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FEDERAL AGENCY: U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)

FUNDING OPPORTUNITY TITLE: Fiscal Year (FY) 2026 Funding Opportunity for Indian Tribes and Intertribal Consortia for Nonpoint Source Management Grants Under Clean Water Act Section 319

STATUTORY AUTHORITY: The statutory authorities for the assistance agreements to be awarded under this NOFO are Section 319(h) and Section 518(e) of the *Clean Water Act* (CWA).

ANNOUNCEMENT TYPE: Competitive

ASSISTANCE LISTING: 66.460

FUNDING OPPORTUNITY NUMBER: EPA-OW-OWOW-26-01

ACTION: Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO), Amendment No. 2

DATE: October 7, 2026

SUMMARY: This Notice revises the references to the recently released EPA Strategic Plan and adds additional information on process for requesting a grants.gov waiver if the prospective applicant is having technical difficulties. Accordingly,

- **Section 3.B** now reads "The activities to be funded under this funding announcement support **Goal 1: Provide Clean Air, Land, and Water for Every American** of the FY 2026–2030 EPA Strategic Plan. All applications must be for projects that support Goal 1.

  As part of the Project Narrative, an applicant is required to describe how the project results will link the outcomes to Goal 1 and…"
- **Section 5.D** now includes the following passage: Applicants with limited or no access to the internet may request an exception by following the procedures outlined here. The request must be received at least 15 calendar days before the application due date to allow enough time to negotiate alternative submission methods.

Notice of Funding Opportunity

Applications Due: **Monday, November 9, 2026**

Office of Water – Office of Wetlands, Oceans, and Watersheds

Fiscal Year (FY) 2026 Funding Opportunity for Indian Tribes and Intertribal Consortia for Nonpoint Source Management Grants Under Clean Water Act Section 319

Funding Opportunity Number: **EPA-OW-OWOW-26-01**

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1. Basic Information

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

Office of Water – Office of Wetlands, Oceans, and Watersheds

Fiscal Year (FY) 2026 Funding Opportunity for Indian Tribes and Intertribal Consortia for Nonpoint Source Management Grants Under Clean Water Act Section 319

https://www.epa.gov/nps/current-tribal-section-319-grant-information#competitive

A. Executive Summary:

The purpose of this Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) is to support eligible Tribes and intertribal consortia to implement approved Nonpoint Source (NPS) management programs developed pursuant to CWA Section 319(b)(1). The Clean Water Act (CWA) Section 319(h) authorizes the EPA to award grants to eligible Tribes and intertribal consortia to implement approved NPS management programs. This NOFO will fund implementation of best management practices (BMPs) and measures that have been outlined in Tribal NPS Management Program Plans to address NPS pollution sources that have been identified in a Tribe's Assessment Report.

Eligible applicants to this Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) are federally recognized Tribes and intertribal consortia that meet the eligibility requirements described in Section 2.A.

B. Key Information:

Opportunity Number:

EPA-OW-OWOW-26-01

Assistance Listing:

66.460

Announcement Type:

Modification

Funding Available:

$3.5 million

Number of Awards:

20 Awards

C. Key Dates:

September 9, 2026 3:30 pm ET	Information Webinar 1
September 17, 2026 2:00 pm ET	Informational Webinar 2
October 23, 2026 11:59 pm ET	FAQ Submission Deadline
November 9, 2026 11:59 pm ET	Application Submission Deadline
Spring 2027	Anticipated Selection Notification

D. Funding Details:

It is anticipated that **approximately 20 awards** will be made under this announcement. The amount of funding is expected to be **approximately $3.5 million, with individual awards up to $175,000 in federal funds**, 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 generally a **1 – 2 year** project period.

E. Agency Contact Information:

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

Technical Contact:	**EPA National NPS Tribal Coordinator, Margot Buckelew** tribal319grants@epa.gov
Eligibility Contact:	**EPA National NPS Tribal Coordinator, Margot Buckelew** tribal319grants@epa.gov
Electronic Submissions Contact:	**Grants.gov Support** support@grants.gov 1-800-518-4726

In accordance with EPA's policy (EPA Order 5700.5A1), **EPA staff will not meet with individual applicants to discuss draft applications, provide informal comments on draft application, or provide advice to applicants on how to respond to ranking criteria**. Applicants are responsible for the contents of their applications. However, consistent with the provisions in the announcement, the EPA will respond to questions from individual applicants regarding threshold eligibility criteria, administrative issues related to the submission of the application, and requests for clarification about the announcement. Please note that applicants should raise any questions they may have about the funding announcement to the EPA National NPS Tribal Coordinator identified above as soon as possible so that any questions may be resolved prior to submitting an application. In addition, if necessary, the EPA may clarify threshold eligibility issues with applicants prior to making an eligibility determination.

Questions must be submitted in writing via email and must be received by the EPA the EPA National NPS Tribal Coordinator, Margot Buckelew (tribal319grants@epa.gov) by **October 23, 2026**. Written responses will be posted on the EPA's Tribal NPS Program: Current Grant Guidance website. The EPA strongly recommends interested applicants refer to the FAQs document prior to submitting a question.

Informational Webinars:
The EPA will host two national information sessions regarding this announcement via webinar prior to the closing date of this NOFO. These webinars will be held **September 9, 2026, at 3:30 pm ET**, and **September 17, 2026, at 2 pm ET.** Webinar registration is available online and the EPA will attempt to answer any appropriate questions in these public forums. Information about these webinars, including webinar recordings and questions and answers, will be posted on the NPS Tribal website.

F. Other Funding Considerations:

Up to $3,500,000 may be awarded under this NOFO contingent on the quality of applications received, funding availability, satisfactory performance of work, and other applicable considerations. Funding each year is not guaranteed. The applications should include an annual budget and budget detail narrative for the project, and a detailed workplan covering each year of the project.

The EPA reserves the right to reject all applications and make no awards as a result of this announcement, or to make fewer awards than anticipated. Selection or award of funding under this NOFO is not a guarantee of future funding.

New or Not Recent Recipient Set-Aside: To increase the number of Tribal NPS programs benefiting from CWA Section 319 Tribal competitive grants, the EPA will reserve a portion of available funds for eligible

Tribal applicants that have not received a competitive grant under the CWA Section 319 Tribal program in the last five years (FY 2021 – FY 2025). The EPA expects to select up to five recipients for these funds. A list of Tribes eligible for this set-aside can be found on the Tribal NPS website.

The actual award amounts and number of projects awarded under the set-aside for applicants that have not received a competitive CWA Section 319 Tribal award in the last five years may differ from the estimated amounts for many reasons including the number of meritorious applications received, agency priorities, and funding availability. In addition, the EPA reserves the right to increase or decrease (including decreasing to zero) the total number of awards under the set-aside or change the ratio of assistance agreements it awards among the set-aside.

Additional Awards: The EPA reserves the right to make additional awards under this announcement, consistent with Agency policy and guidance, if additional funding becomes available after the original selections are made. Any additional selections for awards will be made no later than six months after the original selection decisions.

Awards may be fully or incrementally funded, as appropriate, based on funding availability, satisfactory performance, and other applicable considerations.

Partial Funding: The EPA reserves the right to partially fund applications by funding discrete portions or phases of proposed projects. If the EPA decides to partially fund an application, it will do so in a manner that does not prejudice any applicants or affect the basis upon which the application, or portion thereof, was evaluated and selected for award, and therefore maintains the integrity of the competition and selection process.

2. Eligibility

A. Eligible Applicants

Only these types of organizations may apply:

An eligible Tribe or intertribal consortia must:

1. Be federally recognized,
2. Have an EPA approved NPS assessment report in accordance with CWA Section 319(a),
3. Have an EPA-approved NPS management program in accordance with CWA Section 319(b), and
4. Have “Treatment-in-a-manner-similar-to-a-State” (TAS) status in accordance with CWA Section 518(e).

To be eligible for CWA Section 319 grants under this NOFO, Tribes or intertribal consortium must have met these eligibility requirements as of October 10, 2025. For a complete list of Tribes eligible for CWA Section 319 FY2026 funding, refer to the eligibility section of the Tribal Section 319 Website.

Intertribal Consortia:

Some Tribes have formed intertribal consortia to promote cooperative work. An intertribal consortium is a partnership between two or more Tribes that is authorized by the governing bodies of those Tribes to apply for and receive assistance under this program (see 40 CFR 35.502). Individual Tribes who are part of an intertribal consortium that submits an application for a CWA Section 319 competitive grant may not also submit an individual CWA Section 319 competitive application. In such cases, the individual application will be considered ineligible.

The intertribal consortium is eligible only if the consortium demonstrates that all of its members have met the eligibility requirements listed above for the CWA Section 319 program by October 10, 2025, and member Tribes authorize the consortium to apply for and receive assistance in accordance with 40 CFR 35.504 at the time of application submission. An intertribal consortium must submit with its application adequate documentation of the existence of the partnership and the authorization of the consortium by its members to apply for and receive the grant (see 40 CFR 35.504).

(1) Other Eligibility Requirements

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

1. All applications will be reviewed for eligibility and must meet the eligibility requirements described in Section 2.A to be considered eligible. 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.

2. An individual Tribe (or intertribal consortium) may not submit more than one application under this NOFO. If more than one application is submitted, the corresponding EPA Regional Contact will contact the applicant to determine which application to withdraw. Individual Tribes who are part of an intertribal consortium that submits an application for a CWA Section 319 competitive grant may not also submit an individual CWA Section 319 competitive application. In such cases, the individual application will be considered ineligible.

3. Applications cannot request more than $175,000 in federal funding. Applications that request more than $175,000 of federal funding will be rejected from further consideration.

4. All applications must contain an on-the-ground project to implement NPS BMPs. The use of funding for otherwise eligible project activities, including development of a watershed-based plan, is limited to 25 percent of the federal portion of the competitive grant (i.e., up to $43,750 of a $175,000 federal grant request). Tribal staff time supporting the implementation of NPS BMPs is not included in this 25 percent cap.

5. Pursuant to CWA Section 319(h)(12), administrative costs in the form of salaries, overhead, or indirect costs for services provided and charged against activities and programs carried out with the grant shall not exceed 10 percent of the grant award (federal share and Tribal cost share). Additional information on administrative and indirect cost restrictions can be found in Sections 3.A and 4.B.vii.

6. All applications must include activities that are related to waters within a reservation, or they will be rejected. CWA Section 319 grant funds awarded under this competition may be awarded to Tribes for use outside the reservation only if they support activities that are related to waters within a reservation and are consistent with the applicant's NPS source assessment report and management program. These activities may include either those relating to sources upstream of a waterway entering the reservation, or activities downstream of reservation waters. The application must clearly demonstrate the impacts of the upstream or downstream project on Tribal waters or it will be rejected from further consideration. If any project work, such as NPS BMP implementation activities or monitoring, is to occur off-reservation the applicant must assess and indicate in their application whether land access/permission is required, and if so, must demonstrate in the

application that any necessary access agreements have been obtained from the landowner(s) by the time of application submission.

- Activities Related to Waters Within a Reservation: Section 518(e) of the CWA provides that EPA may treat an Indian Tribe in a manner similar to a state for purposes of CWA Section 319 of the CWA if, among other things, "the functions to be exercised by the Indian Tribe pertain to the management and protection of water resources which are within the borders of an Indian reservation" (see 33 U.S.C. 1377(e)(2)). The EPA has concluded that grants awarded to an Indian Tribe pursuant to CWA Section 319 may be used to perform eligible CWA Section 319 activities outside of a reservation if: (1) the activity pertains to the management and protection of waters within a reservation; and (2) just as for on-reservation activities, the Tribe meets all other applicable requirements.

- Activities Unrelated to Waters of a Reservation: The EPA is not authorized to award CWA Section 319 grants for activities that do not pertain to waters of a reservation. For off-reservation areas, including "usual and accustomed" hunting, fishing, and gathering places, the EPA must determine whether the activities pertain to waters of a reservation prior to awarding a grant.

7. Applications must **substantially comply** with the application submission instructions and requirements set forth in Section 5.C of this announcement or else they will be rejected. However, where a page limit is expressed in Section 4.B with respect to the application, or parts thereof, pages in excess of the page limitation will not be reviewed. Section 4 establishes a 15-page, single-spaced Project Narrative page limit. 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.

8. If an application is submitted that includes any ineligible tasks or activities, that portion of the application will be ineligible for funding and may, depending on the extent to which it affects the application, render the entire application ineligible for funding. Additional information on water quality monitoring restrictions can be found in Section 3.A.

B. Cost Sharing

Applicants must demonstrate in their application how it will meet the cost share requirement to be considered eligible. Selected recipients must comply with 2 CFR 200.306 when meeting a cost share requirement.

CWA Section 319(h)(3) of the CWA requires a non-federal cost share of at least 40 percent of the total project cost, and the cost share must be provided from non-federal sources. The non-federal cost share may be provided in cash or can come from in-kind contributions, such as use of volunteers and/or donated time, equipment, expertise, etc., and is subject to the regulations governing matching fund requirements described in 2 CFR 200.306, as applicable. In-kind contributions can include salaries or other verifiable costs, and this value must be documented. Cost share must be used for eligible and allowable project costs. Cost share is considered grant funds and are included in the total award amount and should be used for the reasonable and necessary expenses of carrying out the work plan. All grant funds are subject to federal audit. Any restrictions on the use of grant funds also apply to cost share

funds. Other federal grants may not be used as cost share without specific statutory authority. Examples of cost share calculations are provided in Table 1 below.

Certain funds originating from the Bureau of Indian Affairs (specifically, funds provided under funding agreements, contracts, or grant agreements pursuant to 25 U.S.C. Chapter 15, Subchapter II) may be used as match for CWA Section 319 funds. Pursuant to 25 U.S.C. 458cc(j), these funds are treated as non-federal funds for purposes of meeting cost share requirements.

The EPA's regulations also provide that the Agency may decrease the cost share requirement to as low as 10 percent of the total costs if the applicant can demonstrate in writing to the satisfaction of the Regional Administrator that fiscal circumstances within the Tribe or within each Tribe that is a member of the intertribal consortium are constrained to such an extent that fulfilling the cost share requirement would impose undue hardship (see 40 CFR 35.635). Where the stated purpose is to decrease the cost share requirement based upon undue hardship, the applicant may prepare a budget and application based upon the assumption that the EPA will approve the reduced cost share under 40 CFR 35.635. If the applicant does not demonstrate undue hardship, the applicant must then meet the minimum 40 percent cost share requirement. The applicant must also provide a new budget with the final grant application based upon the program's 40 percent cost share requirement and the federal award will be reduced accordingly. The purpose of this requirement is to ensure that all work plan activities for a project which is evaluated and competitively awarded will be implemented as described in the original application.

The following table demonstrates a 40 percent (CWA Section 319 minimum required non-federal cost share) and 10 percent (e.g., if undue hardship is demonstrated per 40 CFR 35.635) cost share on a CWA Section 319 maximum federal request of $175,000. The table is an example; applicants do not have to request the maximum amount. If applicants have additional questions regarding cost share calculations, please contact the National Tribal NPS Coordinator identified in Section 1.E.

Table 1. Example Cost Share Calculation

Federal Share	Non-Federal Cost Share	Federal Share	Non-Federal Cost Share	Total Project Cost
$175,000	40%	60%	$116,667	$291,667
$175,000	10%	90%	$19,444	$194,444

Example Calculation:

1. If you know the total project costs:
    (1) Multiply the total project costs by the cost share % needed.
    (2) The total is your cost share amount.

For example:

If your total project cost = $291,667 (This is the total project cost for requesting the full amount of Federal match; i.e. $175,000) and you need 40% cost share, then $291,667 x .40 = $116,667 (cost share).

OR

2. If you know the total federal funds requested (i.e., $175,000 for this NOFO):

    (1) Divide the total federal funds requested by the maximum federal share allowed.

    (2) Subtract the federal funds requested from the amount derived in step 1.

    (3) The amount derived from step 2 is the non-federal cost share.

For example:

(1) If the federal funds requested = $175,000; and the recipient cost share is 10%, then the federal share = 90% or .90. $175,000 divided by .90 = $194,444 (total project cost) then,

(2) $194,444 - $175,000 = $19,444

(3) The non-federal cost share = $19,444

(1) Performance Partnership Grants

Funds for a grant awarded under this opportunity may be included in a PPG. Applicants should indicate in their application submission if they anticipate incorporating the proposed project, if selected for funding, into an already existing PPG or if they intend to create a new PPG that would include the project proposed under this funding opportunity.

For further information regarding cost share requirements for awards included in PPG, see the final rules on Environmental Program Grants for state and interstate agencies at 40 CFR Part 35, Subpart A and Tribes and Intertribal Consortia at 40 CFR Part 35, Subpart B. Local governments are not eligible for PPGs.

(2) Tribal Match Clause for PPG-eligible Programs

NO REQUIRED TRIBAL COST SHARE UNDER A PERFORMANCE PARTNERSHIP GRANT (PPG)

If a Tribe or intertribal consortium includes the funds for a grant awarded under this NOFO in an approved Performance Partnership Grant (PPG), there is no cost-share requirement. If the applicant plans to include their grant in a PPG, the applicant should:

- prepare a budget and proposed work-plan based upon the assumption that the EPA will approve the budget and work plan without cost share included.
- be aware that if the grant awarded under this NOFO is not included in a PPG the Tribe or intertribal consortia must meet the applicable cost share requirements identified in this section. The federal award amount will be reduced by the required cost share amount and the total project cost will remain the same.

3. Program Description

A. Purpose, Priorities, and Activities

Purpose: The purpose of this funding opportunity is to support eligible Tribes and intertribal consortia to implement approved Nonpoint Source (NPS) management programs developed pursuant to CWA Section 319(b)(1). This NOFO aims to fund implementation of best management practices and measures that have been outlined in Tribal NPS Management Program Plans to address NPS pollution sources that have been identified in a Tribe's Assessment Report. See Appendix A for Categories and Subcategories of NPS Pollution.

Tribes that receive funding as a result of this funding opportunity must adhere with statutory requirements for Maintenance of Effort on base grant cost share: *To receive funds under CWA Section 319 in any fiscal year, a Tribe or each member of an intertribal consortium must agree that the Tribe or each member of the intertribal consortium will maintain its aggregate expenditures from all other sources for programs for controlling NPS pollution and improving the quality of the Tribe's or the intertribal consortium's members' waters at or above the average level of such expenditures in Fiscal Years 1985 and 1986* (see 40 CFR 35.636). The status of this requirement is documented with the EPA when evaluating a given years' CWA Section 319 base grant application for possible award. There is no requirement to document this separately in the application for this NOFO.

Program Office Priorities: The EPA's Office of Wetland Oceans and Watersheds (OWOW) mission is to protect freshwater, estuarine, coastal and ocean ecosystems, including watersheds and wetlands. Awards made through this funding opportunity will protect and enhance waters on Tribal lands and improve access to clean and safe water resources into the future. This is one of many Tribal environmental programs that are working in support of the overall agency goal of strengthening public health and environmental protection in Indian country.

National NPS Program Priorities: CWA Section 319(b)(4) establishes that, to the maximum extent practicable, NPS management programs shall be developed and implemented "on a watershed-by-watershed basis." In general, the EPA believes that efforts to manage NPS pollution can be most effective when approached at the watershed scale[1]. Experience indicates that watershed-based plans containing the nine elements identified in the EPA's *Handbook for Developing and Managing Tribal Nonpoint Source Pollution Programs Under Section 319 of the Clean Water Act* provide an effective, integrated approach to address the diverse realities and needs of each watershed. While a watershed-based plan is not required for selection under this NOFO, applicants should demonstrate that an analysis of potential NPS impairments has taken place and consideration of the watershed has informed the proposed project. Furthermore, it is important to demonstrate that the proposed projects support implementation of the applicant's Tribal Nonpoint Source Management Program Plan.

The Notice of Funding Opportunity is being offered under Federal Assistance Listing 66.460.

Activities Solicited Under this Announcement:

Examples of eligible NPS BMP implementation**:**

- Road stabilization/removal;
- Riparian planting;
- Streambank stabilization;
- Natural channel restoration;
- Low impact development/storm water management practices;
- Livestock exclusion fencing;
- Septic system rehabilitation; and
- Nutrient or grazing management practices.

Examples of other eligible project activities (up to 25% of requested federal funds):

[1] A watershed refers to the land area that drains into a stream, wetland, lake or coastal waterbody. The EPA recognizes that not all Tribes will be operating in freshwater environments. Many reservations are located along estuarine and coastal waters where the literal use of the term "watershed" may not apply. The term "watershed" will be used in this NOFO and encompasses comparable estuarine and coastal nearshore systems as well.

As described above, applicants may also use up to 25 percent of requested federal funds to support other eligible project activities, including the development of a nine-element watershed-based plan (i.e., up to $43,750 of a $175,000 federal grant request). Tribal staff time supporting the implementation of NPS BMPs is not included in this 25 percent cap. Please note the narrow definition of a "nine element watershed-based plan" specific to the EPA's NPS Program, described above.

Examples of other NPS project activities eligible to be funded under this NOFO include, but are not limited to the following:

- Development of a watershed-based plan;
- NPS ordinance development;
- Project monitoring (e.g., baseline monitoring and post-BMP implementation monitoring);
- Training which assists the applicant in developing NPS implementation projects; and
- NPS education and outreach relevant to successful implementation of NPS projects.

Eligible Activities Outside of the Reservation:

As described in Section 2.A(1), activities upstream or downstream of reservation waters may be eligible for funding if they pertain to waters within a reservation and are consistent with the applicant's NPS assessment report and management program. The application must clearly demonstrate the impacts of the upstream or downstream project on Tribal lands and waters.

Projects that may be eligible downstream of reservation waters include but are not limited to:

- control of invasive species,
- restoring a headcutting stream to prevent the headcut from reaching Tribal waters, or
- salmon habitat restoration projects that promote salmon migration upstream into Tribal waters.

Projects that may be eligible upstream of reservation waters include but are not limited to:

- stabilizing eroding streambanks to prevent sediment loading, repairing failing septic systems to prevent bacterial inputs and/or reduce nutrient loading, and
- implementing management measures on agricultural land to reduce nutrient loading into Tribal waters.

Questions about eligibility of upstream or downstream projects should be raised to the EPA National Tribal NPS Coordinator in Section 1.E before applying.

Best Management Practice Technical Merit & Integrating Resilience in Project Design:

Tribal NPS program managers consider potential impairments to water quality in addition to current sources of pollution when managing their resources, watersheds, and watershed processes. To ensure project success, all projects should demonstrate appropriateness of BMPs, considerations on how the BMPs will account for future environmental conditions, and a plan for operations and maintenance to ensure they remain effective over their expected life span. This information will be scored according to the criteria in Section 6.B. For information and ideas on how to integrate resiliency in your NPS program and into your application, see the following resources:

- Pages I-82 and I-83 in the EPA's *Handbook for Developing and Managing Tribal Nonpoint Source Pollution Programs Under Section 319 of the Clean Water Act*
- Bureau of Indian Affairs —Tribal Community Resilience Program

- Additional information on the EPA website for resilience strategies for water resources

Environmental Outputs and Outcomes:

Applicants are required to describe how funding will help EPA achieve outputs and outcomes under Pillar 1: Clean Air, Land, and Water for Every American and support the above priorities 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.

The expected outputs for the grants awarded under these guidelines may include but are not limited to:

- Development of a nine-element watershed-based plan (as a component of a proposed work plan that includes NPS BMP implementation activities, as described above in Section I.A);
- Acres of riparian area restored;
- Miles of livestock fencing installed;
- Feet of eroding streambank stabilized;
- Number of large woody debris structures placed;
- Number of septic systems rehabilitated;
- Number of stream meanders restored; and
- Percent reduction in road density.

The EPA anticipates outcomes from the projects awarded under these guidelines may include but are not limited to:

- An increased number of NPS-impaired waterbodies that have been partially or fully restored to meet water quality standards or other water quality-based goals established by the Tribes;
- Measurable ecological restoration of waterbodies that had water quality impairments but were not formally listed on a CWA Section 303(d) list;
- An increased number of waterbodies where degradation from potential future NPS impairments have been prevented.

See EPA Order 5700.7A1: EPA's Policy for Environmental Results under EPA Assistance Agreements for more information about outputs and outcomes.

Administrative and Indirect Cost Information and Restrictions: The costs of implementing BMP demonstration projects, enforcement and regulatory activities, education, training, technical assistance, and technology transfer are not subject to this limitation. For example, staff time implementing a stream restoration project is exempt from the 10 percent cap on administrative costs. Developing a watershed-based plan is also exempt from the 10 percent cap on administrative costs.

Please note that a Tribe's indirect cost rate set by the Department of Interior is independent of the 10 percent administrative costs mentioned in CWA Section 319(h)(12). If a Tribe chooses to include indirect costs in its budget, the indirect cost rate set by the Department of Interior would be the rate that the Tribe would start with. However, some of the costs that are covered in the indirect cost rate may be administrative and subject to the 10 percent administrative cap. If they are subject to the administrative cap and are more than 10 percent, the Tribe would need to limit the indirect costs included in the

budget. The 10 percent administrative cap is intended to limit overall funds for any administrative costs whether they are direct or indirect costs. See Section 4.B.vii. for more information on the administrative cap.

Water Quality Monitoring Restrictions: In general, CWA Section 319 funding should not be used for general assessment activities (e.g., monitoring the general status of reservation waters). CWA Section 319 funding may not be used to fund any activities required by a National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System permit. This includes monitoring and other activities associated with the storm water permitting program. However, Tribes may use CWA Section 319 funding to support NPS project-specific water quality monitoring (i.e., baseline monitoring and post-BMP implementation monitoring), data management, data analysis, and the development of watershed-based plans. CWA Section 319 does not, by statute, provide access for Tribes to sample lands or waters not within their jurisdiction. If monitoring is to occur off Tribal lands in waterbodies that affect the waters of the reservation, approval must be obtained from the landowner(s) prior to applying for funding.

B. Program Goals and Objectives

The activities to be funded under this funding announcement support **Goal 1: Provide Clean Air, Land, and Water for Every American** of the FY 2026–2030 EPA Strategic Plan. All applications must be for projects that support Goal 1.

As part of the Project Narrative, an applicant is required to describe how the project results will link the outcomes to Goal 1 and to the goals of: addressing NPS pollution sources through (i) implementing an approved Nonpoint Source (NPS) management program developed pursuant to CWA Section 319(b)(1), and (ii) implementing best management practices and measures that have been outlined in Tribal NPS Management Program Plans. In addition, applicants will have to describe their plan and approach for tracking and measuring their progress towards achieving expected outputs and outcomes. Additional information regarding the EPA's discussion of environmental results in terms of "outputs" and "outcomes" can be found at Linking Assistance Agreements to Environmental Results (see EPA Order 5700.7A1, Environmental Results under Assistance Agreements).

C. Statutory Authority

The statutory authorities for the assistance agreements to be awarded under this NOFO are Section 319(h) and Section 518(e) of the *Clean Water Act* (CWA). CWA Section 319(h) authorizes the EPA to award grants to eligible Tribes and intertribal consortia to implement approved NPS management programs developed pursuant to CWA Section 319(b)(1) "…for controlling pollution added from nonpoint sources to the navigable waters…" and "…improving the quality of such waters." NPS management programs must identify "…best management practices and measures which will be undertaken to reduce pollutant loadings resulting from each category, subcategory, or particular nonpoint source…" identified in the Tribe's NPS assessment report developed pursuant to CWA Section 319(a). CWA Section 518(e) authorizes the EPA Administrator "…to treat an Indian Tribe as a State for purposes of title II and sections 104, 106, 303, 305, 308, 309, 314, *319*, 401, 402, 404, and 406" (emphasis added) of the CWA, provided the requirements of Section 518(e)(1)-(3) are met.

D. Funding Type

It is anticipated that grants and 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;
- approving 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:

- Application for Federal Assistance (SF-424)
- Budget Information for Non-Construction Programs (SF-424A)
- EPA Key Contacts Form 5700-54
- EPA Form 4700-4 Preaward Compliance Review Report
- Project Narrative Attachment Form: use this to submit your Project Narrative

Optional Documents: Additional documentation materials that are not included in the Project Narrative work plan page limit should be submitted using **Other Attachments** forms. This may include any of the following if applicable, but not limited to:

- Negotiated Indirect Cost Rate Agreement
- Financial hardship waiver letter requesting a reduced non-federal cost share
- Quality Assurance/Quality Control (QA/QC) documentation; See Section 4.F for additional details on QA/QC documentation.
- Eligibility (e.g., adequate documentation to demonstrate eligibility of intertribal consortium)

The Project Narrative (including the cover page and sections i - vii below) is limited to no more than fifteen (15) typewritten, single-spaced 8.5x11- inch pages (a page is one side of a piece of paper). Pages should be consecutively numbered for ease of reading. It is recommended that applicants use a standard 12-point type with 1-inch margins.

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.

B. Project Narrative Description

The Project Narrative must include a cover page and items i – vii below. It is recommended that you identify within your Project Narrative each individual ranking criterion in Section 6.B that you are addressing.

Additional pages beyond the 15-page limit will not be considered. Supporting materials, such as letters of support from potential partners, annotated resumes, data graphs, site photos, diagrams of BMPs, and maps of the project location are not included within the Project Narrative page limit and should be submitted using the Other Attachments Form. Financial hardship waiver letters and quality assurance/quality control information is not included in the Project Narrative page limit and should be submitted using the Other Attachments form. The Project Narrative should conform to the outline below.

All Project Narrative work plans must be consistent with the Tribe's EPA-approved NPS management program and conform to legal requirements that are applicable to all environmental program grants awarded to Tribes (see 40 CFR 35.507 and 35.515) as well as the legal requirements that specifically apply to NPS management grants (see 40 CFR 35.638). As provided in those regulations, and in accordance with *EPA Order 5700.7A1, Environmental Results under EPA Assistance Agreements*, and other applicable EPA policies, all project narratives must include the following information:

Cover Page (included in the 15-page Project Narrative limit and should not exceed 1 page). Include the following information in the cover page:

- **Project Title**. The project title should reflect the main project outcome/objective and should be 15 words or less.
- **Name of Tribe or Intertribal Consortium Applying for Funding**
- **Key Personnel and Contact Information** (i.e., name, email address, and phone number).
- **Waterbody name and HUC12 ID Number(s).** How's My Waterway is a useful tool for looking up this information.
- **Abstract/Project Summary**. The abstract should begin with one or two sentences describing the main objective of the application. It should also include a description of the main tasks, including the specific BMPs and other activities, if applicable, to be implemented as part of the proposed project, as well as a description of the anticipated environmental outcomes. The entire abstract should be 250 words or less.
- **Pollution Category and Subcategory**. NPS pollution categories and subcategories can be found in Appendix A
- **Anticipated Environmental Outputs and Outcomes**. Include a brief description of the anticipated pollutant reduction measures and results. Detailed explanations and information should be included in the Project Narrative and will be evaluated against the review criteria as described in Section 6.B, Review Criteria.
- **Total Project Cost**. Specify the amount of CWA Section 319 federal funds requested and the non-federal cost share, if applicable, for the proposed project.

i. Project Location (see also review criteria i)

a) Describe the project site(s), including the location of the site(s) relative to the waterbody/waterbodies impacted by NPS pollution and any notable features relevant to the proposed NPS project (e.g., roads, project access points, proximity to other relevant locations);

b) Describe the waterbody, including waterbody type (i.e., pond, stream, etc.) and importance (i.e., designated uses) that will be protected or restored as a result of the proposed project;

c) Describe the watershed (HUC12 watershed or other appropriate scale) in which the proposed project will take place, including a description of watershed make-up (e.g. predominant land uses) as relevant to the proposed project, a description of how the proposed project addresses NPS issue(s) within the watershed and how the project connects with other ongoing or planned NPS management activities within the watershed.

The EPA recommends including maps of the reservation, waterbody to be targeted, and project location as supporting materials. Photos of project sites can also be included and should include a detailed description of what is in the photos and clearly link back to the proposed project. Site photos and maps, including descriptions, are considered supporting materials and are not included in the 15- page Project Narrative limit. Supporting materials should be submitted using the Other Attachments form.

ii. NPS Pollution Problem (see also review criteria ii)

a) Identify and describe the NPS pollution sources at the NPS subcategory level that you will address through the proposed project. For additional information about categories and subcategories of NPS pollution, please see Appendix A and the EPA's Handbook for Developing and Managing Tribal Nonpoint Source Pollution Programs Under Section 319 of the Clean Water Act and the EPA's "Types of Nonpoint Source Pollution" webpages;

b) Describe the existing or potential water quality impairment(s) caused by the NPS pollution source(s) identified and that you will address through the proposed project, as well as the information source(s) (e.g., water quality data and assessments, field observations, knowledge from community members) that you relied on when evaluating the water quality impact. Applicants should include specific descriptions of water quality impacts related to impairments of water quality standards or other parameters that indicate waterbody health (e.g., decreases in fish or macroinvertebrate counts).

The EPA recommends applicants include photos of the impacted waterbodies. Photos should include a detailed description of what is in the photos and clearly link back to the proposed project (site photos and maps, including descriptions, are considered supporting materials, are not included in the 15-page Project Narrative limit, and should be submitted using the Other Attachments form).

iii. Project Goals and Environmental Results (see also evaluation criteria iii)

a) Describe the goal(s) of the proposed project and describe how the proposed project addresses a priority in your Tribal NPS Management Program;

b) Identify the anticipated environmental outputs and outcomes of the proposed project and describe how the outputs and outcomes are linked to and support Pillar 1: Clean Air, Land, and Water for Every American (See Section 3.B for additional information);

c) Describe your plan for measuring and tracking progress toward achieving the expected outputs and outcomes.

iv. Project Workplan (see also review criteria iv)

a) Provide a project work plan that describes each individual component (i.e., discrete task or activity) to be completed during the project period. Include individual work plan components for NPS BMP implementation, as well as any other eligible project activities (e.g., watershed-based plan development, NPS monitoring) to be implemented through the proposed project;

b) Provide details of roles and responsibilities for each workplan component including responsible parties and lead contacts;

c) Provide a milestone schedule that covers each year of the total proposed project period (generally expected to be one to two years, but not more than four years and see Section 2.B.1 for information about PPG-specific requirements). Provide a breakout of the project activities into phases with associated tasks and a timeframe (i.e., anticipated start and end date) for completion of each task. Provide interim milestone dates for achieving each project component. Include an approach, procedures, and controls to ensure that awarded funds will be expended in a timely and efficient manner.

v. BMP Technical Merit (see also review criteria v)

a) Provide a justification for why the proposed BMP(s) are best suited to address the NPS pollution source(s) and water quality impairments or potential impairments identified in your application;

b) Describe potential future environmental conditions at the project site and how proposed BMPs will remain effective despite variable environmental conditions or weather events. Examples of these considerations could include ensuring the BMP is designed to withstand a flood that may be likely within the lifespan of the BMP, accounting for increased use of an external watering source by livestock due to foreseen changes in herd size or watering needs or planning for access/egress in a wildfire emergency.

c) Describe your plan for operating and maintaining (O&M) the proposed BMPs to ensure they remain effective over their expected life span.

vi. Project Budget (see also review criteria vi)

Provide a detailed budget narrative for the entire project period and estimated funding amounts for each work plan component/task. Clearly explain how the EPA funds and non-federal cost-share will be used. The applications should also include annual budget estimates for each year of the project. Applicants must itemize costs related to personnel, fringe benefits, contractual costs, travel, equipment, supplies, other direct costs, indirect costs, and total costs. This section provides an opportunity for narrative description of the budget or aspects of the budget such as "other" and "contractual." Indicate the proportion of requested funds to be spent on BMP implementation (must be a minimum of 75 percent of the requested federal funds) and other eligible project activities. All subaward funding should be located in the "other" cost category. Describe itemized costs in sufficient detail for the EPA to determine the reasonableness and allowability of costs for each work plan component/task, including the use of the non-federal cost share funds. Also indicate whether the applicant has requested a hardship waiver (the non-federal cost share may be reduced to 10 percent), or if the competitive funds will be added to a PPG (there is no required cost share under a PPG). Please see the EPA's General Budget Development Guidance for Applicants and Recipients of EPA Financial Assistance for more

information about preparing a project budget. Additionally, see Section 2.B of this NOFO for additional information.

Note the following:

- Total costs must include both federal and non-federal cost-share components.
- The use of funding for other eligible project activities not directly supporting the implementation of NPS BMPs will be limited to 25 percent of the federal portion of the competitive award.
- Administrative costs in the form of salaries, overhead, or indirect costs for services provided and charged against activities and programs carried out with the assistance agreement shall not exceed 10 percent of the total grant award (federal share and Tribal cost share). The costs of implementing enforcement and regulatory activities, education, training, technical assistance, demonstration and implementation projects, and technology transfer are not subject to this limitation. Additional information on administrative and indirect cost restrictions can be found in Section 3.A.
- Costs may include financial assistance to persons only to the extent that such assistance is related to the cost of demonstration projects.

vii. Past Performance (see also review criteria vii)

Submit a list of federally-funded assistance agreements (assistance agreements include federal grants and cooperative agreements but not federal contracts) that your organization performed within the last five years (no more than five agreements) for similar scopes of work to the proposed project (i.e. primarily BMP implementation). Describe how you documented and/or reported on whether you were making progress towards achieving the expected results (e.g., outputs and outcomes) under those agreements.

If you were not making progress, please indicate whether, and how, you documented why not. In evaluating applicants under this factor, the EPA will consider the information provided by the applicant and may also consider relevant information from other sources, including information from the EPA files and from current and prior Federal agency grantors (e.g., to verify and/or supplement the information provided by the applicant).

If you do not have any relevant or available environmental results past performance information, you must indicate this in the application, and you will receive a neutral score for this factor under Section 6.B.vii. Failure to provide any environmental results past performance information, or failure to include a statement that you do not have any relevant or available environmental results past performance information, may result in a zero score for this factor.

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 200.321 and 40 CFR Part 33 Subpart C.

D. Release Copies of Applications

The EPA recommends that applicants do not include confidential business information (CBI) in applications. However, if CBI is included, it will be treated in accordance with 40 CFR Part 2, Subpart B. Applicants must clearly indicate which portion(s) of their application they are claiming as CBI. EPA will evaluate such claims in accordance with 40 CFR Part 2. If no claim of confidentiality is made, information may be made available to the public by EPA without further notice to the applicant. See 40 CFR 2.203(a), 41 Fed. Reg. 36,907.

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.

F. Other Program Specific Application Information

Quality Assurance / Quality Control: QA/QC requirements may apply to these grants (see 2 CFR 1500.12). QA/QC requirements apply to the collection of environmental data. Environmental data are any measurements or information that describe environmental processes, location, or conditions; ecological or health effects and consequences; or the performance of environmental technology. Environmental data include information collected directly from measurements, produced from models, and compiled from other sources such as databases or literature.

Successful applicants should allow enough time and resources for this process. The EPA can assist successful applicants in determining whether QA/QC is required for the proposed project. If QA/QC is required for the project, the successful applicant may work with the EPA QA/QC staff to determine the appropriate QA/QC practices for the project. The Agency's Enterprise Quality Management Division (EQMD) webpage contains information, including documents to assist in the development and implementation of a suitable Quality System. For further information, see Section 1 to contact the National Tribal NPS Coordinator for referral to an EPA QA/QC staff.

5. Submission Requirements and Deadlines

A. Submission Dates and Times

November 9, 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.

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:

1) Contact Grants.gov Support Center before the application deadline date.
2) Document the Grants.gov ticket/case number.
3) Send an email with Funding Opportunity Number (FON): EPA-OW-OWOW-26-01 in the subject line to tribal319grants@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.

Applicants with limited or no access to the internet may request an exception by following the procedures outlined here. The request must be received at least 15 calendar days before the application due date to allow enough time to negotiate alternative submission methods.

E. Intergovernmental Review

The application is not subject to Intergovernmental Review.

6. Application Review Information

A. Responsiveness Review

Applications must meet the eligibility 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
i – Project Location The application will be evaluated based on the extent and quality to which it clearly identifies and describes: a) The proposed project site(s), including the location of the site(s) relative to the waterbody/waterbodies impacted by NPS pollution and any notable features relevant to the proposed NPS project (e.g., roads, project access points, proximity to other relevant locations). **(5 points)** b) The waterbody, including water body type and importance that will be protected or restored as a result of the proposed project. **(5 points)** c) The watershed (HUC12 watershed or other appropriate scale) in which the proposed project will take place including a description of watershed make-up (e.g. predominant land uses) as relevant to the proposed project and how the proposed project addresses priority NPS issue(s) within the watershed and how the project connects with other ongoing or planned NPS management activities within the watershed. **(5 points)** See the Project Narrative Description (Section 4.B) for more information.	**15 Points Total**
ii – NPS Pollution Problem: The application will be evaluated based on the extent and quality to which it clearly identifies and describes: a) The NPS pollution sources at the subcategory level addressed through the proposed project. **(5 points)** b) The existing or potential water quality impairments caused by the NPS pollution source(s) to be addressed through the proposed project, including scientific information and sources of evidence demonstrating the impairment or potential impairment. **(5 points)** See the Project Narrative Description (Section 4.B) for more information.	**10 Points Total**
iii – Project Goals and Environmental Results The application will be evaluated based on the extent and quality to which it clearly identifies and describes: a) Project goal(s) that link to the NPS pollution source(s) and water quality impairment described in the application, as well as a priority in the Tribal NPS management program. **(6 points)** b) The potential to achieve environmental results, anticipated outputs and outcomes (see Section 3.A), and how the outputs and outcomes are linked to and support Pillar 1: Clean Air, Land, and Water for Every American described in Section 3.A. of this announcement. **(6 points)** c) A plan for measuring and tracking progress toward achieving the expected outputs and outcomes **(3 points)** See the Project Narrative Description (Section 4.B) for more information.	**15 Points Total**

iv – Project Workplan The application will be evaluated based on the extent and quality to which it clearly identifies and describes: a) Complete details for the project workplan, including a detailed breakdown of tasks to implement the proposed BMP(s), as well as other eligible project activities, where applicable. **(15 points)** b) The roles and responsibilities for each workplan component including responsible parties and lead contacts. **(5 points)** c) A milestone schedule that covers each year of the project period and includes a breakout of the project activities into phases with associated tasks and timeframe, interim milestone dates for each project component, and a clearly articulated approach, procedures, and controls to ensure that awarded funds will be expended in a timely and efficient manner. **(5 points)** See the Project Narrative Description (Section 4.B) for more information.	**25 Points Total**
v – BMP Technical Merit The application will be evaluated based upon the extent and quality to which it demonstrates the technical appropriateness of the BMPs, including identifying and describing: a) Why the proposed BMPs are best suited to address the NPS pollution source(s) and water quality impairment or potential impairment identified in the application. **(10 points)** b) Describe potential future environmental conditions at the project site and how proposed BMPs will remain effective during variable environmental conditions or weather events. **(5 Points)** c) The plan for operating and maintaining the proposed BMP(s) to ensure they remain effective for their expected lifespan. **(5 points)** See the Project Narrative Description (Section 4.B) for more information.	**20 Points Total**
vi – Project Budget The application will be evaluated based upon the extent and quality to which it demonstrates the reasonableness of the budget and estimated funding amounts for each work plan component/task. Applications will be evaluated based on the adequacy and specificity of the information provided in the detailed budget and whether the proposed costs are reasonable and allowable, including consideration of indirect/administrative costs. Total project costs must include both federal and the required non-federal cost share. The cost-effectiveness and reasonableness of all costs. Federal and non-federal cost share will also be evaluated. See the Project Narrative Description (Section 4.B) for more information.	**10 Points Total**
vii – Past Performance Applications will be evaluated on the extent and quality to which the applicant adequately documented and/or reported on its progress towards achieving the expected results (e.g., outputs and outcomes) under the federally funded assistance agreements (assistance agreements include grants and cooperative agreements but not contracts) identified in the application performed **within the last five years** for similar scopes of work to the proposed project, and if such progress was not being made,	**5 Points Total**

whether the applicant adequately documented and/or reported why not. Note: In evaluating applicants under this criterion, the EPA will consider the information provided by the applicant in its application and may also consider relevant programmatic information from other sources including Agency files and prior/current grantors (e.g., to verify and/or supplement the information supplied by the applicant). Applicants who have no relevant or available past performance information must indicate that in the application and will receive a neutral score for this criterion (i.e., 2.5 points). Failure to provide any past performance information, or failure to include a statement in your application that you do not have any relevant or available past performance information, may result in a zero score for this criterion. See the Project Narrative Description (Section 4.B) for more information.	

C. Review and Selection Process

All applications received by the submission deadline will be screened by the EPA staff against the threshold criteria in Section 2 of the announcement. Applications that do not pass the threshold review will not be evaluated further or considered for funding.

Eligible applications that pass the threshold eligibility review will be reviewed and scored based on the ranking criteria listed in Section 6.B by a review panel(s) comprised of EPA staff, and possibly staff from other federal agencies. The ranking lists will be provided to the National Selection Official who makes the final funding decisions.

New or Not Recent Recipient Set-Aside: To increase the number of Tribal NPS programs benefiting from CWA Section 319 Tribal competitive grants, the EPA will reserve a portion of available funds for eligible Tribal applicants that have not received a competitive grant under the CWA Section 319 Tribal program in the last five years (FY 2021 – FY 2025). The EPA expects to select up to five recipients for these funds. A list of Tribes eligible for this set-aside can be found on the Tribal NPS website.

The actual award amounts and number of projects awarded under the set-aside for applicants that have not received a competitive CWA Section 319 Tribal award in the last five years may differ from the estimated amounts for many reasons including the number of meritorious applications received, agency priorities, and funding availability. In addition, the EPA reserves the right to increase or decrease (including decreasing to zero) the total number of awards under the set-aside or change the ratio of assistance agreements it awards among the set-aside.

(1) Other Evaluation Factors

Final funding decisions will be made by the selection official. In making the final funding decisions, the selection official will consider the application score/ranking and may also consider other program priorities.

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 regional Tribal 319 Coordinators. 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 Regional Grant Management Offices. 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 at SAM.gov for all subawards and subcontracts issued for $30,000 or more.
- Reporting executive compensation for both recipient and subaward organizations.

D. Program Specific Reporting Requirements

WQX: All recipients must ensure all water quality data generated in accordance with an EPA approved Quality Assurance Project Plan, either directly or by subaward, are transmitted into the Agency's Water Quality Exchange (WQX) data system (formerly known as STORET) annually or by project completion. More information about WQX and WQXweb, including tutorials, can be found on the Water Quality Data webpage.

GRTS Project Information: All recipients will be responsible for providing the EPA with project

information due 90 days from award, which will be entered into the EPA's CWA Section 319 Grants Reporting and Tracking System (GRTS). Required project information includes a project description, NPS categories of pollution and pollutants to be addressed, proposed BMPs, anticipated environmental outputs and outcomes, project location, project budget information, and project partners contributing to project implementation.

Data Sharing: All recipients of these assistance agreements may be required to share any data generated through this funding agreement as a defined deliverable in the final workplan.

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. Termination Clause: Consistent with 2 CFR 200.340, EPA may terminate awards made under this NOFO in part or its entirety:
    a. If a recipient or subrecipient fails to comply with the terms and conditions of the award, including statutory or regulatory requirements;
    b. With the consent of the recipient when both the recipient and the EPA agree upon the termination conditions, which include the effective date and, in the case of partial termination, the portion to be terminated;
    c. If a recipient sends the EPA a written notification of the reasons for such termination, the effective date, and in the case of partial termination, the portion to be terminated; however, if the EPA determines that the remaining portion of the Federal award will not accomplish the purposes for which the Federal award was made, the EPA may terminate the award in its entirety; or
    d. Pursuant to the terms and conditions specified in the Federal award.
    e. By the EPA or pass-through entity to the extent authorized by law, if an award no longer effectuates the program goals or agency priorities.

Appendix A: Categories and Subcategories of NPS Pollution

Agriculture:

- Irrigated Crop Production
- Non-Irrigated Crop Production
- Specialty Crop Production (e.g. horticulture/citrus/nuts/fruits)
- Grazing-Related Sources
- Pasture Grazing
- Range Grazing
- Aquaculture

Animal Feeding Operations

No subcategories

Silviculture:

- Harvesting/Residue Management
- Forest Management (e.g. pumped drainage/fertilization/pesticide application)
- Road Construction/Maintenance
- Reforestation

Construction:

- Highways/Roads/Bridges
- Land Development or Redevelopment

Urban Runoff/Stormwater:

- Commercial
- Municipal
- Residential (e.g. non-commercial automotive/pet waste/etc.)
- Salt Storage Sites
- Post-Development Erosion and Sedimentation
- Highway/Road/Bridge Runoff
- Dry Weather Flows
- Illicit Connections/Illegal Hook-ups

Resource Extraction:

- Surface Mining
- Subsurface Mining
- Open Pit Mining
- Placer Mining
- Sand/Gravel Mining
- Mine Tailings
- Mill Tailings
- Petroleum Activities
- Dredge Mining
- Abandoned Mine Drainage

Land Disposal/Storage/Treatment:

- Wastewater
- Landfills
- Inappropriate Waste Disposal
- Industrial Land Management
- On-site/Decentralized Wastewater Treatment
- Hazardous Waste
- Septage Disposal
- Waste Storage/Storage Tank Leaks (above ground)
- Waste Storage/Storage Tank Leaks (underground)

Hydromodification:

- Upstream Impoundment
- Dam Construction
- Dredging
- Channel Erosion/Incision
- Channelization
- Groundwater Withdrawal
- Other Habitat Modification
- Removal of Riparian Vegetation
- Streambank or Shoreline Modification/Destabilization
- Drainage/Filling of Wetlands
- Flow Regulations/Modification

Marinas and Recreational Boating:

- Boat Maintenance
- Boat Construction
- Other On-Vessel Discharges
- Sanitary On-Vessel Discharges
- Pumpouts
- Shoreline Erosion
- Dredging
- Fueling

Other NPS Pollution:

- Erosion From Derelict Land
- Atmospheric Deposition
- Spills
- Natural Sources
- Recreational and Tourism Activities (non- boating)
- Groundwater Loadings
- Wildfire-related Impacts
- Wildlife