



# *Advancing Sustainable Chemistry*

**EPA Science to Achieve Results (STAR) Funding Opportunity  
Funding Opportunity Number (FON): EPA-G2024-STAR-B1**

**Informational Webinar for Potential Applicants**

April 4, 2024


# Webinar Objectives

- Review application information in the funding opportunity:

## *Advancing Sustainable Chemistry*

- Provide guidelines for eligibility, submission, and technical aspects of application process
- Answer questions about the application process

# Webinar Ground Rules

- During the presentation, you may type your questions in the comment box 
- Questions will be addressed after the presentation
- No specific research project or idea can be discussed but clarifying questions regarding what is written in the funding opportunity announcement may be answered
- These slides are posted online on the funding opportunity webpage
- Please keep yourself muted during the presentation

# Agency Contacts

- Technical Contact:  
**Kyle Spatz, Project Officer**  
spatz.kyle@epa.gov; 202-604-3201
- Eligibility Contact:  
**Ron Josephson, Eligibility Officer**  
josephson.ron@epa.gov; 202-564-7823
- Electronic Submissions:  
electronic-grant-submissions@epa.gov
- If interested in being on the **Peer Review Panel**, rather than applying, please contact:  
**Julie Wanslow, Science Review Officer**  
wanslow.julie@epa.gov; 202-564-6521



# Funding Opportunity and Award Information

- Deadline for submission:
  - **May 29, 2024 at 11:59:59 pm Eastern Time**
- Funding level:
  - Anticipated total for all awards: \$6M
  - Estimated number of awards: 4
  - Funding per award: Up to \$1,500,000, including direct and indirect costs, with a maximum duration of 3 years

# Expected Outcomes

Data, methods, and systems that lead to actionable, scalable change toward chemistry, chemicals and products that support sustainable chemistry. Outcomes of the research may improve decision-making to protect human health and the environment from chemical pollution.

The overarching goal is to advance sustainable chemistry by developing and demonstrating methods, tools, and systems to evaluate sustainability of alternatives and processes to reduce impacts on human and environmental health. Projects will aim to standardize, improve and operationalize data sharing of chemicals, incorporate novel methods to develop and evaluate sustainable chemical alternatives, and apply life cycle analysis to sustainable chemistry products and processes.

# Expected Outputs

Expected outputs should include reports, presentations, and peer-reviewed journal publications documenting the scientific basis of the outcomes and other outputs of the research. Other outputs may include, but are not limited to:

- Novel and comprehensive scientific information, publications, data, and data sharing platforms that improve current understanding
- Reduction in waste and resource use resulting from chemical production
- Increased use in readily available and renewable materials in chemical production and optimization of reaction efficiency
- Improved life cycle analysis, decision-making, and management of chemical products; “cradle-to-grave”
- Chemical products and processes that are sustainable while promoting circularity, meeting societal needs, contributing to economic prosperity

# Research Areas

## Research Area 1: Data Sharing Platforms

Research in this area should aim to develop and/or expand next-generation data sharing platforms and tools to advance and implement sustainable chemistry.

## Research Area 2: New Approach Methodologies and Novel Data Streams

Research in this area should aim to develop, apply, and/or expand novel methods to design and/or evaluate chemicals (new or existing). *Note: This research area is not seeking novel chemicals or compounds, but rather methodologies and data to advance sustainable chemistry and to reduce the life cycle impacts of chemical products and processes.*

## Research Area 3: Evaluation of Specific Life Stages of a Chemical

Research in this area should advance the application of life-cycle analysis (LCA) to drive and inform sustainable chemistry and its practices.

***Applications should address at least two of the research areas***

**See topics within each research areas in Section I.E**



# Environmental Justice

- Environmental justice is the fair treatment and meaningful involvement of all people regardless of race, color, national origin, income, Tribal affiliation or disability, with respect to the development, implementation and enforcement of environmental laws, regulations and policies.
- In addition to research areas, applicants should demonstrate how their project will address the disproportionate and adverse human health, environmental, climate-related and other cumulative impacts, as well as the accompanying economic challenges of such impacts, resulting from industrial, governmental, commercial and/or other actions that have affected and/or currently affect the underserved communities.

**See Section I.E for additional information.**

# Innovation and Sustainability

- Innovation is defined as the process of making changes; a new method, custom or device
- The goal of sustainability is to create and maintain condition, under which humans and nature can exist in productive harmony, that permit fulfilling the social, economic and other requirements of present and future generations.

**See Sections I.E, IV.C.5.iii, and V.A for additional information.**

# Eligibility Information (1)

## Eligible Entities

Public and private nonprofit institutions/organizations in the U.S. and U.S. territories

Public and private nonprofit institutions of higher education in the U.S. and U.S. territories

Hospitals located in the U.S. and U.S. territories

State and local governments in the U.S. and U.S. territories

Federally Recognized Indian Tribal Governments

U.S. territories or possessions

# Eligibility Information (2)

- The following entities are **NOT** eligible:
  - Profit-making companies
  - Foreign governments
  - International organizations
  - Federally-funded research and development centers (FFRDCs)
  - Federal agencies
- Individuals are ineligible as well
- Eligible entities may partner with some ineligible entities under [EPA's Subaward Policy](#)
- 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
  - Contacts/Consultants are subject to competitive procurement requirements (see Section IV.C.5.iv.f)

# Eligibility Information (3)

- **Applications must be submitted via Grants.gov**
  - If you cannot access [Grants.gov](https://www.epa.gov/grants), 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 must be 3 years or less
  - Projects usually start nine to twelve months after the end of the solicitation period
- 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 the applications are substantially different

# Application Materials

- See Section IV. “Application and Submission Information”
- To apply under this solicitation, use the application package available at [Grants.gov](https://www.grants.gov)
  - For further submission information see: Section IV.F. “Submission Instructions and other Submission Requirements”
- All necessary forms are included in the electronic application package, with the exception of the current and pending support form, which is available at: [Research Funding Opportunities: How to Apply and Required Forms](#)
- Letters of support or intent from EPA employees are prohibited

# Application Materials (2)

Component	NOFO Section	Page Limit
¥Standard Form 424	IV.C.1	N/A
¥Key Contacts, EPA Form 5700-54; Additional Key Contacts, if appropriate	IV.C.2	N/A
¥EPA Form 4700-4, Preaward Compliance Review Report	IV.C.3	N/A
¥Budget (Standard Form 424A, Section B)	IV.C.4	N/A
Table of Content	IV.C.5.i	none
Abstract	IV.C.5.ii	1
Research Plan	IV.C.5.iii.a	18
Quality Assurance Statement (QAS)	IV.C.5.iii.b	3
Human Subjects Research Statement (HSRS)	IV.C.5.iii.c	4
Scientific Data Management Plan (SDMP)	IV.C.5.iii.d	2
References	IV.C.5.iii.f	none
Budget Justification	IV.C.5.iv	3
Resume	IV.C.5.v	2 per investigator/senior personnel
¥Current and Pending Support (w/ certification statements)	IV.C.5.vi	N/A
Letters of Intent/Letters of Support	IV.C.5.vii.a	1 per letter

¥Forms are available at <https://www.grants.gov> and/or <https://www.epa.gov/research-grants/research-funding-opportunities-how-apply-and-required-forms>

# Electronic Submissions

- See Section IV.F “Submission Instructions and Other Submission Requirements.”
- If you experience difficulty with [Grants.gov](https://www.grants.gov), do the following steps **before** the end of the solicitation period (Section IV.F.5.):
  - Contact [Grants.gov](https://www.grants.gov) Support Center
  - Document the Grants.gov ticket/case number.
  - Send an email with the FON (EPA-G2024-STAR-D1) in the subject line to [electronic-grant-submissions@epa.gov](mailto:electronic-grant-submissions@epa.gov) , including the following information:
    - i. Grants.gov ticket/case number(s)
    - ii. Description of the issue
    - iii. The entire application package in PDF format.
- You may resubmit an application before the deadline, but changes are not permitted after the solicitation period ends. If we see duplicates of the same application, we will process the most recent one
- If you are experiencing an emergency and cannot submit on time, please contact us immediately



# Application Review Information

- **Peer Review Criteria** (see Section V.A for details, including sub-criteria)
  1. Research Merit
  2. Responsiveness
  3. Project Management
  4. Environmental Justice
  5. Other Factors (innovation, sustainability)
- **Relevancy Review Criteria** (Section V.B)
  1. The degree to which the proposed science/research is relevant to EPA's priorities as described in Goal 7: Ensure Safety of Chemicals for People and the Environment, Objectives 7.1: Ensure Chemical and Pesticide Safety, and Objective 7.2: Promote Pollution Prevention, of [EPA's FY2022-2026 Strategic Plan](#)
  2. The degree to which results (i.e., outputs/outcomes) of the research have broad application or affect large segments of society
  3. The degree to which the research is designed to produce data and methods that can immediately and/or with little to no translation be utilized by the public, states, and tribes to better assess or manage environmental problems
- See **Section V** for more detail on the above criteria and other review components

# Agency Contacts (2)

- Technical Contact:  
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[wanslow.julie@epa.gov](mailto:wanslow.julie@epa.gov); 202-564-6521



# Q & A

# Thank you!