

Federal Agency Name: U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 6, Water Quality Protection Division

Funding Opportunity Title: Fiscal Year (FY) 2018 Clean Water Act Section 106 Tribal Water Pollution Control Program Cooperative Agreements

Announcement Type: Funding Opportunity

Funding Opportunity Number: EPA-CEP-01

Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance Number: 66.419

Deadlines:

- A full grant application, workplan and budget must be received by electronic submission through Grants.gov by 11:59 pm CST on February 2, 2018.
- First-time applicants must also submit a complete Treatment in the Same Manner as a State (TAS) application to be reviewed and approved by EPA or documentation of previous TAS approval prior to receiving Clean Water Act Section 106 funding.

FUNDING OPPORTUNITY DETAILS

Purpose and Available Funds

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 6 Water Division, State/Tribal Programs Section is soliciting applications and workplans for the Fiscal Year (FY) 2018 Clean Water Act (CWA) Section 106 Tribal Water Pollution Control Program. Funding is available to tribes having Treatment in the Same Manner as State (TAS) eligibility. The Water Pollution Control Program assists Federally-recognized Indian tribes in achieving environmental results by developing institutional capacity to administer water pollution control programs and to protect, improve and enhance natural resources.

In response to this funding opportunity, we request detailed proposals to conduct water quality pollution control projects.

EPA Region 6 anticipates allocating approximately \$3.7 million to support CWA Section 106 Tribal Programs. This funding will allow EPA Region 6 to award grants averaging \$65,000 - \$80,000. Final funding amounts will depend on work plan negotiations with your Project Officer and the availability of CWA Section 106 funds. Some awards may be reduced due to prior CWA Section 106 grant performance problems, such as uncompleted deliverables, late reporting and consistently high account balances.

GRANT REQUIREMENTS

Eligibility and TAS

To be eligible for CWA Section 106 grants under this funding opportunity, tribes must have Treatment in the Same Manner as State (TAS) eligibility or submit a TAS application with the grant application (no later than the deadline for submission of the grant application and workplan).

Cost Sharing or Matching Requirements

- I. CWA Section 106 requires a non-federal cost share/match of 5 percent of the total project cost, and the cost share/match must be provided from non-federal sources. In order to receive an award, applicants must demonstrate how they will meet the applicable match requirements by the time of award. The cost share/match requirement can be satisfied by any of the following: (1) allowable costs incurred by the grantee, sub-grantee or a cost-type contractor, including those allowable costs borne by non-federal grants; (2) by cash donations from non-federal third parties; or (3) by the value of third party in-kind contributions. Examples of match calculations are provided in Table 1 below.
- II. The following table demonstrates a 5% cost share/match on CWA Section 106 requests of \$65,000 (base funding) and \$100,000 (base and variable funding). If applicants have additional questions regarding cost share/match calculations, please contact your Project Officer.

Table 1. Example Match Calculation

Federal Amount	Federal Share	Tribal Share	Tribal Match	Total Amount
\$65,000	95%	5%	\$3,421	\$68,421
\$100,000	95%	5%	\$5,263	\$105,263

Example Calculation:

If you know the total federal funds requested (i.e., \$100,000 for this RFP):

- (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/match.

For example:

- (1) If the federal funds requested = \$100,000; and the recipient cost share/match is 5%, then the federal share = 95% or .95. $\$100,000 \text{ divided by } .95 = \$105,263$ (total project cost) then,
- (2) $\$105,263 - \$100,000 = \$5,263$
- (3) The non-federal cost share/match = \$5,263

Program Funding Types- Base and Variable

- **Base Program Funding:** Base Program Funding supports the tribe in conducting basic water quality program activities. The base program funding level is \$65,000. This program typically includes water program staffing, water resources planning, work on tribal water quality related ordinances, review of proposed water permits, education and outreach and operational and support costs such as training, supplies and equipment. Travel funds can also be budgeted for training, conferences and meetings.
- **Base Program with Variable Funding:** Funds requested over the \$65,000 base level are considered variable funding. Variable program activities may include any additional self-determined tribal environmental priorities building upon the tribe's Base Program and must comply with all Base Program requirements. Separate budgets for Base and Variable funding per year are required.

Two–Year Project Period

EPA Region 6 offers the option of submitting a two-year grant application. The two-year application should include individual work plans, budgets and budget narratives for each year.

Negotiation Process and Past Performance

EPA Region 6 will negotiate the variable funding amount and workplan tasks. Negotiations may be held through conference calls, face to face meetings and/or email. Program funding is dependent upon consistent prior performance, i.e., consistent and timely reporting and accomplishment of workplan tasks year to year. Poor performance may result in a reduction or a request to complete previous grant agreements before additional funding can be offered.

Linking Activities to EPA’s Strategic Plan

The work plan should discuss the expected results, including outputs and outcomes. Further information regarding EPA’s discussion of environmental results in terms of “outputs” and “outcomes” can be found at <https://www.epa.gov/grants/epa-order-57007a1-epas-policy-environmental-results-under-epa-assistance-agreements>. In addition to showing expected results, the work plan should demonstrate a link to activities in EPA’s Strategic Plan. EPA’s Draft FY 2018-2022 Strategic Plan was released for public comment and has not been finalized yet. The draft can be accessed at <https://www.regulations.gov/document?D=EPA-HQ-OA-2017-0533-0002>. The relevant strategic plan objective is **“Objective 1.2 – Provide for Clean and Safe Water: Ensure waters are clean through improved water infrastructure and, in partnership with states and tribes, sustainably manage programs to support drinking water, aquatic ecosystems, and recreational, economic, and subsistence activities.”**

All proposals must discuss how proposed projects address the Strategic Plan priorities and include specific statements describing the environmental results of the proposed project in terms of well-defined outputs, and, to the maximum extent practicable, well-defined outcomes that demonstrate how the project will contribute to the overall protection and improvement of water quality.

Environmental results are a way to gauge a project’s performance and are described in terms of outputs and outcomes. Environmental outputs (or deliverables) refer to an environmental activity, effort and/or associated work product related to an environmental goal or objective that will be produced or provided over a period of time or by a specified date. Outputs may be quantitative or qualitative but must be measurable during an assistance agreement funding period. Examples of environmental outputs anticipated as a result of the assistance agreements awarded under this Funding Opportunity may include but are not limited to training, the number of permits issued, the Tribal Assessment Report and the number of samples collected.

Environmental outcomes are the result, effect, or consequence that will occur from carrying out an environmental program or activity that is related to an environmental or programmatic goal or objective. Outcomes may be environmental, behavioral, health-related or programmatic in nature, must be quantitative, and may not necessarily be achieved within an assistance agreement funding period. Outcomes may be short-term (changes in learning, knowledge, attitude, skills), intermediate (changes in behavior, practice, or decisions), or long-term (changes in condition of the natural resource). Examples of outcomes anticipated as a result of the assistance agreements to be awarded under this Funding Opportunity may include but are not limited to measurable improvements in water quality and increases in the number of facilities that meet effluent limits.

Eligible & Ineligible Activities

Eligible activities include but are not limited to:

- Water quality planning, assessments and studies
- Ambient monitoring
- Community outreach and education activities
- Source water, surface water, ground water and wetland protection
- Nonpoint source (NPS) control activities (including NPS assessment and management programs)
- Development of water quality standards (WQS)
- Development of watershed based plans
- Development of total maximum daily loads (TMDLs)
- Data management and reporting

Ineligible Activities include but are not limited to:

- Construction, operation or maintenance of wastewater treatment plans or drinking water systems
- Purchase or acquisition of land
- Duplication of efforts funded from another federal source
- Project funded by other grants
- Compliance monitoring of NPDES permitted facilities or public water systems

APPLICATION

I. Workplan Narrative

- Introduction:** Provide background information about the tribal lands, including land size, population, location, boundaries, and an atlas of water resources (miles/acres of surface water, ground water and wetlands).
- Project Goals and Objective, Workplan Components and Project Location(s):** Describe the goals and objectives of the proposal, each component of the workplan (which includes a description of the activities that will be implemented) and the project location(s). EPA recommends including maps of the reservation, waters to be addressed and project location.

The workplan must include a completed Tribal Sampling Matrix that outlines projected sampling sites, parameters to be sampled, and monitoring frequency. Please refer to Appendix A of this RFP for an example of a sampling matrix.

- Environmental Outputs, Outcomes and Tracking:** Include commitments for each workplan component, including anticipated environmental outputs and outcomes (as required by EPA Order 5700.7), the linkage to the Strategic Plan Objective 2.2 and the applicant's plan for tracking and measuring its progress towards achieving expected outputs and outcomes.
- Schedule:** Provide estimated personnel work years for each workplan component, including specific "start" and "end" dates, work years and interim milestone dates for each work plan component or task.

- e. **Roles and Responsibilities:** Describe the roles and responsibilities of the recipient and any partners in carrying out the work plan commitments.
- f. **Workplan Table:** The Workplan Table identifies workplan goals with tasks and outputs/outcomes, start and end dates, deliverables, responsible staff and work years and estimated cost (per task). The table should include an estimated cost column which totals all the costs for each task including salary, fringe, equipment, contractual, supplies, travel and indirect costs.
- g. **Quality Assurance Project Plans:** Development of a Quality Assurance Project Plan (QAPP) is required of all EPA assistance agreements that fund data collection and assessment. The cost of QAPP development should be included in the project budget.
- h. **Quality Assurance Competency Policy-** In accordance with Agency Policy Directive Number FEM-2012-02, Policy to Assure the Competency of Organizations Generating Environmental Measurement Data under Agency-Funded Assistance Agreements,” grantees agree that they have demonstrated competency prior to award, or alternatively, where a pre-award demonstration of competency is not practicable, grantees agree to demonstrate competency prior to carrying out any activities under the award involving the generation or use of environmental data. The grantee shall maintain competency for the duration of the project period of the grant agreement, and it will be documented during the annual reporting process. A copy of the Policy is available online at <https://www.epa.gov/sites/production/files/2015-03/documents/competency-policy-aaia-new.pdf> or a copy may be requested by contacting the Project Officer.

All Performance Partnership Grants and continuing environmental program assistance agreements expected to exceed a total value of over \$200,000 (in federal funding) and will generate or use environmental data in the agreement must include a section in the workplan documenting the organization’s competency. The competency section should explain the similar nature of the scope of work to past performance and the existence of an approved QMP.

II. Budget Narrative and Table

- a. Provide a detailed budget and estimated funding amounts for each budget category and workplan component/task. Applicants must itemize costs related to personnel, fringe benefits, contractual costs, travel, equipment, supplies, other direct costs, indirect costs and total costs.
- b. Describe itemized costs in sufficient detail for EPA to determine the reasonableness and allowability of costs for each workplan component/task including the use of the cost share/match funds.
- c. Total costs must include both federal and cost-share/matching (non-federal) components.
- d. Provide information on the approach, procedures and controls for ensuring that awarded grant funds will be expended in a timely and efficient manner. Include a projected timeline of how the funds will be drawn down over the course of the grant. When developing your drawdown schedule, you may wish to consult your financial department for input. You can use the SF-424A to show the projected spending rate.

PROPOSAL MATERIALS

Please use the grants.gov Web site to submit the grant application package. All forms can be found in grants.gov. A full grant application includes the following:

1. Application for Federal Assistance (SF-424)
2. Budget Information Non-Construction Programs (SF-424A)
3. Assurances- Non-Construction Programs (SF-424B)
4. Pre-Award Compliance Review Report for All Applicants and Recipients Requesting Federal Financial Assistance (EPA 4700-4)
5. Key Contacts Form (EPA Form 5700-54)
6. Certification Regarding Lobbying (EPA Form 6600-06)
7. Copy of current Indirect Cost Rate Agreement
8. Workplan Narrative and Table with associated costs
9. Budget Narrative/Justification and Table separated by base and variable funding per year

REFERENCES

- **Final Guidance on Awards of Grants to Indian Tribes under Section 106 of the Clean Water Act for Fiscal Years 2007 and Beyond**, referred to as “The Guidance.”
<https://www.epa.gov/sites/production/files/2014-09/documents/final-tribal-guidance.pdf>

If you have any questions, please contact your respective Project Officer:

Ms. Kara Alexander at (214) 665-7312, alexander.kara@epa.gov

Mr. Gregory Parrish at (214) 665-6586, parrish.gregory@epa.gov

Ms. TeAndra Taylor at (214) 665-8346, taylor.teandra@epa.gov

Mr. Samuel Reynolds at (214) 665-6682, reynolds.samuel@epa.gov

Ms. Nikole Witt at (214) 665-2781, witt.nikole@epa.gov

Appendix A: Tribal Monitoring Program Data

- Tribal data to be substituted for *examples in red* – delete examples and populate with tribal data. Add or delete rows and/or parameters as necessary. You are not expected to be sampling for everything found in the table below – these are just examples.
- Use the table for your workplan to quickly convey the work you will be performing.
- Use the table in the QAPP to indicate where and what you will be sampling.
- Use the table in your TAR (with updated frequency numbers) to indicate your level of effort, where and what you sampled.

Table 1. Projected Sampling Locations, Parameters and Frequency, 10/01/2018 – 9/30/2019

Parameters to be Monitored	Sampling Sites and Frequency of Monitoring						
	Clear Creek at Farm to Market (FM) Road 458	Soggy Bottom Creek at County Road (CR) 39	Kiamichi River at Old Bridge Crossing	Denton Creek at Interstate 35 Bridge	Long Lake at Dam	Long Lake at Muscadine Marina Pier	Red River 0.4 km from intersection of CR 25 and CR 82
Temperature	12	12	12	12	12	12	12
pH	12	12	12	12	12	12	12
Specific Conductance	12	12	12	12	12	12	12
Dissolved Oxygen (D.O.)	12	12	12	12	12	12	12
Turbidity	12	12	12	12	12	12	12
Total Nitrogen	6	6	6	6	6	6	6
Total Phosphorus	6	6	6	6	6	6	6
<i>E. coli</i>	12	12	12	12	12	12	12
Lead in water	4	4		4			
Copper in water	4	4		4			
Hardness	4	4		4			
Atrazine					4	4	
Benthic Macroinvertebrates	1	1		1			
Habitat Assessment	1	1		1			

Latitude /	32.4542	31.6475	30.5874	33.5874	31.8532	33.9852	35.9852
Longitude	/	/	/	/	/	/	/
	92.6241	93.8249	91.8542	92.58743	91.8542	91.6587	89.6328

Additional Table for Workplan:

Examples in red are for illustrative purposes only and do not reflect researched pricing.

Planned Equipment Purchases	Equipment Name	Cost
	<i>YSI multiprobe sonde</i>	<i>\$8,200</i>
	<i>IDEXX incubator (E. coli)</i>	<i>\$1,200</i>
Contractual Laboratory Expenses	Parameter	Cost
	<i>Total Phosphorus</i>	<i>\$55</i>
	<i>E. coli</i>	<i>\$45</i>
	<i>Benthic Macroinvertebrate Identification</i>	<i>\$450</i>