

FISCAL YEAR 2025 EPA REGION 5 TRIBAL AIR FUNDING ANNOUNCEMENT

DATE: August 28, 2024

TO: All federally recognized Tribal governments and Tribal consortia located within Region 5 including Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, Minnesota, Ohio, or Wisconsin

FROM: U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 5, Air and Radiation Division

SUBJECT:

Funding Announcement Guidelines for FY 2025 Tribal Air Funding

SUMMARY:

The Region 5 Air and Radiation Division is accepting proposals from federally recognized Tribal governments and Tribal consortia located within Region 5 including Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, Minnesota, Ohio or Wisconsin. The CAA Amendments of 1990 established a funding mechanism to assist Tribes in addressing air pollution and prevention activities within their Bureau of Indian Affairs approved jurisdictional boundaries.

Section 103 of the CAA, 42 U.S.C. § 7403; Assistance Listing 66.038: Training, Investigations, and Special Purpose Activities of Federally-Recognized Indian Tribes Consistent with the Clean Air Act, Tribal Sovereignty, and the Protection and Management of Air Quality, directs EPA to support short-term projects aimed at conducting and promoting research, investigations, experiments, surveys, and studies relating to the causes, effects (including health and welfare effects), extent, prevention and control of air pollution. In the past, these activities have included air quality characterization studies, identification and investigation of air pollution sources, air quality monitoring baseline studies, training, and community education and outreach projects. These are standalone grants.

Section 105 of the CAA, 42 U.S.C § 7405; Assistance Listing 66.001: Air Pollution Control Program Support, authorizes EPA to make grants for implementing programs for the prevention and control of air pollution or implementation of national primary and secondary ambient air quality standards. For the purposes of this section, “implementing” means any activity related to the planning, developing, establishing, carrying out, improving or maintaining of such programs.

Tribal grantees that have been approved for Section 105 may include their air program activities and funding in a PPG. *If your Tribe is a recipient of a grant under CAA Section 105 authority or if your Air Pollution Control Program activities and funding are included in a PPG, you do not have to submit a proposal in response to this announcement. CAA Section 105 and PPG grantees may apply for the amount received in a prior year at the time when their full PPG applications are due. However, if you wish to be considered for activities and funds beyond what your Tribe*

received in a previous year or if you wish to apply for SIRG, you may submit a proposal at this time. Additionally, Tribes including their 105 grants in PPGs may submit a workplan proposal covering the full duration of the PPG project and budget period. Please note that a budget for FY 2025 has not yet been approved. Therefore, extra funding beyond the previous year's allocation is not guaranteed.

State Indoor Radon Grant was authorized under the 1988 Indoor Radon Abatement Act, 15 U.S.C. §2661 et seq; Assistance Listing 66.032: State Indoor Radon Grants, through an annual appropriation aimed to reduce radon health risks in response to growing national concern over the threat of radon gas. This authorization has since expired and new appropriations have been requested by EPA annually, which have thus far been granted. Section 306(a) authorizes the EPA Administrator to award grants to SIRG recipient “for the purpose of assisting the State in the development and implementation of programs for the assessment and mitigation of radon.” In 2001, revisions to 40 CFR Part 35, State and Local Assistance, (35.700 through 35.708) added Tribes and Intertribal Consortia to the State Indoor Radon Grants program as Environmental Program Grants.

EPA anticipates awarding grants to Tribes and Tribal consortia for air quality activities under the Clean Air Act, Sections 103 and 105, SIRG, and Performance Partnership Grant authorities. Priority for funding will be based on sufficient evidence of ongoing air pollution concern and Tribal capacity to address it. EPA will prioritize funding to assure base funding for federally recognized Region 5 Tribes and consortia having established eligibility under CAA Section 105 and completing existing CAA Section 103 projects. EPA will then consider additional Tribal projects, giving precedence to those that address serious, unique or emerging air quality needs and issues.

FUNDING/AWARDS:

Clean Air Act 103 and 105

The total funding estimated to be available for Region 5 Tribal project and program grants with FY 2025 funds is \$1,100,000 - \$1,500,000. EPA anticipates awarding 12-17 grants, ranging from approximately \$40,000 to \$140,000. Proposals approved for funding under Section 103 of the CAA can be 100% federally funded and no cost share or match is required. Standalone proposals under Section 105 of the CAA are required to provide a 40% match under [40 C.F.R. 35.573(b)] and are subject to Maintenance of Effort (MOE) requirements unless approved for Treatment as a State, in which a reduced match of 5% is required [40 C.F.R. 35.573(a)]. However, in 2021 a Class Exception to the Cost Share Requirements for Tribal and Intertribal Consortia Performance Partnership Grants was promulgated at 40 CFR 35.536. The class exception applies to new Tribal or intertribal consortia PPGs and new funding awarded via supplemental amendments to Tribal or intertribal consortia PPGs awarded on or after October 1, 2021.

State Indoor Radon Grants

EPA anticipates awarding Region 5 Tribal SIRG environmental grants ranging from approximately \$15,000 to \$60,000, depending on the number of Tribal applicants. Tribes submitting proposals under Section 306 of the TSCA are required to provide a match of 25% for the first year and 40% for the second year and each year thereafter. If the Tribe elects to incorporate the SIRG program into a Performance Partnership Grant (PPG), the required match is reduced to 0%.

Region 5 encourages Tribes who have successfully managed air grants for 3 or more years to submit multi-year proposals. The intent is to reduce administrative burdens for the Tribe. If the Tribe submits a multi-year request, the Tribe should identify the amount of funds they are requesting for each year.

The number of grants Region 5 will fund from this announcement will be based on air and Tribal program priorities, the quality of the project and/or program proposals, cost, and project reasonableness/feasibility (not duplicative of existing efforts being funded under other federal grants), environmental conditions, extent of air quality issues, the Tribe's capacity to implement the project, and linkage to EPA's Strategic Plan.

This announcement is subject to availability of funds. EPA reserves the right to partially fund submissions by funding discrete activities, portions or phases of the proposed project or program. EPA reserves the right to make additional awards under this announcement, consistent with Agency policy, if additional funding becomes available after original selections. Additionally, EPA reserves the right to reject all proposals and make no awards in response to this announcement.

DATES:

Announcement date:	August 28, 2024
Proposals due:	November 1, 2024
Projected Notification to Tribes:	December 13, 2024
Complete applications due in grants.gov:	January 31, 2025

Proposals must be received via e-mail no later than 6:00pm, Central Time, November 1, 2024.

Late proposals will not be considered.

PURPOSE:

The purpose of this grant program is to provide funding for Tribal air pollution control projects and programs. Projects may include conducting and promoting the coordination and acceleration of investigations, experiments, surveys, and studies relating to the causes, effects (including health and welfare effects), extent, prevention, and control of air pollution.

Eligible Project Activities:Clean Air Act 103 and 105

Eligible activities for funding under Section 103 include but are not limited to: ambient (outdoor) and indoor air quality management research investigations, experiments, assessments, and studies relating to the causes, effects (including health and welfare effects), extent, prevention, and control of air pollution. Eligible activities for funding under Section 105 include but are not limited to: implementing programs for the prevention and control of air pollution or implementation of NAAQS (for the purposes of this section, “implementing” means any activity related to the planning, developing, establishing, carrying out, improving, or maintaining of such programs).

Examples of these activities include:

- Proposals to build Tribal air quality permit review and comment capacity related to energy production, mining, and other facilities of concern.
- Proposals to assist in building technical capacity in other areas, such as ambient air monitoring and dispersion modeling, which foster collaboration and enable leveraging of limited resources in Indian Country (building capacity includes but is not limited to the activities preceding; however, having a third party do the work is not considered building Tribal capacity).
- Proposals that tie into the Tribe’s climate adaptation (action taken to prepare and adjust to climate change impacts) and/or climate mitigation (actions limiting magnitude of climate change and reducing greenhouse gas emissions) plans and efforts. A potential adaptation action includes “air purifiers deployed to better prepare community for increased wildfire activity due to climate change” and a potential mitigation action includes “installation of solar panels increase Tribal energy sovereignty and decrease need to rely on fossil fuels.”

EPA will consider collaborative and individual proposals.

State Indoor Radon Grants

Eligible activities for SIRG funding consideration include but are not limited to:

- Educating Tribal members, Tribal Councils, Tribal housing authorities, builders, local building code officials, home inspectors, real estate professionals, medical professionals and others about radon.
- Providing training and technical support on radon testing and mitigation, as well as identifying and spreading best practices for building homes, schools and other buildings that are radon resistant.
- Encouraging a Tribal Council or other Tribal authority to adopt radon-resistant building codes.
- Promoting testing and mitigation in residential real estate transactions.
- Informing local school systems about radon exposure risk in schools and providing sample school testing and mitigation plans.

Ineligible Items of Cost: Assistance awarded under the authorities described in this funding announcement may not be used to fund the purchase or construction of real property, mediation activities, or personnel that are not actively involved in implementing said air quality project or its program elements. EPA will not fund activities through this announcement that are funded through other announcements and programs. **Additionally, EPA will not fund radon mitigation activities through this announcement.** Please note that vehicle purchases and leases will not be funded via Section 103 or 105 grants; however, mileage reimbursement is allowable and must include the number of trips, miles per trip, and use the federal mileage reimbursements rate, which for 2024 is 67 cents per mile.

IMPORTANT: Applicants who receive an assistance agreement under this funding opportunity may not use funds from other Federal assistance agreements/programs to fund the same activities proposed under this Funding Announcement notice.

Proposals should indicate if funding for any activities proposed is also being sought under other EPA grant programs. For example, air quality related activities funded with General Assistance Program or Water Program funds cannot be again funded with Air Program funds. If similar activities also appear in the Tribe's GAP, Air or any other EPA funded work plans, please specify how these activities differ from each other to avoid duplication of effort concerns.

The funding for selected projects will be in the form of a grant because EPA will not be substantially involved during the performance of the contemplated activities beyond programmatic oversight and review and comment on agreement activities and products, as identified in the negotiated workplan.

EPA STRATEGIC PLAN LINKAGE AND ANTICIPATED OUTPUTS/OUTCOMES:

Linkages to EPA Strategic Plan: The proposed activities must be linked to and fit within the scope of the EPA's Strategic Plan's goals and objectives. For CAA 103 and 105 grants, activities must link specifically to Goal 4: Ensure Clean and Healthy Air for All Communities and Objective 4.1: Improve Air Quality and Reduce Localized Pollution and Health Impacts for 103 and 105 projects and/or Objective 4.2: Reduce Exposure to Radiation and Improve Indoor Air for SIRG projects.

Additional information regarding the EPA's Strategic Plan's goals and objectives for FY 2022 – FY 2026 can be found at: <https://www.epa.gov/planandbudget/strategicplan>.

Environmental Results: In keeping with the mission of protecting human health and the environment, EPA awards numerous assistance agreements in support of these goals.

Applicants must discuss anticipated environmental outputs and outcomes in proposed work plan objectives and performance measures.

Expected environmental outputs (or deliverables) refer to an environmental activity, effort and/or associated work products related to an environmental goal or objective, that will be produced or provided over a period of time or by a specified date. Outputs may be quantitative or qualitative but must be measurable during an assistance agreement funding period. Examples of environmental outputs include an air quality management plan, an emissions inventory, air monitoring data, progress reports submitted on a quarterly basis, and/or a specific number of permits the Tribe intends to review.

Expected environmental outcomes mean the result, effect or consequence that will occur from carrying out an environmental program or activity that is related to an environmental or programmatic goal or objective. Outcomes may be environmental, behavioral, health or climate-related or programmatic in nature, must be quantitative, and may not necessarily be achievable within an assistance agreement funding period. If applicable, mention any climate adaptation/mitigation related outcomes in workplan. Examples of outcomes may include but are not limited to, “significant number of community members with increased awareness of air quality issues” and/or “increased number of Tribal residents breathing cleaner air.”

PROPOSAL SUBMISSION INFORMATION:

The proposal must be written in English with one-inch margins, typed in Times New Roman twelve point font, and shall not exceed five single-spaced pages in length for one-year work plans or seven single-spaced pages for multi-year work plans. Pages refer to one-side of a single-spaced typed page. Cover page is not included in the page limit. Pages in excess of the specified page limit will not be considered. Supporting materials, such as the budget narrative, are not included in the page limit. Note: **FULL APPLICATIONS ARE NOT TO BE SUBMITTED AT THIS TIME** (i.e., the SF-424 forms should not be submitted, only the proposal narrative). If applying for both, please include a separate budget narrative for each program.

The proposal narrative must substantially comply with the specific instructions and content as defined in this Funding Announcement.

Proposal Elements:

Each proposal must include the following components:

A. Cover Page:

Include the following information:

- Entity name
- Project title
- Document date

- Project Manager - the principal party responsible for accomplishing the activities outlined in the work plan
- Total cost
- Project period: April 1, 2025 through March 31, 2026 or 2027, depending on whether the Tribe submits one or two-year work plan proposal. For CAA 105 and SIRG applicants with PPGs, the project period dates may coincide with that grant.

B. Work Plan:

Each narrative work plan must be less than **5 (for one-year work plans) or 7 (for two-year work plans)** pages in length. The narrative work plan must explicitly describe how the proposed project/program meets the purpose of this announcement and should consist of these elements:

Project Description: Illustrate the need for the project.

Include the following elements in the Project Description:

1. **Problem Statement:** Provide a well-supported statement or needs assessment of the problem to be addressed which demonstrates the reason your Tribe should receive funding support.
2. **Objectives:** Identify the project/program objectives. Objectives should be specific, measurable and clearly describe how they are related to and lead to the project/program goals and expected environmental results. They should include the “public” benefits to be obtained.
3. **Project Methods:** Outline in detail the necessary tasks and activities that will be conducted to accomplish the objectives. Describe why you have chosen these activities to obtain the desired environmental results. The tasks and activities should be realistic and achievable within the budget and project period of the grant. Include whether the activities will require a Quality Assurance Project Plan.
4. **Specific Environmental Outputs:** Identify the specific outputs. These include deliverables of an environmental activity, effort and/or associated work products related to an environmental goal or objective, which will be developed over a period of time or by a specified date. Outputs may be quantitative or qualitative but must be measurable during an assistance agreement funding period. Potential outputs include, developing an air quality management plan, developing an emissions inventory, producing raw and summarized air monitoring data, submitting progress reports on a quarterly or semi-annual basis, creating indoor air quality reporting metrics, and submitting data to AQS or in conjunction with another air agency.
5. **Desired Environmental Outcomes:** Articulate the desired environmental outcomes. They are the result, effect or consequence that will occur from carrying out an environmental program or activity that is related to an environmental or programmatic goal or

objective. Outcomes may be environmental, behavioral, health-related or programmatic in nature, must be quantitative, and may not necessarily be achievable within an assistance agreement funding period. Potential outcomes include, “significant number of community members with increased awareness of air quality issues” or “increased number of Tribal residents breathing cleaner air.”

6. **Target Dates and Milestones:** Include an estimated timeline or schedule of expected target dates and milestones (a marker of reaching an identifiable stage in any task) to achieve specific tasks and accomplishments during the budget and project period. An estimated completion date is needed for each task. Do not use “ongoing” as a milestone. Quarterly, monthly, etc. are acceptable timeframes if there is not a definitive end point for the task.
7. **Performance Measures:** Provide a detailed explanation of how the project/program shall be evaluated (through quantitative means, if possible). Applicants must develop criteria to evaluate progress and results by tracking and measuring outputs and outcomes. Evaluation must occur during and after the project/program activities are conducted to ensure appropriate adjustments can be made along the way, if necessary. For example, if permit review is one of your objectives, provide an estimate of the number of permits you plan to review.
8. **Program Manager/Contact(s):** Identify all individuals or parties who will be involved in the project/program activities and include a description of their respective roles/responsibilities.

Quality Assurance: If the project/program involves collection/compilation or use of environmentally related data or data generation, a Quality Assurance Project Plan is required. A QAPP describes the activities of an environmental data operations project involved with the acquisition of environmental information whether generated from direct measurements activities, collected from other sources, or compiled from computerized databases and information systems.

- If you already have a QAPP in place, identify which QAPP covering the proposed work was submitted to EPA and the EPA approval date, or include a copy with the signature page.
- If no applicable approved QAPP is in place, include a task explaining that you will prepare and submit a QAPP for EPA review. The QAPP should be submitted to the EPA Project Officer at least 120 days prior to the initiation of data collection or data compilation and no later than 120 days after award. Environmental data may not be collected or generated until EPA has approved the QAPP.
- Include a task to annually review and update any QAPP applicable to the activities in the workplan.

Performance Reporting Requirements: Discuss your commitment to provide quarterly or semi-annual reports and a detailed follow-up final report. Applicants are further required to make a commitment to share all data generated, collected or compiled with EPA for assessment on a regional level.

1. **Quarterly or Semi-annual Reports:** Quarterly or semi-annual technical performance reports must be submitted within 30 days following the end of each reporting period. In accordance with 2 C.F.R. 200.328, performance reports shall include brief information on each of the following areas: 1) a comparison of actual accomplishments to the outputs/outcomes established in the assistance agreement work plan for the period; 2) the reasons for slippage if established outputs/outcomes were not met; 3) a description of the progress status in meeting environmental outputs/outcomes, project/program assessment, and a submission of short data summaries; and 4) additional pertinent information, including, when appropriate, analysis and information of cost overruns or high unit costs. In accordance with 2 C.F.R. 200.328 (d)(1), the recipient agrees to inform EPA as soon as problems, delays or adverse conditions become known which will materially impair the ability to meet the outputs/outcomes specified in the assistance agreement work plan.
2. **Final Reports:** The final report should include a summary of the project, advances achieved applicable to environmental outputs and outcomes, and costs of the project. Final reports are due 120 days following the end of the project period.

C. Work Plan Supplements:

(NOTE: THE SUPPLEMENTS ARE NOT PART OF THE PAGE LIMIT)

Programmatic Capability: Submit a list of federally funded assistance agreements (assistance agreements include federal grants and cooperative agreements but not federal contracts) similar in size, scope and relevance to the proposed project that your organization performed within the last three years (no more than 5 and preferably EPA agreements) and describe (i) whether, and how, you were able to successfully complete and manage those agreements and (ii) your history of meeting the reporting requirements under those agreements including submitting acceptable final technical reports. In evaluating applicants under these factors in Section V, EPA will consider the information provided by the applicant and may also consider relevant information from other sources, including information from EPA files and from current and prior federal agency grantors (e.g., to verify and/or supplement the information provided by the applicant).

EPA places significant emphasis on the utilization of prior years' funding. When submitting your request for funds, the following information must be submitted: For those Tribes and Tribal consortia with active cooperative agreements awarded under CAA 103, you must provide by agreement number, the amount of funds that have not been requested for reimbursement (i.e., those funds that remain in EPA's Financial Data Warehouse and are not shown as a "draw

down”) and a detailed justification as to why such funds should not be considered in the funding allocation process. EPA Regional staff will review EPA’s Financial Database Warehouse to confirm the amount of outstanding funds reported. If you do not have any relevant or available past performance or reporting information, please indicate this in the proposal.

In addition, provide information on your organizational experience and plan for timely and successfully achieving the objectives of the proposed project, and your staff expertise/qualifications, staff knowledge, and resources or the ability to obtain them, to successfully achieve the goals of the proposed project.

Note - All ambient, emissions, and compliance data obtained through the use of these funds must be entered in the corresponding national data base (i.e., National Emissions Inventory and Air Quality System). This data is available to the general public. Tribal Emission Inventory Software Solutions is available to Tribes from the Institute of Tribal Environmental Professionals. The TEISS provides guidance on what type of data to enter, conducts calculations and unit conversions, and creates clear reports and maps that support the needs of Tribal air quality activities related to emissions inventories.

Reporting on Environmental Results – Outputs and Outcomes: Submit a list of federally funded assistance agreements (assistance agreements include Federal grants and cooperative agreements but not federal contracts) that your organization performed within the last three years (no more than 5, and preferably EPA agreements), and describe how you documented and/or reported on whether you were making progress towards achieving the expected results (e.g., outputs and outcomes) under those agreements. If you were not making progress, please indicate whether, and how, you documented why not.

In evaluating applicants, EPA will consider the information provided by the applicant and may also consider relevant information from other sources, including information from EPA files and from current and prior Federal agency grantors (e.g., to verify and/or supplement the information provided by the applicant). If you do not have any relevant or available environmental results past performance information, please indicate this in the proposal.

Budget Narrative: Provide a detailed itemized budget proposal, including a narrative statement justifying the expenses for each of the following categories being performed within the grant/project period. *Indicate whether the budget is for one or two years, provide the cost break down for each year and clearly indicate the total cost of the project for the entire project period.*

a. Personnel:

Indicate salaries and wages, by job title, of all individuals who will be

supplemented with these funds. For example:

Air Quality Specialist @ \$15/hr x 40 hrs/wk x 52/wks = \$31,200

Total = \$31,200

b. Fringe Benefits:

Indicate all mandated and voluntary benefits to be supplemented with these funds and if sick leave and annual leave are included. For example:

Health Insurance - 1 FTE @ \$35/month x 12/months = \$420 Dental - 1 FTE @ \$40/mo x 12/months = \$480

Total = \$900

c. Travel:

Indicate number of individuals traveling, destination, number of trips, and reason for travel. For example:

Air Quality Training

Air Fare \$750 x 1 FTE = \$750

Per Diem @ \$43 day x 3 days x 1 FTE = \$129 Hotel @ \$100 day x 2 days x 1 FTE = \$200

Air Conference

Local Travel Mileage - 1000 miles x \$0.575 = \$575

Total = \$1654

d. Equipment:

Identify items to be purchased such as air quality related instruments used in support of work plan objectives. Provide an estimated cost for each item. Make sure you can support your cost estimate. EPA policy defines equipment as items costing \$5,000 or greater. Indicate if your Tribe/organization's definition differs.

For example:

Ozone Analyzer	-	\$8,000
Ozone Calibrator	-	\$6,000

Total = \$14,000

e. Supplies:

Indicate any items to be purchased that will be used in support of air project/program work plan objectives. For example:

General office supplies (pens, notebooks, paper clips, CD ROMs, etc.)
Total = \$500

f. Contractual:

Indicate any proposed contractual items that are reasonable and necessary to carry out the work plan objectives. Examples of contractual items include sample analysis, and rental or lease of property being utilized in support of work plan objectives. For example:

Total mercury analysis - ABC Lab
[52 samples @ \$100 = \$5200] Shipping costs (site to lab)
[\$15.00 per sample = 15 x 52 = \$780]
Total = \$5,980

g. Other:

Indicate general (miscellaneous) expenses necessary to carry out the objectives stated in the work plan. For example:

Office needs (postage, phone, fax, etc.) = \$560
Office space -utilized for air-related project/program staff (\$120/months x 12/months = \$1440)
Total = \$2,000

h. Total Direct Charges:

Summary of all costs associated with each object-class category. For example:

* Total = \$56,234

i. Total Indirect Costs:

Tribe/organization must provide documentation of a federally approved indirect cost rate (percentage) reflective of proposed project/grant period. Applicant should indicate if Tribe/organization is in negotiations with appropriate federal agency to obtain a new agreement (note that the new de minimis rate is 15%).
For example:

IDC Rate is 10% of total direct charges = \$5,623

j. Total Cost:

Indicate overall figure of all direct and indirect costs. For example:

Total Budget Year 1 = \$61,857

* If you propose a multi-year project, in a similar manner, provide projected budget for year two. Further, add both years to reflect budget totals for each category and overall project cost.

Budget Tips:

1. Use only whole numbers on all forms.
2. Non-Federal Match Share calculation (for 105 and SIRG applicants):

Determine total federal funds available: \$61,857

Divide total federal funds available by maximum federal % allowed (Federal 95%, non-federal 5%)

$\$61,857 / (0.95) = \$65,113$

Subtract federal amount from the total project costs

Total Project Costs	\$65,113
Federal Amount	-\$61,857
Match:	\$3,256

3. Management Fees: When formulating budgets for proposals/applications, applicants must not include management fees or similar charges in excess of the direct costs and indirect costs at the rate approved by the applicant's cognizant audit agency, or at the rate provided for by the terms of the agreement negotiated with EPA. The term "management fees or similar charges" refers to expenses added to the direct costs to accumulate and reserve funds for ongoing business expenses, unforeseen liabilities, or for other similar costs that are not allowable under EPA assistance agreements. Management fees or similar charges may not be used to improve or expand the project funded under this agreement, except to the extent authorized as a direct cost of carrying out the scope of work.
4. If grant funds are to be used for staff training, education, outreach, or conferences and meetings (and any associated travel costs), include these activities as a separate task. Explain the purpose for taking the training or attending the conferences and how it relates to the grant objectives. To the extent you know of specific courses, conferences

or events, list those in the work plan along with intended staff to participate. Additional details for training or conferences involving travel are required in the budget narrative.

5. **Equipment:** Does not include: 1) equipment planned to be leased/rented, including lease/purchase agreements; or 2) equipment service or maintenance contracts. These types of proposed costs should be included in the "Other" category. Provide the name/type equipment to be purchased, estimated costs of each piece of equipment, why the equipment is needed/or required, and which workplan task the new equipment will help support. The budget narrative must include an itemized listing of all equipment proposed under the agreement.
6. **Contractual:** For each planned contract, list the proposed contract activities along with a brief description of the scope of work or services to be provided, proposed duration, and proposed procurement method (competitive or non-competitive), if known. Also, provide a basis for all cost calculations (e.g., number of samples and price per analysis, average hourly rate and estimated hours, etc.).

Confidential Business Information: In accordance with 40 C.F.R. 2.203, applicants may claim all or a portion of their proposal as confidential business information. EPA will evaluate confidential claims in accordance with 40 C.F.R. Part 2. Applicants must clearly mark applications/proposals or portions of applications/proposals they claim as confidential. If no claim of confidentiality is made, EPA is not required to make the inquiry to the applicant otherwise required by 40 C.F.R. 2.204 (c) (2) prior to disclosure. Note that under Public Law No. 105-277, data produced under an award is subject to the Freedom of Information Act.

Disclaimer: Anything in your proposal is subject to public record review.

FUNDING FACTORS:

EPA recognizes that each Tribe is unique and is at a different stage in developing an air program. Therefore, the funding priorities below are meant to allow for the varied projects and priorities that individual Tribes have, while still emphasizing overall regional goals throughout Indian Country.

Clean Air Act 103 and 105 Funding Factors:

1. Air Quality Issues and Environmental Risk:

The extent to which the project identifies significant air pollution problems relating to a specific source or pollutant (i.e., demonstrated high levels of air pollution relative to national standards and/or regional and local levels, recorded health related complaints to a Tribal office, suspected or documented pollution problem from a specific source, or

Tribal lands are in a non-attainment designated area under the National Ambient Air Quality Standards).

If a project described has already achieved 3 years of monitoring or has generated sufficient data, EPA will re-evaluate the project to determine if grant funds will be approved for continuous monitoring. Justification must be made for a project to be continued longer than 3 years, including a description of the results and if air monitoring data is being used for comparison to the NAAQS.

2. Current Air Quality Program Activities:

The extent to which the Tribal government demonstrates a long-term commitment to develop and implement an air program (i.e., developing air codes or regulations for Tribal lands, Clean Air Act program delegations, submitting a partial or whole Tribal Implementation Plan for approval, monitoring or other method of air quality assessment, compiling emissions inventories, developing pollution prevention strategies, fostering government to government relationships through partnering and outreach activities, etc.).

3. Air Quality Outreach, Participation, and Collaboration:

The extent to which the Tribal government/consortium demonstrates participation in environmental policy and planning through National/Regional/Tribal workgroups or organizations (i.e., Regional Planning Organizations, the National Tribal Air Association, the Regional Tribal Operations Committee, the National Tribal Environmental Council, etc.), and disseminates relevant information to other Region 5 Tribes.

4. Programmatic Capability

Under this factor, EPA will evaluate the applicant's programmatic capability to perform the work in the proposal. EPA will be considering:

- past performance in successfully completing and managing federally funded assistance agreements (assistance agreements include federal grants and cooperative agreements but not federal contracts) similar in size, scope and relevance to the proposed project performed within the last 3 years;
- history of meeting reporting requirements on prior or current federally-funded assistance agreements (assistance agreements include federal grants and cooperative agreements but not federal contracts) similar in size, scope and relevance to the proposed project performed within the last 3 years and submitting acceptable final technical reports under those agreements;
- organizational experience and plan for timely and successfully achieving the objectives of the project (staff expertise/qualifications, staff knowledge, and

resources or the ability to obtain them, to successfully achieve the goals of the project);

- demonstration of significant utilization of prior year funding.

5. Environmental Results

Under this factor, EPA will evaluate applicants based on the extent and quality to which they adequately documented and/or reported on their progress towards achieving the expected results (e.g., outputs and outcomes) under federal agency assistance agreements (assistance agreements include federal grants and cooperative agreements but not federal contracts) performed within the last three years, and if such progress was not being made whether the applicant adequately documented and/or reported why not. Note: In evaluating applicants under this factor, EPA will consider the information provided by the applicant and may also consider relevant information from other sources including agency files and prior/current grantors (e.g., to verify and/or supplement the information supplied by the applicant). Applicants with no relevant or available past performance reporting history will receive a neutral score for this factor.

State Indoor Radon Grants Funding Factors:

1. Strength of Expected Programmatic Outputs and Outcomes:

- Number of residences/schools/daycares/other buildings tested for radon
- Number of residences/schools/daycares/other buildings built with Radon Resistant New Construction
- Number of radon tests distributed
- Adoption of radon-reducing code language
- Number of individuals trained
- Number of publications, factsheets, flyers, brochures, etc. developed or created
- Number of press/media events held, or announcements issued
- The extent to which the Tribal government/consortium demonstrates participation in national/regional radon calls or workgroups and disseminates relevant information to other Region 5 Tribes.
- Educating Tribal members, real estate professionals, the medical community, Tribal housing authority and home inspectors, builders, Tribal Council and local building code officials, and others

2. Programmatic Capability

Under this factor, EPA will evaluate the applicant's programmatic capability to perform the work in the proposal. EPA will be considering:

- past performance in successfully completing and managing federally funded assistance agreements (assistance agreements include federal grants and

cooperative agreements but not federal contracts) similar in size, scope, and relevance to the proposed project performed within the last 3 years;

- history of meeting reporting requirements on prior or current federally-funded assistance agreements (assistance agreements include federal grants and cooperative agreements but not federal contracts) similar in size, scope, and relevance to the proposed project performed within the last 3 years and submitting acceptable final technical reports under those agreements;
- organizational experience and plan for timely and successfully achieving the objectives of the project (staff expertise/qualifications, staff knowledge, and resources or the ability to obtain them, to successfully achieve the goals of the project);
- demonstration of significant utilization of prior year funding.

3. Environmental Results

Under this factor, EPA will evaluate applicants based on the extent and quality to which they adequately documented and/or reported on their progress towards achieving the expected results (e.g., outputs and outcomes) under federal agency assistance agreements (assistance agreements include federal grants and cooperative agreements but not federal contracts) performed within the last three years and, if such progress was not being made, whether the applicant adequately documented and/or reported why not. Note: In evaluating applicants under this factor, EPA will consider the information provided by the applicant and may also consider relevant information from other sources including agency files and prior/current grantors (e.g., to verify and/or supplement the information supplied by the applicant). Applicants with no relevant or available past performance reporting history will receive a neutral score for this factor.

AWARD ADMINISTRATION INFORMATION:

Submission Dates and Times. The closing date for submissions under this announcement is **November 1, 2024, 6:00 p.m., Central Time**. Proposals must be received via email by the closing date. Late proposals will not be considered. Please send an email containing **Microsoft Word** files of all required application materials to R5ARD_Grants@epa.gov. Please include **“FY 2025 Tribal Air Funding Announcement Proposal”** in the subject header.

Proposal Notifications

Following evaluation of proposals, all applicants will be notified regarding their status.

1. EPA anticipates notification to the successful applicant will be made via telephone, and electronic mail by **December 13, 2024**. The notification will advise the applicant that their proposal has been successfully evaluated and recommended for award. The

notice shall require submission of a final application. Successful applicants will have an opportunity to negotiate elements of their work plan and budget, have the draft reviewed by an assigned PO, and submit final applications, including all required assistance documents to grants.gov by **approximately January 31, 2025**.

2. EPA anticipates notification to *unsuccessful* applicant(s) will be made via electronic mail or telephone by **December 13, 2024**.

Note – EPA reserves the right to negotiate appropriate changes in work plans after the selection for further consideration and before the final award. The notification, which advises that the applicant’s proposal has been selected and is being recommended for award, is not an authorization to begin performance. The award notice signed by the Assistant Regional Administrator for Resources Management Division is the authorizing document and will be provided through electronic mail. This process can take up to 60 days from the date of formal application receipt.

Administrative and National Policy Requirement

A listing and description of general EPA Regulations applicable to the award of assistance agreements may be viewed at: <https://www.epa.gov/grants>.

CONTACT INFORMATION:

All questions or comments should be emailed to R5ARD_Grants@epa.gov.