



**21st Annual P3 Awards: A National Student  
Design Competition Focusing on People,  
Prosperity and the Planet  
Informational Webinar for Applicants**


**EPA P3 RFA**

**January 22, 2024**

- Review application information for the EPA RFA:  

“21st Annual P3 Awards: A National Student Design Competition Focusing on People, Prosperity and the Planet”
- Provide guidance for eligibility, submission, technical aspects of application process
- Answer questions about the application process



- Webinar Ground Rules
- Please hold your questions until all EPA presentations have been made.
- You may type your questions in the comments box. A black outline icon of a speech bubble with three horizontal lines inside, representing a comment or message box.
- Specific research projects or ideas should not be discussed but clarifying questions regarding what is written in the RFA announcement may be answered.
- Slides and Q&A transcript will be posted on the RFA website.
- Please keep yourself muted during the presentation.



## Agency Contacts

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## RFA & Award Information

- RFA will close on **February 21, 2024**, at 11:59:59 p.m. Eastern Time
- Estimated Number of Awards: 16 grants
- Anticipated Funding Amount: \$75K per grant, over 2 years
- Cost sharing is not required.
- Proposed budget must not exceed \$75K.
- Details in the **Section II. Award Information** of the RFA.

**Read the RFA very carefully, all necessary information is provided**

- **Program Structure**

- Single-phase Program
  - Teams of undergraduate and/or graduate students compete for single award
  - One application to complete project demonstration/implementation phase
    - More teams complete advance to completion
- Individual awards - \$75K for two years of research
- Teams attend the “Expo” in Year 2 of the award
- Innovation and Sustainability
- Climate Change and Environmental Justice



## P3 Strategic Principles

**Engage, educate, and empower** the next generation of scientists, engineers, and the greater academic and external communities the P3 approach.

**Support innovative projects** that implement the P3 Approach, especially in communities with the greatest needs

**Demonstrate the technologies** to prove their effectiveness and value

**Foster development of enterprises** to disseminate the technologies in the target communities and elsewhere



# Funding Opportunity Numbers (FON) & Research Areas



- Four separate Funding Opportunity Numbers (FON)
- Address one Research Area
  - Clean and Healthy Air (Q1)
  - Clean and Safe Water (Q2)
  - Safeguard and Revitalize Communities (Q3)
  - Ensure Safety of Chemicals (Q4)
- May submit more than one application
- Applications addressing Climate Change and Environmental Justice as applicable are encouraged

It is recognized that some applications may be appropriate for more than one FON/research area, but the applicant must identify a single FON/research area for application submission purposes. The FON/research area is used to determine the appropriate peer review panel to evaluate the technical merit of the project.



- **Clean and Healthy Air / Goal 4: Ensure Clean and Healthy Air for All Communities**
  - Objective 4.1: Improve Air Quality and Reduce Localized Pollution and Health Impacts
  - Objective 4.2: Reduce Exposure to Radiation and Improve Indoor Air
- **Clean and Safe Water/ Goal 5: Ensure Clean and Safe Water for All Communities**
  - Objective 5.1: Ensure Safe Drinking Water and Reliable Water Infrastructure
  - Objective 5.2: Protect and Restore Waterbodies and Watersheds

- **Safeguard and Revitalize Communities/ Goal 6: Safeguard and Revitalize Communities**
  - Objective 6.1: Clean Up and Restore Land for Productive Uses and Healthy Communities
  - Objective 6.2: Reduce Waste and Prevent Environmental Contamination
- **Ensure Safety of Chemicals/ Goal 7: Ensure Safety of Chemicals for People and the Environment**
  - Objective 7.1: Ensure Chemical and Pesticide Safety
  - Objective 7.2: Promote Pollution Prevention



## Q1 – Clean & Healthy Air

**EPA supports research that advances the science and provides the information critical to improving the Nation's air quality. EPA seeks projects that support research and demonstration of innovative and cost-effective solutions for improving air quality.**

### This can include but is not limited to:

- Assessment of human and ecosystem exposures and effects associated with air pollutants on individual, community, regional, and national scales.
- Development and evaluation of approaches to prevent and reduce air pollution, particularly sustainable, cost-effective, and innovative multipollutant and sector-based approaches.
- Human exposure and environmental modeling, monitoring, metrics, and information needed to inform air quality decision making at the state, Tribal and local level.



## Q2 – Clean & Safe Water

**EPA supports research that advances the science and innovative tools and information needed to protect and restore the Nation's watersheds, aquatic ecosystems, and water infrastructure to provide clean, adequate, and equitable supplies of water for optimum human health and ecosystem functions.**

### This can include but is not limited to:

- Assessing the distribution, composition, remediation and health impacts of known and emerging chemical and biological contaminants in drinking water.
- Innovative approaches or tools for managing ambient water quality to protect human health and aquatic life.



## Q3 – Safeguard & Revitalize Communities

EPA supports research that advances the science and innovative technologies needed to remediate and restore the Nation's most challenging and complex contaminated sites; to reduce the burden of contamination from the storage and management of waste while advancing the Agency's vision for a future paradigm that fundamentally disrupts the creation and flow of waste; and to revitalize communities from increased exposure to contaminants resulting from natural disasters and extreme events

### This can include but is not limited to:

- Innovative methods and technologies to characterize and to remove contaminants from environmental media (e.g., soil, water, air).
- Research to build community resilience to potential pollution resulting from natural disasters and extreme events.
- Development of innovative solutions to waste management, as well as techniques and technologies that allow for the beneficial reuse of products and materials.





## Q4 – Ensure Safety of Chemicals

**EPA supports research for evaluating and predicting impacts from chemical use and disposal and providing states and industries with information, tools, and methods to make better informed and more timely decisions about the thousands of chemicals in the U.S. EPA seeks projects that support research and demonstration of innovative and cost-effective solutions to chemical safety challenges.**

### This can include but is not limited to:

- Development of technologies and approaches that aid the collection and management of data/information and tools to assess their feasibility. Included are strategies to reduce or replace animal testing.
- Development of information technology and software tools to mine ever-expanding data sources for information on chemical exposures and toxicities.



## Example Outputs

Outputs should advance the scientific, technical and policy knowledge to enhance the human condition in communities – including small, rural, Tribal and/or underserved.

**Outputs may include** innovative technologies and new methods that address gaps in:

- Knowledge
- Software
- Data

**Outputs may be presented in:**

- Publications
- At the P3 Expo and Conferences

### Outcomes should support the P3 approach and aim to:

- Maintain or improve human health and well-being
- Advance economic competitiveness
- Protect and preserve the environment by effectively and efficiently using water, materials, and energy and minimizing the generation or emission of pollution or minimizing the use of toxic substances



## Innovation and Sustainability

- Research applications must include a discussion on how the proposed research is innovative (see Section IV.C.5.iii.a).
- Innovation for the purposes of this RFA is defined as the process of developing new or novel technology-based projects (methods, devices, creative solutions or concepts) that contribute to improved social, environmental, and economic well-being.
- Research applications must include a discussion on how the proposed research will seek sustainable solutions that protect the environment and strengthen our communities (see Section IV.C.5.iii.a). **Reviewers will draw from all of the above-mentioned innovation and sustainability definitions in the review/evaluation process of research applications** (see Section V.A).



# Eligibility Information

## Eligible to Apply (Section III. Eligibility Information)

Public and private institutions of higher learning located in the U.S, including .U.S. territories and possessions.

Students on teams supported by the institution receiving the grant must be enrolled in the college, university, or post-secondary

Institutions are allowed to submit more than one application where each application represents a unique design concept and student team.

Team's faculty advisor serves as the Principal Investigator (PI) and should be faculty at the granted institution.

Current graduate students and post docs **ARE NOT** eligible to act as PI.

- Entities that are **NOT eligible**
  - Profit-making companies
  - Foreign governments
  - International organizations
  - Federally-Funded Research and Development Centers (FFRDCs)
  - Federal agencies
  - Individuals, including those seeking fellowships



## Eligibility Information (3)

- Some non-eligible institutions/organizations may be on subawards of eligible applicants
- Note that eligible entities can partner with some ineligible entities under EPA's Subaward Policy, which can be found at <https://www.epa.gov/grants/grants-policy-issuance-gpi-16-01-epa-subaward-policy-epa-assistance-agreement-recipients>.
- For-profit companies are NOT eligible and may NOT be subawardees
- For-profit companies may be consultants:
  - Consultants are not to be considered key personnel on a grant application
  - Contracts/Consultants are subject to competitive procurement requirements (see Section (IV.C.5.iv.f))





## Eligibility Information (4)

- **Applications must be submitted via Grants.gov**
  - If you cannot access Grants.gov, see <https://www.epa.gov/grants/exceptions-grantsgov-submission-requirement>.
  - You must have [SAM.gov](https://www.sam.gov) registration ACTIVE in order to apply via [Grants.gov](https://www.grants.gov).
- **Applications that exceed federal funding or performance period time limits will not be reviewed.**
  - Period of performance should be within 2 years, start date is not the focus.
  - Research usually starts nine to twelve months after the close of the RFA.
- **Applications from ineligible organizations, or that are somehow not substantially compliant, will not be reviewed.**
- **Organizations and PIs may submit more than one application, as long as they are substantially different.**



# Application Materials and Process

- Section **IV. Application And Submission Information** of the RFA
- To apply under this solicitation, use the application package available at **Grants.gov**
- For further submission information see: **RFA Section IV.F. “Submission Instructions and other Submission Requirements”**. **Please follow the format in this section and do not separate your application into multiple attachments.**
- Note: All necessary forms are included in the electronic application package, with the exception of the Current and Pending support form, available at: **[Research Funding Opportunities: How to Apply and Required Forms](#)**

**Make sure to include the current and pending support form as part of the Project Narrative of your Grants.gov submission**



## Other Information

Please refer to the following RFA sections for additional Information:

### IV. Application And Submission Information

- Required application package materials including:
  - EPA Human Subjects Research Statement (HSRS)
  - Scientific Data Management Plan (SDMP)
  - Innovation and Sustainability

### V. Application Review Information

- Peer Review Criteria
- Relevancy Review Criteria



# Electronic Submissions

- Details are provided in Section IV.F. “Submission Instructions and Other Submission Requirements.”
- If you have trouble with Grants.gov, perform the following steps **before** the close of the RFA (Section IV.F.5.):
  - Contact Grants.gov Support Center before the application deadline date.
  - Document the Grants.gov ticket/case number.
  - Send an email with the FON EPA-G2024-P3-Q1-Q4 in the subject line to [electronic-grant-submissions@epa.gov](mailto:electronic-grant-submissions@epa.gov) before the application deadline time and date and must include the following:
    - i. Grants.gov ticket/case number(s)
    - ii. Description of the issue
    - iii. The entire application package in PDF format.

**\*\*Please attach ONLY ONE project narrative attachment labeled “Application” to ensure integrity of page and section ordering.\*\***

- You may resubmit an application before the deadline, but changes are not permitted after an RFA closes. If we see duplicates of the same application, we will process the most recent one.
- If you are experiencing a natural disaster and cannot submit on time, please contact us immediately.
- Letters of support or intent from EPA employees are prohibited, and we will remove such letters if we find them.

## Peer Review Criteria

1. Applications Quality
2. Alignment with P3 Strategic Principles
3. Educational and Interdisciplinary Aspects of Research
4. Budget and Project Management



# Application Review Information Cont'd

## Relevancy Review Criteria

1. The degree to which the proposed science/research is relevant to EPA's priorities as described in this solicitation and Goal 4: Ensure Clean and Healthy Air for All Communities; Goal 5: Ensure Clean and Safe Water for All Communities; Goal 6 Safeguard and Revitalize Communities; and Goal 7: Ensure Safety of Chemicals for People and the Environment, of EPA's [FY2022-2026 Strategic Plan](#).
2. The degree to which the research is primarily performed in the U.S. and the benefits of the research primarily accrue to the U.S.

See Section V for more detail on the above criteria and other review components

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**Thank you!**