

EPA expects to award these grants under the following grant authorities: Clean Water Act, section 104; Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act, section 20; Clean Air Act, section 103; Solid Waste Disposal Act, section 8001; Safe Drinking Water Act, section 1442 (c); Toxic Substances Control Act, section 10; Marine Protection, Research and Sanctuaries Act, section 203; Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act, section 311; National Environmental Policy Act, section 102(2)(F) for international awards; and Indian Environmental General Assistance Program Act. The applicable grant regulations for this grant program are in 40 CFR part 31 for State and local governments and Indian tribes.

Authority to enter into assistance agreements for the purposes described in this notice are delegated to OECA in EPA Delegation 1–47, Assistance Agreements for Economic, Social Science, Statistical, and Other Research, Development, Studies, Surveys, Demonstrations, Investigations, Public Education Programs, Training, and Fellowships.

Funding priorities must be allowable under 66.709 (Capacity Building Grants and Cooperative Agreements for States and Tribes) of the *Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance* (CFDA).

Desired Projects

OECA will only consider funding projects for the two focus areas described below, and for projects which can be completed in 3 years or less. Projects will be evaluated for potential funding based on the extent to which they address the information below. Please note, applicants should not address both focus areas in their pre-proposals. Each focus area is separate and proposals from each category will be evaluated independently.

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1. Environmental Enforcement Training

OECA's Office of Compliance is seeking ways to improve and build capacity among State and tribal personnel in the area of environmental enforcement training. We are looking for States/tribes or organizations to host training workshops or sponsor State and tribal personnel attendance at existing training programs (e.g., inspector, case developer).

Since EPA has discretionary authority to ask States and tribes to conduct inspections on behalf of the Agency under each Federal environmental statute, strengthening enforcement skills through training is important. To ensure that State, local and tribal environmental personnel conduct and perform specific responsibilities appropriately, OECA will consider funding pre-proposals that fall into the following training areas:

- Inspector training and inspector training involving cross-training with other specialties—including cross-media, and criminal investigation,
- Single and multi-media enforcement for case developers,
- Basic and multi-media inspector/compliance training; and,
- Environmental benefits of enforcement cases.

Pre-proposal Criteria: All training pre-proposals will be evaluated and ranked based on the criteria outlined below. The following seven criteria and associated points will be used by EPA to evaluate the pre-proposals.

(a) (10 points) Clearly identify intended audience by identifying other States and tribes within an EPA region to host or participate in a workshop that includes training from the areas listed above.

(b) (10 points) Explicitly state and describe the training and verify that the particular training can accommodate the number of participants specified in the pre-proposal.

(c) (25 points) Description of course outline and content shows consistency with EPA Federal guidelines and is supportive of an authorized program (e.g., training provides information on Federal inspection law and policy). Course content may also provide information on inspection issues that arise under State and tribal laws.

(d) (10 points) Pre-proposals that include development of new training must show evidence that existing course materials will be used (e.g., EPA's NETI-West Basic Inspector Training Course materials). Funding should be used to revise/adapt existing training as much as possible and not used to duplicate training that is readily available from other sources.

(e) (10 points) All training funding pre-proposals must include payment of full travel and lodging costs for State and tribal training participants.

(f) (15 points) Address sharing results. Describe how you will share training materials and products (e.g., archive training materials on CD-ROM; make available on Web site; distribute training materials at conferences).

(g) (20 points) Identify output and outcome measures (i.e., identify number/type of personnel to be trained as well as describe how this training will improve skillfulness or job performance). Describe how success will be measured (e.g., use of questionnaires and surveys before and after training).

Applicants are encouraged to consult and utilize EPA's Guide to Compliance Assistance Outcome Measurement. This document is available at <http://es.epa.gov/oeca/perfmeas/full-oec.pdf>. If you do not have access to the Internet, you may request a hard copy by contacting David Piantanida on (202) 564–8318.

2. Support Improved Linkages Between EPA and State/Tribal Systems

It is critical that State or tribal data systems be able to report data to EPA that is consistent with EPA/State data standards and in line with new requirements of media data systems (e.g. Permit Compliance System) being modernized as well as consistent with current requirements of legacy media systems. OECA is making funds available to support the provision of quality data to EPA from States and/or tribes through improved system interfaces, data linkages, and data clean-up. States/tribes need to make sure their systems are compatible with EPA's systems and that they can accurately transmit data to EPA. The funds will allow the States/tribes to go out and procure the expertise they need in order to do that.

This notice also solicits projects that assist States/tribes with reporting of consistent streamlined environmental compliance data to EPA including the following:

(A) *Permit Compliance System (PCS) Modernization:* Grant funding would support State efforts to procure technical assistance and technical expertise for State system modifications to ensure the continued flow of nationally required National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) data from State systems to the PCS. This effort would ensure that States will be able to continue to meet delegation and regulatory reporting requirements to EPA. Areas of technical assistance may include: (1) Support for modification of existing State/tribal system interfaces or development of new State/tribal system interfaces to the new modernized system format (IDEF/XML format, revised flat file or batch card format), (2) support to develop capability of State/tribal systems to incorporate new data requirements for new NPDES programs (i.e., biosolids, CAFO, SSO/CSO, storm