# Applicant Webinar

## Exchange Network Grant Program – FY25 Grant Cycle

Erin McGown, EN Grant Program Manager

February 27, March 4, March 6 - 2025

# Welcome! Notes for Participants

- To help us know who is on the call, **please enter your organization name into the TEAMS meeting chat.**

  - These records will be maintained internally; this just helps our program improve future outreach efforts.

- To maintain audio quality for all participants, **please keep yourself muted** during the presentation portion of the call.

- If you have a question about a particular slide or topic during the presentation portion, please type it into the TEAMS meeting chat.

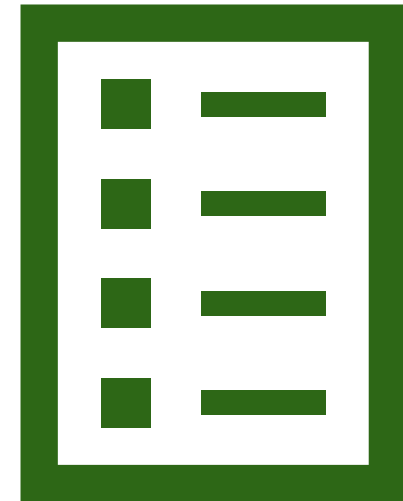  - Questions will be addressed during the open Q&A.

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# Agenda

- Overview of Exchange Network (EN) Grant Program

- What's Changed since FY24?

- Available Resources for Applicants & Grantees

- What to Include in Your Application

- TOP 10: Mistakes to Avoid

- Wrap-Up: Why the Exchange Network (EN)?

- Questions and Answers (Q&A)

# Overview of EN Grant Program

# Exchange Network Purpose

- The purpose of the **Exchange Network** is to:
    - Facilitate data sharing;
    - Reduce burden & avoid costs;
    - Streamline data collection & exchanges;
    - Increase data quality & access;
    - Increase data & IT management capabilities

# EN Competitive Grant Program

- **FY2025 is the EN Grant Program's twenty-third year.** Including FY24, approximately **$280,000,000** has been awarded since 2002.

- Awards have been issued to all **50 states**, **93 Tribes/Indian nations**, and **5 US territories**.

- Current annual budget of around **$9.5 million**, equating to an average of **30-35 awards annually**.

# FY25 Application Due Date

- **The FY25 Solicitation Notice was published on Monday, January 13, 2025.**

- **Applications are due in grants.gov NO LATER THAN <span style="color:red">Monday March 24, 2025, at 11:59 PM ET.</span>**

- **See: <u>Search Results Detail | Grants.gov</u>**

# EN Grant Program: Eligibility

- **Who is eligible for EN Grants?**

  - States

  - U.S. Territories

  - Federally Recognized Tribes, Indian Nations, and Alaska Native Villages

  - Inter-tribal Consortia of Federally Recognized Tribes and Indian Nations

  - Other Entities with Status as an Instrumentality of a State or Federally Recognized Tribe/Indian Nation (*e.g.*, university)

# 5-Year Applicant Trends

**States:** Historically, 75% of total grantees; 57% average between 2020-2024; 53% in FY24.

**Tribes (+ Consortia):** Historically, 22% of total grantees; 35% average between 2020-2024; 41% in FY24.

**U.S. Territories:** Historically, 2% of total grantees AND the average between 2020-2024; 3% in FY24.

**Other Entities:** Historically, 1% of total grantees; 6% average between 2020 -2024; 3% in FY24.
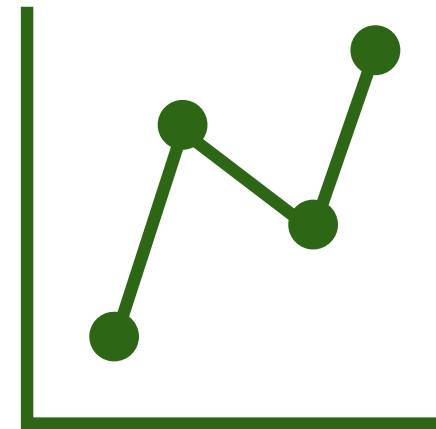
# EN Grant Program: Ineligible Applicants

- **Ineligible entities have the option partner with an eligible entity,** provided that:

    - The lead applicant (formal EN partner) meets the specifications outlined in Solicitation Notice Section 4C: Coalition (EN Partnership) Applications.

    - The partnership is not formed from agencies within a single state, territorial, or tribal government.

    - The lead applicant is not participating in another proposed project for that fiscal year (as only one application per organization can be submitted under this funding opportunity).

- The eligible entity could then share funds with your organization via a subaward.

    - See additional subaward information under SN Section 3D

# EN Grant Program: Funding Thresholds & Restrictions

- **Funding thresholds depend on the type of application**:

  - Single Applicants ≤ $400,000
  - Eligible EN Partnerships ≤ $600,000

- **'Individual Capacity Building with Mentorship'** applicants ≤ $415,000.

  - $15K in mentorship support costs.

- **Certain costs are not allowed:** *E.g.*, construction, operations & maintenance, deployment of physical nodes, and others

  - See SN Section 2A(1) for a more details on funding restrictions

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# EN Grant Program: Project Options

- **Applicants can apply under one or more EN Project Opportunities.** Specific project write-ups within the annual EN Solicitation Notice provide applicants with the information needed to design proposals for a particular service, data exchange, etc.

- **Applicants can propose their own project that does not fall under an EN Project Opportunity.** Applicants can submit projects proposals that do not relate to EN Project Opportunities, provided the project clearly states this and explains its support of one or more EN Funding Area(s).

# EN Grant Program: Project Opportunities (1)

- **Funding Area 1:** Helps agencies innovate and modernize the critical data services that power their systems and workflows.

- **FY25 SN Includes:** Advanced Water Quality Monitoring Using Sensor Technologies; and Open Data, Data Modernization, Digital Transformation Projects, including Geospatial.

# EN Grant Program: Project Opportunities (2)

- **Funding Area 2:** Helps stakeholders submit and share programmatic data for eleven EPA programs (for FY25), including:

- **AIR:** Emission Inventory System (EIS); Combined Air Emissions Reporting (CAER);
- **ENFORCEMENT & COMPLIANCE:** Integrated Compliance Information System (ICIS) Digital Services; Electronic Reporting of National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Data;
- **LAND MANAGEMENT:** Resources Conservation and Recovery Act Information System (RCRAInfo); UST Finder Application (V2) to Support National and State UST Programs;
- **WATER:** eBeaches; Safe Drinking Water System (SDWIS); Water Quality Exchange (WQX); Assessment TMDL Tracking and ImplementatioN System (ATTAINS); Drinking Water/Clean Water State Revolving Funds

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# EN Grant Program: Project Opportunities (3)

- **Funding Area 3:** *Open only to Tribes and U.S. Territories.* Enables applicants to build IT and data management capacity necessary to effectively manage environmental programs and increase meaningful participation in the EN.

- **Currently includes** Individual Capacity Building; Individual Capacity Building with Mentorship; Collaborative Capacity Building.

# What Can Be Funded under Capacity Building?

- Development of an organizational strategic plan for improved data management
- Determining business process requirements through an assessment of current systems/available tools
- Preparing existing systems/tools for participation in EPA national program data flows
- Planning and implementing improved database and management system/tools
- Website and user tool development for public outreach
- Development and implementation of geospatial tools and technologies to improve monitoring, reporting, data visualization, and analysis
- Increased participation in the Exchange Network through trainings, webinars, and technical assistance activities

# What is EN Mentorship under Capacity Building?

- Available to individual tribal and territorial applicants **with no prior EN grant awards**
- Allows up to $15K in mentorship support funding, in addition to $400K in project costs, for activities such as:
  - Demonstrating the mentor's implemented system
  - Fine-tuning/providing feedback on the project workplan
  - Providing technical assistance to set up data exchange(s)
  - Providing training on data entry, data analysis, and report generation
  - Giving ongoing support after installation/implementation, including feedback on data management/technology, the EN, submitted reports, and/or close-out activities
  - Providing guidance on EN and TXG participation

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# Performance Partnership Grants (PPG) and Consolidated Grants (CG)

- States, certain interstate agencies, and tribes can choose to combine two or more environmental program grants into a single PPG.

  - Local governments are not eligible for PPGs.

- Territories can consolidate various environmental program grants into a single Consolidated Grant (CG).

- Applicants who wish to include awarded grant funds in a PPG/CG must:

  - Clearly state this in the cover letter and the 'Project Description' section of the project narrative.

  - Include the PPG/CG number.

# Post Award: EN Terms and Conditions

- **Performance Reporting and Final Performance Report:** EN grantees must submit semi-annual progress reports electronically through EPA's Central Data Exchange (CDX), <u>twice annually</u>, and submit a final report through CDX within 120 days of project closeout. Reports must include subwardee (partner/mentor) activities, if applicable.

- **Quality Assurance (QA):** New EN projects are reviewed to determine what QA documentation, if any, is applicable to the proposed project. QA documentation, which may include a project-level Quality Assurance Project Plan (QAPP) and/or Quality Management Plan (QMP), is due to EPA within 90 days of award date.

- **Registering EN Resources:** EN grantees must complete an IT Component and Project Registration form reflecting details of the completed grant and associated developed and reused IT components at the time of grant closeout. This form will be made available on the EN website.

# What's Changed Since FY24?

# What's New?

- **General:** Front SN section updated to match new EPA NOFO standard template.

- **Section 1D:** Funding thresholds were updated for all applicant types by $100k.

- **Section 1E:** Contact information added for each EN Project Opportunity.

- **Section 2A (1):** New threshold criterion, ensuring that proposals support one or more EN Funding Areas.

- **Section 4D:** Updated language to reflect current Quality Assurance (QA) approach and requirements.

- **Section 6B, General:** Programmatic involvement criterion removed.

- **Section 6B, Criteria 3F:** E-Enterprise Digital Strategy (EEDS) criterion simplified.

# What's New (Cont.)?

- **Appendices A-C:** Annual updates made to each EN project opportunity, including the addition of one new opportunity (UST Finder (V2)) and the removal of an opportunity (UIC Data).

- **Appendix D:** Update to equipment and supplies thresholds; items less than $10K should be categorized as 'supplies' and items $10,000 and above should be categorized as 'equipment'.

- **Appendix E, Project Narrative Overview:** Updates to project narrative guidance, to reflect the two updates to evaluation criteria.

- **Appendix E, Project Narrative Overview:** Clarifying language added to the 'technical solution' section.

# What's New (Cont.)?

- **Appendix E, Formal Project Partners:** Addition of a new bullet, clarifying that the document needs to include how partner progress will be reported (so it can be included in semi-annual reports).

- **Appendix E, Formal Project Mentor:** Addition of a new bullet, clarifying that the document needs to include how mentor activities will be reported (so it can be included in semi-annual reports).

- **Appendix F:** Minor updates to pre-submission checklist, for improved applicant guidance.

- **Appendix G:** Addition of three new terms/phrases, including business and administrative needs, persona, and technical solutions.

# Available Resources for Applicants & Grantees

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# Previous EN Grant Projects Site

**Access at** https://www.epa.gov/exchangenetwork/previous-exchange-network-grant-projects

- FY 2022 Exchange Network Grant Program Awards (pdf) (127.61 KB, 1/1/2022)
- FY 2021 Exchange Network Grant Program Awards (pdf) (122.74 KB, 3/23/2022)
- FY 2020 Exchange Network Grant Program Awards (pdf) (114.79 KB, 12/22/2020)
  FY 2020 Exchange Network Grant Program Awards
- FY 2019 Exchange Network Grant Program Awards (pdf) (151.74 KB, 10/17/2022)
- FY 2018 Exchange Network Grant Program Awards (pdf) (134.06 KB, 10/17/2022)
- FY 2017 Exchange Network Grant Program Awards (pdf) (118.34 KB, 10/17/2022)
- FY 2016 Exchange Network Grant Program Awards (pdf) (141.72 KB, 10/17/2022)
- FY 2015 Exchange Network Grant Program Awards (pdf) (145.94 KB, 10/17/2022)
  FY 2015 Exchange Network Grant Program Awards
- FY 2014 Exchange Network Program Awards (pdf) (128.13 KB, 10/17/2022)
  FY 2014 Exchange Network Grant Program Awards
- FY 2013 Exchange Network Grant Program Awards (pdf) (127.61 KB, 10/17/2022)
  FY 2013 Exchange Network Grant Program Awards
- FY 2012 Exchange Network Grant Program Awards (pdf) (127.35 KB, 10/17/2022)
  FY 2012 Exchange Network Grant Program Awards

| Recipient Name | Total Number of Awards | Total Amount of Awards |
|---|---|---|
| States | 24 | $5,111,717.00 |
| Tribes | 8 | $1,840,946.00 |
| Territories | 1 | $197,356.00 |
| All Recipients | 33 | $7,150,019.00 |

| Grant ID | Recipient Name | Project Description | Award Amount | Award Date |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | STATES / INSTRUMENTALITIES OF THE STATE | | |
| BG96464622 | Alabama-Department of Environmental Management | The proposed project seeks to develop and implement data exchange between the National RCRA Info Database and a contact developed database system. This process will utilize and build upon the ADEM Web Portal and a contract developed database system, both of which were developed from previous exchange network grant awards. The project goals including analysis and planning to support the development of data exchange from the Alabama Environmental Permitting and Compliance System (AEPACS) to RCRA Info to increase program efficiency and effectiveness, to prefill historical data into AEPACS, and to implement the data exchange between the two entities. | $151,501 | 10/14/2022 |

# Searchable IT Component and Project Registration Forms Site

**Access at** https://www.epa.gov/exchangenetwork/searchable-it-component-and-project-registration-forms



*Example From:*
Virginia DEQ (2019)
Grant # 83969901

# Applicant FAQs on EN Website

**Access at** https://www.epa.gov/exchangenetwork/exchange-network-applicant-FAQs

## Project Planning

### What projects are eligible for an EN grant?

Section 3A of the Solicitation Notice presents EPA's annual assistance activities, current EN funding areas (which must be supported in a proposed project), and a list of project write-ups known as EN 'project opportunities'. These EN project opportunities are listed in Appendix A, Appendix B, Appendix C, and provide potential…

**Last published:** February 3, 2025

### I have an idea for an EN grant project, can I send you that idea to confirm if the project is a good fit for your program?

Basically, as long as projects fall under one or more of the current EN Funding Areas and the requirements as outlined within our FY25 Solicitation Notice are met, we consider a wide variety of project types in our annual grant competition. Due to this being a competitive grant program, specific…

**Last published:** February 3, 2025

# Optional Templates (Cover Letter, Project Narrative, & Budget Narrative)

**Access at** https://www.epa.gov/exchangenetwork/exchange-network-grant-program#Resources

# Optional Self-Calculating Budget Tool

**Access at** https://www.epa.gov/exchangenetwork/exchange-network-grant-program#Resources

| Supply Catego ▾ | Item ▾ | Quantity ▾ | Price per Unit ▾ | Total Supplies Cost ▾ |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Supply Item 1 | | $ – | $ – |
| | Supply Item 2 | | $ – | $ – |
| | Supply Item 3 | | $ – | $ – |
| | | | $ – | $ – |
| | | | $ – | $ – |
| | | | $ – | $ – |
| | | | $ – | $ – |
| Total Supplies | | | | |

*individual consultant and it will be rounded down to $84. *For contract types that are single source, an explanation is required in the Budget Narrative*

| Item ▾ | Hours ▾ | Hourly Rate ▾ | Procurement Method ▾ | Total Contractual Cost ▾ |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Select Contract ▾ | | $ – | Select from Drop Down | $ – |
| Select Contract | | $ – | Select from Drop Down | $ – |
| | | $ – | | $ – |
| | | $ – | | $ – |
| | | $ – | | $ – |
| Total | | | | |

# Other Applicant Resources

- **SN Appendix D**: Applicant guidance on project-relevant topics, *e.g.*, E-Enterprise Digital Strategy, project-budget guidance, *etc.*

- **SN Appendix E**: Overview of required application attachments, including the submitted (and scored) project narrative.

- **SN Appendix F:** Optional Pre-Submission Checklist

Project Narrative:

☐ Is your project narrative a maximum of 10 single-spaced pages?

☐ Does your project narrative include all eight of the sections noted in Appendix E's project narrative overview (see pages E3-E9), marked with bold section headers?

- **EN Forums:** Monthly public call to discuss EN services, data sharing, ongoing or completed EN partner projects, and more – second Thursday of each month from 1:00 – 2:00pm ET.

- **EECIP**: Inventory for environmental agencies to enter information about projects, technical environment and professional interests.

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# What To Include In Your Application

# Mandatory Attachment Documents (for all)

(1) Cover Letter (see optional template [here](#))

(2) Project Narrative Attachment Form (see optional template [here](#))

(3) Budget Narrative Attachment Form (see optional template [here](#))

(4) Application for Federal Assistance (Standard Form ([SF-424](#)))

(5) Budget Information for Non-Construction Programs ([SF-424A](#))

(6) Key Contacts Form ([EPA Form 5700-54](#))

(7) Pre-award Compliance Review Report ([EPA Form 4700-4](#))

# Additional Attachment – A (may be required)

(A) Negotiated Indirect Cost Rate Agreement

- _Required if_ charging indirect costs, unless you are using the standard 15% de minimus rate.

- Must be included in accordance with 2 CFR 200.414 and must be valid until at least 9/30/2025.

- Tribal applicants _specifically_ may submit a project with their draft rate, as submitted to DOI (and pending approval).

- Tribal applicants _specifically_ may also request a Regulatory Exception to continue to use an expiring/expired fixed rate with carry-forward.

# Additional Attachment - B (may be required)

(B) Additional Information for Inter-Tribal Consortium

- *Required if* applying as an intertribal consortium.

- Must provide documentation which shows:

   (1) a formal partnership exists among the Tribal governments' members of the inter-tribal consortium and the majority of the members are federally recognized Indian Tribes; and

   (2) The consortia federally recognized Tribal members have authorized the consortium to apply for and receive assistance from the EN Grant Program.

NOTE: Participant letters from all consortia members is <u>not</u> required.

# Additional Attachment - C (may be required)

(C) Formal Project Partners:

    - _Required if_ applying with one or more formal EN partners.

    - Must provide documentation which includes:

        (1) Support Letter(s) from all participating formal EN partners;
        (2) Overview of project roles & responsibilities across participants;
        (3) The method of coordinating work/communicating;
        (4)  The method of communicating progress, to ensure partner progress is reflected in submitted semi-annual reports;
        (5) Description of the method for distributing funds (subaward);
        (6) An overview of the proposed subaward budget.

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# Additional Attachment - D (may be required)

(D) Formal Project Mentor:

- *Required if* applying under EN Project Opportunity 'Individual Capacity Building with Mentorship' (see SN appendix C).

- Must provide documentation which includes:

(1) Support Letter from participating mentor;
(2) The method of coordinating work/communicating/training;
(3) The method of communicating progress, to ensure mentor contributions are reflected in submitted semi-annual reports;
(4) Description of the method for distributing funds (subaward);
(5) An overview of the proposed subaward budget (up to $15K).

# Additional Attachment – E (may be required)

(E) List of Prior Exchange Network Assistance Agreements

- *Required if* your organization has received prior EN grants.

- Provide a document that lists prior EN assistance agreements, in descending order.

# Additional Attachment – F (may be required)

(F) Documentation Certifying Applicant Status as an Instrumentality of the State or Tribe

- *Required if* applying as an instrumentality of a state or Tribe.

- [For State Instrumentalities]: Provide a signed attorney general letter, certifying this status.

- [For Tribal Instrumentalities]: Provide a certification and supporting documentation from the Tribal council or other appropriate Tribal government official, certifying this status.

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# Note: Lobbying Form Requirement

Note: Successful applicants requesting over $100,000 are required to submit a signed 'EPA Lobbying Form 6600-06' to ENGrantProgram@epa.gov upon notification of award selection.

- Applicants do not need to submit this form with their initial application.

- For the form's 'EPA Project Control Number', please mark the funding opportunity number for this competition: EPA-OMS-25-01.

# TOP 10: Mistakes to Avoid

# Number 10: Not Ensuring Correct Attachments in Grants.Gov

- Please be sure that the correct attachments have been uploaded to grants.gov, prior to submission by 11:59pm ET on March 24th, 2025.

- Our program has occasionally seen the budget narrative or project narrative attached twice, instead of <u>each</u> document being attached (as they have very similar document titles).

  - This caused an ineligibility determination, as the applicant did not substantially comply with the submission instructions in our SN.

# Number 9: Incorrect Period of Performance

- The EN Grant Program has a **standard period of performance of 3 years**.

    - List the project start date as October 1st, 2025.

    - List the project end date as September 30, 2028.

- Please create your project workplan (which includes estimated output completion dates) and budget in accordance with this standard 3-year POP.

- NOTE: You can always finish and close a project early.

- NOTE: You can also request up to four 1-year, no-cost extensions.

# Number 8: Not Rounding Your Budget Amounts

- <u>Do not include penny amounts</u>; round up or down to the nearest whole number for project costs, including items within cost category formulas.

  - Totals per cost category <u>must</u> be a whole number.

    - Applicable EN cost categories include personnel, fringe, travel, equipment, supplies, contractual, and other.

  - Strive to round costs within budget formulas to whole numbers when possible.

    - If a laptop computer costs $849.49, round this to $850, before multiplying it by the number of laptops you are purchasing.

# Number 7: Missing Project Narrative Information and/or Detail

- Ensure that your project narrative still fits within the allowable 10 pages, even after converting it to PDF.

- Double check your drafted project narrative against the detailed overview in SN Appendix E, to ensure that all 8 required sections and their required information is included.

- Double check your drafted project narrative against the evaluation criteria listed in SN Section 6B: Review Criteria; your submitted document will be scored against these criteria.

- Consider utilizing the optional project narrative template.

# Number 6: Lack of Budget Itemization

- **Items in your submitted budget <u>must</u> be itemized.** EPA must understand exactly what you are proposing to purchase in support of your project.

- This issue is most commonly seen in the budget cost categories of 'equipment' and 'supplies'.

  - You cannot put in a general cost such as 'office supplies - $300'.

    - In this example, this should be itemized to: '2 reams of paper (at $12 each, for a total of $24)', '6 boxes of printer toner (at $40 each, for a total of $240)'; etc.

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# Number 5: Confusion on 'In-Kind'

- We often see confusion from applicants on the term 'in-kind', where the applicant confuses this with a voluntary cost match (non-federal funds supplied by the applicant organization in support of the project).

- In-kind actually refers to 'services provided by EPA contractors and consultants on specific parts of the project for the recipient'; in other words, funds that will go on an available EPA IT contract *instead of* being issued to the grantee for draw-downs.

- NOTE: Most applications will have an in-kind amount of $0.

- NOTE: Cost match is not applicable to the EN Grant Program and non-federal funds should not be included in the submitted project.

# Number 4: Incorrect Base Calculation for Indirect Costs

- Please be sure to carefully read the base description in your organization's Negotiated Indirect Cost Rate Agreement, to ensure the correct base amount to apply your indirect rate percentage (%) to.

> **(A) Base:** Total direct costs, less capital expenditures and passthrough funds. Passthrough funds are normally defined as payments to participants, stipends to eligible recipients, or subawards, all of which normally require minimal administrative effort.

- In the example provided above, all budget categories (including contractual) can be included in the base calculation, *excluding* equipment (which is a capital expenditure) and subawards (a passthrough fund) to an EN partner and/or mentor.

- *If utilizing the standard 15% deminimus,* the base amount is total modified direct costs (TMDC) – see definition in SN Appendix G (glossary).

# Number 3: Not Using Standard Formulas for Budget Calculations

- The 'How to Correctly Calculate and Capture a Project Budget Across Attachments' section in SN Appendix D and the optional budget narrative template can help applicants to understand these calculation formulas.

- Example: How to Calculate Personnel Costs: For each position, first multiply the annual salary for that position by the percent of their time dedicated to the project to get an annual cost. Then, multiply this product by 3 (the EN grant period of performance). Sum the personnel cost for each staff position to find the total personnel cost.

| Staff Position (Project Role) | Staff Name (If Known) | Annual Salary | % of Time | Annual Cost | Period of Performance (Years) | 3-Year Personnel Cost |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| [Staff position title] | [Staff name] | $[dollar amount] | [#]% | $[dollar amount] → | 3 | $[dollar amount] |
| Project Manager | Bob Friend | $120,000 | 10% | $12,000 | 3 | $36,000 |

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# Number 2: Contractor Procurement Issues

- **Remember:** Individual consultants are subject to a consultant cap of $93.53.

- **Remember:** Non-competitive procurement is only allowed in select cases and is subject to EPA approval:

  - Applicants must provide a detailed justification when using this procurement method, quoting a specific allowable case per 2 CFR 200.320(c).

  - An existing relationship, history of prior work, or proximity to the contracting firm is not an allowable case.

  - If non-competitive procurement is required/allowable per your own state or Tribal laws/policies, please detail this in your submitted application.

# Number 1: Mis-Categorizing of Costs (Part 1)

- Funds for formal EN partners or mentors should be categorized as a subaward under the cost category of 'other' (NOT contractual).

- Training costs should be categorized based on type:

  - If the training includes travel to the training location (aka, a workshop), costs should be included under the cost category of 'travel'.

  - If the training is a subscription (like an IT training course) or provided by a 3rd party, this should be categorized under the cost category of 'contractual'.

  - Travel for trainees and interns, fellows, and work group members who are not employees of the recipient are Participant Support Costs and should be included in the cost category of 'other.'

# Number 1: Mis-Categorizing of Costs (Part 2)

- Food and light refreshments (only allowable if associated with a training/ workshop related to the grant <u>and</u> if approved by EPA) should be categorized as 'other' if provided by the applicant and 'contractual' if included as part of a contractual rental agreement.

- Utilities, such as wifi or electricity, or similar services (only allowable as relates to successful completion of the proposed project, for the applicable amount of time spent on the project) should be included within the project's *indirect costs* and not as a separate line item under 'other'.

- As of FY25, items less than $10K should be categorized as 'supplies' and items costing $10,000 and above should be categorized as 'equipment'.

# Wrap Up –
# Why the EN?

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# Why the Exchange Network?

- **No cost match requirement**

- Semi-annual reporting **progress reports are only due 2x per year**

  - **Electronic reporting,** with email confirmation of accepted reports

- Wide range of project types and activities are funded

- Ability to charge equipment, supplies, and QA preparation costs to project budget

  - Equipment and supplies must constitute a reasonable percentage of the overall project budget and support the accomplishment of goals/outputs

- **Extensive guidance, resources,** and **optional tools and templates available**

- **20% annual minimum commitment** to Indian Nations and Tribes

# Contact

**EN Grants POC:**           Erin McGown (US EPA)

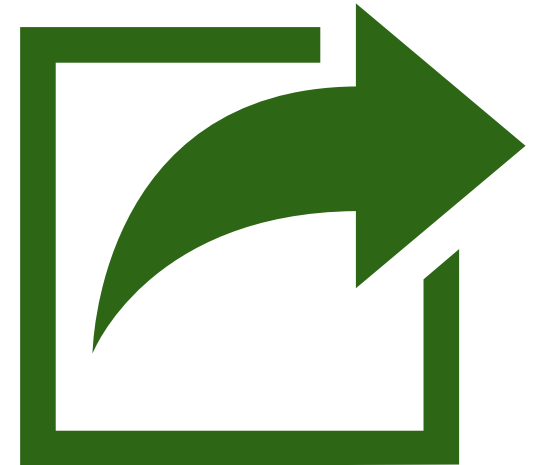**EN Grants General:**      ENGrantProgram@epa.gov

**EPA Tribal Questions:**    Beth Jackson (US EPA)

**Regional EPA POCs:**     Regional EN Coordinators

Please feel free to send any questions or program/webinar feedback on the EN Grant Program to Erin McGown OR ENGrantProgram@epa.gov

# Thank you!

**Questions?**