

Current GAP Allocation Methodology

EPA uses a three-step process for allocating appropriated GAP dollars to regional offices. The process has remained largely unchanged since it was established in 1996, with two notable exceptions: (1) in 1998 the per tribe average environmental grant level was changed from \$75,000 to \$110,000; and (2) in 2012 the number of recipients became a factor as described below.

Note: The methodology described below does not dictate how regional offices award funds to GAP grantees (e.g., a region can make an award that is greater or less than \$110,000 to a particular tribe).

Prior to making regional allocations, headquarters/AIEO reserves a lump sum from the congressionally appropriated funds as a “set-aside” for special projects of regional/national significance that are proposed by the regions or HQ. These funds are distributed to regions in Step 3 (described below).

Step 1: From the remaining funds after the set-aside, regional allocations are determined by first multiplying \$110,000 by the number of federally recognized tribes in each Region.

Note: In 1996, at the direction of EPA’s Deputy Administrator, EPA established a sequence-of-funding approach to account for the large number of tribes in Alaska with limited jurisdiction to regulate pollution sources. This approach was to allocate GAP funds for tribes in the lower 48 first, followed by tribes in Alaska, as appropriated funds allowed. As national GAP funding levels increased from \$42.6M in 2000 to \$62.1M in 2004, the Region 10 allocation increased more quickly than all other regions, such that by FY 2004 the Region 10 allocation reached the level needed to provide \$110,000 for all tribes in Alaska.

Step 2: Since 2012, any unallocated balance after Step 1 is then divided equally by the number of GAP recipients from the previous year (including intertribal consortia recipients) and added to the regional allocation accordingly. Region totals from Steps 1 and 2 are combined to make-up each region’s base allocation.

Step 3: Finally, regions might receive additional funds from the set-aside to fund HQ approved projects. The only set-aside currently is that \$10,000 is added to the region’s allocation for each ETEP scheduled to be updated.