

## FAQs – EJ Small Grants Program

- 1) **How much funding is available? How many grants will be awarded?** Up to approximately \$1.6 million in grant funding is available for approximately 16-20 projects nationwide. See the Request for Applications (RFA) published on March 21, 2022 for details about the sources of funding and allowable activities. Grants will be awarded in amounts of up to \$100,000 per award. Grants are for one year. Projects should plan a start date of October 1, 2022.
- 2) **Who is eligible to apply?** This solicitation is open to federally recognized tribal governments only.
- 3) **What types of projects may be funded under this announcement?** ARP funding is limited to activities authorized by section 103(b) of the Clean Air Act (CAA; 42 U.S.C. 7403(b)) and section 1442 of the Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA; 42 U.S.C. 300j-1). For this reason, in order to be eligible under this announcement, projects must include activities related to at least one of the following federal environmental statutes.
  1. **Clean Air Act, Section 103(b)(3):** conduct research, investigations, experiments, demonstration projects, surveys, and studies (including monitoring) related to the causes, effects (including health and welfare effects), extent, prevention, and control of air pollution.
  2. **Safe Drinking Water Act, Section 1442:** develop and expand the capability to carry out a program (that may combine training, education, and employment) for occupations related to the public health aspects of providing safe drinking water.

All project workplans should include strategies for: 1) establishing or modifying public participation programs, 2) addressing local environmental and public health issues, 3) educating and empowering the community about environmental issues, and 4) approaches to building consensus and setting priorities through public participation programs.

- 4) **How is public participation defined for purposes of this funding announcement?** Public participation can be any process that directly engages the public in decision-making and gives full consideration to public input in making that decision. Public participation is a process, not a single event. It consists of a series of activities and actions by a sponsor agency over the full lifespan of a project to both inform the public and obtain input from them. Public participation contributes to better decisions because decision-makers have more complete information – in the form of additional facts, values, and perspectives obtained through public input – to bring to bear on the decision process. Decision-makers can then incorporate the best information and expertise of all stakeholders. Decisions are more implementable and sustainable because the decision considers the needs and interests of all stakeholders including vulnerable and overburdened communities, and stakeholders better understand and are more invested in the outcomes.

- 5) **What are some types of allowable projects?** Different forms that public participation might take include: (1) informing the public by providing information to help them understand the issues, options, and solutions; (2) consulting with the public to obtain their feedback on alternatives or decisions; (3) involving the public to ensure their concerns are considered throughout the decision process, particularly in the development of decision criteria and options; (4) collaborating with the public to develop decision criteria and alternatives and identify the preferred solution; and (5) empowering the public by placing final decision-making authority in their hands.
- 6) **My organization is NOT an eligible organization under the EJ Small Grants Program. Does this prohibit our organization from participating in this opportunity?** Organizations considered ineligible under EJSG are encouraged to partner with an eligible organization. Partners can receive EJ funding through subawards and/or contracts. So, while your organization may not be eligible to apply, it's likely you can still receive a portion of the EJ funding through partnering. Please refer to the announcement for details in relation to applicant eligibility and partnership requirements.
- 7) **My organization engages in lobbying federal/state/local governments. Does our lobbying activity make us ineligible under this announcement?** Organizations may not use Federal grant funds or cost-sharing funds to conduct lobbying activities of any kind. Please refer to Section 3 of the Lobbying Disclosure Act of 1995. If a proposal is submitted that includes any ineligible tasks or activities, that portion of the proposal will be ineligible for funding and may, depending on the extent to which it affects the proposal, render the entire proposal ineligible for funding.
- 8) **How should I submit Letters of Support/Commitment?** When submitting your application via grants.gov, you should: Consolidate all letters into one document Label this document "Partnership Letters" or "Letters of Commitment" and submit the document using the "Other Attachments Form."
- 9) **Will EPA consider multiple applications from a single applicant for EJ Small Grants under the March 2022 Request for Applications (RFA)?** No. Applicants may only submit one EJ grant application for consideration under the March 2022 RFA.
- 10) **What is the procedure for modification of an application?** All applicants who wish to modify an application must resubmit a new application in accordance with all guidelines and application criteria as stated in the announcement. Applicants should include a cover memo acknowledging the revised submission and a request to disregard any previously submitted applications. All revised applications/submissions must be received by the published deadline.
- 11) **My workplan exceeds the eleven-page limit. Will this affect my eligibility to be considered for an award?** The workplan should not exceed eleven (11), single-spaced, typewritten pages. Anything over eleven (11) pages will not be read by the Review Panel. The pages of the workplan should be letter-size (8 1/2 X 11 inches) and the text should be

single-spaced. It is recommended that applicants use a standard 12-point type with 1-inch margins.

**12) What is the smallest font size I can use for the proposal?** The minimum font size is 11 pt. The preference for font is Times New Roman.