Report Package MUST be submitted using the Federal Audit Clearinghouse's Internet Data Entry System available at: <https://facides.census.gov>. In addition, each grantee may be subject to additional audit requirements, including but not limited to compliance requirements as part of any compliance supplement to the single audit.

Remedies for non-compliance

In accordance with 2 CFR § 200.208, 2 CFR § 200.339, and 2 CFR § 200.340, EPA is provided authority for multiple potential responses if a grantee violates the terms of the grant agreement. Remedies could include requiring corrective actions, temporarily withholding payments pending correction of deficiencies, disallowing costs incurred in violation of the terms of the assistance agreements, termination, and suspension or debarment from participation in Federal programs.

CONTENTS AND AGENDA – Section 10

Topics

1. Overview
2. Eligible Applicants
3. Deep Dive on Important Use of Funds Definitions:
 - Financial Assistance
 - Qualified Project
 - Priority Project Categories
 - Predevelopment, Market-Building, and Program Administration Activities
 - Low-Income and Disadvantaged Communities
 - Program Income
4. Threshold Eligibility
5. Named Contractors and Named Subrecipients
6. Application Materials
7. Evaluation Criteria
8. Administrative and National Policy Requirements
9. Reporting, Audits, and Remedies for Non-Compliance

10. Resources

EPA will collect questions during the webinar today and respond to questions publicly on EPA's GGRF website (epa.gov/GGRF)

EPA is recording this Webinar and will publish the recording and the PowerPoint on EPA's GGRF website

10 | ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

| Category | Resource |
|--|--|
| General grant resources | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li data-bbox="560 421 2469 464">• EPA Grants Webinars (link)<li data-bbox="560 478 2469 521">• EPA Grants Policy Resources (link)<li data-bbox="560 535 2469 621">• EPA Grants Management Training for Applicants and Recipients (link)<li data-bbox="560 635 2469 664">• Grants.gov Resources on Assistance Listings (link) |
| Partnership agreements (e.g., subawards, solicitations) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li data-bbox="560 706 2469 749">• EPA Solicitation Clauses (link)<li data-bbox="560 763 2469 878">• Best Practice Guide for Procuring Services, Supplies, and Equipment Under The EPA Assistance Agreements (link)<li data-bbox="560 892 2469 935">• EPA Subaward Policy (link) |
| Budget guidance | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li data-bbox="560 992 2469 1035">• EPA Budget Detail Guidance (link)<li data-bbox="560 1049 2469 1088">• EPA Indirect Cost Guidance (link) |