



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
REGION IX
75 Hawthorne Street
San Francisco, CA 94105

DATE: December 3, 2015

TO: All federally-recognized tribes within the EPA Region 9 geographic area

FROM: U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 9

SUBJECT: Funding Announcement guidance for available FY17 tribal funding under Section 103 of the Clean Air Act, 42 USC, §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 (CAA), tribal sovereignty, and the protection and management of air quality

SUMMARY INFORMATION:

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 9 anticipates awarding approximately 30 grants to federally-recognized tribes within the Region 9 geographic area for funding tribal air pollution control programs, air quality education and assessment projects, and the development of tribal air program capacity. It is expected that the awards will range from \$50,000 to \$120,000. Projects will be funded for work to be done in Fiscal Year 2017 (FY17), between October 1, 2016, and September 30, 2017. We anticipate funding decisions will be announced in May or June, 2016.

The EPA authority for awarding these grants is Section 103 of the Clean Air Act, 42 USC §7403. All funded activities must be related to air pollution and/or air pollution control. In addition, the goal of these grants is to assist tribes in developing the capacity to manage their air quality programs in accordance with their individual needs. Grants awarded under these programs are governed by administrative requirements under 40 CFR Part 31. There is no matching requirement for Section 103 grants.

CONTACT INFORMATION:

Lauren Maghran, (415) 947-4107, Maghran.lauren@epa.gov
U.S. EPA Region 9, Air Division

DEADLINE:

Proposals must be submitted electronically to R9tribalairfunding@epa.gov on or before 6:00 pm PST February 19, 2016. **LATE PROPOSALS WILL NOT BE CONSIDERED.**

PROGRAM INFORMATION:

The purpose of this grant program is to provide funding for tribal air pollution control programs and projects with an emphasis on building capacity, showing environmental results, and improving public health. Projects may include investigations, experiments, demonstrations, surveys, and studies relating to the causes, effects, extent, prevention, enforcement, and control of ambient and indoor air pollution, and climate change. These activities may include: air quality characterization studies, identification and investigation of air pollution sources, air quality monitoring studies, and training and community education and outreach. Funds will be awarded to carry out projects that serve the lands in Indian country belonging to federally-recognized tribes which fall within EPA Region 9's geographic area. Proposed projects must not be used for the purposes of routine program implementation or implementation of routine environmental protection restoration measures.

NOTE: Applicants who receive a grant award under this funding opportunity notice may not use funds from other federal assistance agreements/programs to fund the same activities proposed under this Funding Announcement.

EPA'S STRATEGIC PLAN AND ANTICIPATED PROGRAMMATIC ENVIRONMENTAL RESULTS

1. Linkage to EPA Strategic Plan

Activities must relate to and fit within the scope of EPA's Strategic Plan's goals and objectives. Ambient (outdoor) and indoor air projects and programmatic activities are related to Goal 1 – Taking Action on Climate Change and Improving Air Quality; Objective 1. – Address Climate Change, Objective 1.2 – Improving Air Quality.

2. Measuring Environmental Results

Applicants need to demonstrate a clear linkage between the relevant goals listed in the EPA Strategic Plan (2011-2015) discussed above and the projects' expected outputs and outcomes. Pursuant to EPA Order 5700.7, "*Environmental Results under EPA Assistance Agreements*," EPA requires that all grant recipients adequately address environmental outputs and outcomes. Outputs and outcomes differ both in their nature and in how they are measured. Applicants must discuss anticipated environmental outputs and outcomes from proposed work plan objectives and performance measures.

Expected **environmental outputs** (or deliverables) refer to an environmental activity, effort, and/or associated work product 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 may include: an air quality management plan, an emissions inventory, or air monitoring data.

Expected **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, and must be quantitative. Examples of outcomes may include: a significant number of community members with increased awareness of indoor air quality issues, and/or increased number of tribal residents breathing cleaner air.

AWARD INFORMATION:

EPA Region 9 anticipates awarding approximately 30 grants ranging in size from \$50,000 to \$120,000. Requests of more than \$120,000 may be considered, depending on need and funding availability. All proposals should be submitted for work to be performed during the period of October 1, 2016, to September 30, 2017. **Due to funding limitations, it is unlikely that all tribes that submit proposals will receive a grant.**

PROPOSAL SUBMISSION INFORMATION:

Applicants should submit proposals electronically to EPA Region 9 at the email address listed below in Section B. **FULL APPLICATIONS WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED AT THIS TIME** (i.e. SF-424 forms should not be submitted, only the proposal narrative and budget).

A. Applicants should submit one electronic copy of their proposal to EPA Region 9 (see Section B below for more details). Proposals may not exceed 8 pages (any additional pages will not be reviewed) and must be at least 11 point font.

Proposals must address the following items:

1. Name of tribe.
2. Contact information for this project (environmental director and project staff, organization name, address, phone, FAX, e-mail address).
3. A statement that your organization is a federally-recognized tribe within the Region 9 geographic area.
4. A brief explanation of any previous air related activities under Clean Air Act or General Assistance Program grant funding.
5. A brief description of your tribe (tribal population, geographic areas covered, etc.).
6. A narrative description of how your tribe addresses each aspect of Funding Factors 1, 2, and 3 (see pages 4 and 5 of this announcement). **Proposals that do not address the Funding Factors specifically will not be considered.**
7. Amount of proposed federal funding requested.
8. Expected environmental outcomes (accomplishments) or outputs (deliverables), with dates and interim milestones.
9. Work plan summary (work plan tasks, outcomes/deliverables, time line for completion of tasks, and estimated staff time for completing each work plan task).
10. Proposals with air monitoring tasks must state whether the data is intended to be collected for regulatory purposes or for informational purposes. Ambient air quality data collection for regulatory purposes must be approved by EPA and should meet specific current requirements to assure quality data. (See pages 7-8 for details on these requirements.)
11. Tribes currently collecting air monitoring data for informational or regulatory purposes must submit a one or two-page summary of air quality monitoring data from the past 12 month period.

NOTE: THE DATA SUMMARY IS NOT PART OF THE 8 PAGE LIMIT.

B. Submission Due Date

Proposals must be submitted electronically on or before February 19, 2016.

LATE PROPOSALS WILL NOT BE CONSIDERED.

Please send one electronic copy of your proposal to:

R9tribalairfunding@epa.gov

For questions regarding electronic submittal and additional information, please contact Lauren Maghran at (415) 947-4107.

C. Confidential Business Information

It is not recommended that confidential information be included in the proposal. However, if confidential business information is included, it will be treated in accordance with 40 CFR Part 2. In accordance with 40 CFR 2.203, 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 CFR 2.204(c)(2) prior to disclosure.

FUNDING FACTORS (Proposals that do not specifically address each of these factors will not be considered):

Funding Factor 1 – Air Quality Issues and Environmental Risk

Your proposal will be evaluated based upon how well it describes and addresses the following air pollution concerns of the tribe:

1A: Are your tribal lands located in an area that has been designated by EPA as “nonattainment” for one of the pollutants for which there are National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS)? Please answer yes or no, and if yes, for which pollutant(s).

1B: Please describe any Clean Air Act Title V major sources of air pollution located within your tribal jurisdiction.

1C: Please describe other non-major air pollution sources of concern located within tribal jurisdiction (e.g., minor sources, open burning, etc.). We are particularly interested in facilities such as casinos, dry cleaners, gas stations, sand and gravel operations, oil and gas processing, restaurants, auto and auto body shops, internal combustion engines, and electric generators.

Please include estimates of emissions from these facilities where possible.

1D: Please describe other air pollution problems, for example: transport of air pollution from off the reservation (including nearby stationary sources and urban areas), or any other air pollution problem that is a concern for the tribe.

Funding Factor 2 – Current Air Quality Program Activities (describe all that are applicable to your tribe)

2A: Ambient Air Monitoring

(1) Please describe the type of existing air monitoring equipment used by the tribe to monitor and collect data, and the pollutants monitored.

(2) Please describe the status of any Quality Assurance Project Plan (QAPP) and the date that your tribe's QAPP was approved or submitted to EPA Region 9. If the QAPP was submitted more than five years ago, the tribe must submit a revised QAPP. (The EPA Region 9 Quality Assurance contact is Dave Taylor, (415) 972-3801.)

(3)) If your tribe is either currently monitoring for air quality, or proposing to do so, please state the current or planned monitoring objective and the intended use of the data collected.

Currently, the majority of tribes monitoring in Region 9 are approved by EPA to do so for informational purposes. A few tribes with longstanding air monitoring programs and a specific need are approved to monitor for regulatory purposes (i.e., comparing the tribe's air quality data to the National Ambient Air Quality Standards for EPA planning purposes). Please identify whether your tribe currently is approved to collect data for regulatory purposes or for informational purposes. (See pages 7-8 for existing quality assurance requirements for data used for regulatory purposes.)

(4) Please state whether your tribe submits air quality monitoring data into EPA's national Air Quality System (AQS) database. If yes, provide the date your tribe began entering data into AQS.

2B: Regulatory Program Development

(1) Please describe air quality legislation enacted by the tribal government.

(2) Please describe air quality regulations promulgated by the tribal government.

(3) Please describe air permitting/compliance activities.

2C: Air Quality Outreach, Participation, and Collaboration

(1) Please describe activities which involve the dissemination of information regarding air pollution and climate change to the community and/or tribal leadership.

(2) Please describe efforts the tribe has made to participate in both national and regional air quality and climate change initiatives on an ongoing basis.

(3) Please describe demonstrated or proposed collaboration, information sharing, or providing technical assistance to other tribes or air pollution control agencies

Funding Factor 3 – Programmatic Capability and Environmental Results

3A: Past Performance

Please describe your tribe's past performance in successfully completing EPA grant projects, including whether your tribe was able to complete work plan tasks and deliverables, submit required progress and financial reports in a timely fashion, and comply with all applicable grant conditions (if not, explain why).

3B: Environmental Results

Please describe your plan for tracking and measuring progress toward achieving expected outputs and outcomes identified in the Strategic Plan/Environmental Results section of this Guidance (see description on pages 2 and 3).

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

- A. **Reporting:** If your tribe's proposal is selected for funding, quarterly project status reports and a final Federal Financial Report will be required. Quarterly project status reports should describe project activities completed and provide the EPA tribal air grant project officer with information about project development. The Federal Financial Report must accurately account for all federal funds expended and identify appropriate use of federal funds. Not staying current with reporting requirements could affect future funding.
- B. **Pre-Award Costs:** In certain circumstances, costs incurred prior to the grant award may be eligible for reimbursement. However, this does not include any costs associated with responding to this funding announcement. If costs are incurred before the award, they are incurred at the applicant's own risk. Please note that projects solely for research are ineligible for funding, as well as other ineligible costs outlined in 40 CFR Part 31 and OMB Circular A-87: Cost Principles for State, Local and Indian Tribal Governments (5/10/04), which has been relocated to 2CFR, Part 225.

Note regarding monitoring requirements (from Funding Factor 2(A)(3) on page 5 above):

Clarification of current ambient air monitoring data requirements EPA, Region 9

Due to recent increases in legal challenges regarding revisions to EPA's National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS) and subsequent area designations, EPA is reminding all state, local, and tribal organizations that ambient air quality data used by EPA in regulatory decision making must be accurate and reliable. In addition, severe resource constraints limit EPA in the number of tribes we are able to support in conducting regulatory monitoring.

EPA recognizes that these requirements are complex. Staff in our Region 9 Air Quality Analysis Office and Quality Assurance Office, as well as at the Tribal Air Monitoring Support Center in Las Vegas, Nevada, are available to help if needed.

This link has information concerning quality assurance of air quality data:
<http://epa.gov/ttn/amtic/quality.html>.

In addition, below is a list of the existing quality assurance and ambient air monitoring requirements that all air monitoring organizations should follow if data is to be used for regulatory purposes:

- Have approved quality planning documents (Quality Management Plan, Quality Assurance Project Plan, and Standard Operating Procedures)
- Have an approved Annual Network Design Plan
- Have appropriately sited monitoring
- Have instruments that are EPA approved Federal Reference Method (FRM) or Federal Equivalent Method (FEM)
- Have co-located monitoring (using a pair of samplers for quality assurance), as required (including PM_{2.5} FRM co-location with FEM)
- Perform all required quality control checks (daily to monthly)
- Have two sets of standards (one for calibration and Quality Control, and one for Audits)
- Provide resources in order to participate in applicable audit programs:
 - o Performance Evaluation Program (PEP) for PM_{2.5}, Pb, & PM_{10-2.5}
 - o National Performance Audit Program (NPAP) for O₃, NO₂, SO₂, & CO
- Collect at least three years of quality assured data
- Have data that is greater than 75% complete
- Report data quarterly to EPA's Air Quality System database (within 90 days of collection)
- Be part of an approved Primary Quality Assurance Organization (PQAO) that has Independent Quality Assurance. Each PQAO should:
 - o Perform audits as required (quarterly to semi-annually)
 - o Calibrate all equipment and standards as required (quarterly to annually)
 - o Participate in a Technical System Audit (TSA) once every three years

If you have any questions about these requirements, please contact Michael Flagg of EPA Region 9's Air Quality Analysis Office at (415) 972-3372 or flagg.michaela@epa.gov.