# Competition

The basics on competing for EPA assistance programs

December, 2015

# Finding EPA Competitive

### **Opportunities**

- Grants.gov: <u>www.grants.gov</u>
  - Find current competitive opportunities
    - Synopses includes important info: funding amounts, eligible entities, submission deadline, and more
  - Searchable by CFDA, keyword, agency, type of entity, etc
  - Apply online using Grants.gov (required for initial application)
    - Must Register Obtain DUNs, register with SAM, Setup Username/password, authorization
  - Automatic notifications of opportunities

SEARCH: Grant Opportunities 🔻

GO

FIND. APPLY. SUCCEED."											
HOME	ABOUT 🔻	SEARCH GRANTS	APPLICANTS 🔻	GRANTORS -	SYSTEM-TO-SYSTEM -	FORMS 🔻	OUTREACH 🔻	SUPPORT -			
								~			
Grants you ha you re proces	s.gov makes it e ave applied for.	• Grants easy to TRACK your feder Enter the Grants.gov track bomitting your application t	kin, ber					What's New SAMS Quick Start Guide For New Grantee Registration and SAMS Video Tutorial for New Applicants are tools created by the General Services Administration to assist those registering with the System for Award Management (SAM). If you have questions or concerns about your SAM registration, please contact the Federal Support desk at https://www.fsd.gov. Grants.gov Applicant Training Video 🖓 - Need a quick lesson on how to Register, Find and Apply? Watch this short video to get tips on registering with Grants.gov; finding grant opportunities; understanding your search results; and, applying for opportunities. If you have any			
Find (	Dpen Gr	ant Opportur	nities					additional questions please visit the Applicant Resources section of Grants.gov.			

**BROWSE ELIGIBILITIES** 

#### Grants.gov Blog

#### Grants.gov Releases a New Applicant Training Video 7/30/13 5:00 PM

Just in time for the roll out of the new look and feel to the Grants.gov website, the Program Management Office has developed a new "Find and Apply" training video. In the video, potential applicants will receive a walk-thru of what to expect once the new site is released. As this is an exciting time for the Program Management Office and our stakeholders, we invite you to take a ...

#### New Look Coming to Grants.gov 7/25/13 7:32 PM

On, or about, August 2 nd , the Grants.gov website will experience a facelift. Although the look and feel of the site will be different, the content and its functionality will remain the same. As this is an exciting time for Grants.gov, we appreciate your continued support in making it a better experience for our endusers.

		View More »	
Funding Opportunity Number	Opportunity Title	Agency	
AMS-NOP-13-0061	Agricultural Management Assistance Organic Certification Cost-Share Program FY 2013	Agricultural Marketing Service	
SA-SYLEP-800-13-GR-51	Saudi Young Leaders Exchange Program	U.S. Mission to Saudi Arabia	
G13AS00105	Cooperative Ecoystem Studies Unit, Gulf Coast CESU	Geological Survey	
G13AS00109	Cooperative Ecosystem Studies Unit, Great Basin CESU	Geological Survey	
G13AS00110	Cooperative Ecosystem Studies Unit, Great Lakes Northern Forest CESU	Geological Survey	
NPS-13-NERO-0107	Assessment of natural resource conditions at Hopewell Furnace NHS, Gettysburg NMP, and Eisenhower NHS	National Park Service	
PAR-13-300	NLM Express Research Grants in Biomedical Informatics (R01)	National Institutes of Health	
PAR-13-301	The Role of the Cytoskeleton in Cellular Aging (R21/R33)	National Institutes of Health	

BROWSE AGENCIES

GRANTS.GOV<sup>™</sup>

NEWEST OPPORTUNITIES BROWSE CATEGORIES

#### SEARCH GRANTS

BASIC SEARCH CRITERIA:			:	Search Tips   Ex	port Results
Keyword(s):	SORT BY: Open Date (Descending)				
Funding Opp #:	1 - 25 OF 2065 MATCHING RESULT	« Previous	23456	83 Next »	
CFDA Number:	Funding Opportunity #	Opportunity Title	Agency	Open Date 🕽	Close Date
SEARCH	AMS-NOP-13-0061	Agricultural Management Assistance Organic Certification Cost-Share Program FY 2013	Agricultural Marketing Servic	08/01/2013 e	08/30/2013
OPPORTUNITY STATUS:	SA-SYLEP-800-13-GR-51	Saudi Young Leaders Exchange Program	U.S. Mission to Saudi Arabia	08/01/2013	08/30/2013
Open (2065) Closed (1396) Archived (19938)	G13AS00105	Cooperative Ecoystem Studies Unit, Gulf Coast CESU	Geological Surve	y 08/01/2013	08/12/2013
, i.e. in ed (10000)	G13AS00109	Cooperative Ecosystem Studies Unit, Great Basin CESU	Geological Surve	y 08/01/2013	08/12/2013
FUNDING INSTRUMENT TYPE:     Instruments     ▲	G13AS00110	Cooperative Ecosystem Studies Unit, Great Lakes Northern Forest CESU	Geological Surve	y 08/01/2013	08/12/2013
Cooperative Agreement (568)	NPS-13-NERO-0107	Assessment of natural resource conditions at Hopewell Furnace NHS, Gettysburg NMP, and Eisenhower NHS	National Park Service	08/01/2013	08/06/2013
Grant (1630) Other (43)	PAR-13-300	NLM Express Research Grants in Biomedical Informatics (R01)	National Institute of Health	s 08/01/2013	09/07/2016
Procurement Contract (42)	PAR-13-301	The Role of the Cytoskeleton in Cellular Aging (R21/R33)	National Institute of Health	s 08/01/2013	09/07/2016
	G13AS00106	Cooperative Ecosystem Studies Unit, Gulf Coast CESU	Geological Surve	y 08/01/2013	08/12/2013
City or township governments (1008)	PAR-13-295	Biomarkers: Bridging Pediatric and Adult Therapeutics (R21)	National Institute of Health	s 08/01/2013	09/07/2016
County governments (1018) For profit organizations other than small	PAR-13-296	Biomarkers: Bridging Pediatric and Adult Therapeutics (R01)	National Institute of Health	s 08/01/2013	09/07/2016
businesses (952)	PAR-13-299	Biomarkers: Bridging Pediatric and Adult Therapeutics (R03)	National Institute of Health	s 08/01/2013	09/07/2016
	L13AS00170	BLM AK CESU - Scenario Planning for Energy and Resources Development	Bureau of Land Management	08/01/2013	08/23/2013
Agriculture (31)	NOAA-NMFS-PRPO-2014-2003832	FY 2014 Species Recovery Grants to Tribes	Department of Commerce	08/01/2013	10/29/2013
<ul> <li>Business and Commerce (15)</li> <li>Community Development (29)</li> </ul>	NOAA-NMFS-PRPO-2014-2003811	Species Recovery Grants to States (Section 6 Program)	Department of Commerce	08/01/2013	10/29/2013
▼ AGENCY:	NNH13ZDA001N-PMDAP	ROSES 2013: Planetary Mission Data Analysis Program	NASA Headquarters	08/01/2013	10/11/2013
<ul> <li>All Agencies</li> <li>All Agency for International Development (63)</li> <li>All Corporation for National and Community</li> </ul>	FPH-14-022	FY14 Region 9 Nevada (not including Clark, Douglas or Washoe counties) Announcement of Anticipated Availability of Funds for Family Planning Services Grants	Office of the Assistant Secreta for Health	08/01/2013 ry	04/01/2014
Service (2)	PA-FPH-14-020	FY14 Region 9 Republic of the Marshall Islands Announcement of Anticipated Availability of Funds for Family Planning Services Grants	Office of the Assistant Secrets	08/01/2013	04/01/2014



Geological Survey

Geological Survey

Cooperative Ecoystem Studies Unit, Gulf Coast CESU

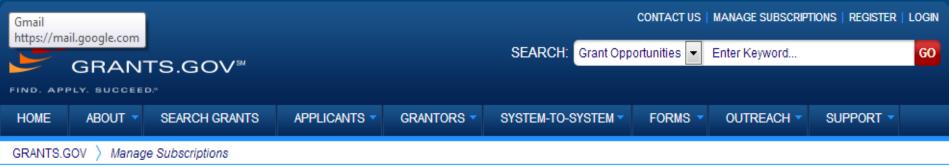
Cooperative Ecosystem Studies Unit, Great Basin CESU

G13AS00105

G13AS00109

once the new site is released. As this is an exciting time for the Program Management Office and our stakeholders, we invite you

to take a ...



#### MANAGE SUBSCRIPTIONS

Subscribe now and receive notifications of new grant opportunity postings and updates on Grants.gov. You do not need to be a registered user of Grants.gov to sign-up for this service.

#### Grants.gov RSS Feed

Stay informed about new and updated grant opportunities. Once you see all of the benefits of receiving the Grants.gov RSS feed, you may want to discontinue your email notification subscription. Subscription Services - Unsubscribe

#### All Grants Notices

Receive daily notification of all new grant opportunities.

#### Notices Based on Advanced Criteria

Select notifications based on specific criteria such as funding instrument type, eligibility or sub-agency.

#### Notices Based on Funding Opportunity Number

Select this option to receive notifications based on Funding Opportunity Number (FON). A FON is a number that a federal agency assigns to its grant announcement.

#### Subscription Services - Unsubscribe

If you receive an error message when you attempt to unsubscribe please send an email to support@grants.gov. To remove one or more subscriptions please include the email(s) in the message. In the subject line please verify it says "Unsubscribe".

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# **Competitive Opportunities**

- EPA Program Office Websites
  - Check program websites for current funding opportunities (ex: Office of Air and Radiation: <u>http://www.epa.gov/grants/air-grants-and-funding</u>)

### • EPA Grants Competition Community Forecast

- <u>http://www.epa.gov/grants/epa-grant-competition-forecast-</u> <u>calendar-year-2015</u>
- Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance (CFDA): <u>www.cfda.gov</u>
  - Read more about assistance programs
  - Typical funding amounts, types of projects funded, eligible entities, and more



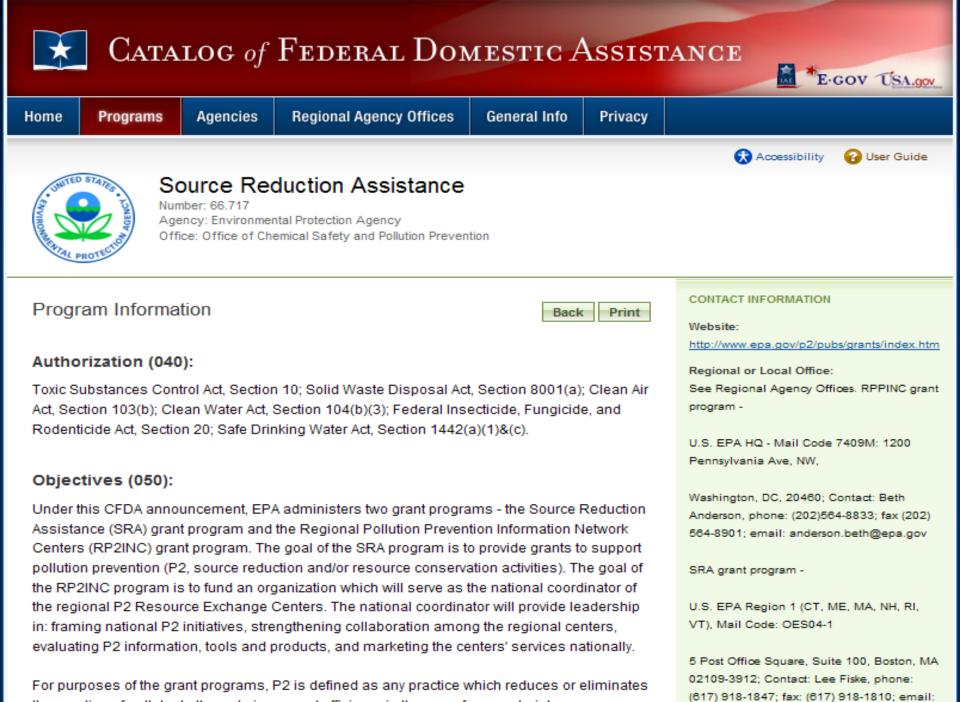
#### Agency Log-In

Click here if you are responsible for managing CFDA program data.

#### Coordinator / Analyst / Administrator Log-In

#### Download the CFDA User Guide (PDF format)

CFDA User Guide



the creation of pollutants through: increased efficiency in the use of raw materials, energy,

#### Uses and Use Restrictions (070):

EPA is interested in supporting pollution prevention, source reduction and resource conservation projects that will provide an overall benefit to the environment by preventing pollutants at the source. Source reduction projects can include but are not limited to: 1) improving facility and institutional operations that reduce pollutant use and exposure, 2) reformulating and procuring products to reduce toxic constituents, 3) providing direct technical assistance to businesses and other organizations, 4) encouraging green product design and manufacturing, 5) conducting outreach, 6) collecting and analyzing data, and 7) integrating pollution prevention concepts into state, regional and tribal environmental multimedia programs. Grant activities must be consistent with the grant guidelines of the statutory authorities listed for this program. The statutory authorities are listed in this CFDA announcement and in the applicable grant solicitations. The statutes authorize EPA to award assistance agreements to support the following activities: "research, investigations, experiments, education/training, demonstrations of new or innovative techniques, surveys and studies." These activities relate generally to the gathering or transferring of information or advancing the state of knowledge. Grant proposals should emphasize this "learning" concept, as opposed to "fixing" an environmental problem via a well-established method. For example, a proposal to install a more energy efficient heating system in the applicant's facility in order to conserve energy, would not, in itself fall within research, studies, demonstrations, etc. All activities in the applicant's proposal must be eligible under one or more of the statutory authorities listed.

Grant recipients and sub-recipients are encouraged to adopt and enforce policies that ban text messaging while driving company-owned or -rented vehicles or government-owned vehicles, or while driving privately-owned vehicles when on official government business or when performing any work for or on behalf of the government. Grant recipients and sub-recipients are encouraged to conduct initiatives of the type described in section 3(a) of the Federal Leadership on Reducing Text Messaging While Driving Executive Order that was signed on October 1, 2009.

#### Eligibility Requirements (080)

#### Applicant Eligibility (081):

For certain competitive funding opportunities under this CFDA description, the Agency may limit

Twickler, phone: (312) 866-6184; fax: (312) 353-4788; email: twickler.donna@epa.gov.

U.S. EPA Region 6 (AR, LA, NM, OK, TX), Mail Code: 6EN-XP, 1445 Ross Ave. Suite 1200, Dallas, TX 75202; Contact: David Bond, phone: (214) 665-6431; fax: (214) 665 -7446; email: bond.david@epa.gov.

U.S. EPA Region 7 (IA, KS, MO, NE), Mail Code: ARTD/TSPP, 901 N. 5th Street, Kansas City, KS 66101; Contact: Marcus Rivas, phone: (913) 551-7669; fax:(913) 551-7065; email: rivas.marcus@epa.gov.

U.S. EPA Region 8 (CO, MT, ND, SD, UT, WY), Mail Code: 8P-P3T, 999 18th Street, Suite 300,Denver, CO 80202-2466; Contact: Linda Walters, phone: (303) 312-6385; fax: (303) 312-6044; email:walters.linda@epa.gov.

U.S. EPA Region 9 (AZ, CA, HI, NV, and Pacific Islands and Tribal Nations subject to U.S. Iaw), Mail Code: WST-7, 75 Hawthrone Street, San Francisco, CA 94105; Contact: Jessica Counts-Arnold, phone: 415-972-3288; fax: (415) 947-3530; email: countsarnold.jessica@epa.gov.

U.S. EPA Region 10 (AK, ID, OR, WA), Mail Code: AWT-128, 1200 Sixth Avenue, Suite 900, Seattle, WA 98101; Contact: Carolyn Gangmark, phone: (208) 553-4072; fax: (206) 553-8338; email: gangmark.carolyn@epa.gov.

Headquarters Office: Michele Amhaz, Office of Pollution Prevention and Toxics, Pollution Prevention Division, Environmental Protection Agency, 1200 Pennsylvania, Ave., N.W., (7409-M),

### **Other Resources**

- EPA Grants 101 Tutorial
  - <u>http://www.epa.gov/grants/epa-grants-101-tutorial</u>

# **Preparing Proposals**

- Each funding opportunity announcement has unique instructions and requirements
- Read the announcement for:
  - Eligibility information, deadlines, proposal content, review criteria, and more
- EPA's Competition Policy <u>http://www.epa.gov/grants/epa-policy-competition-assistance-agreements</u>
  - Familiarize yourself with EPA's policy on competition

## **Types of Announcements**

- Request for Proposals (RFP)
  - Abbreviated application: workplan and a few forms
- Request for Initial Proposals (RFIP)
  - 2 Phases: (1) EPA receives initial proposals

(2) EPA requests full proposals from highest ranking applicants

- Request for Application (RFA)
  - Submission includes all forms and certifications necessary for award

### Announcement

# **Contents/Highlights**

### OMB Format in Title 2 of the CFR

<u>http://www.ecfr.gov/cgi-bin/text-</u> <u>idx?SID=a3cd76e8a52637c11fdoe310a50b7f4d&node=2:1.1.2.2.1.6.51.23.5&rgn</u> <u>=div9</u>

### Section I

- Describes types of projects
- What proposal has to address

### **Announcement Content/Highlights**

- Section II
  - expected number of awards
  - expected funding amount
- Section III
  - list of eligible entities
  - Cost share/matching requirements if any
  - Threshold eligibility criteria:

may include legal, policy, relevance, programmatic, administrative, and/or financial criteria that have the effect of making an applicant, proposal/application, or project eligible or ineligible for award

### Section IV

- Content and form of application
  - Address Section I (program info), Section III (threshold criteria) and Section V (evaluation criteria)
- Submission method (electronically thru grants.gov is required for initial applications)
- Submission dates and times
- Pay attention to deadlines and page limits
- Administrative and national policy requirements
  - <u>http://www.epa.gov/grants/epa-solicitation-clauses</u>

- Section V
  - Ranking criteria
    - Criteria used to evaluate proposals
    - Must address ranking criteria in proposals such as
      - Programmatic Capability
      - Past Performance under grants
      - Environmental Results-plan for measuring progress towards achieving outputs/outcomes
      - Timely Expenditure of Grant Funds
      - Budget and Leveraging
      - Technical approach
    - Other factors (in some announcements)
  - Review and selection process

### Section VI

- Award notices
- Administrative and national policy requirements
  - <u>http://www.epa.gov/grants/epa-solicitation-clauses</u>
- Reporting
- Dispute resolution process and debriefings <u>http://www.epa.gov/grants/dispute-resolution-</u> <u>procedures</u>
- Debriefings for constructive feedback

- Section VII
  - Agency Contacts
- Section VIII
  - Other information

# Modifications

- EPA occasionally modifies announcements
  - Due dates, clarification of requirements, etc
- Automatic Notification
  - Sign up on grants.gov for automatic notification of modifications to specific announcements
  - Modifications posted on grants.gov

### **Communications with Applicants**

- See Section 11 of the Competition Policy <u>http://www.epa.gov/grants/epa-policy-competition-assistance-agreements</u>
- Limitations on what can be discussed and when
- Pre-proposal Assistance
  - Many programs will post Q&As on a website
  - Some programs offer conference calls/webinars where applicants can ask questions
  - This type of information is usually in Section IV or VII of announcements, if applicable

### **Communications with Applicants**

#### • EPA can:

- Answer applicant eligibility questions-if uncertain if you are eligible or your project is eligible ask before proposal submission
- Clarify info on administrative aspects of proposal submission
- Respond to requests for clarification of the announcement
- NOTE: Clarifications that result in changes to the announcement must be communicated (via modification to the announcement) to all potential applicants

### **Communications with Applicants**

- EPA cannot:
  - Offer to write proposals for applicants
  - Review or comment on draft proposals
  - Provide information on the Agency's approach to evaluating proposals beyond what is described in Section V of the announcement
  - Provide a competitive advantage to any applicant

### **Competitive Process**

- **1**. EPA prepares announcement
- 2. EPA posts announcement on program office website and grants.gov
- 3. EPA receives applications/proposals from applicants
- 4. EPA evaluates proposals and makes selections
- 5. Issues awards