



**UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
REGION 10**

1200 Sixth Avenue, Suite 155
Seattle, WA 98101-3188

AIR & RADIATION
DIVISION

February 1, 2021

Dear Federally Recognized Tribe or Tribal Consortium:

Re: Tribal Air Quality Grant Announcement for Federal Fiscal Year 2021

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency anticipates the availability of Clean Air Act grant funding in Fiscal Year 2021 for federally recognized tribes and tribal consortia in Region 10. In previous years, approximately \$2.25 million has been available for individual awards, typically ranging from \$20,000 to \$250,000. The EPA, Region 10 expects similar funding levels for FY 2021.

Enclosed is the *Clean Air Act Tribal Program Funding Opportunity for FY 2021*. The Funding Announcement includes important information such as deadlines, proposal submission requirements, priorities for funding, and other details. The full announcement will be available on the Region 10 Clean Air Act Tribal Program Funding website - <https://www.epa.gov/tribal/region-10-clean-air-act-tribal-program-funding>.

Interested tribes and consortia must submit a **draft proposal (work plan and budget) by email** to their Project Officer by **March 10**. Those selected for funding will be invited to submit final applications in grants.gov after completing the proposal review process by a date negotiated between the Project Officer and the applicant — but no later than **May 21**.

We are making a few small changes to our proposal review process. These changes will better align the Clean Air Act Tribal Program proposal review process with that of the Indian Environmental General Assistance Program in Region 10, with the intention of making it more efficient for all involved. To support you through these changes we are providing several tools and resources as attachments to the Funding Announcement and we plan to schedule a webinar that will cover the proposal requirements.

We recognize that due to the COVID-19 pandemic many of our tribal partners are dealing with competing priorities and unprecedented challenges. While we have a firm deadline to receive draft proposals by March 10, and we understand that for some, meeting this deadline may be difficult. Applicants who cannot meet the proposal deadline due to COVID-19 impacts must send an extension request by email to your Project Officer no later than **March 3**. Proposal extension requests should describe your organization's unique situation and a date by when we will receive your draft proposal.

EPA's Office of Grants and Debarment issued a Frequent Questions on Grant Issues in Response to the COVID-19 Public Health Emergency. The *EPA Grants COVID-19 FQs* provides information to grant applicants and recipients impacted by the COVID-19 crisis.

<https://www.epa.gov/coronavirus/frequent-questions-about-grants-and-coronavirus-covid-19>

For FY 2021, we are encouraging two-year work plans from current grant recipients with a strong record of grant performance. Individual work plans and budgets must be submitted for each year of funding requested.

Tribes and tribal consortia seeking funds to assist EPA with implementation of the Clean Air Act rules and regulations, particularly the Federal Air Rules for Reservation in Idaho, Oregon, and Washington, should clearly outline these tasks in their proposals.

We expect to have very limited funds available for new projects and initial air quality assessment needs. We anticipate awarding all the available grant funds allocated for Region 10 tribes and consortia to those with an ongoing air pollution concern and tribal capacity to address it. This includes applicants who have established eligibility under CAA §105 and have existing air grants, those who are currently performing CAA §103 projects, or those with whom Direct Implementation Tribal Cooperative Agreements have been negotiated and are being implemented. Tribes or tribal consortia selected for funding may be offered less than the amount requested, depending on the number of proposals received and the FY 2021 budget allocation for Region 10.

Region 10 staff are available to provide technical and programmatic assistance to tribes with air quality concerns. The EPA's Indian Environmental General Assistance Program also provides grant support for tribes and tribal consortia and may be used to fund air quality efforts. For more information about other the EPA grants, or technical assistance and resources available, please contact our Acting Tribal Air Team Lead, Kayla Krauss at 206-553-2728 or krauss.kayla@epa.gov.

We recognize that the past year has been a very difficult time for many of our tribal partners. Throughout these trying times the EPA is committed to continuing to work with you to build effective partnerships to protect the environment and air quality. Thank you for your ongoing effort and support.

Sincerely,

Krishna Viswanathan
Director

Enclosure