



FY26 Notice of Funding Opportunity CWA Section 319 Competitive Grants: *Informational Sessions*

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Overview

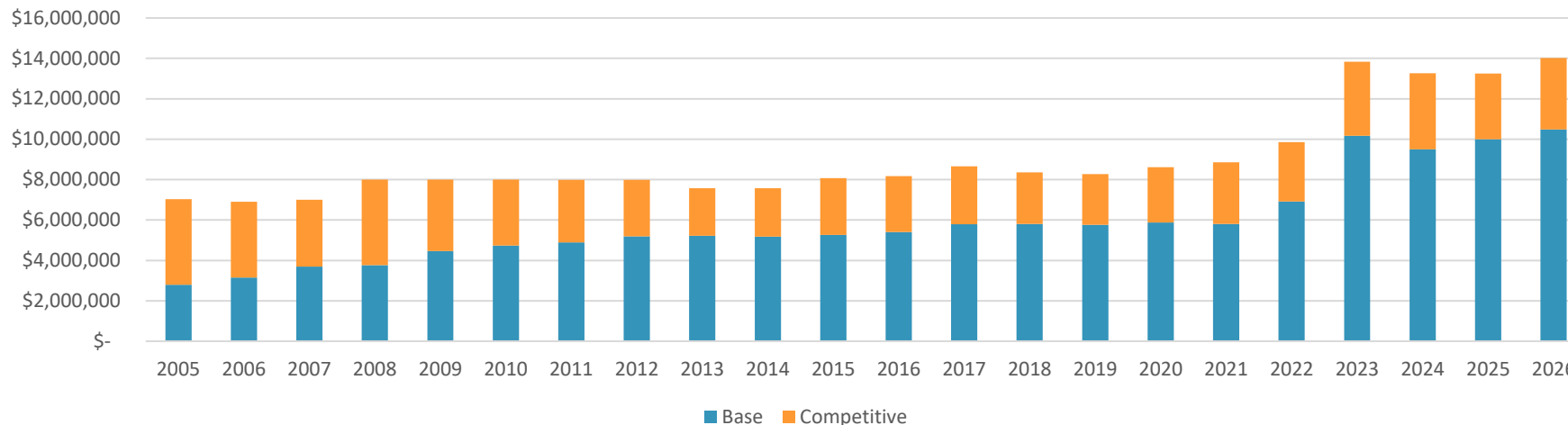
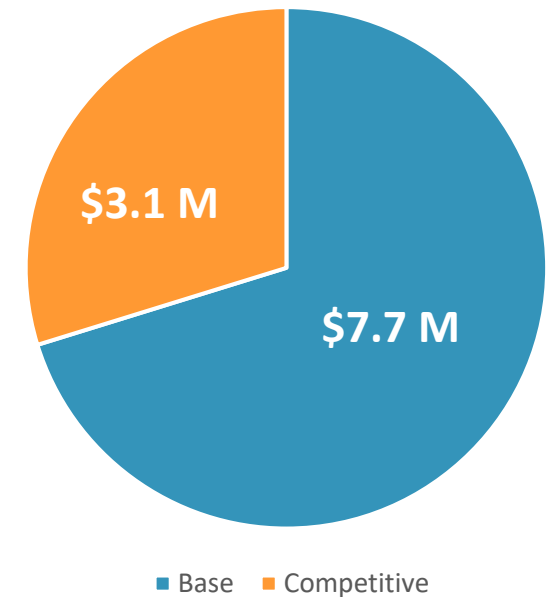
- Grant Program Background
- The Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) basic info
- NOFO Sections
- Best Practices
- Q&As!

Section 319 Grant Program Background

Section 319 Program Funding Overview

- Each year EPA awards 319 grants to eligible Tribes in two parts:
 - Base grants** (\$50-75K per Tribe, depending on land area) – primarily staff-led activities to implement NPS program. E.g., water quality monitoring, watershed coordination, education/outreach. (~200 grants / yr)
 - Competitive grants** (up to \$175K/project) – on-the-ground projects to protect or restore water quality. (~30 grants / yr)

Allocation of Tribal \$319 funds
(annual avg., 2019 - 2025)



Basic Information:

WHO CAN APPLY:

- All Tribes eligible to receive FY2026 319 grants.
- See [Current Grant Information](#) on our website for list.

HOW:

- NOFO may be accessed on the [Tribal NPS website](#) and on [grants.gov](#)
- **APPLICATION MUST BE SUBMITTED VIA GRANTS.GOV*

WHEN:

- *Applications are due **November 9, 2026** by 11:59 pm ET.*

Competitive Grants Funding Trends

Year	# Applications	# Awarded
2020	47	28
2021	36	32
2022	35	31
2023	35	33
2024	41	34
2025	37	30
Avg.	37	32

New Applicant Set Aside:

Year	# Applicants	# Awarded
2023	8	6
2024	10	4
2025	10	6

Notice of Funding Opportunity

Basic Information

The Competitive Grant Process:

Applicant questions due to EPA by **October 23, 2026**
(email Tribal319grants@EPA.gov)

Applications must be submitted online at Grants.gov by
November 9, 2026

Threshold Review: EPA Regions review applications to ensure they are eligible and meet NOFO threshold criteria

Evaluation Review: Eligible applications reviewed by National Review committee. Scored out of 100 points.

EPA Selection Official: Selected applications for award, based primarily on ranking.

Selections announced in Early Spring 2027

***So, your project
schedule should not
begin before summer
2027.**

Difference between Threshold Criteria and Ranking Criteria

Threshold Criteria (Section 2)

- EPA Regional review
- Must substantially comply with Section 2.A
- No score

*Is the proposed work eligible?

*Is the application package complete?

Ranking Criteria (Section 6)

- National Committee review
- Applications evaluated, scored, then ranked
- Maximum score of 100 points

Application Package

(see NOFO pg. 12)

- ***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:***

- 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)

Your 15-
page
project
proposal!

Application Package (see NOFO pg. 12)

- ***Mandatory Documents:***

- Application for Federal Assistance (SF-424)
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- EPA Key Contacts Form 5700-54
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- ***Optional Documents:***

- Negotiated Indirect Cost Rate Agreement
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- 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)

Key NOFO Reminders:

Match Requirements:

- Tribal PPGs – no \$ match requirement.
- 10% if requested a hardship waiver.
- Otherwise, match is 40%.

Funding request can be up to \$175,000

Reserved funding for Tribes that haven't received a grant FY 21-25

- See list for reference of [Tribes eligible for this set-aside](#)

Cover page

- Counted towards 15-page limit. See NOFO page 13 for required elements.
- Additional information provided in the NOFO explicitly

GRTS project information - *requirement added in 2022*

- If awarded funding, you are responsible for providing EPA project info within 90 days of your grant award. This will be included in EPA's 319 program grants reporting and tracking database (GRTS).

Changes from FY2025

Project cap has increased from
\$125,000 to **\$175,000**

NOFO layout format has changed –
new EPA Grants Office NOFO
template.

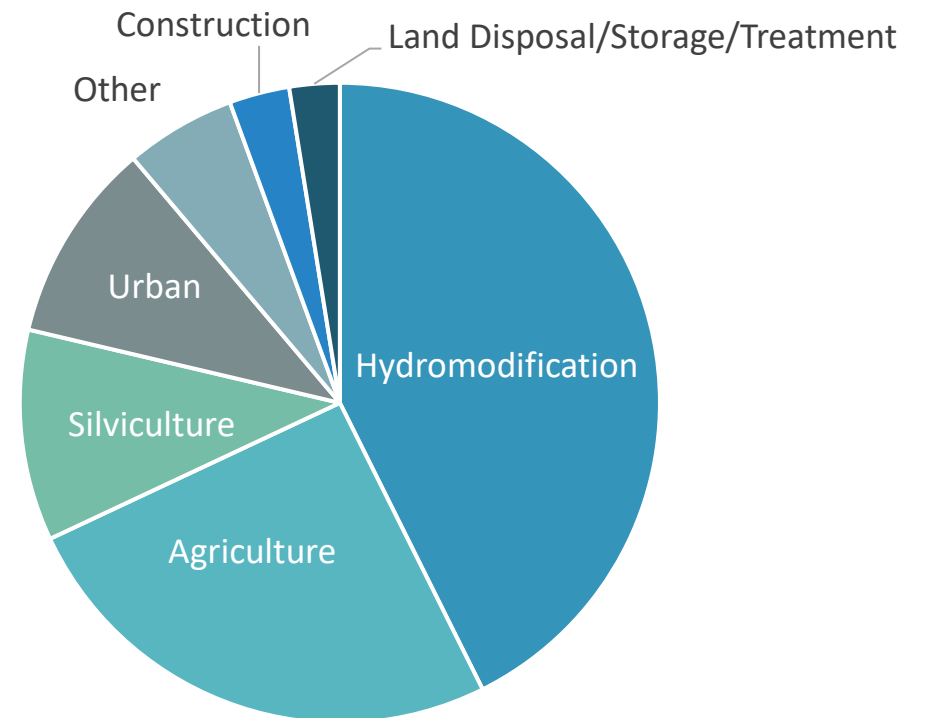
NO SUBSTANTIVE CHANGES IN
REQUIRED INFORMATION

What is EPA looking to fund?

Projects that...

- Will directly improve/protect water quality by implementing on-the-ground BMPs.
- Are strategically targeted in the watershed to address a NPS pollution problem/threat.
- Demonstrate a “readiness to proceed.”
 - Reasonable and achievable budget and project schedule.
 - Project team with clearly defined roles/responsibilities.

Pollution Sources Most Commonly Addressed in 319 Projects



Before preparing an application...



Establish the “Big Picture”



What are your program goals?



What specific project(s) will you implement to achieve those goals?



Talk to partners to ID joint priorities



NPS pollution is complicated, may take multiple phases of projects to address. It's OK to state this in applications.

How to Access the NOFO:

VIEW GRANT OPPORTUNITY

[View similar opport](#)

EPA-OW-OWOW-26-01

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

Environmental Protection Agency

Environmental Protection Agency

[Apply](#)[Subscribe](#)[SYNOPSIS](#)[VERSION HISTORY](#)[RELATED DOCUMENTS](#)[PACKAGE](#)

General Information

Document Type:	Grants Notice	Version:	Synopsis 1
Funding Opportunity Number:	EPA-OW-OWOW-26-01	Posted Date:	Aug 17, 2026
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	Last Updated Date:	Aug 17, 2026
Opportunity Category:	Discretionary	Original Closing Date for Applications:	Nov 09, 2026
Opportunity Category Explanation:		Current Closing Date for Applications:	Nov 09, 2026
Funding Instrument Type:	Cooperative AgreementGrant	Archive Date:	Dec 09, 2026
		Estimated Total Program Funding:	\$ 3,500,000
		Award Ceiling:	\$175,000
		Award Floor:	\$

Competitive Grants:

In addition to awarding CWA Section 319 base grants (described above), each year the EPA's National NPS Program solicits applications via a national competition from 319-eligible Tribes and intertribal consortia to implement on-the-ground projects to manage NPS pollution. Competitive 319 grants may be used to develop and/or implement watershed-based plans and other on-the-ground projects that will result in significant steps towards solving NPS impairments on a watershed-wide basis. Tribal applicants may request up to \$175,000 in federal Section 319 funds through this competition. In recent years, the EPA has awarded approximately \$3.5 million/year in federal 319 funds under this solicitation, depending on Agency funding levels. **Please note that applicants must submit applications via grants.gov.**

The FY26 Tribal 319 Competitive Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) is now open for applications. Application packages need to be submitted through grants.gov by November 9, 2026 11:59 pm. The NOFO can be accessed here or on [grants.gov](#).

 [FY26 Tribal 319 Competitive NOFO \(pdf\)](#) (655.69 KB, August 17, 2026)

 [FY26 Tribal 319 Competition FAQs \(pdf\)](#) (475.89 KB)

Key Dates in the Competitive Grant process:

- **September 9, 2026 at 3:30 - 5 pm ET:** Informational webinar #1. [Register here](#).
- **September 17, 2026 at 2 - 3:30 pm ET:** Informational webinar #2. [Register here](#).
 - Slides for the informational webinars will be available here the week of the webinar.
- **October 3, 2026:** Deadline for questions from prospective Tribal applicants about the FY26 NOFO. You may submit questions to tribal319grants@epa.gov.
- **Monday, November 9, 2026: *Application Deadline*** Applications must be submitted electronically to the EPA through grants.gov by 11:59pm ET in order to be considered for funding. Late applications will not be considered for funding.
- **Early Spring 2027:** The EPA anticipates announcing final selections under this competition in early spring 2027.

New Applicant Set-Aside: For FY26, EPA will continue to offer the "New Applicant Set Aside" in which a portion of funding (approximately 5 projects) will be reserved for Tribal competitive grant applicants that have not been awarded a competitive grant under this solicitation in the past 5 years (i.e., from FY2021 to FY2025). Please refer to [FY26 Tribes Eligible for New Applicant Set-Aside \(pdf\)](#) (169.38 KB) to check eligibility.

Selected Projects Summaries:

FY24:  [FY24 Selected Competitive Project Summaries \(pdf\)](#) (224.77 KB)

This document includes a summary for each competitive grant that was selected for FY24.

<https://www.epa.gov/nps/current-tribal-section-319-grant-information>

Grants.gov Resources

Support center available 24/7 (closed on federal holidays)

- Email: support@grants.gov
- Phone: 1-800-518-4726 (toll-free) | 1-606-545-5035 (international)

Resources

- Workspace overview:
<https://www.Grants.Gov/web/grants/applicants/workspace-overview.Html>
- Youtube training & webinar videos:
<https://www.Youtube.Com/user/grantsgovus/featured>
- Online user guide:
https://www.Grants.Gov/help/html/help/getstarted/get_started.Htm
- FAQs: <http://www.Grants.Gov/web/grants/applicants/applicant-faqs.Html>
- Grants.gov self-service web portal: <https://grants-portal.Psc.Gov>
- Blog: <https://blog.Grants.Gov/>



Navigating the NOFO



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1. Basic Information

- Funding information – type of awards, anticipated amount of funding
- Important dates
- EPA Contact information

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2. Eligibility

- Who is eligible – Tribes with TAS for CWA Section 319
- **Threshold Evaluation Criteria** (i.e., what EPA reviews to make sure you submitted a complete, eligible application before sending to the review committee).
- Cost-share information
- PPG information

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3. Program Description

- Program overview including purpose and priorities
- Activities solicited under this announcement
- Language about alignment with EPA priorities and outputs and outcomes (see Criterion iii)
- Funding restrictions on indirect and administrative costs, WQ monitoring
- Statutory Authority
- Funding Type – additional information.

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4. Application Contents and Format

- What to include in your application package – key forms
- **How to format your application (Section 4.B) and what to include to address each ranking criterion. *15-page limit for project narrative.**
- Other Program specific application information about QAQC

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Cover Page Requirement:

- Details included in Section 4.B
- Included in 15-page limit
- Use space efficiently!

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.

5. Submission Requirements and Deadlines

- Submission deadline – **November 9, 2026 11:59 pm ET**
- Grants.gov submission instructions. Submission through grants.gov is required – only a few exceptions.

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6. Application Review Information

- **Review Criteria (Section 6.B):** point values, how each criterion will be evaluated.
- How EPA will review and select applications

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Review Criteria:

Criteria	Point Value
i. Project Location	15
ii. NPS Pollution Problem	10
iii. Project Goals and Environmental Results	15
iv. Project Workplan	25
v. BMP Technical Merit	20
vi. Project Budget	10
vii. Past Performance	5

7. Award Notices

- How selections will be communicated

8. Post-Award Requirements and Administration

- Reporting requirements – including GRTS and WQX

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9. Other Information

- Termination Clause

Appendix A: Categories and Subcategories of NPS Pollution

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Seven Review Criteria

Section 6.B

Criterion i:

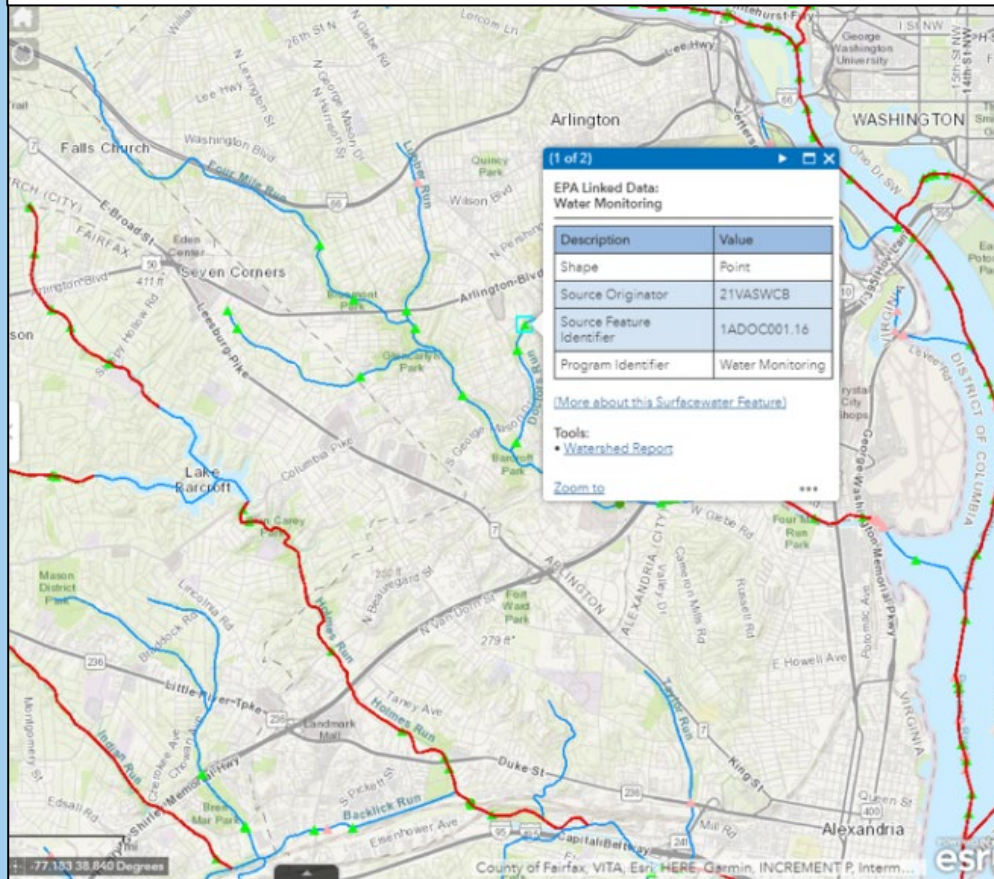
Project Location

- Information on where the project will be taking place, the waterbody of concern, and information on the watershed
- Include information on other NPS projects, prioritization of NPS work for the Tribe
- Refer to your Tribe's NPS program documents and EPA Tribal NPS handbook for NPS pollution sources.

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	15 Points Total
protected or restored <u>as a result of the proposed project.</u> (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.	

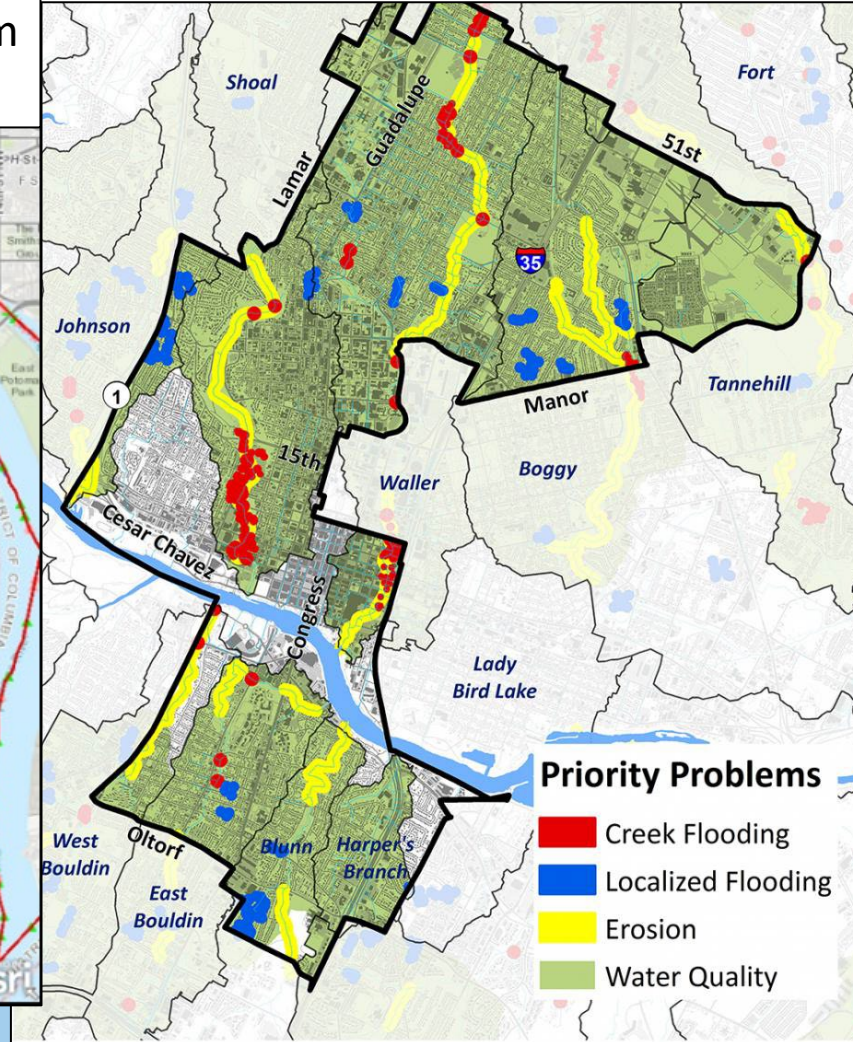
Examples of demonstrating location with supporting materials:

Linking water quality monitoring data to problem and proposed project location.



<https://www.epa.gov/waterdata/waters-geoviewer>

Prioritization of existing NPS problem areas (e.g., eroding streambanks)



<http://www.austintexas.gov/page/district-9-watershed-profile>

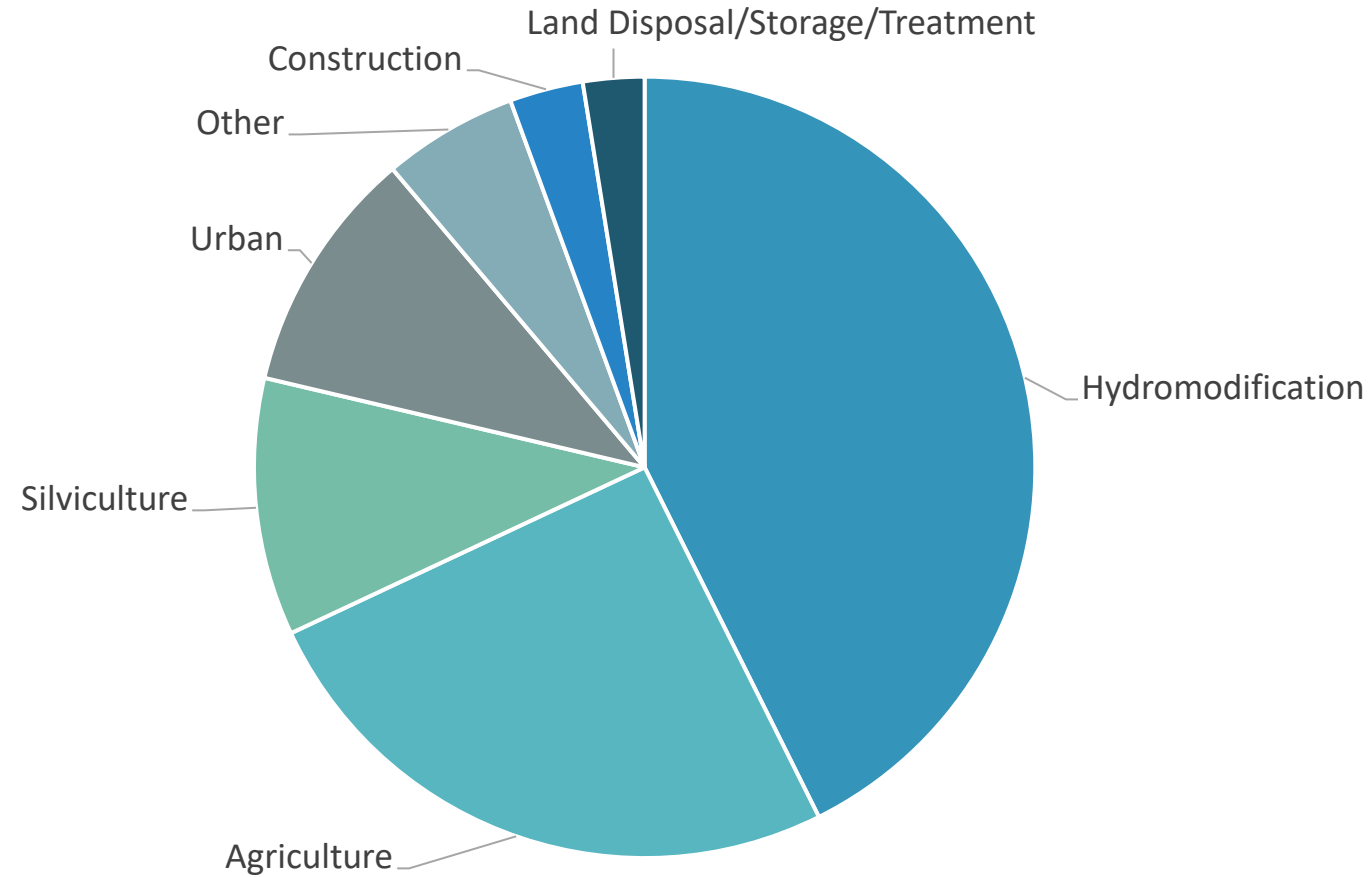
Criterion ii:

NPS Pollution Problem

- Describe the sources you will be addressing in project;
- Knowledge sources beyond data collection may serve as evidence for this (discussions from elders, anecdotal evidence of uses/access/condition declining etc.)

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
---	-----------------------------------

NPS pollution sources addressed by competitive 319 projects awarded in recent years



Show the water quality threat or problem.



Failing septic system



Eroding streambank

Criterion iii:

Project Goals and Environmental Results

- Focus primarily on goals related to addressing the problem/threat you have identified in (ii)
- Link the proposed project to your NPS Management plan

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
---	-----------------------------------

Criterion iii: Project Goals and Environmental Results



- Outputs = deliverables you will achieve during the project period.
- Outcomes = results, effects, or consequences of outputs and is related to achieving the goal
- Explicit link to the EPA Pillar 1: Clean Air, Land, and Water for Every American.
- A plan for measuring AND tracking progress

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
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Example Goals, Objectives, and Proposed Activities

Goal 1:

Decrease sediment and bacteria loading to meet water quality targets to support designated beneficial uses in Oak Creek.

Objective 1:

Remove livestock access to Oak Creek.

Management Actions:

1. Install livestock exclusion fencing
2. Install off-site water supply for livestock

Objective 2:

Stabilize eroding streambank and restore riparian area at former livestock access point.

Management Actions:

1. Stabilize 100 ft. of streambank
2. Riparian planting on 0.25 acres

Criterion iv: Project Workplan

- All this information can be included on one table (example on slide 43)
- Break down work plan into specific tasks with timelines associated (could a new staff person pick up work plan and complete project?)
- ID lead person/agency for each work plan component

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)	25 Points Total
See the Project Narrative Description (Section 4.B) for more information.	

Criterion iv: Project Workplan



- Discuss responsible parties and lead contacts for all workplan components
- Milestone schedule should include:
 - Breakout of project activities
 - Timeframes, interim milestone dates
 - Discussion on ensuring that funds are expended in a timely and efficient manner

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
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Criterion v:

BMP Technical Merit

- Provide detailed info on BMPs including planned or conceptual design, when applicable.
- Justification on why this BMP is best suited for the identified problems
- Considerations on how conditions may change under environmental scenarios and how the BMP design will be responsive to this
- A plan to maintain the BMP for its life span (usually 10 years)

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) <u>Why the</u> 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
--	-----------------------------------

Common BMPs implemented by competitive 319 projects in recent years

Best Management Practice
Streambank & Shoreline Protection
Riparian Planting
Fencing
Outreach & Education
Stream Crossing Improvements
Erosion & Sediment Control Practices
Wetland Restoration
Native Plant Propagation & Planting
Invasive Species Management
Vegetative Buffer Strips

Criterion vi:

Project Budget

- Provide cost estimate for each work plan component
- Specify direct, indirect and match costs, when applicable.
- Information on match – even if it is \$0!

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**

Calculating the Cost Share

Federal Share	Non-Federal Cost Share Percent	Federal Share Percent	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:

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.

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 $\$291,667 \times .40 = \$116,667$ (cost share).

Example Workplan

iv.c

Reference v

vi

iv.b

iv.a

Component 1: <i>Site Design and Planning</i> Lead Party: Tribal Department				
Task List	Time Period Implemented		Description	Cost:
Task Description 1: Hire and Interview				
Prep RFA	October 2024	November 2024	write RFA write RFA write RFA write RFA write RFA write RFA write RFA write RFA write RFA write RFA	
Hire Design Contractor	November 2024	December 2024	interview and select interview and select interview and select interview and select interview and select interview and select interview and select interview and select	
Task Description 2: Design				
BMP Design	December 2024	July 2024	Why BMP Selected how design will address identified water quality problems climate considerations etc	
Component 2: <i>Stream Restoration</i> Lead Party: Tribal Department				
Task Description 1: Implement Design				
Buy Supplies	June 2024	August 2024	include detailed supply list and associated costs	
Site Scoping	May 2024	August 2024	survey survey survey survey survey survey survey survey survey survey survey survey survey survey survey survey survey survey	
Site Prep	July 2024	September 2024		
BMP Installation	August 2024	February 2025	Why BMP Selected how design will address identified water quality problems climate considerations etc	
Ensure Successful Installation of BMP	August 2025	August 2027	check marks check marks check marks check marks check marks check marks check marks check marks check marks check marks check marks	
Component 3: <i>Community Engagement</i> Lead Party: Tribal Department				

Component 3: Community Engagement Lead Party: Tribal Department				
Task Description 1: Public Access and Education				
Community Interviews	February 2024	May 2024	design questions and engage questions and engage design engage design questions and design questions and engage	
Accessibility Designs	May 2024	June 2024	incorporate access incorpor incorporate access incorpor incorporate access incorpor	
Signage Development	May 2024	August 2024	graphic design and messagin design and messaging	
BMP Installation	September 2024	December 2024	connect with component 2 a will address goals connect wi 2 and why project will address connect with component 2 a will address goals connect wi 2 and why project will address connect with component 2 a will address goals	
Post installation Interviews	January 2025	April 2025	design questions and engage questions and engage design engage design questions and design questions and engage	
Component 4: Data Collection and Reports Lead Party: Tribal Department				
Task Description 1: Post installation				
Enter GRTS Data	Fall 2025			
BMP Post installation checks	July, April annually			
Grant Reporting	July 2026	September 2026		

Example project budget table

Project Goal: Decrease sediment and bacteria loading to meet water quality targets to support designated beneficial uses in Oak Creek.			
<i>Activity</i>	<i>Amount</i>	<i>Cost</i>	<i>Total</i>
Objective 1: Remove livestock access to Oak Creek			
Fencing materials	0.5 miles	\$400/mile	\$200
Work crew to complete fencing and restoration	60 hours	\$80/hr	\$4,800
Livestock off-site watering structures	2 units	\$1,500 per unit	\$3,000
Objective 2: Stabilize eroding streambank and restore riparian area at former livestock access point			
Bank stabilization materials	100 ft	\$20/ft	\$2,000
Native riparian plants	50 plantings	\$30/planting	\$1,500
Native grass seed mix	50 lbs	\$10/lb	\$500
Total			\$12,000

Criterion vii: Past Performance

- Be sure to document grants and cooperative agreements from the last **5 years**
- Discuss how progress was documented and reported

General
Grants
Criterion!!

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, 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.

**5 Points
Total**

Best Practices

Before preparing an application...



Establish the “Big Picture”



What are your program goals?



What specific project(s) will you implement to achieve those goals?



Talk to partners to ID joint priorities



NPS pollution is complicated, may take multiple phases of projects to address. It's OK to state this in applications.

When writing the application...



Be sure the funding opportunity is the right one for your needs



Tie the work back to the “Big Picture”



Don't get creative in your application format – stick to the RFA criteria and address each criterion individually



Describe and show (photos, maps, graphs) the problem & proposed work



EPA likes data. Use data if available to support your claims in your application.



Don't assume the reviewers know the NPS program – they could be from any EPA program!



Stick to the page limit



Ask for a debriefing, regardless of outcome 

Key Dates

- **October 23, 2026**: last day to submit questions (Tribal319grants@EPA.Gov)
 - ***November 9, 2026***: application deadline.
 - Submissions via grants.gov – by 11:59pm EST
 - Late applications will not be considered for funding
 - Early Spring 2027: EPA announces selections.
- Spring/Summer 2027: final award packages to grantees.

*So, your project schedule should not begin before summer 2027.

Important Reminders

- You must submit through [grants.gov](https://www.grants.gov)
- Maximum federal request amount: \$175,000
- 15-page (single-spaced) limit on the project narrative
- Additional pages allowed for supporting materials (maps, data graphs, site photos, etc.)
- Review committee can only evaluate application based on information provided. They will not have access to your NPS assessment report or NPS management program plan



Questions?

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tribal319grants@epa.gov

Reminders of FY24 NOFO Changes

1. **Significant** Ranking criteria changes happened in FY24 (continued on next slide):

FY2023 Evaluation Scoring Criteria (OLD – No Longer Used)	FY2025 Evaluation Scoring Criteria (NEW)
A. Subcategories of NPS pollution (10 points)	i. Project Location (15 points total) • Project Site Description (5 points) • Waterbody Description (5 points) • Watershed Description (5 points)
B. Water quality problems/threats (10 points)	ii. NPS Pollution Problem (10 points total) • NPS Pollution Subcategories (5 points) • Water Quality Problems/Threats (5 points)
C. (30 points total) Project goals & objectives (5 points) Work plan components (10 points) Description of BMPs & other project activities (10 points) Project location (5 points)	iii. Project Goals & Environmental Results (15 points total) Project Goals (6 points) Environmental Outputs & Outcomes (6 points) Progress Tracking Plan (3 points)

FY2023 Evaluation Scoring Criteria (OLD – No Longer Used)	FY2024 Evaluation Scoring Criteria (NEW)
<i>D. (10 points total)</i> • Link between workplan components and NPS pollution subcategories (5 points) • Water quality benefits (5 points)	iv. Project Workplan (25 points total) • Project Workplan Details (15 points) • Roles & Responsibilities (5 points) • Milestone Schedule (5 points)
E. Watershed approach (10 points)	v. BMP Technical Merit (20 points total) • BMP justification to address NPS problem (10 points) • Climate Change Planning (5 points) • Operation & Maintenance Plan (5 points)
<i>F. (10 points total)</i> • Environmental results (3 points) • Measuring and tracking progress (4 points) • Past performance (3 points)	vi. Project Budget (10 points)
<i>G. (10 points total)</i> • Project Budget (8 points) • Spending Approach (2 points)	vii. Past Performance (5 points)
H. Milestone schedule (5 points)	
I. Roles & responsibilities (5 points)	