

Water and Wastewater Infrastructure

Benefits assessment of wastewater infrastructure investments including funding from the Clean Water State Revolving Fund program.

Tools, techniques, benchmarking, or training for more efficient wastewater and other systems performance.

Capacity development for Tribes, Native Villages, and small communities to effectively operate and maintain water and wastewater treatment facilities.

Innovative water efficiency programs or techniques to reduce infrastructure costs or municipal water use.

Demonstration of remote techniques for assessing the performance and environmental impacts of on-site/ decentralized wastewater systems.

Innovative approaches or methods to reduce risk or impact of terrorist or other attacks to integrity and effectiveness of wastewater collections and treatment.

Impacts of Wet Weather Flows

Test results achieved by peak excess flow technologies in collection systems at CSO outfalls and at treatment plants, and test performance of devices before and after blending. Testing may include pollutants in effluent or ambient settings.

Measure, or develop tools to determine the effectiveness of storm water BMPs.

Develop and pilot storm water discharge and ambient water monitoring techniques for gauging water quality improvements.

Develop and pilot sample performance measures for use by small Municipal Separate Storm Sewer Systems (MS4s) to incorporate into storm water management plans.

Outreach on low impact development (LID) and its potential uses.

Provide tools to help permittees select options and overcome barriers in storm water pollution prevention plan development.

Pathogens

Conduct studies on monitoring pathogens in wastewater and biosolids, including bacterial, viruses and parasites.

Conduct studies on treatability of pathogens in wastewater.

Characterization of impacts of PH levels on municipal infrastructure systems (pretreatment discharges to POTWs).

National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Program Strategies To Implement Watershed-based Efforts

Conduct a demonstration project that provides support to facilitate watershed-based permitting and trading.

Develop and pilot innovative techniques to facilitate NPDES program management for enhanced results, integrity and/or efficiency.

Animal Feeding Operations

Develop and demonstrate innovative or alternative technologies for CAFOs to treat/process wastewater or manage manure.

CAFO producer outreach programs to train/educate the industry on implementation of the CAFO rule.

EPA may also consider other project areas for funding to the extent authorized by CWA section 104(b)(3) and to the extent funds are available for such project areas.

Statutory Authority, Applicable Regulations, and Funding Level

Water Quality Cooperative Agreements are awarded under the authority of section 104(b)(3) of the Clean Water Act (33 U.S.C. 1254(b)(3)).

The regulations governing the award and administration of Water Quality Cooperative Agreements are 40 CFR part 30 (for institutions of higher learning, hospitals, and other non-profit organizations) and 40 CFR part 31 and 40 CFR part 35, subparts A and B (for States, Tribes, local governments, intertribal consortia, and interstate agencies).

Applicants requested to submit a full application (SF-424) will be required to comply with Intergovernmental Review requirements (40 CFR part 29).

Applicants must provide a Dun and Bradstreet (D&B) Data Universal Numbering System (DUNS) number with the full application. Organizations may obtain the number by calling, toll free, 1-866-705-5711.

Total funding available for award by Headquarters will depend on EPA's appropriation for Fiscal Year 2004; however, it is estimated that \$3.5 million will be available for funding approved projects. The average size of an award is anticipated to be approximately \$100,000.

Construction projects, except for the construction required to carry out a demonstration project, and acquisition of land, are not eligible for funding under this program. New or on-going programs to implement environmental controls are not eligible for funding under this program.

Request for Initial Proposal Format and Contents

IPs should be limited to four pages. Full application packages should not be submitted at this time. It is recommended that confidential information not be included in the IP. The following format should be used for all IPs:

Name of Project:

Point of Contact: (Individual and Organization Name, Address, Phone Number, Fax Number, E-mail Address)

Is This a Continuation of a Previously Funded Project (if so, please provide the number and status of the current grant or cooperative agreement):

Proposed Award Amount:

Proposed Awardee Cost Share: (Cost sharing is not required)

Description of General Budget

Proposed To Support Project:

Project Area: (based on areas of interest shown above)

Project Description: (Should not exceed three pages of single-spaced text)

Expected Accomplishments or Product, With Dates, Environmental Results and Interim Milestones: This section should also include a discussion of a communication plan for distributing the project results to interested parties.

Describe How the Project Meets the Evaluation Criteria Specified Below:

EPA IP Evaluation Criteria

EPA will award Water Quality Cooperative Agreements on a competitive basis and evaluate IPs based on the following criteria (maximum points for each element are shown).

- The relationship of the proposed project to the priorities identified in this notice. (5)
- How well the project proposes to address a nationally important need, issue, or interest. (30)
- Communication plan to transfer results of the project to other potentially interested parties. (25)
- How well the project furthers the goal of the Clean Water Act to prevent, reduce, and eliminate water pollution. (20)
- Leverage of other resources (e.g., cost share, participation by other organizations) as part of the proposed approach. (10)
- Cost effectiveness and reasonableness of the proposal. (10)

The IPs will be evaluated by EPA staff on the elements shown above. Maximum points equals 100. EPA may consider IPs even if all criteria are not fully met, provided the proposed projects meet the applicable statutory and regulatory requirements and funds