

EPA Environmental Education Grant Program

The EPA Environmental Education Grant Program webinar will begin momentarily.

This webinar will provide a general overview of the Environmental Education Grant Program Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) and the Environmental Education Grant application process. Please consult the NOFO (EPA-EE-25-01) for complete details.





Environmental Education Grant Webinar

Opportunity Number: EPA-EE-25-01

Presenter: Michael Band

U.S. EPA, Environmental Education and Stewardship Division

February 5, 2026

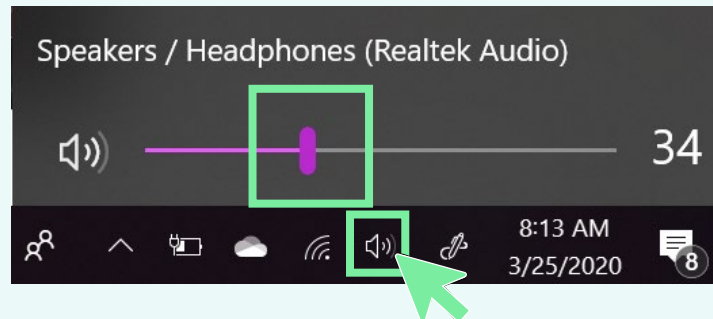
Housekeeping



Meeting Audio

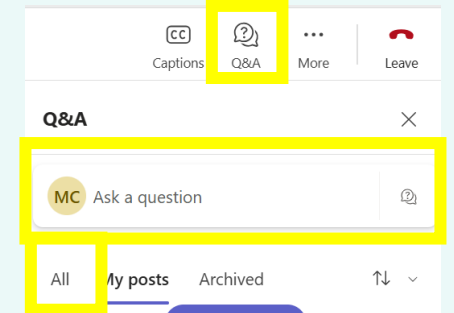
- ✓ Attendees must use **Device Audio** (computer, headset, tablet, or smart phone)
- ✓ Presenter Audio Only (like a TV broadcast)
- ✓ If you cannot hear, ensure your system/device audio is turned up and not muted and that you have not paused the broadcast

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



Ask a Question

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



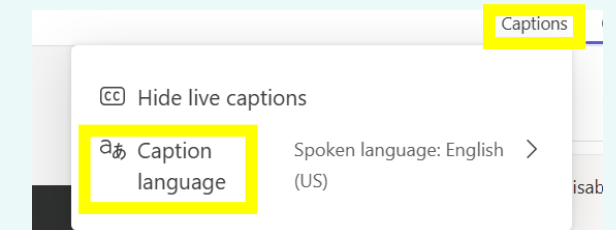
Q&A panel is located on the top right side of the window.

Closed Captions/Translation



Turn on/off Live Captions/Select a language

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



Disclaimer

This presentation provides a general overview of the EE Grants Program and the federal grant application process. Please consult the Notice of Funding Opportunity (EPA-EE-25-01) for the most complete and current details.



Agenda

1. EE Grant Program Basics
2. Overview of the Notice of Funding Opportunity (EPA-EE-25-01)
3. Eligibility Requirements
4. Cost Share and Subaward Requirements
5. Budget and Cost Items
6. Application Contents and Review Criteria
7. Selection of Awards and Timeline
8. Helpful Resources and Where to Find More Information
9. Tips for Success
10. Q&A

Submitting Questions



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What's Happened Since 1992

- More than **3,980** grants awarded ranging between \$1,000 - \$250,000
- Over **\$98.3 M** in total funding
- Largest Number of Applicants in a year: **1,500**
- **308** applications submitted in most recent competition



Program Purpose

This grant program funds projects that:

1. Increase awareness and understanding of local and regional environmental issues.
2. Equip participants with the skills needed to make informed decisions and take responsible actions to protect and improve the environment.

Funded projects design, demonstrate, and disseminate effective environmental education practices that address the full scope of the EE continuum.

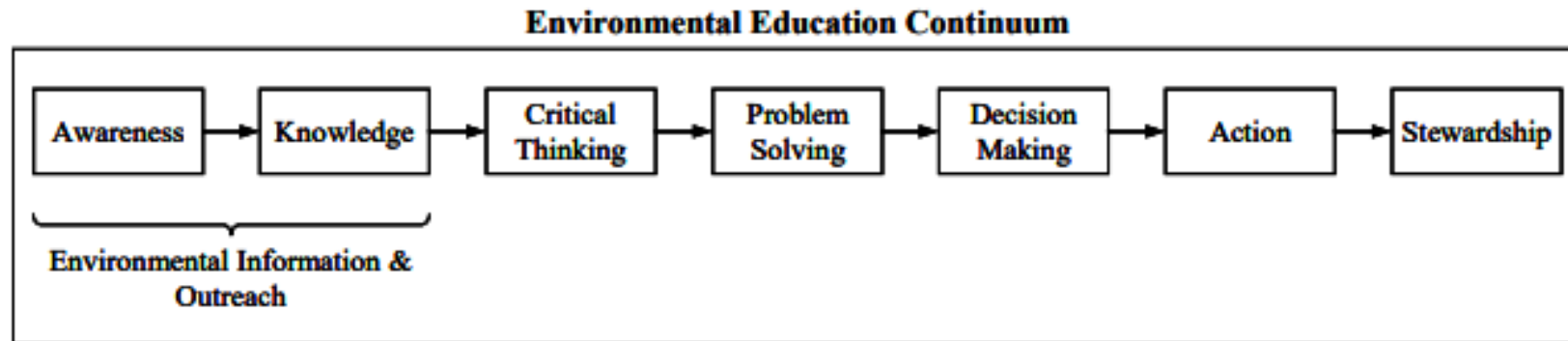


Defining Environmental Education

Teaches how to weigh various sides of an issue through **critical thinking, problem solving and decision-making skills** on environmental topics...with an ultimate goal of environmental stewardship.

Environmental information is a component, but only addresses awareness and knowledge, usually about a particular environmental issue.

Outreach can also be part of EE as it involves **information dissemination** and requests or **suggestions for action** on a particular issue (often without the critical thinking, problem solving and decision-making steps in between).



FAQ

Can my project focus on environmental information and outreach?

No. All EE grant projects must satisfy the definition of “environmental education” as defined in Section 9.B of the NOFO. Environmental education may include environmental information and outreach, but these activities alone, or as the main focus of the project, do not qualify as environmental education. Environmental education fosters critical thinking, problem solving and decision-making skills on environmental topics. Environmental education covers the range of steps and activities from awareness to action with an ultimate goal of environmental stewardship. Environmental information simply provides facts and outreach provides direct contact, personalized messaging and activities about a specific topic. Information and outreach are valuable tools, but are used for different purposes than education. Applicants must demonstrate how their project will reflect the components of environmental education as defined in Section 9.B of the NOFO and the EE Continuum.

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Overview of the Notice of Funding Opportunity (EPA-EE-25-01)

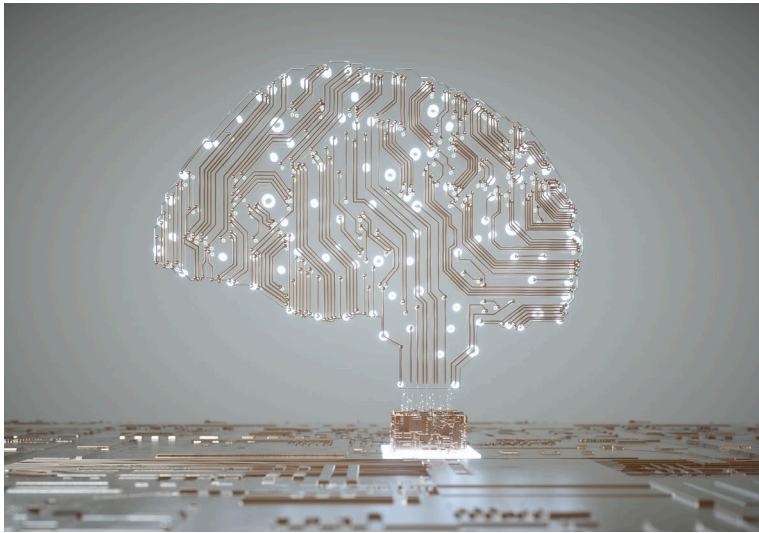
- 1 NOFO was issued on January 7, 2026.
- Approximately \$3,200,000 in available funding nationwide.
- Anticipating awarding between 13-16 grants.
- EPA Funding Request: Between \$200,000 - \$250,000.
- Proposals must address both the educational and environmental priorities.
- Required: Cost Share and Subawards.
- **Application Deadline: Tuesday March 3, 2026, by 11:59pm ET.**



Educational and Environmental Priorities

Educational Priority

Artificial Intelligence (AI)



Environmental Priority

Ensuring Clean and Safe Water

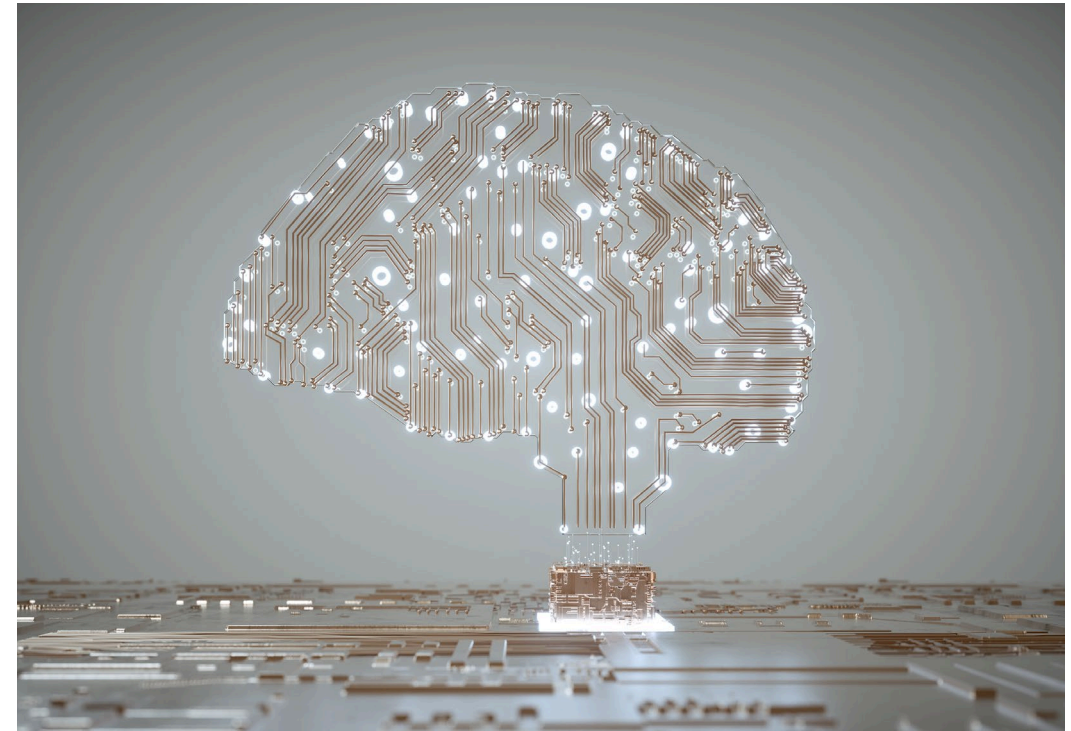


Educational Priority

Artificial Intelligence (AI)

Educating students, educators, and community members on the responsible use and application of AI to address local and/or regional environmental issues. Projects should explore how AI tools can be used or developed to collect, analyze, and visualize environmental data; predict environmental trends; or support environmental stewardship efforts.

- AI is defined in [15 U.S.C. 9401\(3\)](https://www.ecfr.gov/current/title-16/chapter-I/subchapter-A/part-1632/subpart-1632.2/section-1632.2-3) and on EPA's <https://www.epa.gov/data/data-governance#ai> website.



Environmental Priority



Ensuring Clean and Safe Water

These efforts help ensure clean and safe drinking water and/or contribute to the restoration and maintenance of oceans, lakes, rivers, watersheds, and their aquatic ecosystems to protect human health, support economic and recreational activities, and provide healthy habitats for wildlife and plants.

Sample Project Topics

- Introduce project participants to AI tools that forecast rainfall, flooding, or drought risk in their communities and educate them in water conservation techniques and emergency preparedness strategies based on these forecasts.
- Manage stormwater runoff and reduce nutrient pollution by creating or applying AI models that predict high-risk areas for fertilizer and pesticide runoff from nearby agricultural land, while educating farmers and other community members on practices that reduce environmental harm while maintaining crop yield.
- See Section 3.A(2) of NOFO for the full list of sample topics.



Project Activities

Applicants must demonstrate in their application how their project activities will directly contribute to the achievement of the program's goals and objectives. Applications should clearly link proposed activities to EPA's educational priority (AI) and environmental priority (Ensuring Clean and Safe Water) and should identify how the activities will generate measurable outputs and contribute to project outcomes.

Example Activities:

- Developing and applying AI models to identify pollution sources, forecast flooding or drought risks, or monitor water usage patterns in local watersheds.
- Designing and implementing hands-on environmental educational programs that introduce students, educators, and community members to the responsible use of AI for addressing local water quality and/or quantity issues.
- Conducting training workshops for students, teachers, farmers, and community members on how AI can support aquatic ecosystem restoration, nutrient management, and water conservation.
- Additional example activities can be found in Section 3.A(3) of the NOFO.



Outputs and Outcomes

Outputs

An environmental education 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

The result, effect, or consequence that will occur from carrying out the activities under the grant. Outcomes may be environmental, educational, behavioral, health-related, or programmatic; must be qualitative or quantitative; and may not necessarily be achievable during the project period.



Expected Outputs & Anticipated Outcomes

Example Project Topic	Example Outputs	Example Outcomes
Introduce project participants to AI tools that forecast rainfall, flooding, or drought risk in their communities and educate them in water conservation techniques and emergency preparedness strategies based on these forecasts.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Development or use of AI tools customized to provide local flood and drought risk forecasts shared with (#) schools and community centers. • Development of a water conservation/emergency preparedness curriculum used by (#) students and (#) community members. • Number of simulation exercises (mock emergency drills) on drought or flood preparedness. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improved community preparedness for major rainfall events, flooding, or drought risks (students and residents know what actions to take). • Decrease in water spending by adopting water conservation practices at household and school levels (e.g., rain barrels, low-flow fixtures, reduced water use). • Increased collaboration between schools, community members, and local government agencies in planning for water challenges (e.g., flooding/droughts), fostering a culture of proactive environmental responsibility.

- See Section 3.A(3) of NOFO for the full Example Outputs and Outcomes Table.
- Applicants that include outputs and outcomes described in Section 3.A(3) may be evaluated more favorably than others.

Partnerships

- Partners make a commitment to join the applicant in the design and/or implementation of the proposed project by providing funds and/or services integral to the accomplishment of the project's goals.
- Not Required.
- If applicant has partners, **Partnership Letter of Commitment** must be included from all partners explaining their role in and/or funding of the proposed project. If no letters are included, it will be assumed the applicant has no partners.
- Up to 5 points given for Partnership Letters of Commitment in review and scoring of applications; or, if no partners, an explanation of how the project will be successful without them.



FAQ

Under this grant program, may a for-profit company be included as a partner?

Yes. A for-profit company may be included as a partner as long as the grantee (prime recipient) does not enter the partnership with the intent to hire the for-profit company to provide goods or services that are available in the commercial marketplace in order to obtain those goods and services in a non-competitive transaction.

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Who is Eligible to Apply?

- Local Education Agencies
- Nonprofit Organizations
- College or University
- State Education or Environmental Agency
- Local or County Environmental Agencies
- Tribal Organizations that qualify as a nonprofit organization described in Section 501(C)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code
- Tribal Education Agencies
- Noncommercial educational broadcasting entity as defined and licensed by Federal Communications Commission (FCC)

**Eligibility requirements apply to both “prime” applicants and subrecipients*



What Else Impacts Eligibility?

- Application must be submitted by **March 3, 2026 11:59pm ET** deadline.
- Applicant organizations must be located in the United States or a U.S. territory.
- Project activities must occur within United States or a U.S. territory.
- Budget must include request for **no less than \$200,000 and no more than \$250,000**.
 - **Cost share** must be for a minimum of 25% of total budget.
 - Exactly 25% of EPA funds spent on **subawards** of \$5,000 or less.
- Project period between 1-2 years.
- Project must satisfy the definition of EE.
- Proposals must address both **educational** (AI) and **environmental** (*Ensuring Clean and Safe Water*) priorities.
- Applicants must demonstrate that proposed project **has not been previously funded** by EE Grants Program – or applicants must demonstrate that they are expanding, building on, enhancing, or otherwise modifying a project previously funded by EPA's EE Grant Program.
- **Multiple proposals** accepted so long as each is for a different project and each is submitted separately.
- TIP: *Carefully review Section 2 of the NOFO for additional information on this competition's eligibility requirements and Email all eligibility related questions to EEGrants@epa.gov BEFORE the application deadline.*



Ineligible Applicants/Subrecipients

- For-profit organizations
- Individual teachers, educators, faculty members, students, or community members
- Individual schools that are not nonprofit organizations
- Tribal education agencies that are administered by the Bureau of Indian Education
- Nonprofit organizations described in Section 501(c)(4) of the Internal Revenue Code that engage in lobbying activities as defined in Section 3 of the Lobbying Disclosure Act of 1995



FAQs

Are local or county government agencies eligible to apply for a grant?

Yes. Local education agencies are eligible, as well as environmental agencies within local or county governments, as long as they can demonstrate they have the authority to conduct education programs. This authority can be demonstrated by providing documentation from the state department of education, referencing the law or bylaws that established the agency, quoting the current official mission statement, and/or showing proof that authority has been set by practice of education programs in the past. Be sure to include this information in a succinct statement within your application's Work Plan as well as in the Programmatic Capability and Past Performance section of the application.

My organization has never received an EE grant from EPA for a project that we've been running for several years. Would our project be eligible for funding from EPA?

Yes. Your project would be considered eligible for a grant through the EE program assuming that your organization meets all the eligibility requirements described in Section 2 of the NOFO. The fact that the project already exists under non-EPA funding does not prevent it from being eligible for funding under the current EPA EE Grant Program NOFO.

Can a for-profit company apply with an eligible fiscal sponsor?

No. All applicants and subrecipients must meet eligibility requirements outlined in Section 2 of the NOFO. An entity that is ineligible, such as a for-profit firm, cannot arrange for an eligible entity to apply on their behalf as a "fiscal sponsor."

What the EE Grant Program CAN and CAN'T Fund

Funded

Environmental education projects based on sound science that teach or enhance critical-thinking, problem-solving, and decision-making skills that lead to responsible actions to protect human health and the environment.



Not Funded

- Technical training of environmental management professionals;
- Environmental “information” and/or “outreach” projects that have no additional educational component, as described in [Section 9.B](#);
- Advocacy promoting a particular point of view or course of action;
- Lobbying or political activities as defined in [2 CFR Part 200.450](#);
- Non-educational research and development;
- Construction projects – EPA will not fund construction activities such as the acquisition of real property (e.g., buildings) or the construction or modification of any building; or
- Union organizing

FAQs

Would the installation of a rain garden or a playground that it built to instruct children how a certain environmental principle works be considered construction therefore ineligible for funding?

The NOFO specifically prohibits using EPA funds for construction. The creation of something like a rain garden or a playground should be peripheral to an education project, not its main activity and not the major expense of the budget. This grant program doesn't allow the funds to be used, for example, for the construction of a building, even to hold environmental education classes or house environmental displays, etc. So, if expenses to install a rain garden or playground dominate the budget and the project period, and require something like heavy equipment purchase or rental, then most likely the project is more construction than education and therefore ineligible. (Note: Sometimes this grant program has deemed the creation of such things as a nature trail or a bird house as allowable expenses, but even these must be part of a larger education project, not the primary focus of the project and/or expenditure of the budget.)

Can our organization spend the majority of our federal funds on a single item such as a vehicle or a large piece of equipment?

Please keep in mind that the purpose of this grant is to promote environmental stewardship and help develop knowledgeable and responsible students, teachers, and citizens. This grant program provides financial support for projects that design, demonstrate, and/or disseminate environmental education practices, methods, or techniques, as described in this notice, that will serve to increase environmental literacy and encourage behavior that will benefit the environment in the local community(ies) in which they are located.

With this in mind, if expenses to purchase a vehicle, large equipment, or materials to build a vehicle dominate the budget and the project period, then most likely the project runs the risk of failing to meet the very purpose and goals of this funding opportunity.

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Cost Share and Subaward Requirements

Cost Share Requirement

Minimum of 25% of Total Project Amount.

- Total Project Amount = EPA Funding Request + Non-Federal Match

Cost Share Formula

Minimum Cost Share = $(1/3) \times \text{EPA Funding Request}$

Subaward Requirement

Exactly 25% of EPA funds must go to subawards of \$5,000 or less.

Subaward Formula

Required Subaward Amount = $\text{EPA Funding Request} \div 4$



More Information on Cost Share Requirement

- MUST be from non-federal source (e.g., from another federal grant).
- MUST be for an allowable cost.
- Who can provide match?
 - Partners (including for-profit partners)
 - Subrecipients
 - Contractor
 - Prime recipient
- Applicants that propose cost share greater than 25% of total project budget will be responsible for ensuring cost share requirement is met, regardless of whether it is a partner(s) or their own organization that is providing the cost share funds.
- Cost share may be provided in cash, by in-kind services, or a combination of both.
 - In-kind services include: volunteer time, salaries, supplies/materials.

Example Cost Share Chart

Examples	Federal Funding Request	Minimum Cost Share	Total Project Cost
Example 1	\$200,000	\$66,667	\$266,667
Example 2	\$225,000	\$75,000	\$300,000
Example 3	\$250,000	\$83,333	\$333,333

**Round up to nearest dollar in budget, do not use cents in application*

FAQs

Can salaries be used to meet the cost share requirement? Is there any limit to the percentage of requested grant funds that can be used for salaries? Is there a specific way that salaries need to be stated in the cost share funds section?

Yes. Salaries can be used as a cost share and there is no set limit. It is suggested you be as specific and detailed in the Detailed Budget Table and Narrative as possible when describing the salaries being covered by cost share funds or being requested to be covered by grant funds – e.g., give the name(s) and title(s) of the person(s) whose salary is being listed, plus their normal salary and the percentage of their time being spent on the project. Be reasonable in your requests for personnel costs, as well as travel and overhead expenses, so your budget is competitive. Explain clearly in your Work Plan why and how the persons/people whose salaries are in the budget will be employed on the project. Instructions for creating your Detailed Budget Table and Narrative as well as a Detailed Budget Table and Narrative example and template can be found on the Detailed Budget Table link of the [Helpful Resources for Applying website](#).

May a partner or contractor provide any or all of the required minimum 25% cost share?

Yes. A partner or contractor may provide any or all of the required minimum 25% cost share provided the costs they are covering are allowable for third party contributions under grant regulations. Contributions to cost share funds may include cash, volunteer services, and donated supplies and equipment. Please note that a third party's indirect costs may not be counted toward a cost share.

More Information on Subaward Requirement

- All Subrecipients MUST meet same eligibility requirements as prime recipient (See Section 2 of the NOFO)
- Subrecipients perform tasks integral to the project's goals.
- Applicants NOT required to name subrecipients in application.
 - If subrecipients are NOT named within the application, applicants must outline the process and criteria that will be used for selecting eligible subrecipients within the Work Plan's Project Summary Cover Letter.
 - Applicants that name specific subrecipients in their application must describe how the named subrecipients meet the eligibility requirements in Section 2 of the NOFO and show each subaward is for \$5,000 or less.

Example of Subrecipient Activities

1. A local education agency receives \$5,000 to provide professional development for middle school science teachers on using AI tools to analyze local water quality data and integrate the results into classroom lessons on watershed health.
2. A college receives \$4,000 to support site visits and data collection at a local river, where students learn to input observations into an AI tool to identify potential pollution sources and present findings to community members.
3. A tribal education organization receives \$4,500 to host workshops for youth and community members on using AI-supported tools to monitor drinking water quality and understand risks to local water sources.

The EE Grant Calculator

Applicants are encouraged to use the EE Grant Calculator to calculate the minimum cost share and subaward requirements for their proposed projects.

- <https://www.epa.gov/education/environmental-education-grants-calculator>

Environmental Education Grants Calculator

Environmental Education grants are required to have a cost share of 25% of the total cost of the project. Additionally, 25% of EPA funding must be used for subawards, with each subaward having a value of \$5,000 or less. Use this simple calculator to confirm your project's cost share and subaward requirement numbers.

Enter Your Request

EPA Funding Request:

Enter the total amount of funding you are requesting from EPA (no commas).

Your Results

EPA Funding Request: \$225,000.00

Minimum Cost Share: \$75,000.00

Required Subawards Amount: \$56,250.00

Minimum Total Budget (EPA Funding Request + Minimum Cost Share): \$300,000.00

FAQs

Would the prime recipient be allowed to award BOTH a subaward for \$5,000 or less from EPA funds AND another subaward (of any amount) from their OWN funds (i.e., funds from a source other than the EPA EE grant) to the same subrecipient to do work on the EPA grant?

Yes. But subawards awarded with a prime recipient's own funds, no matter what the amount is, would not count toward the requirement to use 25% of EPA funds for subawards of \$5,000 or less.

We are a university that is considering applying for an EE grant. Can we make subawards internally within the university?

Sometimes, depending on how a university's system is set up. Such situations will be decided on a case-by-case basis. Universities that are considering applying as a prime recipient and awarding subawards to sub-recipients within their university should contact EEGrants@EPA.gov and explain their particular situation before submitting an application.

Contracts



- A contractor is an individual, organization, or for-profit company that receives money from a prime recipient, subrecipient, or partner to provide goods or services (work tasks) considered non-integral or non-substantive to the project's goals.
 - The person/organization performing the evaluation of a project is often a contractor, as is a company providing buses for field trips.
- Contractual services in funded projects must be competed if procurement contracts are in excess of the 2 CFR 200.320(a)(1) micro-purchase threshold which is currently \$15,000 for most recipients.
- Refer to the [Best Practice Guide for Procuring Services, Supplies, and Equipment Under EPA Assistance Agreements](#) for additional information on competitive contracting requirements and other rules when awarding or administering EPA funded contracts.

FAQ

Do you have a graphic that summarizes the roles and responsibilities of a prime recipient, a partner, a subrecipient and a contractor?

	Must be eligible as defined in Section 2 of the NOFO	Can provide cost share/ match	Can receive sub awards	Must compete to receive award	Performs work integral to grant project	Performs Tasks non- integral or non-substantive to project
Partner		x	x (if an eligible entity)		x	
Subrecipient	x	x	x		x	
Contractor		x		x*		x
Prime Recipient	x	x		x	x	

*If contact is in excess of the micro-purchase threshold which is currently \$15,000 for most recipients.

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Detailed Budget Table and Narrative

- **Detailed Budget Table and Narrative must:**
 1. Demonstrate how you will meet the cost share requirement.
 2. Describe how you will ensure that exactly 25% of the federal funds received from EPA are awarded to eligible subrecipients in the form of subawards of \$5,000 or less.
 3. Factor in the costs for all proposed activities; clarify which will be paid by EPA and which will be paid with cost share funds.
- Applicants should use the same order and headings listed on the Budget Information Form (SF-424A).
- Budget Narrative Details
 - Narrative can be within the budget table or as a separate attachment.
 - Must provide details for each expense.
 - “Other” expenses may include costs such as stipends for teachers, expenses for field trips, entrance fees to parks and science centers, printing, postage, conference fees for booths, SUBAWARD funds, and other costs that do not fall under the categories listed above. See Detailed Budget Table and Narrative Example is Appendix D for insight into the level of detail your narrative should contain.

Detailed Budget Table and Narrative Continued

Useful resources for developing your Detailed Budget Table and Narrative:

- **Detailed Budget Table link** on the [Helpful Resources for Applying website](#) includes detailed instructions for creating your Detailed Budget Table and Narrative, an example of a Detailed Budget Table and Narrative, as well as an optional template applicants can download and use to create their own Detailed Budget Table and Narrative.
- Prior to developing your Detailed Budget Table and Narrative please review:
 - [EPA’s Interim General Budget Development Guidance for Applicants and Recipients of EPA Financial Assistance](#)
 - EPA’s [How to Develop a Budget](#) online training course designed to introduce EPA grant applicants and recipients to key aspects of grant budget development.

Line Item	EPA Funds	Cost Share/Matching Funds	Total Project Cost
Personnel			
Fringe Benefits			
Travel			
Equipment			
Supplies			
Contractual			
Other			
Indirect Cost			
Program Income			
TOTAL			

Indirect Costs and Indirect Cost Rate

- Indirect Costs – as defined in 2 CFR 200.1 are “ . . . those costs incurred for a common or joint purpose benefitting more than one cost objective, and not readily assignable to the cost objectives specifically benefitted, without effort disproportionate to the results achieved (e.g. functions necessary for the general operations of the organization, such as space costs, utilities, accounting services, human resource services, etc.).
 - Examples: Rent/lease costs for office space, admin/office support.
- Indirect Cost Rate - Percentage of an organization's costs allowed for overhead and administrative expenses, determined to be fair within the boundaries of sound administrative principles.
- See the [Indirect Cost Rate Policy and Guidance for Recipients of EPA Assistance Agreement](#) for additional information on Indirect Costs.

FAQ

Does an applicant have to have an Indirect Cost Rate Agreement in place when they apply for funds from this grants program?

No. An applicant does not have to have an Indirect Cost Rate Agreement in place when they apply for a grant. Applicants can begin the negotiations for an Indirect Cost Rate Agreement, request an extension of an IDC rate, or use the 15% de minimis rate, at the same time that they apply for a grant to this program. However, recipients who do not use the 15% de minimis may not receive reimbursement for indirect costs until an approved indirect cost rate, as described in Section 6.1 of [EPA's Indirect Cost Policy](#), is obtained.

Program Income and Food/Beverage Costs

Program Income

- Money a grant recipient earns as a direct result of a grant-supported activity (e.g., workshop fees).
- Usually used to pay for eligible, allowable costs that further project goals.
- May also help finance the required matching funds.



Food/Beverage Costs

- Allowed for “working” breakfast or lunch, or light refreshments during breaks.
- NOT allowed for evening receptions, banquets, or events where alcohol is served, entertainment is provided, or funds are solicited.



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Application Content

Standard Forms and EPA Forms

- Application for Federal Assistance (SF-424)
- Budget Information for Non-Construction Programs (SF-424A)
- EPA Key Contacts Form (5700-54)
- Preaward Compliance Review Report (EPA Form 4700-4)
 - <https://www.epa.gov/grants/tips-completing-epa-form-4700-4>



Application Content (Section 4.B)

Project Narrative

Project Narrative

- a. Work Plan (10-page limit)
 - i. Project Summary Cover Letter (2-page limit)
 - ii. Detailed Project Description
 - Section 1 – Community Description
 - Section 2 – Project Strategy and Approach
 - Section 3 - Environmental and Educational Results (Outputs, Outcomes, and Project Evaluation Plan)
- b. Attachments (No page limit)
 - Attachment A: Detailed Budget Table and Narrative
 - Attachment B: Timeline and Milestones
 - Attachment C: Logic Model
 - Attachment D: Programmatic Capability and Past Performance
 - Attachment E: Partnership Letters of Commitment

Review Criteria (Section 6.B)

Project Narrative

- a. Work Plan (10-page limit) ***max 60 points***
 - i. Project Summary Cover Letter (2-page limit) *max 3 points*
 - ii. Detailed Project Description *max 57 points*
 - Section 1 – Community Description (max 21 points)
 - Section 2 – Project Strategy and Approach (max 18 points)
 - Section 3 - Environmental and Educational Results (Outputs, Outcomes, and Project Evaluation Plan) (max 18 points)
- b. Attachments (No page limit) ***max 40 points***
 - Attachment A: Detailed Budget Table and Narrative (max 14 points)
 - Attachment B: Timeline and Milestones (max 5 points)
 - Attachment C: Logic Model (max 5 points)
 - Attachment D: Programmatic Capability and Past Performance (max 11 points)
 - Attachment E: Partnership Letters of Commitment (5 points)

Section 4.B vs. Section 6.B

Section 4.B - Project Narrative Description


- This section of the NOFO informs applicants what must be included in each section of their Project Narrative.
- Applicants are **strongly encouraged** to organize their application packages in the order and with the headings listed in Section 4.B of the NOFO.

Section 6.B - Review Criteria

- Mirrors the order and headings listed in Section 4.B.
- Rather than listing what information applicants must include in each section of their Project Narrative, this Section 6.B describes what is going to be evaluated and how.

FAQ

Is there a limit to the number of attachments applicants can use when submitting the Project Narrative portion of their application?

It is strongly advised that applicants combine their files into **no more than 6 attachments** when submitting applications via [Grants.gov](https://www.grants.gov) . Trying to upload a large number of individual files leaves room for error in the uploading and downloading process. PDFs are preferred when possible.

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Review and Selection

1. Threshold Eligibility Review Process

- All applications will be evaluated for eligibility using threshold eligibility criteria listed in Section 2 of the NOFO.

2. Panel Review and Evaluation Process

- Review panel(s) will review, score, and rank all eligible applications that pass the threshold eligibility review based on the merit evaluation criteria listed in Section 6.B of the NOFO.

3. Final Selection Process

- EPA staff will present final rankings and brief Selection Official on selection recommendations. Selection Official makes funding decision based on rankings and preliminary recommendations. Selection Official may also consider any of the “other factors” listed in Section 6.C(1) in making final selection decisions from among the high-ranking applications.

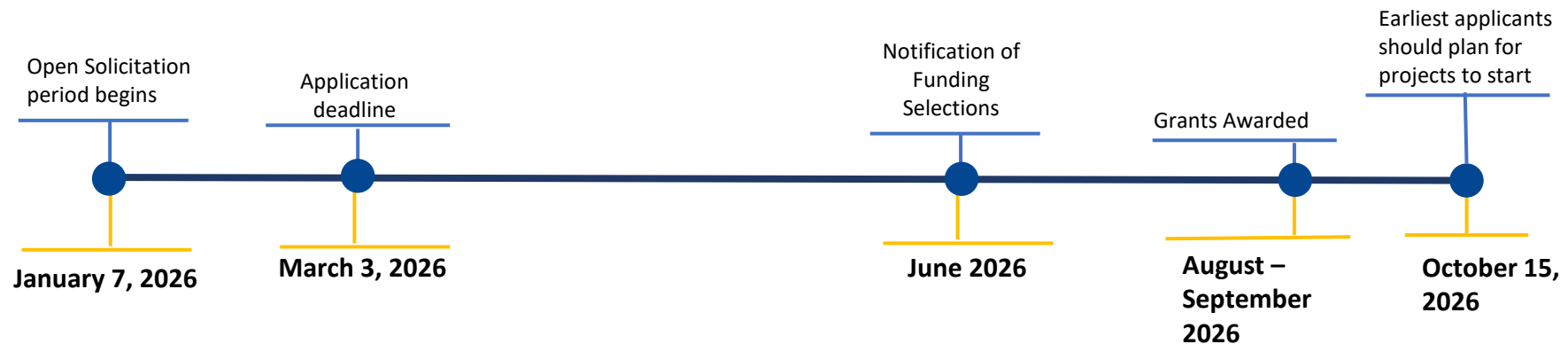
*Other factors include geographic distribution of funding, number and size of awards, and types of audiences reached.



Anticipated Award Notification

- EPA anticipates notification to successful applicants will be made via email by the agency contact listed in Section 1.E. **The notification will be sent to the original signer of the application (line #21 of the SF 424) and the project contacts listed in the Project Summary Cover Letter portion of the application.**
- Applications should plan for projects to start **no earlier than October 15, 2026** and **no later than January 15, 2027.**

Estimated Timeline



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Helpful Resources

Helpful Resources for Applying - <https://www.epa.gov/education/grants#helpful>

- Applicants are strongly encouraged, but not required to, use the checklist, templates, and models included on this website when preparing their applications.

Helpful Resources for Applying

- Visit the grants.gov [Applicant Training.page](#) [🔗](#) to learn how to apply for a grant in [www.grants.gov](#) [🔗](#).
- Learn how to Develop a Budget with this EPA [video tutorial series](#).
- Find general resources on [how to apply for an EPA grant](#) and [training on grants management](#).
- The [EE Grant Calculator](#) can be used to determine your project's minimum cost share and subaward requirements.
- [📎 Application Checklist of Required Elements of an Application \(docx\)](#) (40.25 KB)
- Optional Models and Templates
 - [📎 Work Plan Template \(docx\)](#) (43.78 KB)
 - [📎 Detailed Budget Table \(docx\)](#) (41.44 KB)
 - [📎 Timeline \(docx\)](#) (36.52 KB)
 - [📎 Logic Model \(docx\)](#) (38.65 KB)
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More Helpful Resources

EE Grant Homepage

- <https://www.epa.gov/education/grants>

EE Grant NOFO

- <https://www.epa.gov/education/environmental-education-ee-grant-solicitation-notice>

EE Grant FAQs

- <https://www.epa.gov/education/frequent-questions-about-environmental-education-grants-program>

EE Grant Calculator

- <https://www.epa.gov/education/environmental-education-grants-calculator>

Descriptions of previously funded EE Grants

- <https://www.epa.gov/education/environmental-education-grant-descriptions>

Join EPA's EE Listserv

- <https://www.epa.gov/education/forms/sign-environmental-education-listserv>

Watch Recording of Webinar

- <https://www.epa.gov/education/grants#webinar>

Environmental Education Grants Calculator

Environmental Education grants are required to have a cost share of 25% of the total cost of the project. Additionally, 25% of EPA funding must be used for subawards, with each subaward having a value of \$5,000 or less. Use this simple calculator to confirm your project's cost share and subaward requirement numbers.

Enter Your Request

EPA Funding Request:

\$225000

Enter the total amount of funding you are requesting from EPA (no commas).

Your Results

EPA Funding Request: \$225,000.00

Minimum Cost Share: \$75,000.00

Required Subawards Amount: \$56,250.00

Minimum Total Budget (EPA Funding Request + Minimum Cost Share): \$300,000.00

Even More Helpful Resources

EPA Grants

- <https://www.epa.gov/grants>

EPA Grants Webinars

- <https://www.epa.gov/grants/epa-grants-webinars>

How to Develop a Budget

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

EPA Subaward Policy for EPA Assistance Agreement Recipients

- <https://www.epa.gov/grants/grants-policy-issuance-gpi-16-01-epa-subaward-policy-epa-assistance-agreement-recipients>

Interim General Budget Development Guidance for Applicants and Recipients of EPA Financial Assistance

- <https://www.epa.gov/grants/rain-2019-g02>

Best Practice Guide for Procuring Services, Supplies, and Equipment Under EPA Assistance Agreements

- <https://www.epa.gov/grants/best-practice-guide-procuring-services-supplies-and-equipment-under-epa-assistance>

EPA Grants Community Library of FAQs

- <https://www.epa.gov/grants/epa-grants-community-library-frequently-asked-questions-faq>

EPA Grants Community Listserv

- <https://www.epa.gov/grants/forms/subscribe-epa-grants-update-listserv>



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Tips for Applying

- ✓ Read the entire NOFO and the FAQs before starting your application.
- ✓ Start early and build in time to review and edit your application package.
- ✓ Register in SAM.gov now/confirm you have an active account with SAM.gov (see Section 5 of NOFO for registration instructions).
- ✓ Clearly demonstrate how you meet all eligibility criteria described in Section 2 of NOFO.
 - ✓ Confirm eligibility of all subrecipients if naming them in your application.
- ✓ Email questions to EEgrants@epa.gov only after reviewing the NOFO and FAQs.
 - ✓ EPA will clarify eligibility and NOFO requirements.
 - ✓ EPA will NOT review/provide feedback on draft applications, advise on how to best respond to review criteria or schedule 1:1 calls with applicants.



More Tips for Applying

- ✓ Organize your application around the review criteria in Section 6.B of NOFO.
- ✓ Organize the Work Plan in the order and with the headings listed in Section 4.B of the NOFO.
- ✓ Use optional checklist, templates, and models.
- ✓ Limit Project Narrative attachments to six or fewer.
- ✓ Explain acronyms/terms and do not assume reviewer knowledge.
- ✓ Write simply and clearly – do not leave out important details; but **stick to page limits**.
- ✓ Include a clear plan to measure and evaluate success.



Final Tips for Applying

- ✓ Check your math – Then check it again!
 - ✓ Use the EE Grant Calculator to avoid common subaward/cost share errors.
- ✓ Make sure dollar amounts match in SF-424A and Detailed Budget Table/Narrative.
- ✓ Make sure activities, outputs, outcomes, and budget table/narrative all tell the same story.
- ✓ If your project requires a Quality Assurance Project Plan (QAPP), build in time to develop QAPP at the beginning of your project period (see Section 9.D for further information).
- ✓ Submit application package early when possible to avoid last minute system issues.



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Q&A





Contact Info:
Michael Band
Environmental Education and Stewardship Division
EEGrants@epa.gov