

Notice of Funding Opportunity

Applications Due: **Friday, January 23, 2026**



Office of Resource Conservation and Recovery

Solid Waste Infrastructure for Recycling (SWIFR) Grants for **Tribes and Intertribal Consortia**

Funding Opportunity Number: **EPA-I-OLEM-ORCR-25-02**



Contents

1.	Basic Information	1
	A. Executive Summary:	1
	B. Key Information:	1
	C. Key Dates:	2
	D. Funding Details:	2
	E. Agency Contact Information:	2
2.	Eligibility.....	3
	A. Eligible Applicants.....	3
	(1) Other Eligibility Requirements.....	3
	B. Cost Sharing	4
3.	Program Description	4
	A. Purpose, Priorities, and Activities.....	4
	(1) Scope of Work.....	4
	(2) Measuring Environmental Results: Outputs and Outcomes	6
	(3) Ineligible Costs or Activities and Other Considerations.....	6
	B. Program Goals and Objectives.....	7
	C. Statutory Authority	8
	D. Funding Type.....	8
4.	Application Contents and Format	8
	A. Application Forms	8
	B. Project Narrative Attachment Form and Budget Detail	9
	iv. Programmatic Capability and Past Performance	12
	C. Applicants Using Contractors	17
	D. Release Copies of Applications	18
	E. Coalition Coverage	18
5.	Submission Requirements and Deadlines.....	18
	A. Submission Dates and Times	18
	B. Unique Entity Identifier (UEI) and System for Award Management (SAM.gov)	18
	C. Submission Instructions	19
	D. Technical Issues with Submission	19
	E. Intergovernmental Review	20
6.	Application Review Information.....	20
	A. Responsiveness Review	20
	B. Review Criteria	20
	(1) Project Summary and Approach (40 points)	20
	(2) Impactful Approaches and Solutions (25 points).....	21
	(3) Measuring Environmental Results (10 points).....	21
	(4) Programmatic Capability and Environmental Results Past Performance Criteria (10 points) ..	21
	(5) Budget and Expenditure of Awarded Grant Funds (15 points)	22

C. Review and Selection Process.....	22
Other Evaluation Factors	23
D. Risk Review	24
7. Award Notices.....	24
8. Post-Award Requirements and Administration	24
A. Administrative and National Policy Requirements	24
B. Reporting	24
C. Subaward and Executive Compensation Reporting.....	25
9. Other Information.....	25
A. Additional Provisions for Applicants.....	25
1. Combining Applications into One Award.....	25
2. Additional Policy Requirements.....	25
3. Use of Funds	25
4. Program Income	25
5. Procurements	26
6. Build America, Buy America Requirements.....	26
7. Project Labor Agreements and Prevailing Wage Requirements.....	27
8. National Environmental Protection Act (NEPA) Compliance	27
9. Disputes	28
10. Quality Assurance Project Plans (QAPPs).....	28
11. Reporting Requirements	29

1. Basic Information

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

Office of Resource Conservation and Recovery

Solid Waste Infrastructure for Recycling (SWIFR) Grants for Tribes and Intertribal Consortia

A. Executive Summary:

The Solid Waste Infrastructure for Recycling (SWIFR) grant program will assist local waste management authorities by supporting improvements to local post-consumer materials management, including municipal recycling programs, and assisting local waste management authorities in making improvements to local waste management systems.

Consistent with the authorizing statute in Section 302(a) of the Save Our Seas 2.0 Act, SWIFR will support an economy that uses a systems-focused approach and involves industrial processes and economic activities that are restorative or regenerative by design, enables resources used in such processes and activities to maintain their highest value for as long as possible, and aims for the elimination of waste through the superior design of materials, products, and systems (including business models).

Increasing recycling reduces the environmental and social impacts of materials use and keeps valuable resources in use instead of in landfills. Municipal solid waste management¹ has long suffered from a lack of investment. Some communities that lack waste management infrastructure do not have curbside waste collection services, recycling, or composting programs, which increases the burden on limited landfill capacity.

There are three types of grants within the SWIFR program, which are designed to fund a range of projects that will enable EPA to help states, territories, Tribes, local governments, and communities improve and transform their recycling and materials management infrastructure.

1. [SWIFR Grants for States and Territories](#)
2. [SWIFR Grants for Tribes and Intertribal Consortia](#)
3. [SWIFR Grants for Political Subdivisions](#)²

B. Key Information:

Opportunity Number:

EPA-I-OLEM-ORCR-25-02

Assistance Listing:

66.920

Announcement Type:

Initial

Funding Available:

Approximately \$20,000,000

Number of Awards:

Approximately 20

¹ EPA has developed a standardized set of terms with examples of Municipal Solid Waste:

<https://www.epa.gov/circulareconomy/standardized-terms-materials-accepted-municipal-recycling-programs>

² Please note that the EPA also refers to this type of grant under SWIFR as “SWIFR Grants for Communities.”

This Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) is for the SWIFR Grants for Tribes and Intertribal Consortia. Entities eligible to apply for this funding opportunity include Indian Tribes and Intertribal consortia (see [Section 2 for definitions](#)). The total estimated funding for this competitive opportunity is approximately \$20,000,000. The EPA anticipates awarding approximately 20 assistance agreements, with at least one award per EPA Region, depending on the quality and quantity of applications received. The minimum individual award amount is \$100,000 and the maximum individual award amount is \$1,500,000 for the grant period, which is up to three years. Refer to [Section 1.D](#) of this announcement for more information.

Materials and waste streams considered under this announcement include: municipal solid waste (MSW), including plastics, organics, paper, metal, glass, etc., electronic waste, batteries, household hazardous waste, tire scraps, construction and demolition (C&D) debris, and disaster debris. The materials listed above must be managed through source reduction, reuse, sending materials to material recovery facilities, composting, rendering, anaerobic digestion, and feeding animals.

The following activities are not eligible for funding under this NOFO: constructing, improving or operating landfills; incineration; burn units; waste-to-energy or biofuels (except anaerobic digestion); chemical and thermal recycling; and environmental cleanup. Food preprocessing is only eligible when paired with recycling activities. *Note:* Definitions of some commonly used terms will be posted in EPA's questions and answers on [EPA's Solid Waste Infrastructure for Recycling Grants for Tribes and Intertribal Consortia](#) webpage.

C. Key Dates:

January 23, 2026 11:59 pm ET	Application Submission Deadline
April 2026	Anticipated Notification of Selection
September 2026	Anticipated Award Notification

D. Funding Details:

It is anticipated that **approximately 20** award(s) will be made under this announcement. Awards are expected to be **between \$100,000 to \$1,500,000 each**, depending on Agency funding levels, the quality of applications received, agency priorities, and other applicable considerations. Awards funded under this opportunity are expected to have a **three year** project period. Projects located in Alaska may have up to a **five-year** project period.

E. Agency Contact Information:

Further information, if needed, may be obtained from the EPA contact(s) indicated below.

Technical Contact: **Chris Carusiello and Jamie Lutz, SWIFRTribal@epa.gov**

2. Eligibility

A. Eligible Applicants

Only these types of organizations may apply. Under this announcement, applications will be accepted from:

- **Indian Tribes** as defined in 33 U.S.C. 4201 and section 4 of the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act (25 U.S.C. 5304), which includes Alaskan Native Villages and Alaska Native Corporations, and former Indian reservations in Oklahoma, as determined by the Secretary of the Interior, and
- **Intertribal consortia**, consistent with the requirements in [40 CFR Part 35.504\(a\)](#).

Intertribal consortia will be eligible to receive grants under this program **only if** the consortium demonstrates that all members of the consortium meet the eligibility requirements for the grant and authorize the consortium to apply for and receive assistance by submitting to EPA documentation of:

- (1) the existence of the partnership between Indian Tribal governments, **and**
- (2) authorization of the consortium by all its members to apply for and receive the grant.

Documentation can be in the form of letters signed by all member Tribes, approved by-laws that contain language that specifically address the eligibility requirements, and/or other forms of documentation approved by the EPA Point of Contact that adequately meet the eligibility requirements.

(1) Other Eligibility Requirements

Applications must meet the following threshold criteria to be considered eligible:

1. Applications must address at least one of the mandatory objectives described in [Section 3.A](#) of this announcement:
 - Develop or update plans focused on improving post-consumer materials management such as source reduction (e.g., repair clinics, reuse centers), collection, storage, transportation, backhaul, recycling, and/or markets for recyclables;
 - Establish, increase, or expand materials management infrastructure, such as facilities for reuse, recycling, or composting; collection and storage bins for recyclable or organic material, purchasing equipment or supplies such as scales, crushers, balers, and sorting equipment, trucks, forklifts, safety equipment);
 - Establish or identify end-markets for the use of recycled materials; and/or
 - Demonstrate an increase in the diversion, recycling rate, and/or quality of materials collected.
2. Applicants must be eligible, as described in [Section 2.A](#). Intertribal consortia should pay particular attention to documentation requirements in Section 2.A.
3. Federal funds requested must be between \$100,000 and \$1,500,000, inclusive. Applications requesting federal assistance funding below or in excess of this value will not be considered.
4. Funds awarded under this NOFO may not be used to carry out the same activities that are already funded or in the process of being funded under other EPA financial assistance programs such as the Indian General Assistance Program, Tribal Hazardous Waste Management Grant

Program, and the Tribal Response Program Grants or financial assistance applicants receive from other Federal agencies. **Applicants must provide a statement that their proposed project(s) does not duplicate other Federally funded grants.** Duplicate activities will not be considered for funding under this opportunity.

5. Applications must substantially comply with the application submission instructions and requirements set forth in [Section 4](#) of this NOFO or else they will be rejected. However, where a page limit is expressed in [Section 4](#) with respect to the application, or parts thereof, pages in excess of the page limitation will not be reviewed. Applicants are advised that readability is of paramount importance and should take precedence in application format, including selecting a legible font type and size for use in the application. **Please note, the budget table and description are different than the SF-424A form. Both are required to be completed as part of the application. This is one of the most common threshold criteria that applicants fail. So please triple check that you include the budget table and description in grants.gov.**

If necessary, the EPA may contact applicants to clarify their threshold eligibility prior to making eligibility determinations.

Please see [Section 6](#) for additional threshold criteria.

B. Cost Sharing

Consistent with the authorizing statute in Save Our Seas 2.0 Act ([Public Law 116–224](#)) as codified at 33 U.S.C. 4282(a) Section 302(a), cost sharing and matching funds are **not required** under this competition.

Applicants may not propose a voluntary committed cost share under this NOFO. Applicants are to only include activities that EPA will fund in the workplan and costs for those activities in budgets. Voluntary committed cost share described in work plans or budgets will not be accepted by EPA or evaluated. EPA may contact the applicant to identify the cost share component that will be disregarded during evaluation. If an application is submitted that includes voluntary committed cost share, that portion of the application will not be evaluated. If the voluntary cost share portion of the application is so integrated into the workplan it cannot feasibly be disregarded during evaluation, it may not be possible to evaluate the application for funding. **Only Federal funds should be included in the SF-424, SF-424A, and Budget Table and Description.**

3. Program Description

A. Purpose, Priorities, and Activities

(1) Scope of Work

The EPA is soliciting applications for a wide variety of projects designed to build and transform Tribal solid waste infrastructure reducing waste and managing materials to achieve a circular economy, and create cleaner, resilient, and healthier communities. Projects will create new capacity that foster environmentally sound solid waste management and facilitate greater access for Tribal communities to source reduction (e.g., repair clinics, reuse centers), recycling, backhaul, anaerobic digestion, and composting opportunities.

All applications must address one or more of the following objectives:

- Develop or update plans³ focused on encouraging environmentally sound post-consumer materials management such as source reduction (e.g., repair clinics, reuse centers), collection, storage, transportation, composting, recycling, and/or markets for recyclables;
- Develop, strengthen, and/or implement comprehensive data collection efforts that demonstrate progress towards the National Recycling Goal and Food Loss and Waste Reduction Goal;
- Establish, increase, or expand materials management infrastructure, such as facilities for reuse, recycling, or composting; collection and storage bins for recyclable or organic material, purchasing and maintaining equipment or supplies such as scales, crushers, balers, and sorting equipment, trucks, forklifts, and safety equipment;
- Establish or identify end-markets for the use of recycled materials; or
- Demonstrate an increase in the diversion⁴ recycling rate, and/or quality of materials collected.

Materials and waste streams considered under this announcement include: municipal solid waste (MSW), including plastics, organics, paper, metal, glass, etc., electronic waste, batteries, household hazardous waste, tire scraps, construction and demolition (C&D) debris, and disaster debris. The materials listed above must be managed through source reduction, reuse, sending materials to material recovery facilities, composting, rendering, anaerobic digestion, and feeding animals.

Applications **may include (but are not limited to)** projects that fund:

- Development or updates to plans focused on improving post-consumer materials management;
- Planning and construction of facilities for food and organics recovery, reuse, recycling, composting or anaerobic digestion;⁵
- Programs that provide or increase access to prevention, reuse, and recycling in areas that currently do not have access; including construction of and/or upgrades to drop-off and transfer stations (including but not limited to a hub-and-spoke model in rural communities), etc.;
- Purchase of collection or storage bins for recyclables or organic material;
- Purchase or lease of recycling equipment or supplies for post-consumer materials management recovery efforts (e.g., crushers, balers, and sorting equipment, trucks, forklifts, safety equipment);
- Activities focused on development of end-markets for materials (e.g., working with a recycler to accept collected materials for processing);
- Activities to support increasing and improving collection of recyclable materials and/or organics and food waste, and backhaul;
- Activities to reduce, reuse and recycle building materials, including deconstruction (dismantling buildings for reuse and recycling) and C&D debris recycling equipment and projects;
- Activities focused on reducing contamination in the recycling stream;
- Activities related to the recycling of scrap tires or batteries;
- Training, technical assistance, and/or tools required to plan, establish, or implement post-consumer materials recovery (e.g., applicants may apply for funding for training employees on use and safety of recycling equipment, raise awareness of infrastructure and processes);
- Education and outreach activities relating to post-consumer materials management;

³ Plans can be any planning document that meets the tribe's administrative, planning, and implementation needs, such as their EPA-Tribal Environmental Plan (ETEP), Integrated Waste Management Plan (IWMP), zero-waste plan, or other planning document of their choice.

⁴ Measured in tons of material diverted from landfill disposal or incineration.

⁵ Compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act will be required for construction projects.

- Land acquisition when necessary for construction or improvements to Tribal recycling facilities and waste management facilities, subject to the requirements at 2 CFR Part 200.311 and 2 CFR Part 200.316.; and/or
- Other activities that the applicant believes will further the objectives of the NOFO, provided those activities are eligible for funding under statute and the terms of this NOFO.

(2) Measuring Environmental Results: Outputs and Outcomes

Applicants are required to describe how funding will help EPA achieve outputs and outcomes in their responses to the criteria in [Section 6](#). Outputs and outcomes specific to each project will be identified as deliverables in the negotiated workplan if the application is selected for award. Recipients will be expected to report progress toward the attainment of expected project outputs and outcomes during the project performance period. Outputs and outcomes are defined as follows:

- Outputs are an environmental activity, effort, and/or associated work product related to an environmental goal or objective that will be produced or provided over time or by a specified date. Outputs may be quantitative or qualitative but must be measurable during the project period.
- Outcomes are the result, effect, or consequence that will occur from carrying out the activities under the grant. Outcomes may be environmental, behavioral, health-related, or programmatic; must be qualitative or quantitative; and may not necessarily be achievable during the project period.

EPA encourages applicants to discuss all of the following environmental outputs and outcomes in the Project Narrative Attachment. Successful applicants that receive grants must report on all of the measures listed below, even if the anticipated result is “0” or “not applicable.”

- Number of infrastructure investments/enhancements made spanning the spectrum of collection through end market development (e.g., bins purchased, post-consumer materials management systems created, technology improvements made).
- Tons of MSW/C&D collected, recycled, or composted, or managed via each relevant management pathway in the community served by the project.
- Tons of MSW/C&D generated per material type (e.g., plastic, food waste, etc.) and source in the community (e.g., household, school, or business) served by the project.
- Number of temporary or permanent jobs created (including part-time).
- Percentage of Tribes and Tribal members of intertribal consortia served as a result of establishing, increasing, expanding, or optimizing collection.
- Number of Tribes and member Tribes of intertribal consortia served as a result of establishing, increasing, expanding, or optimizing collection.

A note about surveys and the OMB Regulations Implementing the Paperwork Reduction Act (PRA):

Grant recipients cannot use EPA funds to design nor administer the collection of identical information from 10 or more parties (for example, through surveys or focus groups). Reasonable costs for analyzing and publishing the independently collected information are allowable to the extent authorized in the EPA approved budget for this agreement.

(3) Ineligible Costs or Activities and Other Considerations

Prohibition on Use of Funds

EPA funds can neither be used to design nor administer the collection of identical information from 10 or more parties (for example, through surveys or focus groups), and EPA personnel may not participate in such activities. Reasonable costs for analyzing and publishing the independently collected information are allowable to the extent authorized in the EPA approved budget for this agreement.

The following activities are not eligible for funding under this NOFO: constructing, improving or operating landfills; incineration; burn units; waste-to-energy or biofuels (except anaerobic digestion); chemical and thermal recycling; and environmental cleanup. Food preprocessing is only eligible when paired with recycling activities.

All costs must meet the requirements for allowability in 2 CFR Part 200, Subpart E, and applicable provisions of 2 CFR Part 1500.

As provided in 33 U.S.C. 4282(f), SWIFR cooperative agreement funding “. . . may not be used (directly or indirectly) as a source of payment (in whole or in part) of, or security for, an obligation the interest on which is excluded from gross income under section 103 of Title 26” of the United States Code. This provision relates to State and local government bonds.

Please note that if the activities listed in this section are included in the submitted application, EPA reserves the right to either not fund that portion of the project, or, depending on how much of the project involves ineligible activities, decline to fund the project under Threshold Criterion 1, above.

B. Program Goals and Objectives

This NOFO has the following goals:

- Fund projects that focus on encouraging environmentally sound post-consumer materials management.
- Fund projects that will result in a decrease in the generation of municipal solid waste and/or an increase in the diversion of municipal solid waste from landfills and incineration; and/or
- Fund projects that provide or expand access to source reduction, reuse, recycling, backhaul, anaerobic digestion, and composting for Tribal communities.

The activities to be funded under this funding announcement support all five pillars of [Administrator Zeldin’s Five Pillars](#):

1. Clean Air, Land, and Water for Every American
2. Restore American Energy Dominance
3. Permitting Reform, Cooperative Federalism, and Cross-Agency Partnership
4. Make the United States the Artificial Intelligence Capital of the World
5. Protecting and Bringing Back American Auto Jobs

National Recycling Strategy

In alignment with [Section 3.A](#), the activities to be funded under this NOFO will support the [National Recycling Strategy](#) (NRS). Awards made under this NOFO will support one or more of the following objectives of the NRS:

- a) Improve markets for recycled commodities;
- b) Increase collection and improve materials management infrastructure;

- c) Reduce contamination in the recycled materials stream;
- d) Enhance policies and programs to support circularity; and
- e) Standardize measurement and increase data collection.

C. Statutory Authority

The Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA) provides \$275,000,000 for grants under Section 302(a) “Post-Consumer Materials Management Infrastructure Grant Program” of the Save Our Seas 2.0 Act ([Public Law 116–224](#)) as codified at 33 U.S.C. 4282(a). The IIJA funds are available to EPA at \$55,000,000 per year from Fiscal Year 2022 to Fiscal Year 2026. Congress appropriated an additional \$14,000,000 for grants authorized under Section 302(a) of Save Our Seas 2.0 Act through EPA’s Fiscal Year 2022 Appropriation Act ([Public Law 117-103](#)), Fiscal Year 2023 Appropriation Act ([Public Law 117-328](#)), and Fiscal Year 2024 Appropriation Act ([Public Law 118-122](#)).

Pursuant to Section 302(a) of the Save Our Seas 2.0 Act, the SWIFR grant program will:

- Implement the series of strategies on building a circular economy for all;
- Support improvements to local post-consumer materials management, including municipal recycling programs; and
- Assist local waste management authorities in making improvements to local waste management systems.

D. Funding Type

It is anticipated that cooperative agreements will be funded under this funding opportunity.

Cooperative agreements provide for substantial involvement between the EPA Project Officer and the selected applicant(s) in the performance of the work supported. Although the EPA will negotiate precise terms and conditions relating to substantial involvement as part of the award process, the anticipated substantial federal involvement for these projects may include:

- close monitoring of the successful applicant’s performance to verify the results proposed by the applicant.
- collaboration during performance of the scope of work.
- in accordance with [2 CFR 200.317](#) and [2 CFR 200.318](#), review of proposed procurement;
- approval of qualifications of key personnel (the EPA will not select employees or contractors employed by the award recipient); and
- review and comment on reports prepared under the cooperative agreement (the final decision on the content of reports rests with the recipient).

The EPA does not have the authority to select employees or contractors employed by the recipient. The final decision on the content of reports rests with the recipient.

4. Application Contents and Format

A. Application Forms

The following forms and documents are required under this announcement:

Mandatory Documents:

1. Application for Federal Assistance (SF-424)
2. Budget Information for Non-Construction Programs (SF-424A)
3. EPA Key Contacts Form 5700-54
4. EPA Form 4700-4 Preaward Compliance Review Report
5. Project Narrative Attachment Form (which is composed of three parts; refer to the information below): use this to submit your Project Narrative
 - EPA has provided optional resources for the “Summary Information Cover Letter,” the “Narrative Proposal,” and the “Budget Table and Description” on [EPA's Solid Waste Infrastructure for Recycling Grants for Tribes and Intertribal Consortia](#) webpage. Including these three parts in the Project Narrative Attachment Form is mandatory. Use of the optional resources is voluntary.

Optional Documents:

1. Other Attachments Form: Use this to submit other attachments, if applicable. This includes:
 - a) Milestones (see example posted on [EPA's Solid Waste Infrastructure for Recycling Grants for Tribes and Intertribal Consortia](#) webpage);
 - b) Documentation demonstrating that the applicant is an eligible Intertribal Consortium (if applicable);
 - c) Negotiated indirect cost rate agreement (if applicable);
 - d) A copy of a financial record displaying the amount of previous SWIFR cooperative agreement funds drawn down (e.g., a report from the Automated Standard Application for Payments (ASAP) or general ledger entries) (Note that EPA may verify the accuracy of this information through our own records).

Please do not submit the following documents, as they will not be considered as part of the application review process: references/works cited, letters of support, staff CV/resumes, solid waste master plans, engineering reports, or feasibility studies. **Letters of support will not be considered in scoring the application.** Submitting additional application materials that are not pertinent to the application can slow down the review process and potentially delay awards.

B. Project Narrative Attachment Form and Budget Detail

Project Narrative Attachment Form. All applications must contain the “Project Narrative Attachment Form” which is composed of the “Summary Information Cover Letter,” the “Narrative Proposal,” and the “Budget Table and Description.”

- The “Summary Information Cover Letter,” a maximum of 1 page in length, summarizes the overall project.
- The “Narrative Proposal,” a maximum of 10 pages in length, must **explicitly** describe the applicant’s proposed project and specifically address each of the evaluation criteria disclosed in [Section 6.B](#) and the threshold eligibility criteria in [Section 2](#) and [Section 6.A](#).
- The “Budget Table and Description” is described in more detail in [Section 6.B](#). It provides a response to Criterion 5: Budget and Expenditure of Awarded Grant Funds. **The “Budget Table and Description” can be a budget spreadsheet (see optional spreadsheet resource on [EPA’s](#)**

[Solid Waste Infrastructure for Recycling Grants for Tribes and Intertribal Consortia webpage](#)) or 4 typed pages. EPA will not review any additional budget documents beyond those described here, including pages of the budget narrative in excess of 4 pages. If a spreadsheet file is included for the "Budget Table and Description," it does not have a page limit.

EPA will only review the contents within the specified page limits for each portion of the "Project Narrative Attachment Form". Any pages in excess of the page limits will not be reviewed.

Optional documents noted above are not included in the page limits.

The following requirements apply to the "Project Narrative Attachment Form":

- The components of the "Project Narrative Attachment Form" should be concise and well organized.
- Readability is of paramount importance and should take precedence in application format, including selecting a legible font type and size for use in the application.
- Must provide the information detailed in this section and **include responses to all of [Section 2](#), [Section 3](#), and [Section 6](#)**. Factual information about your proposed project must be provided. Do not include discussions of broad principles that are not specific to the proposed work or project covered by your application. Responses to evaluation criteria should include the criteria number and title but need not restate the entire text of the criteria. Sufficient detail must be provided to allow for an evaluation of the merits of the proposal. **Vague descriptions, redundancy, and failure to address each of the evaluation criteria will result in a lower ranking.**

Note: Applicants may, but are not required to, use the optional resources for The Project Attachment Form (Summary Information Cover Letter, Narrative Proposal, and Budget Table and Description) available on [EPA's Solid Waste Infrastructure for Recycling Grants for Tribes and Intertribal Consortia](#) webpage. Applicants that do not use the resources will not be penalized.

a. The **Summary Information Cover Letter** (maximum of one page) must include:

- Project Title.**
- Applicant Name.** Identify the name of the organization submitting the application.
- Eligible Entity Type.** Identify your organization's organization type from [Section 2.A](#).
- [Unique Entity Identification Number \(UEI\)](#).** List the organization's UEI, which is the official identifier for doing business with the U.S. Government.
- Project Summary.** Briefly describe the project in two to four sentences.
- Contact Information.** Include name, title, address, email address, phone number. You can list both a primary and an administrative contact.
- Project Location.** Include the location where the project will be taking place. If the project will occur in more than one location, indicate the city and state associated with the primary location.

- viii. **EPA Funding Requested.** Specify the amount you are requesting from the EPA.
 - ix. **Project Period.** Provide estimated beginning and ending dates.
 - x. **Program Objective Elements.** State the mandatory program objective elements addressed from [Section 3.A](#).
 - xi. **Statement of Non-duplication.** In response to Threshold Criterion 4 (in [Section 2.A.1](#)).
 - xii. **Cooperative Partners.** Provide names and phone numbers of individuals and organizations that have agreed to participate in the implementation of the project, if any. Note that any transactions with partners financed with EPA funding must comply with applicable regulatory requirements.
- b. **The Narrative Proposal (maximum of ten pages).** Provide the information below on how the applicant will implement and conduct its project by addressing each of the evaluation criteria in [Section 6](#) of this announcement. The Narrative Proposal must include:
- i. **Project Summary and Approach.** The summary shall contain the following components:
 - a. **Detailed project summary, description of specific actions and methods to be undertaken, including estimated timeline for each task.**
 - Provide a well-conceived strategy for addressing the requirements and plan for achieving project results in [Section 3.A](#).
 - Clearly identify the goals and objectives of the project and include an effective, easily-understood plan with well-reasoned steps and milestones to meet the stated objectives.
 - Provide a reasonable time schedule for the execution of the tasks associated with the project and for achieving the project goals and objectives by project end. Provide a schedule indicating start times and completion dates of significant tasks and responsibilities under your program. For efficiency, it is suggested that project milestones be coordinated with important events (e.g., budget cycle, meetings). Reference the example Milestones on [EPA's Solid Waste Infrastructure for Recycling Grants for Tribes and Intertribal Consortia](#) webpage for an example you may wish to use.
 - Clearly describe each task and/or activity for the project.
 - ii. **Impactful Approaches and Solutions.** Describe how the project results will improve the environmental conditions of the Tribal community(/ies) in the short and long-term, and any other community benefits associated with the anticipated project outcomes. Also describe how

the anticipated benefits of the project contribute to post-consumer materials management in Tribal communities.

Examples of impactful approaches and solutions may include, but are not limited to:

- solving local challenges around collection of materials in rural or isolated areas;
- conducting activities that foster environmentally sound materials management to multiple Tribes;
- coordinating regional source reduction, recycling or backhaul services;
- establishing or expanding a hub and spoke source reduction and/or recycling system;
- implementing projects that will increase the long-term resilience of Tribal post-consumer materials management systems.

- iii. **Measuring Environmental Results: Anticipated Outputs and Outcomes.** Provide a well-conceived strategy for addressing the requirements and a plan for achieving project results in [Section 3.A.2](#).
 - a. Discuss how you propose to track and measure your progress towards achieving the project outputs and outcomes. Include quantitative targets for outputs and outcomes when applicable (*Refer to [Section 3.A.1](#) and [Section 6.B](#)*).
- iv. **Programmatic Capability and Past Performance.** Submit a list of federally and/or non-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 agreements, and preferably EPA agreements) and describe:
 - a. past performance in successfully completing and managing the assistance agreements identified in response to [Section 4.B.b.iv](#) of the NOFO;
 - b. history of meeting the reporting requirements under the assistance agreements identified in response to [Section 4.B.b.iv](#) of the NOFO including whether the applicant submitted acceptable final technical reports under those agreements and the extent to which the applicant adequately and timely reported on their progress towards achieving the expected outputs and outcomes under those agreements and if such progress was not being made whether the applicant adequately reported why not; and
 - c. staff expertise/qualifications (including organizational experience), staff knowledge, and resources or the ability to obtain them, to successfully achieve the goals of the proposed project.

In evaluating applicants under these factors in [Section 6](#), the 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/prior grantors (e.g., to verify and/or supplement the information provided by the applicant). If you do not have any relevant or available past performance or past reporting information, please indicate this in the application and you will receive a neutral score for these factors (a neutral score is half of the total points available in a subset of possible points). If you do not provide any response for these items, you may receive a score of 0 for these factors.

- v. **Budget and Expenditure of Awarded Grant Funds.** Describe your organization's procedures, and controls for ensuring that awarded grant funds will be expended in a timely and efficient manner.

Budget Table and Description. Include a detailed budget narrative which clearly explains how funds will be used. The budget narrative is a detailed description of the budget found in the SF-424A and should include a discussion of the applicant's approach to ensuring proper management of grant funds, and itemized budget table(s). **Please note, the Budget Table and Description is different than the SF424A form. Both are required to be completed as part of this NOFO.** The successful applicant's budget description should identify (1) specific tasks for which EPA funding will be used, (2) the costs associated with each task, and (3) what outputs will be produced as a result of each task. Refer [Section 3.A](#) for a definition of outputs and outcomes. EPA has provided an optional spreadsheet resource for the Budget Table and Description on [EPA's Solid Waste Infrastructure for Recycling Grants for Tribes and Intertribal Consortia](#) webpage.

Applicants should be aware that if their proposals include using Federal funds for a project that includes the purchase of goods, products, and materials on any form of construction, alteration, maintenance, or repair of infrastructure in the United States for identified EPA financial assistance funding programs, they must comply with the Build America, Buy America [Terms and Conditions](#) if they are selected for award. Please refer to [Section 9.A.6](#) of this NOFO for additional information and consider this information when preparing your budget.

Cost sharing/matching funds are not required under this competition. Applicants' project budgets on the Standard Form 424A are to only cover costs that will be borne by SWIFR funding. **Do not include cost-sharing or matching funds anywhere in the application. Cost-sharing and matching funds will not be evaluated under this competition.** If non-Federal funds are included on the SF-424, SF-424A, and/or Budget Table and Description, it may impact the eligibility of the application. Please refer to [Section 2.B](#) for more detailed information.

Applicants must **itemize** costs related to personnel, fringe benefits, travel, equipment, supplies, contractual costs, other direct costs, indirect costs, and total costs.

Applicants should use the following instructions and budget object class descriptions to complete the Budget Table and Description. Applicants should refer to the EPA's [Interim General Budget Development Guidance for Applicants and Recipients of EPA Financial Assistance](#) for additional information relating to cost categories.

- **Personnel - List all staff positions by title. Give annual salary (actual or proposed for new positions), percentage of time assigned to the project, and total cost for the budget period.** This category includes only direct costs for the salaries of those individuals who will perform work directly for the project (paid employees of the applicant organization as reflected in payroll tax records). If the applicant organization is including staff time (in-kind services), this should be included as Personnel costs. Personnel costs do not include: (1) costs for services of contractors (including individual consultants), which are included in the "Contractual" category; (2) costs for employees

of subrecipients under subawards, or non-employee program participants (e.g., interns or volunteers) which are included in the “Other” category; or (3) effort that is not directly in support of the proposed project, which may be covered by the organization’s negotiated indirect cost rate. The budget detail must identify the personnel category type by Full Time Equivalent (FTE), including percentage of FTE for part-time employees, number of personnel proposed for each category, and the estimated funding amounts.

If budget information is not provided on requested personnel costs, applications should include in their narrative how they expect to manage the administrative components of the grant.

- **Fringe Benefits - Identify the percentage used, the basis for its computation, and the types of benefits included.** Fringe benefits are allowances and services provided by employers to their employees as compensation in addition to regular salaries and wages. Fringe benefits may include, but are not limited to the cost of leave, employee insurance, pensions, and unemployment benefit plans. If the applicant’s fringe benefit rate does not include the cost of leave, and the applicant intends to charge leave to the agreement, it must provide supplemental information describing its proposed method(s) for determining and equitably distributing these costs.
- **Travel - Specify the mileage, per diem, estimated number of trips, number of travelers, and other costs for each type of travel.** Travel may be integral to the purpose of the proposed project (e.g., inspections) or related to proposed project activities (e.g., attendance at meetings). Only include travel costs for employees in the travel category. Travel costs do not include: (1) costs for travel of contractors (including individual consultants), which are included in the “Contractual” category; (2) travel costs for employees of subrecipients under subawards, and non-employee program participants (e.g., trainees) which are included in the “Other” category. Further, travel does not include bus rentals for group trips, which would be covered under the contractual category. Finally, if the applicant intends to use any funds for travel outside the United States, it must be specifically identified. All proposed foreign travel must be approved by the EPA’s Office of International and Tribal Affairs prior to being taken.
- **Equipment** - Identify each item to be purchased and owned by the applicant which has an estimated acquisition cost of \$10,000 or more per unit and a useful life of more than one year. Equipment also includes accessories necessary to make the equipment operational. Note: If your organization has written procurement procedures that define a threshold for equipment costs that is lower than \$10,000, then that threshold takes precedence. Refer to the [EPA’s Best Practice Guide for Procuring Services, Supplies, and Equipment Under EPA Assistance Agreements](#) for the EPA’s policies on competitive procurements and the Build America, Buy America provisions outlined in [Section 9.A.6](#) (notwithstanding any reference to procurement in these guidance documents. Tribes and intertribal consortia can follow their own procurement policies and procedures subject to [2 CFR 200.317](#). If a Tribe or intertribal consortia does not have their own policies and procedures, they are subject to the federal requirements). When evaluating the budget criterion, the EPA will take into consideration costs necessary to successfully manage the project. This includes ensuring that your budget includes costs for the management of funds, reporting on all required outputs/outcomes, etc., in addition to

the cost of equipment. Please include an explanation of this matter in the Budget Table and Description.

- **Supplies - “Supplies” means all tangible personal property other than “equipment.”** The budget detail should identify categories of supplies to be procured (e.g., laboratory supplies or office supplies). Non-tangible goods and services associated with supplies, such as, occasional photocopy services, and rental costs should be included in the “Other” category.
- **Contractual - Identify each type of proposed contract and specify its purpose and estimated cost.** Contractual services (including consulting services) are those services to be carried out by an individual or organization, other than the applicant, in the form of a procurement relationship. The [EPA’s Subaward Policy for EPA Assistance Agreements](#) and the [EPA Subaward Frequent Questions](#) has detailed guidance available for differentiating between contractors and subrecipients. Leased or rented goods (equipment or supplies) should be included in the “Other” category.
- **Eligible Construction Costs.** Construction costs may include site preparation, demolishing and building facilities, making permanent improvements to facilities or other real property, major renovations of existing facilities, remediation of contamination and related architectural or engineering services. With very few exceptions, recipients carry out construction projects by hiring contractors which typically include a general contractor and an architectural or engineering firm for design work and in some cases purchasing equipment for installation at the site.

The recipient should provide a list of planned construction contracts along with a brief description of the scope of work or services to be provided, planned duration, and planned procurement method (competitive or non-competitive), if known. Recipients should consult the guidance on contracting in Section VI of the [Interim Budget Development Guidance for Applicants and Recipients of EPA Financial Assistance](#) for additional information on competition requirements (notwithstanding any reference to procurement in these guidance documents. Tribes and intertribal consortia can follow their own procurement policies and procedures subject to [2 CFR 200.317](#). If a Tribe or intertribal consortia does not have their own policies and procedures, they are subject to the federal requirements).

The cost plus percentage of construction cost method of contracting is prohibited by [2 CFR Part 200.324](#).

Categorizing Construction Costs. Construction costs are to be categorized on the SF 424A budget table as follows:

- Anticipated costs for hiring general contractors and other contractors performing activities described in [40 CFR 33.103](#) definition of *Construction* will be categorized as “Construction.”

- Anticipated costs for pre-construction architectural and engineering *Services* as defined in [40 CFR 33.103](#) for design and specifications documents will be categorized as “Contractual”.
- Anticipated costs for separately purchased *Equipment* as defined in [40 CFR 33.103](#) that will be installed in a facility or used to remediate contamination will be categorized as “Equipment”.
- Anticipated costs for land acquisition or relocation assistance paid to individuals or businesses will be categorized as “Other”.
- Force Account – If recipient personnel or equipment are to be used to perform eligible construction project work (e.g., engineering, inspection, waste removal) under force account, approval must be obtained from an Authorized EPA Official either at time of award or in response to a post-award written request. Force account work must be more economical than contracting the work out or necessitated by emergency. Recipients must demonstrate that recipient personnel have the necessary competence to do the work. Force account costs for personnel are budgeted in the “Personnel” and “Fringe Benefit categories. Costs for equipment purchased for the project are budgeted in the “Equipment” category. Usage charges for equipment in recipients’ existing inventory is categorized as “Other.” All force account costs must be supported by adequate financial records as required by [2 CFR Part 200.302](#), [2 CFR Part 200.430](#) and [2 CFR Part 200.431](#). Note that recipients must maintain records demonstrating that equipment usage charges are reasonable based on lease rates for similar equipment in the relevant market.
- **Other - List each item in sufficient detail for the EPA to determine the reasonableness and allowability of its cost.** This category should include only those types of direct costs that do not fit in any of the other budget categories. Examples of costs that may be in this category are: insurance; rental/lease of equipment or supplies; occasional photocopying; participant support costs such as non-employee training stipends and travel; subsidies or rebates for purchases of recycling equipment or other payments to program beneficiaries; and subaward costs. Applicants should describe the items included in the “Other” category and include the estimated amount of participant support costs (e.g., stipends to encourage participation in community meetings) in a separate line item. Please refer to [EPA Guidance on Participant Support Costs](#) for additional information.

Subawards (e.g., subgrants) are a distinct type of cost under this category. The term *Subaward* is defined in 2 CFR Part 200.1. Subcontracts are not subawards and belong in the contractual category. Applicants must provide the aggregate amount they propose to issue as subaward work as a separate line item in the “Other” category and a description of the types of activities to be supported. Refer to the [EPA’s Subaward Policy for EPA Assistance Agreements](#) and [EPA Subaward Frequent Questions](#) for additional guidance.

Successful applicants that plan to issue subawards are characterized as pass-through entities. Pass-through entities will be accountable to EPA for proper expenditure of grant funds and providing programmatic reporting. Also, subawardees (aka subrecipients) will be accountable to their pass-through entity for proper use of EPA funding as required under [2 CFR Part 200.332](#).

Indirect Charges - Please refer to the Indirect Costs clause in the [EPA NOFO Clauses](#).

Management Fees: When formulating budgets for 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 the EPA. The term "management fees or similar charges" refers to expenses added to the direct costs in order 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.

Fundraising: EPA financial assistance under this NOFO cannot be used for fundraising without prior approval. Therefore, any costs associated with fundraising may not be included in the budget for your application or charged to the resultant cooperative agreement.

Applicants should clearly identify any anticipated **program income** in their proposal.

C. Applicants Using Contractors

Applicants must compete contracts for services and products, including consultant contracts, and conduct cost and price analyses, to the extent required by the [procurement provisions](#) of the regulations at 2 CFR Part 200.

Do not name a procurement contractor (including a consultant) as a "partner" or otherwise in your application unless the contractor has been selected in compliance with competitive procurement requirements. If an applicant selected for award has named a specific subrecipient, contractor, or consultant in the application, it does not relieve the applicant of its obligations to comply with subaward and/or competitive procurement requirements.

The EPA will not consider the qualifications, experience, and expertise of named subrecipients and/or named contractor(s) during the application evaluation process unless the applicant provides documentation that it has complied with these requirements.

For additional guidance, applicants should review [EPA's Best Practice Guide for Procuring Services, Supplies, and Equipment Under EPA Assistance Agreements](#), [EPA's Subaward Policy](#), and [EPA's Subaward Policy Frequent Questions](#). The EPA expects recipients of funding to comply with competitive procurement contracting requirements in 2 CFR Parts 200 and 1500, as well as the requirements in 2 CFR Part 200.321 and 40 CFR Part 33 Subpart C.

D. Release Copies of Applications

Copies of applications submitted under this NOFO may be made publicly available on [EPA's Transforming U.S. Recycling and Waste Management webpage](#).

Applicants should:

- clearly indicate which portion(s) of the application are confidential, privileged, or sensitive information, or
- state 'n/a' or 'not applicable' if the application does not have confidential, privileged, or sensitive information;
- not include trade secrets or commercial or financial information that is confidential or privileged, or sensitive information that would invade another individual's personal privacy (e.g., an individual's salary, personal email addresses, etc.);
- be aware that if such information is included, it will be treated in accordance with 40 CFR § 2.203.

E. Coalition Coverage

A coalition is formed when two or more eligible applicants coordinate to submit a single application. Coalitions must identify which single eligible organization will be the recipient of the grant and which eligible organization(s) will receive subawards from the recipient (the "pass-through entity"). The pass-through entity that administers the grant and subawards will be accountable to the EPA for proper expenditure of the funds and reporting and will be the point of contact for the coalition. Subawards must be consistent with the definition of that term in [2 CFR 200.1](#) and comply with the [EPA's Subaward Policy](#).

5. Submission Requirements and Deadlines

A. Submission Dates and Times

January 23, 2026 11:59 pm ET

Application Submission Deadline

Grants.gov creates a date and time record when it receives the application. If you submit the same application more than once, we will accept the last on-time submission.

If you submit an application with the same name more than once, EPA will accept the last on-time submission. The same applicants are allowed to submit applications for multiple different projects. In that case, please make sure the title of the project is different so EPA reviews both projects.

B. Unique Entity Identifier (UEI) and System for Award Management (SAM.gov)

SAM.gov

You must have an active account with SAM.gov. SAM.gov will provide a UEI for your organization, which is required to apply for grants using Grants.gov. To register, go to [SAM.gov Entity Registration](#) and click Get Started. From the same page, you can also click on the [Entity Registration Checklist](#) for the information you will need to register. Make sure you are current with SAM.gov and UEI requirements before applying for the award.

SAM.gov registration can take several weeks. [Begin that process today.](#)

Grants.gov

You must also have an active account with [Grants.gov](#). You can see step-by-step instructions at the Grants.gov [Quick Start Guide for Applicants](#).

Please visit [How to Register to Apply for Grants](#) for additional information.

C. Submission Instructions

You must submit your application through Grants.gov. See Section 5.B. above for information on getting registered.

Important tips:

- To begin the application process under this grant announcement, go to Grants.gov and click the red “Apply” button at the top of the view grant opportunity page associated with this opportunity.
- See the Quick Start Guide for Applicants for instructions on how to submit.
- Make sure your application passes the Grants.gov validation checks.
- Do not encrypt, zip, or password protect any files.
- Your application must be submitted by an official representative of your organization who is registered with Grants.gov and is authorized to sign applications for Federal financial assistance.
- If you receive an error or the button is grayed out, it may be because you do not have the appropriate role to submit in your organization. Contact your organization’s EBiz point of contact or contact Grants.gov for assistance at 1-800-518-4726 or support@grants.gov.
- See Grants.gov Errors for information on other Grants.gov errors.
- The UEI listed on the application must be registered to the applicant organization's SAM.gov account. If not, the application may be deemed ineligible.

D. Technical Issues with Submission

If applicants experience technical issues during the submission of an application that they are unable to resolve, follow these procedures **before** the application deadline date:

- Contact Grants.gov Support Center before the application deadline date.
- Document the Grants.gov ticket/case number.
- Send an email with the funding opportunity number (**EPA-I-OLEM-ORCR-25-02**) in the subject line to SWIFRTribal@epa.gov before the application deadline time and date and must include the following:
 - Grants.gov ticket/case number(s)
 - Description of the issue
 - The entire application package in PDF format.

Without this information, the EPA may not be able to consider applications submitted outside of Grants.gov. Any application submitted after the application deadline time and date deadline will be deemed ineligible and **not** be considered.

Please note that successful submission through Grants.gov or email does not necessarily mean your application is eligible for award.

E. Intergovernmental Review

The application is not subject to Intergovernmental Review.

6. Application Review Information

A. Responsiveness Review

Applications must meet the threshold criteria requirements described in [Section 2](#) to be evaluated. Applicants not meeting these requirements will be deemed ineligible and will be notified within 15 calendar days of the determination.

- Applications must adhere to the page limit requirements. Any pages over the limit(s) in [Section 4](#) will not be reviewed.
- Initial applications must be submitted *on or before* the application deadline through Grants.gov or through limited circumstances as expressed in [Section 5](#). The EPA will not evaluate applications that are not submitted on time.
- *Technical difficulties applying:* Applicants having technical difficulties applying must contact the Grants.gov hotline at 1-800-518-4726 *and* then must email a PDF of the full application to the EPA contact listed in [Section 1](#). The submission must be received prior to the application deadline for consideration.

B. Review Criteria

Criteria Name and Description	Points
1. Project Summary and Approach	40
2. Impactful Approaches and Solutions	25
3. Measuring Environmental Results: Anticipated Outputs and Outcomes	10
4. Programmatic Capability and Past Performance	10
5. Budget and Timely Expenditure of Awarded Grant Funds	15
TOTAL	100

Applicants will be evaluated based on the extent and quality to which they demonstrate that they have the capability to successfully perform the project as described in [Section 3](#) of this funding opportunity.

Only eligible entities whose applications meet the threshold criteria in [Section 2](#) of this announcement will be evaluated. **Applicants should explicitly address these criteria as part of their application package submittal in the project narrative. See [Section 4.B](#) for more details on what to include in the “Project Narrative Attachment Form.”** Each application will be rated using a point system. Applications will be evaluated based on a total of 100 possible points.

(1) Project Summary and Approach (40 points)

Under this criterion, the Agency will evaluate the extent and quality to which:

- a. The Narrative Proposal includes a clearly written description of the overall project **(10 points)**;

- b. The project meets the requirements in [Section 3.A.1: Scope of Work \(15 points\)](#);
- c. The Narrative Proposal clearly identifies the goals and objectives of the project and includes an effective, easily understood plan with well-reasoned steps and milestones to meet the stated objectives **(10 points)**; and
- d. The Narrative Proposal sets forth a reasonable time schedule for the execution of the tasks associated with the project and for achieving the project goals and objectives by project end **(5 points)**.

(2) Impactful Approaches and Solutions (25 points)

Applications will be evaluated based on the extent and quality to which they describe:

- a. how the project results will improve the environmental conditions of the Tribal community(/ies) in the short and long term, and any other community benefits associated with the anticipated project outcomes **(15 points)**.
- b. how the anticipated benefits of the project contribute to post-consumer materials management in Tribal communities **(10 points)**.

Examples of impactful approaches and solutions may include, but are not limited to:

- solving local challenges around collection of materials in rural or isolated areas;
- conducting activities that foster environmentally sound materials management to multiple Tribes;
- coordinating regional source reduction, recycling or backhaul services;
- establishing or expanding a hub and spoke source reduction and/or recycling system;
- implementing projects that will increase the long-term resilience of Tribal post-consumer materials management systems.

(3) Measuring Environmental Results (10 points)

Applications will be evaluated on the quality of the response and the extent to which it proposes strategies for measuring and tracking the expected outputs and outcomes described in [Section 3.A.2](#). Outputs and outcomes must be quantitative or qualitative and should be directly linked to a measure of environmental improvement and to project activities described in the Narrative Proposal.

Please note that all outputs and outcomes listed in [Section 3.A.2](#) must be discussed to receive full points for this criterion (even if the anticipated result is “0” or “Not Applicable”).

(4) Programmatic Capability and Environmental Results Past Performance Criteria (10 points)

Under this criterion, applicants will be evaluated based on their ability to successfully complete and manage the proposed project considering their:

- a. past performance in successfully completing and managing the assistance agreements identified in response to [Section 4.B.b.iv](#) of the funding opportunity **(2 points)**;
- b. history of meeting the reporting requirements under the assistance agreements identified in response to [Section 4.B.b.iv](#) of the funding opportunity including whether the applicant submitted acceptable final technical reports under those agreements and the extent to which the applicant adequately and timely reported on their progress towards achieving the expected outputs and outcomes under those agreements and if such progress was not being made whether the applicant adequately reported why not **(2 points)**;
- c. staff expertise/qualifications (including organizational experience), staff knowledge, and resources or the ability to obtain them, to successfully achieve the goals of the proposed project **(6 points)**.

Note: The EPA will consider the information provided by the applicant under items (a.) and (b.) of this criterion and may 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). If you do not have any relevant or available past performance or past reporting information, please indicate this in the application and you will receive a neutral score for these subfactors (items a. and b. above – a neutral score is half of the total points available in a subset of possible points). If you do not provide any response for these items, you may receive a score of 0 for these factors.

(5) Budget and Expenditure of Awarded Grant Funds (15 points)

Under this criterion, applications will be evaluated based on their approach, procedures, and controls for ensuring that awarded grant funds will be expended in a timely and efficient manner. The Agency will evaluate the proposed project budget and narrative to determine the extent and quality to which:

- a. Costs are reasonable to accomplish the proposed goals, objectives, and measurable environmental outcomes **(5 points)**.
- b. The proposed budget provides a detailed breakout of the approximate funding used for each major activity **(7 points)**.
- c. The application conveys the approach, procedures, and controls for ensuring that awarded grant funds will be expended in a timely and efficient manner. **(3 points)**.

Please provide the response to this criterion as part of your budget table and description (including an optional budget spreadsheet or up to 4 additional pages). See *optional budget table and description spreadsheet resource provided on [EPA's Solid Waste Infrastructure for Recycling Grants for Tribes and Intertribal Consortia](#) webpage.*

C. Review and Selection Process

- 1. Threshold Eligibility Screening Process** - All applications received by the submission deadline will first be screened by the EPA using the threshold eligibility criteria in [Section 2](#) and [Section 6.A](#). Applications that do not pass the threshold eligibility review will not be evaluated further or

considered for funding. Applicants deemed ineligible for funding consideration as a result of the threshold eligibility review will be notified within 15 calendar days of the ineligibility determination. Applications meeting the threshold eligibility criteria will be reviewed through a regional review process by a review panel comprised of EPA staff and/or external reviewers.

2. Panel Review and Evaluation Process - All applications that meet the Threshold Eligibility Criteria after the screening review will be reviewed based on the criteria in [Section 6.B](#).

3. Final Selection Process and Other Factors – Final rankings and selection recommendations from the review panels based on the ranking lists will be presented to the Headquarters Selection Official who will then make the final selections for award based on the ranking lists. The EPA anticipates selecting at least one grant per EPA region, depending on the quantity and quality of the applications received. In addition to the ranking lists, the Selection Official may also consider any of the other evaluation factors listed below in making final selection decisions among the high-ranking applications from the regional lists.

Other Evaluation Factors

Final funding decisions will be made by the selection official. In making the final funding decisions, the selection official may also consider the following factors:

- a. **Geographic Diversity** – The EPA may consider the mix of high-ranking projects located in urban and rural areas or different regions of the country when making final selections, as well as the geographical nature or impact of the portfolio of projects, such as a balance in funding for smaller Tribes, larger Tribes, and intertribal consortia. EPA may also consider making the number of awards in line with the Tribal distribution across the EPA regions.
- b. **Diversity of Scope and Budget** – The EPA may consider the mix of high-ranking project types when making final selections to ensure that there is a variety of projects being awarded. The EPA does not intend to weigh larger budget projects more favorably than projects with smaller scopes and budgets.
- c. **Programmatic Priorities** – ORCR priorities that may focus on certain sustainable materials management, environmental, and/or public health issues. These overarching priorities may be considered when making final selections among high-ranking applications.
- d. **“Shovel-Ready” Projects** – The EPA may consider projects where pre-planning, permitting, environmental compliance, and bids have already been completed, such that the project can begin implementation in 6 to 12 months, when making final selections.
- e. **Expenditure of Existing Grant Funds** – The EPA may consider prioritizing applicants that have not previously received SWIFR cooperative agreements, or those that previously received SWIFR cooperative agreements and have disbursed at least 25% of the funding for each SWIFR cooperative agreement they have with EPA by November 28, 2025.

The EPA anticipates awarding at least one award per EPA Region, depending on the quantity and quality of the applications received, and other applicable considerations.

Availability of Funds

After final selections are made, the EPA will make the awards. While the EPA expects to make awards of approximately \$20,000,000 in total, this amount may be increased or decreased subject to the availability of funds, the number of quality applications received, and other relevant considerations. The EPA reserves the right to reject all applications and make no awards under this announcement.

D. Risk Review

The EPA will consider any comments by the applicant, along with information available in the responsibility/qualification records in SAM.gov., when doing the risk review as required by [2 CFR 200.206](#).

7. Award Notices

The EPA anticipates notification to successful applicants will be made by email from the SWIFRTribal@epa.gov inbox by April 30, 2026. The notification will be sent to the original signer of the application or the project contact listed in the application. This notification is not an authorization to begin work. The official notification of an award will be made by either the EPA's Grants and Interagency Agreement Management Division or the EPA Regional Award Official. Selection does not guarantee an award will be made. Statutory authorization, funding, or other issues during the award process may affect the ability of the EPA to make an award. The award notice, signed by an EPA grants officer, is the authorizing document and will be provided through electronic or postal mail. The successful applicant may need to prepare and submit additional documents and forms, which must be approved by the EPA, before the grant can officially be awarded. The time between notification of selection and award of a grant can take up to 90 days or longer.

8. Post-Award Requirements and Administration

A. Administrative and National Policy Requirements

The recipient and any sub-recipient must comply with the applicable [General Terms and Conditions](#). These terms and conditions are in addition to the assurances and certifications made as part of the award, terms and conditions, and restrictions reflected on the official assistance award document.

Awards issued as a result of this funding opportunity are subject to the requirements of the Uniform Administrative Requirements, Cost Principles and Audit Requirements for Federal Awards; Title [2 CFR Part 200](#) and [2 CFR Part 1500](#).

B. Reporting

[EPA's General Terms and Conditions](#) in the Notice of Award will have information on performance and financial reports, including:

- How often you will report.
- Any required form or formatting.
- How to submit them.

C. Subaward and Executive Compensation Reporting

The Federal Financial Accountability and Transparency Act (FFATA) requires:

- Data entry SAM.gov for all subawards and subcontracts for \$30,000 or more.
- Reporting executive compensation for both recipient and subaward organizations.

9. Other Information

A. Additional Provisions for Applicants

Additional provisions that apply this funding opportunity and/or awards made under this funding opportunity, can be found at [EPA NOFO Clauses](#). If you are unable to access these provisions electronically at the website above, please contact the EPA point of contact to obtain the provisions.

1. Combining Applications into One Award

If an applicant submits applications for multiple tasks/activities under this competition, and is selected for multiple tasks/activities, the EPA may award a single assistance agreement that combines separate applications for different tasks/activities.

2. Additional Policy Requirements

1. Applicants selected for award will be required to submit a final cooperative agreement proposal package to the EPA. This package will include an EPA-approved final work plan that describes the work to be performed, a final budget, and the required certification forms. Programmatic terms and conditions will be negotiated with the selected recipient. Depending on project scope, the EPA may request that selected applications complete an Environmental Information Form prior to award in order to assess relevancy of NEPA compliance requirements to the project.
2. **Reimbursement Limitation.** If the recipient expends more than the amount of funding in its EPA approved budget in anticipation of receiving additional funds from the EPA, it does so at its own risk. The EPA is not legally obligated to reimburse the recipient for costs incurred more than the EPA approved budget.

3. Use of Funds

An applicant that receives an award under this announcement is expected to manage cooperative agreement funds efficiently and effectively and make sufficient progress towards completing the project activities described in the work plan in a timely manner. The cooperative agreement will include terms/conditions implementing this requirement. The Agency expects timely drawdown of funds and a yearly financial report. In addition to quarterly reports, other required financial reports will provide the Agency with information regarding progress being made.

4. Program Income

In accordance with [2 CFR Part 200.307\(e\)\(2\)](#) and [2 CFR Part 1500.8\(b\)](#), the recipient is hereby authorized to retain program income earned during the project period.

The program income shall be added to funds committed to the project by the EPA and used for the purposes and under the conditions of the assistance agreement.

The recipient must provide, as part of its quarterly performance report, a description of how program income is being used. Further, a report on the amount of program income earned during the award period must be submitted with the annual Federal Financial Report, Standard Form 425.

5. Procurements

In accordance with [2 CFR Part 200.317](#), when procuring property and services under a federal award, a Tribe must follow the same policies and procedures it uses for procurements from its non-federal funds. The Tribes must comply with the Domestic preferences for procurement requirements in [2 CFR Part 200.332](#), the Procurement of recovered materials requirements of [2 CFR Part 200.323](#), and ensure that every purchase order or other contract includes any clauses required by the Contract Provisions of [2 CFR Part 200.326](#).

Additionally, Tribal procurements (including subcontracts) are subject to the requirements in [2 CFR Part 200.321](#) and [40 CFR Part 33 Subpart C](#).

6. Build America, Buy America Requirements

Projects under this competition are subject to the Buy America Sourcing requirements under the Build America, Buy America (BABA) provisions of the [Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act](#) (IIJA) (P.L. 117-58, Sections 70911-70917) when using funds for the purchase of goods, products, and materials on any form of construction, alteration, maintenance, or repair of infrastructure in the United States. The Buy America preference requirement applies to all of the iron and steel, manufactured products, and construction materials used for the infrastructure project under an award for identified EPA financial assistance funding programs.

These sourcing requirements require that all iron, steel, manufactured products, and construction materials used in Federally funded infrastructure projects must be produced in the United States. The recipient must implement these requirements in its procurements, and this article must flow down to all subawards and contracts at any tier. For legal definitions and sourcing requirements, the recipient must consult the [EPA's Build America, Buy America](#) website. The EPA, along with other federal agencies, issued a [General Applicability Public Interest Waiver to Indian Tribes](#) on January 10, 2025. The waiver applies to the following:

- **Awards and subawards provided to Tribes at or below \$2.5 million will be exempt from BABA requirements under the following conditions:**
 - 1) The total prime federal award or subaward does not exceed \$2.5 million,
 - 2) and the Federal award or subaward amount does not exceed \$2.5 million for the life of the award.

To the extent projects are cofunded with federal financial assistance awarded to tribal and non-tribal recipients, non-Tribal entities are eligible for coverage under the terms of this waiver if the award or subaward will be used to co-fund a project with Tribal recipients that is otherwise eligible for coverage under this waiver.

- **Manufactured Products:** In addition, for Federal financial assistance to Tribes obligated between the effective date and September 30, 2026, recipients will be permitted to purchase non-compliant manufactured products, regardless of the Federal financial assistance amount.

For Federal financial assistance issued prior to the effective date of the final waiver, the waiver would apply to funds not yet expended.

Please consider this information when preparing budget information. EPA has and will continue to provide further guidance on which projects are subject to BABA provisions and will work with grant recipients to support implementation as necessary.

If the General Applicability Public Interest Waiver to Tribes is not applicable, the recipient may, when supported by rationale provided in [IIJA Section 70914](#), submit a waiver to the EPA. The recipient should request guidance on the submission instructions of an EPA waiver request from the EPA Project Officer. A list of approved EPA waivers is available on the [EPA's Build America, Buy America](#) website.

In addition to BABA requirements, all procurements under grants may be subject to the domestic preference provisions of 2 CFR Part 200.322.

See "Build America, Buy America" clause in the [EPA's NOFO Clauses](#).

7. Project Labor Agreements and Prevailing Wage Requirements.

The EPA encourages project labor agreements (i.e., pre-hire collective bargaining agreements between unions and contractors that govern terms and conditions of employment for all workers on a construction project); the use of an appropriately trained workforce (i.e., through registered apprenticeships and other joint labor-management training programs that serve all workers, particularly those historically excluded); the use of an appropriately credentialed workforce (i.e., requirements for appropriate and relevant professional training, certification, and licensure); and neutrality with respect to union organizing (i.e., IIJA funds should not support or oppose union organizing).

As provided in 33 U.S.C. 4282(e), EPA must ensure that ". . . all laborers and mechanics employed on projects funded directly, or assisted in whole or in part, by a [SWIFR grant] be paid wages at rates not less than those prevailing on projects of a character similar in the locality as determined by the Secretary of Labor in accordance with [the Davis Bacon Act]". The Davis Bacon Act applies to contractors and subcontractors performing work on federally-funded or assisted construction contracts in excess of \$2,000. A term and condition specifying Davis Bacon Act compliance requirements will be included in SWIFR cooperative agreements that fund construction.

8. National Environmental Protection Act (NEPA) Compliance

While EPA as the funding agency is responsible for NEPA compliance, recipients will likely need to provide information to support this process. The SWIFR Program has a [Programmatic Environmental Assessment](#) (PEA) in place. Each grant application requires an appropriate level of environmental analysis and documentation when determining coverage under the PEA. The PEA Appendix A includes an Environmental Evaluation and Checklist to help grant recipients and EPA determine whether the environmental impacts from a project are covered in the PEA or if additional site-specific documentation or analysis is required. EPA will document when projects and their associated impacts are determined to be eligible for coverage under this PEA. In addition, EPA may prepare a [Categorical Exclusion](#), an [Environmental Assessment](#) (EA), or an [Environmental Impact Statement](#) (EIS) as part of the environmental review.

If additional site-specific documentation or analysis is required, cooperative agreement recipients may be required to provide site information such as the potential environmental impact of addressing site contamination, which is typically provided to EPA in an Environmental Information Document (EID).

Cooperative agreement recipients may use federal funds from this cooperative agreement to prepare the EID or the [Environmental Evaluation and Checklist](#) under the PEA. EPA may provide direct technical assistance to recipients for development of the EID, if required.

Depending on the site and proposed workplan, EPA may:

- utilize a categorical exclusion,
- adopt a categorical exclusion from another federal agency,
- issue a Notice of Adoption of other federal agency's finding,
- issue a Finding of No Significant Impact, or
- issue an Environmental Impact Statement and publish a Record of Decision for the project.

NEPA requirements must be met before any construction, fixed equipment, or ground disturbance activities can occur, per 40 CFR Part 6. NEPA requirements may take 3-6 months to complete, and applicants should account for this when developing their project timeline. Depending on the project, EPA may award grants with incremental funding using a phased approach for projects that involve both construction and non-construction activities.

9. Disputes

Assistance agreement competition-related disputes will be resolved in accordance with the dispute resolution procedures published in 70 FR (Federal Register) 3629, 3630 (January 26, 2005) which can be found at [Grant Competition Dispute Resolution Procedures](#). Copies of these procedures may also be requested by contacting the person listed in [Section 1.E](#) of the announcement. Note, the FR notice references regulations at 40 CFR Parts 30 and 31 that have been superseded by regulations in 2 CFR Parts 200 and 1500. Notwithstanding the regulatory changes, the procedures for competition-related disputes remains unchanged from the procedures described at 70 FR 3629, 3630, as indicated in 2 CFR Part 1500, Subpart E.

10. Quality Assurance Project Plans (QAPPs)

In accordance with 2 CFR Part 1500.12, projects that include the generation or use of environmental data are required to submit a QAPP. A QAPP describes how environmental information operations are planned, implemented, documented, and assessed during the life cycle of a project. The QAPP is the document that provides comprehensive details about the quality assurance/quality control requirements and technical activities that must be implemented to ensure that project objectives are met. Requirements for QAPPs are found in the most recent version of [EPA's Quality Assurance Project Plan Requirements / Standard Quality Assurance Project Plans \(QAPP\)](#).

EPA Project Officers will work with all selected recipients on quality assurance (QA) requirements. Once the award is made, if a QAPP is required for the project, the applicant will develop the document and submit for EPA's approval. Selected applicants cannot begin environmental information operations until EPA approves the QAPP.

11. Reporting Requirements

Quarterly progress reports, annual Federal Financial Reports (Standard Form 425), and a final technical report will be required for all successful applicants. The quarterly progress reports will be submitted to the EPA Project Officer within 30 calendar days after each reporting period. These reports shall cover: work status, work progress, difficulties encountered, preliminary data results, a statement of activity anticipated during the subsequent reporting period; a discussion of expenditures along with a comparison of the percentage of the project completed to the project schedule and an explanation of significant discrepancies; how program income is being used, if applicable; and any changes of key personnel concerned with the project. EPA will provide successful applicants with detailed information regarding required reporting in the terms of conditions of the cooperative agreement.

At the close of the grant, the successful applicant will submit a final technical report to the EPA Project Officer within 120 calendar days of completion of the period of performance. The final technical report shall include a summary of the project or activity, advances or goals achieved, and costs of the project or activity. In addition, the final technical report should discuss the problems, successes, and lessons learned during the project period.

All quarterly reports and the final technical report will be submitted through the Grantee Portal of EPA's Grant Management System. This system will help EPA monitor the recipient's progress with implementing their project and directly supports the continuation of the SWIFR program by highlighting measurable accomplishments progress to the public and Congress. EPA will provide successful applicants with information on how to access the Grants Management System. EPA intends to obtain an Information Collection Request (ICR) and require specific information in the performance reports, including information on the outputs and outcomes in [Section 3.A](#) and additional programmatic progress information.