

FUNDING ANNOUNCEMENT

DATE: August 24, 2020

TO: All federally recognized tribal governments and tribal consortia located within Region 5 including Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, Minnesota, Ohio, or Wisconsin

FROM: U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 5, Air and Radiation Division

SUBJECT:

Funding Announcement Guidelines for FY 2021 Tribal Air Funding under: 1) Section 103 of the Clean Air Act (CAA), 42 U.S.C., §7403; Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance (CFDA) Number 66.038 – Training, Investigations, and Special Purpose Activities of Federally-Recognized Indian Tribes Consistent with the Clean Air Act, Tribal Sovereignty, and the Protection and Management of Air Quality; and 2) Section 105 of the CAA, CFDA Number 66.001 - Air Pollution Control Program Support.

SUMMARY:

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency is accepting proposals from federally recognized tribal governments and tribal consortia located within Region 5 including Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, Minnesota, Ohio, or Wisconsin. The CAA Amendments of 1990 established a funding mechanism to assist tribes in addressing air pollution and prevention activities within their Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) approved jurisdictional boundaries.

Section 103 of the CAA, 42 U.S.C. § 7403, directs EPA to support short-term projects aimed at conducting and promoting research, investigations, experiments, demonstrations, surveys, and studies relating to the causes, effects (including health and welfare effects), extent, prevention, and control of air pollution. In the past, these activities have included air quality characterization studies, identification and investigation of air pollution sources, air quality monitoring baseline studies, training, and community education and outreach projects.

For projects that will support *demonstration* activities, the project must involve new or experimental technologies, methods, or approaches; where the results of the project will be shared so that others can benefit from the knowledge gained. A project that is accomplished through the performance of routine, traditional, or well-established practices, or a project that is simply intended to carry out a task rather than transfer information or advance the state of knowledge, however worthwhile the project might be, is not a demonstration. The applicant must clearly explain in the proposal how the technologies, methods, or approaches used are new or experimental and how the project otherwise meets the requirements of a demonstration as described in this Funding Announcement. If your project uses technologies, methods or approaches that have been used previously in other geographic areas and/or business sectors, then your proposal must include an explanation as to how your demonstration project is different from such prior projects and is a true demonstration. You must also explain what will be learned from the demonstration project. If your project is truly a demonstration and complies with other

eligibility factors, then it will be considered for funding. *Remember, your project doesn't have to include demonstration activities. But if it does, then those activities must comply with the details listed above.*

Section 105 of the CAA, 42 U.S.C § 7405, authorizes EPA to make grants for implementing programs for the prevention and control of air pollution or implementation of national primary and secondary ambient air quality standards. For the purposes of this section, “implementing” means any activity related to the planning, developing, establishing, carrying-out, improving, or maintaining of such programs. Tribes submitting proposals under Section 105 of the CAA are required to provide a 40% match [40 C.F.R. 35.575(b)] unless approved for Treatment As a State (TAS), in which a reduced match of 5% is required [40 C.F.R. 35.575(a)] for the first two years of funding under Section 105 of the CAA.

EPA anticipates awarding grants to tribes and tribal consortia for air quality activities under the Clean Air Act (CAA), Sections 103 and 105; and Performance Partnership Grant (PPG) authorities. Tribal grantees that have been approved for Section 105 authority may include their air program activities and funding in a PPG. *If your Tribe is a recipient of a grant under CAA Section 105 authority, or if your Air Pollution Control Program activities and funding are included in a PPG, you do not have to submit a proposal in response to this announcement. CAA Section 105 and PPG grantees may apply for the amount received in a prior year at the time when their full PPG applications are due. However, if you wish to be considered for activities and funds beyond what your tribe received in a previous year, you may submit a proposal at this time.* Please note, a budget for FY 2021 has not yet been approved, therefore, extra funding beyond the previous year's allocation is not guaranteed.

Priority for funding will be based on sufficient evidence of ongoing air pollution concern and tribal capacity to address it. EPA will prioritize funding to assure base funding for federally recognized Region 5 Tribes and consortia having established eligibility under CAA Section 105 and completing existing CAA Section 103 projects. EPA will then consider additional tribal projects, giving precedence to those that address serious, unique, or emerging air quality needs and issues. EPA encourages tribes to submit proposals for priority projects as additional Air program grant funds or other funds may become available.

FUNDING/AWARDS:

The total funding estimated to be available for Region 5 Tribal project and program grants with FY 2021 funds is \$900,000 - \$1,200,000. EPA anticipates awarding 12-17 grants, ranging from approximately \$40,000 to \$140,000. Proposals approved for funding under Section 103 of the CAA can be 100% federally funded and no cost share/match is required. Proposals under Section 105 of the CAA are required to provide a 40% match [40 C.F.R. 35.573(b)] and are subject to Maintenance of Effort (MOE) requirements unless approved for Treatment as a State (TAS), in which a reduced match of 5% is required [40 C.F.R. 35.573(a)] for the first two years of funding under Section 105 of the CAA.

Region 5 encourages tribes who have successfully managed air grants for 5 or more years to submit multi-year (2) project and program proposals. The purpose of this request is to facilitate longer term planning and commitment by the tribe to address air quality issues. The intent is also to reduce administrative burdens for both the tribe and EPA. If the tribe submits a multi-year request, the tribe should identify the amount of funds they are requesting for each year.

The number of grants Region 5 will fund as a result of this announcement will be based on air and tribal program priorities, the quality of the project and/or program proposals, cost and project reasonableness and feasibility (not duplicative of existing efforts being funded under other federal grants), environmental conditions, extent of air quality issues, and the tribe's capacity to implement the project and linkage to EPA's Strategic Plan.

This announcement is subject to availability of funds. EPA reserves the right to partially fund submissions by funding discrete activities, portions, or phases of the proposed project or program. EPA reserves the right to make additional awards under this announcement, consistent with Agency policy, if additional funding becomes available after original selections. Additionally, EPA reserves the right to reject all proposals and make no awards in response to this announcement.

DATES:

Announcement date:	August 24, 2020
Proposals due:	October 30, 2020
Projected Notification to Tribes:	December 18, 2020
Complete applications due:	January 16, 2021

Proposals must be received via e-mail no later than 6:00pm, Central Time, October 30, 2020.

Late proposals will not be considered.

PURPOSE:

The purpose of this grant program is to provide funding for tribal air pollution control projects and programs. Projects may include conducting and promoting the coordination and acceleration of investigations, experiments, demonstrations, surveys, and studies relating to the causes, effects (including health and welfare effects), extent, prevention, and control of air pollution.

Eligible Project Activities: Eligible activities for funding under Section 103 include but are not limited to ambient (outdoor) and indoor air quality management research, investigations, experiments, demonstrations, assessments, and studies relating to the causes, effects (including health and welfare effects), extent, prevention, and control of air pollution. Eligible activities for funding under Section 105 include but are not limited to implementing programs for the

prevention and control of air pollution or implementation of national primary and secondary ambient air quality standards. For the purposes of this section, “implementing” means any activity related to the planning, developing, establishing, carrying-out, improving, or maintaining of such programs.

EPA will give priority to proposals that embody air quality priorities enumerated in EPA-Tribal Environmental Plans or expressed to EPA staff and management. Specifically, EPA is willing to consider proposals to build tribal air quality permit review and comment capacity related to energy production, mining, and other facilities of concern. EPA also welcomes tribes to submit proposals to assist in building technical capacity in other areas, such as ambient air monitoring and dispersion modeling, which foster collaboration and enable leveraging of limited resources in Indian Country. EPA will consider collaborative and individual proposals.

Ineligible Items: Assistance awarded under the authorities described in this funding announcement may not be used to fund the purchase or construction of real property, or mediation activities, or personnel that are not actively involved in implementing said air quality project or its program elements. EPA will not fund activities through this announcement that are funded through other announcements and programs. Examples include, but are not limited to, radon, radiation, mitigation activities and clean diesel retrofit projects.

Please note that vehicle purchases and leases will not be funded via Section 103 or 105 grants; however, mileage reimbursement is allowable and must include the number of trips, miles per trip, and use the federal mileage reimbursements rate, which for 2020 is 57.5 cents per mile.

IMPORTANT: Applicants who receive an assistance agreement under this funding opportunity may not use funds from other Federal assistance agreements/programs to fund the same activities proposed under this Funding Announcement notice.

Proposals should indicate if funding for any activities proposed is also being sought under other EPA grant programs (GAP, water, etc.). For example, air quality related activities funded with General Assistance Program (GAP) or water program funds cannot be again funded with Air Program funds. If similar activities appear in both the Tribe’s GAP, Air or any other EPA funded work plans, please specify how these activities differ from each other to avoid duplication of effort concerns.

The funding for selected projects will be in the form of a grant because EPA will not be substantially involved during the performance of the contemplated activities beyond programmatic oversight, and review and comment on agreement activities and products, as identified in the negotiated workplan.

EPA STRATEGIC PLAN LINKAGE AND ANTICIPATED OUTPUTS/OUTCOMES:

Linkage to EPA Strategic Plan: The proposed activities must be linked to and fit within the scope of the EPA's Strategic Plan's goals and objectives.

Additional information regarding the EPA's Strategic Plan's goals and objectives can be found at: <https://www.epa.gov/planandbudget/strategicplan>.

Environmental Results: In keeping with the mission of protecting human health and the environment, EPA awards numerous assistance agreements in support of these goals. Applicants must discuss anticipated environmental outputs and outcomes in proposed work plan objectives and performance measures.

Expected environmental *outputs* (or deliverables) refer to an environmental activity, effort, and/or associated work products related to an environmental goal or objectives, 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 include, an air quality management plan, an emissions inventory, air monitoring data, progress reports submitted on a quarterly basis, or a specific number of permits the tribe intends to review.

Expected environmental *outcomes* mean 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 achievable within an assistance agreement funding period. Examples of outcomes may include but are not limited to, "significant number of community members with increased awareness of air quality issues," and/or "increased number of tribal residents breathing cleaner air."

PROPOSAL SUBMISSION INFORMATION:

The proposal must be written in English with one-inch margins, typed in Times New Roman twelve (12) point font, and shall not exceed 5 single-spaced pages in length for one-year work plans or 7 single-spaced pages for two-year work plans. Pages refer to one-side of a single spaced typed page. Cover page is not included in the page limit. Pages in excess of the specified page limit will not be considered. Supporting materials, such as budget narrative, are not included in the page limit. Note: **FULL APPLICATIONS ARE NOT TO BE SUBMITTED AT THIS TIME** (i.e. the SF-424 forms should not be submitted, only the proposal narrative).

The proposal narrative must substantially comply with the specific instructions, and content as defined in this Funding Announcement.

Proposal Elements:

Each proposal must include the following components:

Cover Page:

Include the following information:

- Entity name
- Project title
- Document date
- Project Manager - the principal party responsible for accomplishing the activities outlined in the work plan
- Total cost
- Project period: April 1, 2021 through March 31, 2022 or 2023, depending on whether the tribe submits one or two-year work plan proposal

A. Work Plan:

Each narrative work plan must be **5 (for one-year work plans) or 7 (for two-year work plans)** pages or less in length. The narrative work plan must explicitly describe how the proposed project/program meets the purpose of this announcement, and should consist of these elements:

Project Description: Illustrate the need for the project.

Include the following elements in the Project Description:

1. **Problem Statement:** Provide a well-supported statement or needs assessment of the problem to be addressed which demonstrates the reason your Tribe should receive funding support.
2. **Objectives:** Identify the project/program objectives. Objectives should be specific, measurable, and clearly describe how they are related to and lead to the project/program goals and expected environmental results. Link to the “public” benefits to be obtained.
3. **Project Methods:** Outline in detail the necessary tasks and activities that will be conducted to accomplish the objectives. Describe why you have chosen these activities to obtain the desired environmental results. The tasks and activities should be realistic and achievable within the budget and project period of the grant. Include whether or not the activities will require a Quality Assurance Project Plan (QAPP).
4. **Specific Environmental Outputs:** Identify the specific outputs. Deliverables of an environmental activity, effort, and/or associated work products related to an environmental goal or objectives, which will be developed 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. For example, developing an air quality management plan, an emissions inventory, producing raw and summarized air monitoring data, or progress reports to be submitted on a quarterly or semi-annual basis.
5. **Desired Environmental Outcomes:** Articulate the desired environmental outcomes. 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 achievable within an assistance agreement funding period. For example, “significant number of community members with increased awareness of air quality issues,” or “increased number of tribal residents breathing cleaner air.”

6. **Target Dates and Milestones:** Include an estimated time-line or schedule of expected target dates and milestones (a marker of reaching an identifiable stage in any task) to achieve specific tasks and accomplishments during the budget and project period.
7. **Performance Measures:** Provide a detailed explanation of how the project/program shall be evaluated (through quantitative means, if possible). Applicants must develop criteria to evaluate progress and results by tracking and measuring outputs and outcomes. Evaluation must occur during as well as after the project/program activities are conducted to make sure appropriate adjustments can be made along the way, if necessary. For example, if permit review is one of your objectives, provide a number of permits you plan to review.
8. **Program Manager/Contact(s):** Identify all individuals or parties who will be involved in the project/program activities, and a description of their respective roles/responsibilities.

For further guidance on developing work plans involving air quality components please refer to the **Tribal Menu of Options** at: <https://www.epa.gov/tribal-air/tribal-air-grants-framework-menu-options>.

Quality Assurance: If the project/program involves collection/compilation or use of environmentally related data or data generation, a Quality Assurance Project Plan (QAPP) is required. A QAPP describes the activities of an environmental data operations project involved with the acquisition of environmental information whether generated from direct measurements activities, collected from other sources, or compiled from computerized databases and information systems. If the grantee has an EPA approved QAPP, include a copy of the QAPP signature page and approval letter, if not, a QAPP must be developed and approved by the EPA regional office within 90 days of the project start date and before any environmental data is generated and/or collected.

Reporting Requirements: Discuss your commitment to provide quarterly or semi-annual reports and a detailed follow-up final report. Applicants are further required to make a commitment to share all data generated or collected/compiled with EPA for assessment on a regional level.

Quarterly or Semi-annual Reports: Quarterly or semi-annual technical performance reports must be submitted within 30 days following the end of each reporting period. In accordance with 2 C.F.R. 200.328, performance reports shall include brief information on each of the following areas: 1) a comparison of actual accomplishments to the outputs/outcomes established in the assistance agreement work plan for the period; 2) the reasons for slippage if established outputs/outcomes were not met; 3) a description of the progress status in meeting environmental outputs/outcomes, project/program assessment, and a submission of short data summaries; and 4) additional pertinent information, including, when appropriate, analysis and information of cost overruns or high unit costs. In accordance with 2 C.F.R. 200.328 (d)(1), the recipient agrees to inform EPA as soon as problems, delays or adverse conditions become known which will materially impair the ability to meet the outputs/outcomes specified in the assistance agreement work plan.

Final Reports: The final report should include a summary of the project, advances achieved applicable to environmental outputs and outcomes, and costs of the project. In addition, the final report shall discuss the problems, successes, lessons learned from the demonstration project that could help overcome structural, organizational or technical obstacles.

B. Work Plan Supplements:

(NOTE: THE SUPPLEMENTS ARE NOT PART OF THE 5 or 7 PAGE LIMIT)

Programmatic Capability: Submit a list of federally funded assistance agreements (assistance agreements include federal grants and cooperative agreements but not federal contracts) similar in size, scope and relevance to the proposed project that your organization performed within the last three years (no more than 5, and preferably EPA agreements) and describe (i) whether, and how, you were able to successfully complete and manage those agreements and (ii) your history of meeting the reporting requirements under those agreements including submitting acceptable final technical reports. In evaluating applicants under these factors in Section V, EPA will consider the information provided by the applicant and may also consider relevant information from other sources, including information from EPA files and from current and prior federal agency grantors (e.g., to verify and/or supplement the information provided by the applicant).

EPA places significant emphasis on the utilization of prior years' funding. When submitting your request for funds, the following information must be submitted: For those tribes and tribal consortia with active cooperative agreements awarded under CAA 103, you must provide by agreement number, the amount of funds that have not been requested for reimbursement (i.e., those funds that remain in EPA's Financial Data Warehouse and are not shown as a "draw down") and a detailed justification as to why such funds should not be considered in the funding allocation process. EPA Regional staff will review EPA's Financial Database Warehouse to confirm the amount of outstanding funds reported. If you do not have any relevant or available past performance or reporting information, please indicate this in the proposal.

In addition, provide information on your organizational experience and plan for timely and successfully achieving the objectives of the proposed project, and your staff

expertise/qualifications, staff knowledge, and resources or the ability to obtain them, to successfully achieve the goals of the proposed project.

Note - All ambient, emissions, and compliance data obtained through the use of these funds must be entered in the corresponding national data base (i.e. National Emissions Inventory and Air Quality System). This data is available to the general public. Tribal Emission Inventory Software Solutions (TEISS) is available to tribes from the Institute of Tribal Environmental Professionals (ITEP). The TEISS provides guidance on what type of data to enter, conducts calculations and unit conversions, and creates clear reports and maps that support the needs of tribal air quality activities related to emissions inventories.

Reporting on Environmental Results – Outputs and Outcomes: 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 three years (no more than 5, and preferably EPA agreements), and 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, EPA will consider the information provided by the applicant and may also consider relevant information from other sources, including information from 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, please indicate this in the proposal.

Budget Narrative: Provide a detailed itemized budget proposal, including a narrative statement justifying the expenses for each of the following categories being performed within the grant/project period. *Indicate whether the budget is for one or two years, provide the cost break down for each year and clearly indicate the total cost of the project for the entire project period.*

a. Personnel:

Indicate salaries and wages, by job title, of all individuals who will be supplemented with these funds. For example:

Air Quality Specialist @ \$15/hr x 40 hrs/wk x 52/wks = \$31,200
Total = \$31,200

b. Fringe Benefits:

Indicate all mandated and voluntary benefits to be supplemented with these funds. For example:

Health Insurance - 1 FTE @ \$35/month x 12/months = \$420
Dental - 1 FTE @ \$40/mo x 12/months = \$480
Total = \$900

c. Travel:

Indicate number of individuals traveling, destination, number of trips, and reason for travel. For example:

Air Quality Training

Air Fare $\$750 \times 1 \text{ FTE} = \750

Per Diem @ $\$43 \text{ day} \times 3 \text{ days} \times 1 \text{ FTE} = \129

Hotel @ $\$100 \text{ day} \times 2 \text{ days} \times 1 \text{ FTE} = \200

Air Conference

Local Travel Mileage - $1000 \text{ miles} \times \$0.57.5 = \$575$

Total = \$1654

d. Equipment:

Identify items to be purchased such as air quality related instruments used in support of work plan objectives. Provide an estimated cost for each item. Make sure you can support your cost estimate. EPA policy defines equipment as items costing \$5,000 or greater. Indicate if your tribe/organization's definition differs. For example:

Ozone Analyzer - \$8,000

Ozone Calibrator - \$6,000

Total = \$14,000

e. Supplies:

Indicate any items to be purchased that will be used in support of air project/program work plan objectives. For example:

General office supplies (pens, notebooks, paper-clips, CD ROMs, etc.)

Total = \$500

f. Contractual:

Indicate any proposed contractual items that are reasonable and necessary to carry out the work plan objectives. Examples of contractual items include sample analysis, and rental or lease of property being utilized in support of work plan objectives. For example:

Total mercury analysis - ABC Lab

[52 samples @ $\$100 = \5200]

Shipping costs (site to lab)

[$\$15.00 \text{ per sample} = 15 \times 52 = \780]

Total = \$5,980

g. Other:

Indicate general (miscellaneous) expenses necessary to carry out the objectives stated in the work plan. For example:

Office needs (postage, phone, fax, etc.) = \$560

Office space -utilized for air-related project/program staff (\$120/months x 12/months = \$1440)

Total = \$2,000

h. Total Direct Charges:

Summary of all costs associated with each object-class category. For example:

* Total = \$56,234

i. Total Indirect Costs:

Tribe/organization must provide documentation of a federally approved indirect cost rate (percentage) reflective of proposed project/grant period. Applicant should indicate if tribe/organization is in negotiations with appropriate federal agency to obtain a new agreement. For example:

IDC Rate is 10% of total direct charges = \$5,634

j. Total Cost:

Indicate overall figure of all direct and indirect costs. For example:

Total Budget Year 1 = \$61,868

* If you propose a two-year project, in a similar manner, provide projected budget for year two. Further, add both years to reflect budget totals for each category and overall project cost.

Non-Federal Match Share calculation:

- 1) Determine total federal funds available- \$61, 868
- 2) Divide total federal funds available by maximum federal % allowed (Federal 95%, non-federal 5%)
 $\$61,868 / (0.95) = \$65,124$
- 3) Subtract federal amount from the total project costs

Total Project costs	\$65,124
Federal amount -	<u>\$61,868</u>
Match	\$6,315

Management Fees: When formulating budgets for proposals/applications, applicants must not include management fees or similar charges in excess of the direct costs and indirect costs at the rate approved by the applicant's cognizant audit agency, or at the rate provided for by the terms of the agreement negotiated with EPA. The term "management fees or similar charges" refers to expenses added to the direct costs to accumulate and reserve funds for ongoing business expenses, unforeseen liabilities, or for other similar costs that are not allowable under EPA assistance agreements. Management fees or similar charges may not be used to improve or expand the project funded under this agreement, except to the extent authorized as a direct cost of carrying out the scope of work.

Confidential Business Information: In accordance with 40 C.F.R. 2.203, applicants may claim all or a portion of their proposal as confidential business information. EPA will evaluate confidential claims in accordance with 40 C.F.R. Part 2. Applicants must clearly mark applications/proposals or portions of applications/proposals they claim as confidential. If no claim of confidentiality is made, EPA is not required to make the inquiry to the applicant otherwise required by 40 C.F.R. 2.204 (c) (2) prior to disclosure. Note that under Public Law No. 105-277, data produced under an award is subject to the Freedom of Information Act.

Disclaimer: Anything in your proposal is subject to public record review.

FUNDING FACTORS:

EPA recognizes that each tribe is unique and is at a different stage in developing an air program. The funding priorities below, therefore, are meant to allow for the varied projects and priorities that individual tribes have, while still emphasizing overall regional goals throughout Indian Country.

Funding Factor 1 – Air Quality Issues and Environmental Risk

Extent to which the project identifies significant air pollution problems relating to a specific source or pollutant; i.e., demonstrated high levels of air pollution relative to national standards and/or regional and local levels, recorded health related complaints to a tribal office, suspected or documented pollution problem from a specific source, or tribal lands are in a non-attainment designated area under the National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS).

If a project described has already achieved 3 years of monitoring or has generated sufficient data, EPA will re-evaluate the project to determine if grant funds will be approved for continuous monitoring. Justification must be made for a project to be continued longer than 3 years, including a description of the results and if air monitoring data is being used for comparison to the NAAQS.

Funding Factor 2 – Current Air Quality Program Activities

Extent to which the tribal government demonstrates a long-term commitment to develop and implement an air program; i.e., developing air codes or regulations for tribal lands, Clean Air Act program delegations, submitting a partial or whole Tribal Implementation Plan for approval, monitoring or other method of air quality assessment, compiling emissions inventories, developing pollution prevention strategies, fostering government to government relationships through partnering and outreach activities, etc.

Funding Factor 3 - Air Quality Outreach, Participation, and Collaboration

Extent to which the Tribal government/consortium demonstrates participation in environmental policy and planning through National/Regional/Tribal workgroups or organizations (i.e., Regional Planning Organizations, the National Tribal Air Association, the Regional Tribal Operations Committee, the National Tribal Environmental Council, etc.), and disseminates relevant information to other Region 5 tribes.

Funding Factor 4– Past Performance (Programmatic Capability and Environmental Results)

Programmatic Capability

Under this factor, EPA will evaluate the applicant’s programmatic capability to perform the work in the proposal. EPA will be considering:

- past performance in successfully completing and managing federally funded assistance agreements (assistance agreements include federal grants and cooperative agreements but not federal contracts) similar in size, scope, and relevance to the proposed project performed within the last 3 years;
- history of meeting reporting requirements on prior or current federally-funded assistance agreements (assistance agreements include federal grants and cooperative agreements but not federal contracts) similar in size, scope, and relevance to the proposed project performed within the last 3 years and submitting acceptable final technical reports under those agreements;
- organizational experience and plan for timely and successfully achieving the objectives of the project (staff expertise/qualifications, staff knowledge, and resources or the ability to obtain them, to successfully achieve the goals of the project);
- demonstration of significant utilization of prior year funding.

Environmental Results

Under this factor, EPA will evaluate applicants based on the extent and quality to which they adequately documented and/or reported on their progress towards achieving the expected results (e.g., outputs and outcomes) under federal agency assistance agreements (assistance agreements include federal grants and cooperative agreements but not federal contracts) performed within the last three years, and if such progress was not being made whether the applicant adequately documented and/or reported why not. Note: In evaluating applicants under this factor, EPA will consider the information provided by the applicant and may also consider relevant 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 with no relevant or available past performance reporting history will receive a neutral score for this factor.

AWARD ADMINISTRATION INFORMATION:

Submission Dates and Times. The closing date for submissions under this announcement is **October 30, 2020, 6:00 p.m., Central Time**. Proposals must be received via email by the closing date. Late proposals will not be considered. Please send an email containing **Adobe pdf** files of all required application materials to giwojna.benjamin@epa.gov. Please include “**FY 2021 Tribal Air Funding Announcement Proposal**” in the subject header.

Proposal Notifications

Following evaluation of proposals, all applicants will be notified regarding their status.

1. EPA anticipates notification to the successful applicant will be made via telephone, and electronic mail by **December 18, 2020**. The notification will advise the applicant that its

proposal has been successfully evaluated and recommended for award. The notice shall require submission of a final application. Successful applicants will have an opportunity to negotiate elements of their work plan and budget, have the draft reviewed by an assigned PO and submit final applications, including all required assistance documents to grants.gov by **approximately January 16, 2021**.

2. EPA anticipates notification to *unsuccessful* applicant(s) will be made via electronic mail or telephone by **December 18, 2020**.

Note – EPA reserves the right to negotiate appropriate changes in work plans after the selection for further consideration and before the final award. The notification, which advises that the applicant’s proposal has been selected and is being recommended for award, is not an authorization to begin performance. The award notice signed by the Assistant Regional Administrator for Resources Management Division is the authorizing document and will be provided through electronic mail. This process can take up to 60 days from the date of formal application receipt.

Administrative and National Policy Requirement

A listing and description of general EPA Regulations applicable to the award of assistance agreements may be viewed at: <http://www.epa.gov/ogd/grants/regulations.htm>.

CONTACT INFORMATION:

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All questions or comments should be communicated in writing via electronic mail (email) to the contact person listed above.