

# **EPA Grants Webinar Series: Competition Process**

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Grants Competition Advocate's Office  
Office of Grants and Debarment

# Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) Changes

NOFOs published after Sept 30, 2024, will have a substantially different format due to an [update to 2 CFR 200](#).

- This webinar follows the current format, which expires 9/30/24
- The new format will be:
  1. Basic Information
  2. Eligibility
  3. Program Description
  4. Application Contents and Format
  5. Submission Requirements and Deadlines
  6. Application Review Information
  7. Award Notices
  8. Post Award Requirements and Administration
  9. Other Information

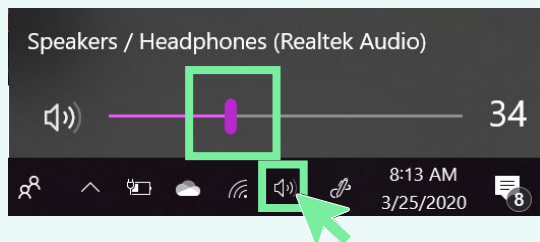
# Housekeeping



## Meeting Audio

- ✓ Attendees must use **Device Audio** (computer, headset, tablet, or smart phone)
- ✓ Presenter Audio Only (like a TV broadcast)
- ✓ If you cannot hear, ensure your system/device audio is turned up and not muted and that you have not paused the broadcast

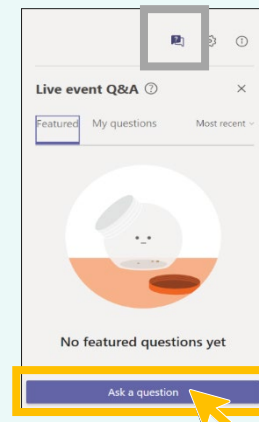
*Computer audio is located at the bottom right of the Windows desktop.*



## Ask a Question

- ✓ Ask a question under Live Event Q&A panel
- ✓ Click “Ask a question”

*Q&A panel is located on the top right side of the Live Event window.*



## Closed Captions/Translation

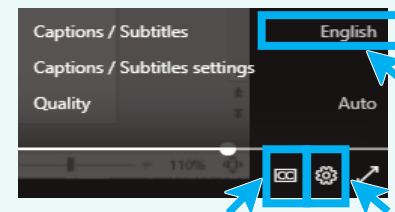


Turn on/off Live Captions



Change Settings/Language

*CC panel is located on the bottom right side of the Live Event window.*



# New Recipient Training Requirement

All new applicants/recipients must have at least one staff person complete:

- [EPA Grants Management Training for Applicants and Recipients](#)
- [How to Develop a Budget](#)

Does not apply to applicants/recipients that submitted their application prior to March 4, 2024.

Current recipients are encouraged to take the trainings.

See [RAIN-2024-G01](#) for more information.

# EPA Grants Update Listserv

Sign up today to receive timely notifications about:

- new guidance and information posted on this website
- new trainings and webinars available to potential applicants and recipients
- changes in grants management requirements
- other pertinent general grants information

Subscribe [here](#).



# Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA) and Inflation Reduction Act (IRA)

For information on how EPA is implementing the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (also known as the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law) and the Inflation Reduction Act, please visit:

<https://www.epa.gov/infrastructure>

<https://www.epa.gov/inflation-reduction-act>

For information on IIJA and IRA Funding Opportunities:

<https://www.epa.gov/inflation-reduction-act/epa-funding-announcements-bipartisan-infrastructure-law-and-inflation>

# **EPA Trainings for Applicants and Recipients**

# Grants Management Training for Applicants and Recipients

Module 1: Introduction

Module 2: Demonstrating Financial Management System and Internal Controls Capability

Module 3: Applying for a Grant

Module 4: Accepting a Grant Award

Module 5: Managing a Grant

Module 6: Closing Out a grant

Check it out: <https://www.epa.gov/grants/epa-grants-management-training-applicants-and-recipients>



# How to Develop a Budget Training

Module 1: General Principles and Considerations

Module 2: Direct Costs

Module 3: Other Direct Cost

Module 4: Indirect Costs

Check it out: <https://www.epa.gov/grants/how-develop-budget>

# Competition Process

*The basics on competing for EPA assistance programs*

March 2024

# Competitive Process

1. EPA prepares announcement
2. EPA posts announcement on program office website and grants.gov
3. EPA receives applications from applicants
4. EPA evaluates applications and makes selections
5. EPA Issues awards

Note: Award Official will check the Federal Awardee Performance and Integrity Information System (FAPIIS) prior to award to ensure applicant is qualified (see 2 CFR 200.206)

# Finding EPA Competitive Opportunities on Grants.gov

Find current competitive opportunities

- Synopses includes important info: funding amounts, eligible entities, submission deadline, and more

Searchable by Assistance Listing number (CFDA number), keyword, agency, type of entity, etc

- [Discretionary Competitive Grant Programs at EPA](#)

Sign up for automatic notifications of opportunities



## Informative status

**Reminder:** Federal financial assistance award recipients are a crucial part of safeguarding Federal funds and maintaining a secure cyber environment. Check out our [latest blog post](#) to learn more.

## Your Team. Your Workspace.

Applying for a funding opportunity is easier and more efficient when your team collaborates. Grants.gov Workspace makes it possible.

[Apply for a Grant Using Workspace](#)



# SEARCH GRANTS

<https://grants.gov/search-grants>

## BASIC SEARCH CRITERIA:

Keyword(s):

Funding Opp #:

CFDA Number:

SEARCH

SORT BY: Open Date (Descending)

DATE RANGE: All Available

## OPPORTUNITY STATUS:

☒ Open (2065) ☐ Closed (1396) ☐ Archived (19938)

## FUNDING INSTRUMENT TYPE:

☒ All Funding Instruments  
☐ Cooperative Agreement (568)  
☐ Grant (1630)  
☐ Other (43)  
☐ Procurement Contract (42)

## ELIGIBILITY:

☒ All Eligibilities  
☐ City or township governments (1008)  
☐ County governments (1018)  
☐ For profit organizations other than small businesses (952)

## CATEGORY:

☒ All Categories  
☐ Agriculture (31)  
☐ Arts (see 'Cultural Affairs' in CFDA) (6)  
☐ Business and Commerce (15)  
☐ Community Development (29)

## AGENCY:

☒ All Agencies  
☐ All Agency for International Development (63)  
☐ All Corporation for National and Community

## 1 - 25 OF 2065 MATCHING RESULTS:

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Funding Opportunity #	Opportunity Title	Agency	Open Date ↓	Close Date
<a href="#">AMS-NOP-13-0061</a>	Agricultural Management Assistance Organic Certification Cost-Share Program FY 2013	Agricultural Marketing Service	08/01/2013	08/30/2013
<a href="#">SA-SYLEP-800-13-GR-51</a>	Saudi Young Leaders Exchange Program	U.S. Mission to Saudi Arabia	08/01/2013	08/30/2013
<a href="#">G13AS00105</a>	Cooperative Ecosystem Studies Unit, Gulf Coast CESU	Geological Survey	08/01/2013	08/12/2013
<a href="#">G13AS00109</a>	Cooperative Ecosystem Studies Unit, Great Basin CESU	Geological Survey	08/01/2013	08/12/2013
<a href="#">G13AS00110</a>	Cooperative Ecosystem Studies Unit, Great Lakes Northern Forest CESU	Geological Survey	08/01/2013	08/12/2013
<a href="#">NPS-13-NERO-0107</a>	Assessment of natural resource conditions at Hopewell Furnace NHS, Gettysburg NMP, and Eisenhower NHS	National Park Service	08/01/2013	08/06/2013
<a href="#">PAR-13-300</a>	NLM Express Research Grants in Biomedical Informatics (R01)	National Institutes of Health	08/01/2013	09/07/2013
<a href="#">PAR-13-301</a>	The Role of the Cytoskeleton in Cellular Aging (R21/R33)	National Institutes of Health	08/01/2013	09/07/2013
<a href="#">G13AS00106</a>	Cooperative Ecosystem Studies Unit, Gulf Coast CESU	Geological Survey	08/01/2013	08/12/2013
<a href="#">PAR-13-295</a>	Biomarkers: Bridging Pediatric and Adult Therapeutics (R21)	National Institutes of Health	08/01/2013	09/07/2013
<a href="#">PAR-13-296</a>	Biomarkers: Bridging Pediatric and Adult Therapeutics (R01)	National Institutes of Health	08/01/2013	09/07/2013
<a href="#">PAR-13-299</a>	Biomarkers: Bridging Pediatric and Adult Therapeutics (R03)	National Institutes of Health	08/01/2013	09/07/2013
<a href="#">L13AS00170</a>	BLM AK CESU - Scenario Planning for Energy and Resources Development	Bureau of Land Management	08/01/2013	08/23/2013
<a href="#">NOAA-NMFS-PRPO-2014-2003832</a>	FY 2014 Species Recovery Grants to Tribes	Department of Commerce	08/01/2013	10/29/2013
<a href="#">NOAA-NMFS-PRPO-2014-2003811</a>	Species Recovery Grants to States (Section 6 Program)	Department of Commerce	08/01/2013	10/29/2013
<a href="#">NNH13ZDA001N-PMDAP</a>	ROSES 2013: Planetary Mission Data Analysis Program	NASA Headquarters	08/01/2013	10/11/2013
<a href="#">PA-FPH-14-022</a>	FY14 Region 9 Nevada (not including Clark, Douglas or Washoe counties) Announcement of Anticipated Availability of Funds for Family Planning Services Grants	Office of the Assistant Secretary for Health	08/01/2013	04/01/2014

# EPA Competitive Opportunities

## EPA Program Office Websites

- In addition to Grants.gov, some program office websites have funding opportunity information (ex: Office of Air and Radiation: <http://www.epa.gov/grants/air-grants-and-funding>)

## Sam.gov Assistance Listings (formerly CFDA):

- <https://sam.gov/content/assistance-listings>
- Read more about assistance programs
- Typical funding amounts, types of projects funded, eligible entities, and more



# Assistance Listings

Assistance listings are detailed public descriptions of federal programs that provide grants, loans, scholarships, insurance, and other types of assistance awards. You may browse assistance listings across all government agencies to learn about potential funding sources.

If you are looking for grant opportunities, visit our partner site at [grants.gov](https://www.grants.gov).

Legacy Website



## Federal Users

Manage assistance listings as a federal assistance coordinator.

[Sign in to get started](#)

[Go to Assistance Listings Federal home](#)

## Search Assistance Listings

[Advanced Search](#)

e.g. 64.106, school lunches



☒ Show active only

Getting started searching assistance listings



Using assistance listings advanced search



## Download Data Files

[How to use assistance listings data files](#)

[Go to assistance listings data](#)

## Help

[Frequently Asked Questions](#)

[Glossary Terms](#)

[Videos](#)

## Video: Basic Searching

VIDEO TRAINING:  
How to Search







## Assistance Listing

Overview

Authorizations

Financial Information

Criteria for Applying

Applying for Assistance

Compliance Requirements

Contact Information

History

Follow

## ASSISTANCE LISTINGS

# Surveys, Studies, Investigations, Demonstrations, and Training Grants - Section 1442 of the Safe Drinking Water Act

Assistance Listing

Department/Ind. Agency

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

CFDA Number

66.424

Related Federal Assistance

[66.510](#) , [66.436](#) , [66.716](#)

[View available opportunities on Grants.gov related to this Assistance Listing](#)

## Overview

### Objectives

To support developing, expanding, planning, implementing, and improving environmental training associated with source water and drinking water. To develop and expand capabilities of programs to carry out the purposes of the Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA). Funding Priorities - Fiscal Year 2021: Funding priorities include providing assistance for the following training activities: (1) training personnel who manage or operate public water systems; (2) training personnel for occupations involving the public health aspects of providing safe drinking water; (3) training to develop and expand the capabilities of states and municipalities to carry out the SDWA; and (4) expanding, planning, implementing, and improving training to enable small public water systems to meet the requirements of SDWA.

## Examples of Funded Projects

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**Fiscal Year 2021:** Funding will continue to support: training states in effective implementation of SDWA requirements; training assistance to states in ground water protection and conservation; developing utility planning tools and training; capacity development support and training; training for source water protection through prevention; expanding, planning, implementing, and improving training to enable small public water systems to meet the requirements of SDWA.

## Assistance Listing Description

Funding supports training associated with source water and drinking water, and projects to develop and expand capabilities of programs to carry out the purposes of the Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA). Assistance is for expanding, planning, implementing, and improving training to enable small public water systems to meet the requirements of SDWA.

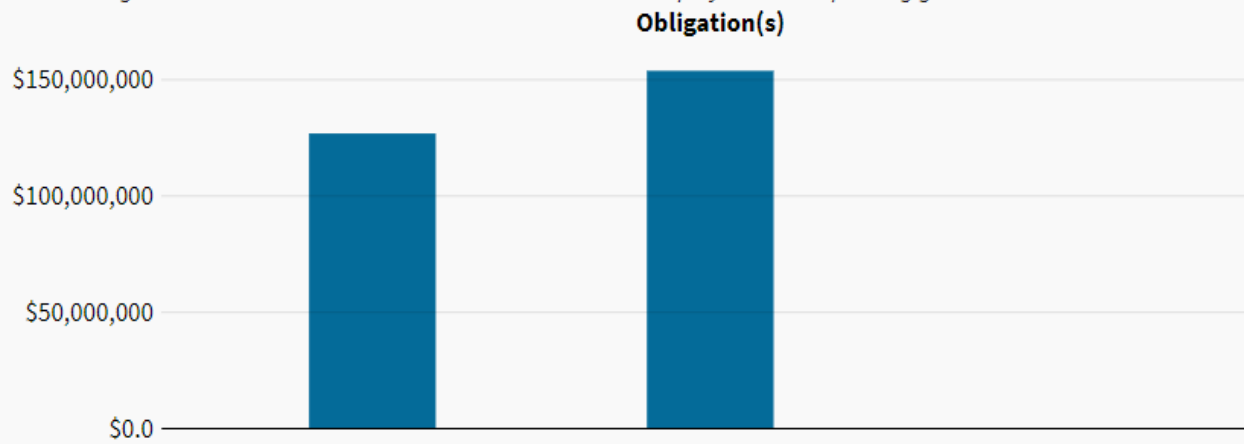
## Authorizations

National Environmental Policy Act , Section 102(2)(F)

Title Safe Drinking Water Act, Section 1442, as amended, Public Law 104-182

## Financial Information

*These funding amounts do not reflect the award amounts that are displayed on USASpending.gov*



# **Before you Apply**

SAM.gov and Grants.gov Registration

# Before you Apply to an EPA Competitive Opportunity: SAM.gov Registration

If you want to apply for an EPA Competitive Opportunity, you need an active SAM.gov registration.

- As part of registration, SAM.gov will assign you a Unique Entity ID.
  - If you do not want to apply directly for awards, then you do not need a registration. If you only conduct certain types of transactions, such as reporting as a sub-awardee, you may not need to complete a registration. You may only need a Unique Entity ID, which is NOT the same as a SAM.gov registration.
- To see comprehensive instructions and checklist for entity registration, download the SAM.gov [Entity Registration Checklist \(PDF\)](#).
- A key part of the SAM.gov registration is identifying an [EBiz point of contact](#) (name and email address). This is key as you move forward to register in Grants.gov and apply.
- Please note that SAM.gov utilizes [Login.gov](#) since 2018. Login.gov is a free secure sign in service used by the public to sign in to participating government agencies system. The public can use the same username and password to access any agency that partners with Login.gov. This streamlines processes and eliminates the need to remember multiple usernames and passwords.

# Getting to the Entity Registration Checklist...



Sign In

Home Search Data Bank Data Services Help

## Get Started with Registration and the Unique Entity ID

Submitting a registration and getting a Unique Entity ID are FREE.

### Before You Get Started

Review these steps to choose which option is right for you. You can register to bid and apply for federal awards or you can request a Unique Entity ID only without having to complete a registration.



#### 1 About Registration

If you want to bid for federal awards as a prime awardee, you need a **registration**.

A registration allows you to bid on government contracts and apply for federal assistance. As part of your registration, we will assign you a Unique Entity ID.

To see comprehensive instructions and checklist for entity registration, download our [Entity Registration Checklist](#).

Entity Information Home

### Register Your Entity or Get a Unique Entity ID

Register your entity or get a Unique Entity ID to get started doing business with the federal government.

Get Started

Renew Entity

Check Entity Status

### Already Registered?

You must renew your registration every 365 days to keep it active. You can make updates

# Before you Apply to an EPA Competitive Opportunity: Grants.gov Registration

You completed SAM.gov Registration and identified an [EBiz point of contact](#). Now what?

- Once you have registered in SAM.gov, and before applying for a funding opportunity, you need to register an account with Grants.gov.
  - For instructions, please view the [How to Register with Grants.gov](#) video.
- Once you have a Grants.gov account, users may [add a profile](#) to associate with an applicant organization. See [Applicant Registration](#) for more details.
- Prior to being able to complete or submit application packages in grants.gov on behalf of your organization, your organization's EBiz POC must authorize roles. This safeguards your organization from individuals who may attempt to submit grant application packages without permission.
- If you do not have the correct roles assigned by your organization in Grants.gov, you may receive a “Bad Request” error when initiating the application process. Please contact Grants.gov support if you encounter this issue.
- Please note that Grants.gov utilizes [Login.gov](#) since February 2022. ([RAIN-2022-G03](#))



# **Be in the Know: Grants.gov Subscriptions, Workspace, and Additional Resources**

# Grants.gov Subscriptions

You have a Grants.gov account and want to know the latest about grant opportunities: SUBSCRIBE!

When you create a Grants.gov account, you can customize the type of email notifications you receive:

- news updates about system enhancements and training resources
- notifications about saved searches
- new funding opportunities (daily email of all new grant opportunities)
- Opportunities (notifications when changes are made to a specific opportunity's forecast, synopsis and/or package)
- Saved searches (notifications for new opportunities matching saved search criteria)



**Connect**

**Manage Subscriptions**

Newsletter Archive

Social Media



## APPLICANT REGISTRATION

- **Manage Subscriptions**
  - Newsletter Archive
- **Social Media**

## MANAGE SUBSCRIPTIONS

Customize your Grants.gov opportunity subscriptions, including expanded criteria for saved searches and the ability to view and manage existing subscriptions. To subscribe to Grants.gov email notifications, users must first create a Grants.gov account. [Don't worry - the account registration process is quick and easy.](#)



### Custom Email Notifications

When you create a Grants.gov account, you can customize the type of email notifications you receive. Log in and click the links below to subscribe to news updates about system enhancements, notifications about saved searches and new funding opportunities, and more.

[» Subscribe to Grants.gov News](#)

Receive Alerts and Newsletters containing updates about system enhancements and training resources

[» Subscribe to all new grant opportunities](#)

Receive a daily email listing all new grant opportunities

[» Subscribe to opportunities](#)

Receive notifications when changes are made to a specific opportunity's forecast, synopsis and/or packages

[» Subscribe to saved searches for grant opportunities](#)

Receive notifications for new opportunities matching saved search criteria

For more information on Grants.gov Subscriptions, please review the [Connect with](#)

# Applying on Grants.gov Workspace

Workspace is the only method of submitting an application (unless you have an S2S connection)

- Reuse forms and auto-populate data
- Collaborative
- Detect errors earlier
- Best submission process for users with connectivity issues

Read more about [Workspace](#) and view the [Workspace Video Series](#)

# Other Resources

New to Federal Grants?:

[How to Register to Apply for Grants](#)

[Workspace Information](#)

[Fraud, Waste, and Abuse: Prevention, Detection, and Reporting for Federal, State, Local, and Tribal Administrators](#)

Grants.gov:

[Applicant Resources](#)

[Grants.gov YouTube Channel](#)

EPA-Specific Grants:

[Subscribe to EPA Grants Update Listserv](#)

[Grants Webinars](#)

[EPA Grants Website](#)

# Preparing Applications

- Each funding opportunity announcement has unique instructions and requirements
- Read the announcement for eligibility information, deadlines, application content, review criteria, and more
- [EPA's Competition Policy](#)
- Technical Assistance Available
  - [Environmental Justice Thriving Communities Technical Assistance Centers](#)
  - [Community Change Grants Technical Assistance](#)

# **EPA Funding Opportunity Announcements**

# Types of Announcements

- Request for Application (RFA)
  - Submission includes all forms and certifications necessary for award
  - EPA's standard type of solicitation
  - For a list of forms, see [RAIN 2018-G07 Full Application Submission with Initial Proposal Submission Requirement](#)
- Other less common types:
  - Request for Proposals (RFP): Abbreviated application: workplan and a few forms
  - Request for Initial Proposals (RFIP): Consists of 2 Phases
    - (1) EPA receives initial proposals
    - (2) EPA requests full proposals from highest ranking applicants

# Announcement Contents/Highlights

- See [Appendix I to 2 CFR 200](#) for information on what is included in Federal funding opportunities
- Section I: Program Description
  - Describes:
  - Types of projects
  - What the application has to address



# Announcement Content/Highlights

## Section II: Federal Award Information

- Expected number of awards
- Expected funding amount

## Section III: Eligibility Info

- List of eligible entities
- Cost share/matching requirements if any
- Threshold eligibility criteria:
- May include legal, policy, relevance, programmatic, administrative, and/or financial criteria that have the effect of making an applicant, application, or project eligible or ineligible for award

## Additional Provisions For Applicants Incorporated Into The Solicitation



## EPA Grants

[CONTACT US](#)[EPA Grants Home](#)[Open Opportunities –  
Grants.gov](#) **EXIT**[Grant Programs-SAM.gov](#)  
**EXIT**[Overview for Applicants and  
Recipients](#)[How to Apply](#)[Grant Forms](#)[Competition](#)[Training](#)[Webinars](#)[Policy, Regulations and  
Guidance](#)[Introduction](#)[Uniform Grants Guidance  
\(UGG\)](#)[Public Policy Requirements](#)

# EPA Solicitation Clauses

This page identifies additional provisions that apply to competitive grant solicitations and/or awards made under solicitations, including, but not limited to, those related to confidential business information, contracts and subawards under grants, proposal assistance and communications, reporting and use of information concerning recipient integrity and performance, unique entity identifier/DUNS, SAM, disputes, and administrative capability. These solicitation clauses are important and applicants must review them when preparing applications under solicitations.

Please note that as clauses are updated, prior versions of the clauses are archived and posted on this page. The clauses applicable to a specific solicitation are based on the version of the clauses in effect as of the closing date of the solicitation. It is possible they will be updated during the open period before the solicitation is closed; therefore, to ensure that applicants are aware of the most current version of the clauses applicable to the solicitation they are applying to they should periodically check this page to see if the clauses applicable to their solicitation have been updated.

## For Solicitations that Close on or after June 6, 2022

- [EPA Solicitation Clauses \(2022/06/06\)](#): Applies to solicitations that close on or after June 6, 2022.

# EPA Solicitation Clauses

Except as noted all clauses apply to every award and/or solicitation. Questions about the applicability of any of these clauses should be raised to the EPA contact identified in the solicitation.

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# Announcement Highlights

## Section IV: Application and Submission Info

- Content and form of application
  - Address Section I (program info), Section III (threshold criteria) and Section V (evaluation criteria)
- Submission method (electronically through grants.gov is required for initial applications)
- Submission dates and times
  - Open period is typically 45 calendar days
- Pay attention to deadlines and page limits

[Additional Provisions For Applicants Incorporated Into The Solicitation](#)

# Announcement Highlights

## Section V: Application Review Info

- Ranking criteria
  - Criteria used to evaluate applications
  - Must address ranking criteria in applications such as
    - Programmatic Capability
    - Past Performance under grants
    - Environmental Results-plan for measuring progress towards achieving outputs/outcomes
    - Timely Expenditure of Grant Funds
    - Budget and Leveraging
    - Technical approach
  - Other factors (in some announcements)
- Review and selection process

[Additional Provisions For Applicants Incorporated Into The Solicitation](#)

# Announcement Highlights

## Section VI: Federal Award Administration Info

- Award notices
- [Additional Provisions For Applicants Incorporated Into The Solicitation](#)
- Reporting requirements
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# Announcement Highlights

## Section VII: Federal Awarding Agency Contacts

- Who to contact with questions about the funding opportunity

## Section VIII: Other Information

- This section is optional



# Modifications

EPA occasionally modifies announcements

- Due dates, clarification of requirements, etc.

## Automatic Notification

- Sign up on Grants.gov for automatic notification of modifications to specific announcements
- Modifications posted on Grants.gov

# **Communicating with Applicants: Do's and Don'ts**

# Communications with Applicants

- See Section 11 of the [Competition Policy](#)
- Limitations on what can be discussed and when
- Pre-proposal Assistance
  - Many programs will post Q&As on a website
  - Some programs offer conference calls/webinars where applicants can ask questions
  - This type of information is usually in Section IV or VII of announcements, if applicable

# Communications with Applicants

## EPA **can**:

- Answer applicant eligibility questions-if uncertain if you are eligible or your project is eligible ask before proposal submission
- Clarify info on administrative aspects of proposal submission
- Respond to requests for clarification of the announcement

NOTE: Clarifications that result in changes to the announcement must be communicated (via modification to the announcement) to all potential applicants

# Communications with Applicants

EPA **cannot**:

- Offer to write applications for applicants
- Review or comment on draft applications
- Provide information on the Agency's approach to evaluating applications beyond what is described in Section V of the announcement
- Provide a competitive advantage to any applicant

# Evaluation and Selection

EPA Program Offices evaluate each eligible application using the criteria in Section V and make selections based on ranking and Other Factors listed in the funding opportunity announcement.

Applicants that are ineligible or not selected will be notified and have 15 days to request a debriefing. See [EPA's Solicitation Clauses](#) for information on requesting debriefings and filing disputes.

Selected applicants will be notified and instructed on next steps.

# **Selection Notification Is Not Approval to Begin Work**

Selected applications undergo additional review to ensure compliance with programmatic and administrative grant requirements.

Only a Notice of Award signed by an EPA Award Official legally obligates federal funds and indicates the recipient can begin work.

# Questions?

Elizabeth January

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