



Q & A Information Session on Tribal Nonpoint Source (CWA Section 319) FY 2015 RFP

**November 25 and December 4,
2014**

Nancy Arazan, US EPA Headquarters



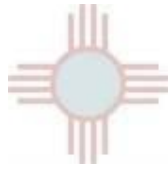


Guide to the Webinar



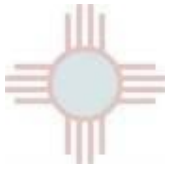
- **Short overview of “FY 2015 Request for Proposals from Indian Tribes and Intertribal Consortia for Nonpoint Source Management Grants Under Clean Water (CWA) Section 319.”**
 - Key Dates
 - Important Reminders
 - Threshold criteria versus Ranking criteria
 - Review of ranking criteria
- **Question and Answer segment**
 - Questions may be typed in at any time throughout the webinar



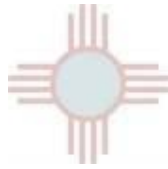


- **To Ask a Question** – Type your question in the “Questions” toolbox on the right side of your screen and click “Send”.
- **Answers** will be addressed either during the webinar and/or posted on the tribal NPS page:
<http://www.epa.gov/nps/tribal>



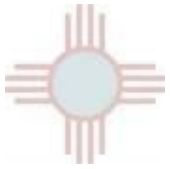


Key Dates

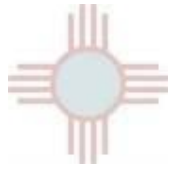


- **November 6 to December 17, 2014:** Open application period
- **December 10, 2014:** Last day to submit questions to your EPA Regional Coordinator
- **December 17, 2014:** Submission deadline for proposals
 - For hard copy submissions - by 5pm local time to EPA Regional Contact
 - For electronic submissions via Grants.gov - by 11:59pm EST, by 10:59 P.M. CST, 9:59 P.M. MST, 8:59 P.M. PST, December 17, 2014.
 - Late proposals will not be considered for funding.



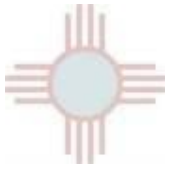


Important Reminders

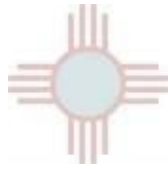


- **Maximum federal request amount: \$100,000**
- **Page limit!**
 - **12-page (single-spaced) limit on the proposal narrative**
 - **Additional pages are allowed for Supporting materials (maps, data graphs, site photos, etc.) (Page 16 in RFP)**
- **Categories and Subcategories of NPS pollution are listed in the Appendix B of the RFP**
- **Criterion C point distribution has shifted (page 24 in RFP)**





Getting Started



- **Read through the RFP**
- **Review your NPS Assessment Report and NPS Program Management Plan**
- **Find a priority project that you want to implement in FY2016 with NPS competitive funding**
- **Develop a workplan narrative to address the threshold criteria and ranking criteria**
- **Proposal work plan should conform to outline in Section IV.B of the RFP**
- **Need a refresher? Refer to September 13, 2011 webcast**



The RFP Process

Proposals are submitted to NPS Regional Coordinator listed in the RFP, or online at Grants.gov by stated date and time

First, EPA Regions review proposals to ensure they meet RFP threshold criteria

Second, proposals passing Regional Threshold Review are forwarded on to National Review committee

Review committee members evaluate proposals and scores are averaged (arithmetic mean) to result in ranked list

Awards
announced
in Spring
2015



Difference between Threshold Criteria and Ranking Criteria?



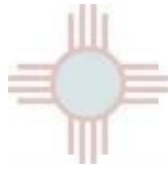
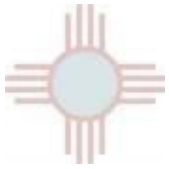
Threshold Criteria (Section III.C)

- EPA Regional review
- Signed Standard Form (SF) 424 – Application for Federal Assistance
- Proposal workplan
- Must substantially comply with Section IV.B
- No score

Ranking Criteria (Section V. A)

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

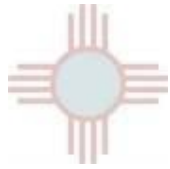
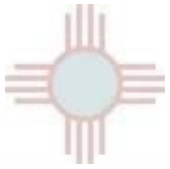




Nine Ranking Criteria

Section V.A. of RFP (page 23)





Ranking Criteria – NPS subcategories

- a. The extent, and quality, to which the subcategories of NPS pollution are identified and described. (10 points maximum)***
- Identifies each significant subcategory of NPS pollution**
 - Extent to which these subcategories are present in the watershed**





Ranking Criteria – Water Quality Problem



b. The extent, and quality, to which the water quality problems or threats to be addressed are identified and described. (10 points maximum)

- **Identify each water quality problem or threat to be addressed caused by the subcategories of NPS pollution identified in the work plan**
- **Incorporate specific descriptions of water quality problems or threats, for example, in relation to impairments to water quality standards or other parameters that indicate stream health (e.g., decreases in fish or macroinvertebrate counts).**

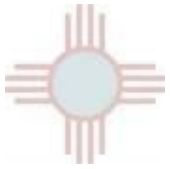


Ranking Criteria – Goals & Objectives, Proposed Activities, & Location

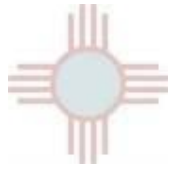
c. The extent and quality to which the goals and objectives of the project work plan components, and the project location are described. (20 points maximum)

- The goal(s) and objective(s) of the project (Value = 2 points max)
- The work plan components, which includes an outline of all activities to be implemented (Value =7 points max)
- The level of detail provided in relation to specific management measures and eligible practices to be implemented (Value = 7 points max)
- Specificity in identifying where NPS project will take place in relation to waterbody affected by NPS pollutants (Value = 4 points max)





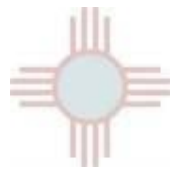
Ranking Criteria – Water Quality Benefits



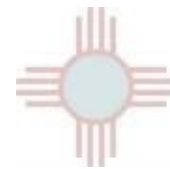
d. The extent to which the project will address the subcategories of pollution and extent to which significant water quality benefits will be achieved as a result of the project. (10 points maximum)

- Describe water quality benefits achieved
- Specific water quality-based goals
- Info not available to make specific estimates? Water quality-based goals may include narrative descriptions and best professional judgment based on existing information.
- See page 24 of RFP for clarifying language on how to link Ranking Criterion *a*, *b*, *c*, and *d*.





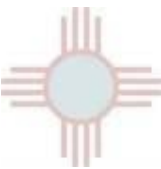
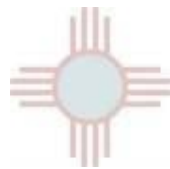
Ranking Criteria -- Project type



e. The extent and quality to which the proposal fits into the watershed context and how it addresses 1 of the following 4 factors. (10 points maximum)

- (i) The proposal develops or continues work on a watershed-based plan (WBP) and implements a WBP.***
- (ii) The proposal develops or continues work on a WBP and implements a watershed project (that does not implement a WBP).***
- (iii) The proposal implements a WBP. The proposal implements a watershed project that is a significant step towards solving NPS impairments or threats on a watershed-wide basis.***
- (iv) The proposal implements a watershed project that is a significant step towards solving NPS impairments or threats on a watershed-wide basis.***





Ranking Criteria – Environmental results and past performance

f. The extent and quality to which the proposal meets each of the following sub-criteria: (10 points maximum)

(i) Demonstrates potential environmental results (Value = 3 points maximum)

(ii) Demonstrates a sound plan for measuring and tracking progress (Value = 3 points maximum)

(iii) Adequately documented and/or reported on its progress towards achieving the expected results under the federally funded assistance agreements identified in the proposal performed within the last 3 years, and if such progress was not being made, whether the applicant adequately documented and/or reported why not. (Value = 4 points maximum)





Ranking Criteria -- Budget



g. The adequacy and specificity of the budget in relation to each work plan component/task. (10 points maximum)

(i) Demonstrates reasonableness and allowable of budget and estimated funding amounts for each component/task. Adequacy and specificity of the information provided in detailed budget. Total project costs must include both federal and the required cost share/match (non- federal) components. (Value = 8 points maximum)

(ii) Approach, procedures, and controls for ensuring that awarded grant funds will be expended in a timely and efficient manner (Value = 2 points maximum)



Calculating the Match

Federal Share	Non-Federal Match	Federal Share	Non-Federal Match	Total Project Cost
\$100,000	40%	60%	\$66,667	\$166,667
\$100,000	10%	90%	\$11,111	\$111,111
\$100,000	5%	95%	\$5,263	\$105,263

Example Calculation:

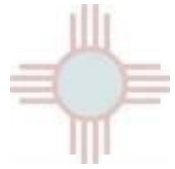
a. If you know the total project costs:

- (1) Multiply the total project costs by the cost share/match % needed.
- (2) The total is your cost share/ match amount.

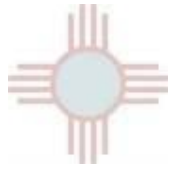
For example:

If your total project cost = \$166,667 and you need 40% cost share/match, then $\$166,667 \times .40 = \$66,667$ (Cost Share/Match).





Ranking Criteria -- Schedule

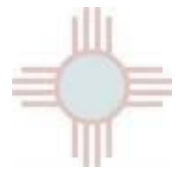


h. The level of detail in relation to the schedule for achieving the activities identified in the work plan. (10 points maximum)

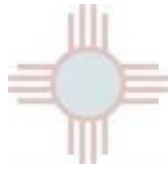
-Detail and clarity in relation to the schedule of activities for each work plan component and task or activity.

-May include: a specific “start” and “end” date for each work plan component and task or activity; an estimate of the specific work years for each work plan component; and interim milestone dates for achieving each work plan component and task or activity.





Ranking Criteria -- Roles and Responsibilities



i. The extent and quality to which the roles and responsibilities of the recipient and project partners in carrying out the proposed work plan activities are specifically identified. (10 points maximum)

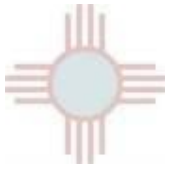
- **Specifically and clearly defines the roles and responsibilities of each responsible party in relation to each work plan component**
 - **defining the specific level of effort for the responsible parties for each work plan component**
 - **identifying parties who will take the lead in carrying out the work plan commitments**
 - **identifying other programs, parties, and agencies that will provide additional technical and/or financial assistance.**



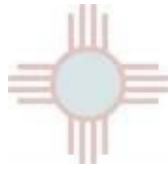
Things to Consider While Working on your Competitive Grant Proposal

- Review committee can only evaluate proposal based on information provided
 - Committee does not have access to the Tribe's NPS Assessment Report and Management Program Plan, or Watershed Based Plan
- Review RFP carefully: Address both threshold criteria and ranking criteria



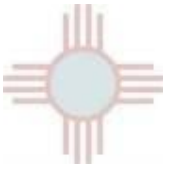
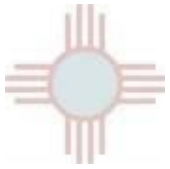


Reminders



- **Competitive grant and base grant have separate deadlines – check www.epa.gov/nps/tribal for most up-to-date information**
- **EPA Regional NPS staff cannot provide assistance on development of competitive grant proposals/workplans**
 - **Questions re: RFP will be directed to EPA HQ**
 - **Answers posted on the Tribal 319 NPS page & updated throughout competition period**
- **Reference your NPS Assessment Report, NPS Management Program Plan, Tribal NPS Handbook and September 13, 2011 webcast for information on what to include in work plans**





Questions?

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