



Office of International and Tribal Affairs

# Fiscal Year 2025 Indian Environmental General Assistance Program (GAP)

Funding Opportunity Number: **EPA-CEP-02**

Indian Environmental General Assistance Program (GAP) Assistance Listing – **66.926**

Funding Opportunity Number: **EPA-CEP-01**

Performance Partnership Grants (PPG) Assistance Listing – **66.605**

Version Release: October 29, 2024



# Contents

1.	Basic Information .....	1
	A. Executive Summary: .....	1
	B. Key Information: .....	1
	C. Key Dates: .....	2
	D. Funding Details: .....	3
	E. Agency Contact Information: .....	3
	F. Other Funding Considerations:.....	3
2.	Eligibility.....	4
	A. Eligible Applicants.....	4
	Other Eligibility Requirements .....	4
	B. Cost Sharing .....	5
	Performance Partnership Grants .....	5
	Tribal Match Clause for PPG-eligible Programs.....	5
3.	Program Description .....	5
	A. Purpose, Priorities, and Activities.....	5
	B. Program Goals and Objectives.....	7
	C. Statutory Authority .....	7
	D. Funding Type.....	8
	E. Requirements for Increasing Access to Results of EPA-Funded Extramural Scientific Research.....	8
4.	Application Contents and Format .....	8
	A. Application Forms .....	8
	Work Plan.....	9
	B. Applicants Using Contractors.....	9
	C. Release Copies of Applications .....	9
	D. Coalition Coverage.....	10
	E. Other Program Specific Application Information .....	10
	Budget.....	10
	Service Delivery Activities .....	10
	GAP Supplemental Projects .....	10
	Regional Supplemental Guidance .....	11
	Additional Requirements .....	11
5.	Submission Requirements and Deadlines.....	11
	A. Submission Dates and Times .....	11
	B. Unique Entity Identifier (UEI) and System for Award Management (SAM.gov) .....	11
	C. Submission Instructions .....	12
	D. Technical Issues with Submission .....	12
	E. Intergovernmental Review .....	13
6.	Application Review Information .....	13

A. Responsiveness Review .....	13
B. Review Criteria .....	13
Timely Expenditure of Grant Funds .....	14
Evaluation of the Scientific Data Management Plan.....	14
C. Review and Selection Process.....	14
Other Evaluation Factors.....	14
D. Risk Review .....	14
7. Award Notices.....	14
8. Post-Award Requirements and Administration .....	15
A. Administrative and National Policy Requirements .....	15
B. Reporting .....	15
C. FFATA and FSRS Reporting.....	15
9. Other Information.....	15
A. Additional Provisions for Applicants .....	15
ETEPs .....	15
Indirect Costs .....	16
Build America, Buy America.....	17

# 1. Basic Information

## U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

Office of International and Tribal Affairs

### Fiscal Year 2025 Indian Environmental General Assistance Program (GAP)

With this Notice of Funding Availability (NOFA), EPA invites proposals for Indian Environmental General Assistance Program (GAP) grants and assistance amendments from the Fiscal Year 2025 Congressional appropriation to fund work plans beginning on or after October 1, 2025 (FY26).

#### A. Executive Summary:

EPA provides GAP financial and technical assistance to Tribal governments and intertribal consortia to assist Tribes in planning, developing, establishing, and maintaining the capacity to implement federal environmental programs administered by the EPA and to assist in implementation of Tribal solid and hazardous waste programs. EPA's GAP Guidance (see <https://www.epa.gov/general-assistance-program-gap/gap-guidance-financial-assistance-agreements>) provides a consistent national framework for building Tribal environmental program capacity under GAP and is designed to improve the management of GAP resources.

As described in the national program priorities below, GAP supports Tribal government efforts to develop core environmental program capacities, such as administrative, financial management, information management, environmental baseline needs assessment, public education/communication, legal, technical/analytical, and capacity needed to implement and/or meaningfully participate in federal environmental protection programs. Learn more about GAP on the EPA website at <https://www.epa.gov/general-assistance-program-gap>.

#### B. Key Information:

##### Opportunity Number and Assistance Listing:

Funding Opportunity Number: EPA-CEP-02

Indian Environmental General Assistance Program (GAP) – 66.926

Funding Opportunity Number: EPA-CEP-01

Performance Partnership Grants (PPG) – 66.605

##### Announcement Type:

NOFA

##### Funding Available:

\$72,200,000 in FY24. FY25 amount pending Congressional Appropriation.

##### Number of Awards:

Over 520 depending on the number of applicants.

**Period of Performance:**

GAP grant project periods may not exceed four years. At the end of a 4-year grant period, Tribes and intertribal consortia may apply for new GAP grants. When GAP funds are included in PPGs, the project period can be up to 5 years.

Current grantees are encouraged to submit multi-year funding requests if they are: (1) completing proposed activities as scheduled, (2) submitting progress reports on time, (3) fulfilling closeout requirements, (4) regularly drawing funds down, and (5) meeting all other grant requirements. Applicants should discuss this option with their EPA Project Officer before submitting a multi-year proposal.

Final GAP funding amounts may also be impacted by the final annual appropriation EPA receives from Congress, newly applying Tribes, rescissions, or similar national or regional funding factors.

**C. Key Dates:**

*Table 1- Application Submittal Schedule*

Region	Work Plan and Budget Due Date Stand-Alone GAP	Work Plan and Budget Due Date GAP in a PPG	Applications Due in Grants.Gov
1	N/A	June 3, 2025	July 1, 2025
2	Feb/March, 2025 <sup>1</sup>	Feb/March, 2025	Feb/March, 2025
3	May 31, 2025	N/A	May 31, 2025
4	April 4, 2025	April 4, 2025	June 13, 2025
5	60 days from date of allocation letter from EPA Project Officer	60 days from date of allocation letter from EPA Project Officer	Determined by EPA Project Officer
6	February 14, 2025	April 18, 2025	GAP stand-alone: February 14, 2025  GAP in PPGs: April 18, 2025
7	Tribe Specific - Determined with EPA Project Officer	Tribe Specific - Determined with EPA Project Officer	Tribe Specific - Determined with EPA Project Officer
8	February 26, 2025	February 26 2025	June 3, 2025

<sup>1</sup> EPA Region 2 will provide additional information on work plan and applicant deadlines applicable to R2 applicants.

9	Tribes & Intertribal Consortia: January 29, 2025, with application on Grants.gov & emailed to GAP PO.	Tribes & Intertribal Consortia: January 29, 2025, with application on Grants.gov & emailed to GAP PO.	GAP stand-alone: January 29, 2025  GAP in PPGs: Determined by EPA Project Officer
10	January 21, 2025	January 21, 2025	May 16, 2025

## D. Funding Details:

### Funding Amounts:

EPA funds applicants in the following order:

1. **Individual Tribes.** The primary purpose of GAP funding is to build Tribal capacity for developing and administering environmental protection programs. Therefore, providing GAP grants to individual Tribal governments is our highest priority. Work plan considerations for Tribes requesting a consortium to receive funding to conduct environmental activities for the benefit of the Tribe should be considered as “individual Tribes.”
2. **Intertribal consortia.** EPA considers funding for intertribal consortia after it has funded individual Tribes’ proposals. Consortia work plans should meet the capacity-building needs of their member Tribes as reflected in EPA-Tribal Environmental Plans (ETEPs) without duplicating members’ efforts.

Applicants may request funding within their Region’s funding parameters. Final awards must be between \$75,000, for initial awards, and no more than 10% of the total Congressional FY25 appropriation, and may be based on factors such as, but not limited to, activities proposed, prior awards to the applicant, existing balances, and reporting status. See Section 8 of this NOFA for more information.

## E. Agency Contact Information:

Further information, if needed, may be obtained from the EPA contact(s) indicated below.

Technical Contact: **David Jones, [jones.david@epa.gov](mailto:jones.david@epa.gov)**

**Contact information for each Regional Tribal Program Manager is on the EPA website, <https://www.epa.gov/tribal/epa-tribal-program-managers>.**

## F. Other Funding Considerations:

Final GAP funding amounts may also be impacted by the final annual appropriation EPA receives from Congress, newly applying Tribes, rescissions, or similar national or regional funding factors.

## 2. Eligibility

### A. Eligible Applicants

Only these types of organizations may apply. Organization types are consistent with definitions at [2 CFR 200.1](#):

- Federally recognized Indian Tribal organizations.
- Intertribal consortia.

These terms are defined in 40 CFR 35.502 (See <https://www.ecfr.gov/current/title-40/chapter-1/subchapter-B/part-35/subpart-B/subject-group-ECFR7560dab1b022383/section-35.502>) as follows:

An **Indian Tribal government (Tribe)**, except as otherwise defined in statute or applicable program specific regulation, is any Indian Tribe, band, nation, or other organized group or community, including any Alaska Native village, which is recognized as eligible by the U.S. Department of the Interior for the special services provided by the United States to Indians because of their status as Indians.

An **intertribal consortium** is a partnership between two or more Tribes authorized by the governing bodies of those Tribes to apply for and receive assistance under GAP.

### Other Eligibility Requirements

#### Intertribal Consortia

Under EPA's Tribal grant regulations, an intertribal consortium is eligible to receive GAP financial assistance when the consortium can adequately document compliance with the following requirements:

A majority of its members are eligible to receive GAP grants.

1. All member Tribes that meet GAP eligibility requirements authorize the consortium to apply for and receive the award; and
2. Adequate accounting controls are in place to ensure that only members that meet the eligibility requirements will benefit directly from the award and the consortium agrees to an award condition to that effect.

With each new GAP grant application (meaning the first year of a multi-year grant), an intertribal consortium must include documentation of: (1) the existence of the partnership between eligible Tribal governments; and (2) the authorization of the consortium by all GAP-eligible member Tribes to apply for and receive the grant. See Section 3.5 of the 2022 GAP Guidance for details on acceptable forms of documentation that is to be provided by the GAP-eligible member Tribe's duly authorized representative. Duly authorized representatives may include, for example, Tribal leadership, Tribal environmental directors, or Tribal administrators. If documentation includes consortium resolutions, the resolution must have unanimous support, meaning no abstentions and no majority approvals, from all board members.

Intertribal consortia may use GAP funds to provide training and technical assistance to support the environmental priorities of GAP-eligible member Tribes.

## **B. Cost Sharing**

There is no cost sharing for GAP under this funding opportunity whether it is a stand-alone grant or combined in a PPG. Note that only federal funds should be listed on the SF-424, SF-424A, and Budget Detail.

### **Performance Partnership Grants**

Funds for a grant awarded under this opportunity may be included in a PPG. Applicants should indicate in their application submission if they anticipate incorporating the proposed project, if selected for funding, into an already existing PPG or if they intend to create a new PPG that would include the project proposed under this funding opportunity.

For further information, see the final rules on Environmental Program Grants for Tribes and Intertribal Consortia at 40 CFR Part 35, Subpart B ([See https://www.ecfr.gov/current/title-40/chapter-I/subchapter-B/part-35/subpart-B?toc=1](https://www.ecfr.gov/current/title-40/chapter-I/subchapter-B/part-35/subpart-B?toc=1)).

PPGs allow eligible Tribes and intertribal consortia to combine funds from at least two eligible environmental grant programs, including GAP, into a single grant to improve environmental performance, increase programmatic flexibility, achieve administrative savings (such as elimination of cost share), and strengthen the partnerships between the Tribe and EPA.

Since multiple programs are involved, PPG proposals and applications may take longer to develop than single grant proposals. PPG deadlines may vary depending on the type of programs involved. Applicants should confirm due dates with their EPA Project Officer.

Tribes and intertribal consortia with PPGs should communicate regularly with their EPA Project Officer when applying for EPA program grants. Grantees may request additional grants be added to their PPG, including competitive grants. A complete list of environmental program grants eligible for inclusion in a PPG is available on EPA's website at <https://www.epa.gov/ocir/national-environmental-performance-partnership-system-nepps>.

To learn more about PPGs, and specifically about including GAP in a PPG, see Section 3.4 of the 2022 GAP Guidance.

### **Tribal Match Clause for PPG-eligible Programs**

If a Tribe or intertribal consortium includes the funds for a GAP grant awarded under this NOFA in an approved Performance Partnership Grant (PPG), there is no cost-share requirement. If the applicant plans to include their grant in a PPG, the applicant is to prepare a budget and proposed work-plan based upon the assumption that the EPA will approve the budget and work plan.

## **3. Program Description**

### **A. Purpose, Priorities, and Activities**

EPA provides GAP financial and technical assistance to Tribal governments and intertribal consortia to assist Tribes in planning, developing, establishing, and maintaining the capacity to implement federal environmental programs administered by the EPA and to assist in implementation of Tribal solid and hazardous waste programs. EPA's GAP Guidance provides a consistent national framework for building



Tribal environmental program capacity under GAP and is designed to improve the management of GAP resources.

As described in the national program priorities below, GAP supports Tribal government efforts to develop core environmental program capacities, such as administrative, financial management, information management, environmental baseline needs assessment, public education/communication, legal, technical/analytical, and capacity needed to implement and/or meaningfully participate in federal environmental protection programs. Learn more about GAP on the EPA website at <https://www.epa.gov/general-assistance-program-gap>.

The national program priorities for GAP underscore GAP's role in fostering partnerships between EPA and federally recognized Indian Tribes. The national program priorities for the administration of GAP are to:

1. Ensure Tribal governments have the opportunity to build the capacity to:
  - a. Implement federal environmental programs through EPA delegations, authorizations, and approvals, where applicable; and
  - b. Meaningfully participate in environmental protection activities that inform, support, or enhance direct implementation under federal environmental statutes administered by EPA.
2. Promote Tribal self-governance by working closely with Tribes to:
  - a. Accomplish Tribal environmental program goals in EPA-Tribal Environmental Plans (ETEPs) that reflect federal environmental program areas of need to protect human health and the environment;
  - b. Support Tribes' development of strong core environmental program capacities for media-specific programs administered by EPA; and
  - c. Foster Tribes' capacity to assume the authority to implement programs administered by EPA.
3. Promote intergovernmental collaboration and partnership among EPA, Tribes, states, and others, and focus GAP financial and technical assistance to protect human health and the environment.
4. Support implementation of established solid and hazardous waste regulatory programs in accordance with the purposes and requirements of applicable provisions of law, including the Solid Waste Disposal Act (commonly known as the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act).
5. Maintain strong national program management practices to produce compelling results that align with EPA's statutory authorities.

Applicants are required to describe how funding will help EPA achieve outputs and outcomes in their responses to the criteria in Section 6. Outputs and outcomes specific to each project will be identified as deliverables in the negotiated workplan if the application is selected for award. Recipients will be expected to report progress toward the attainment of expected project outputs and outcomes during the project performance period. Outputs and outcomes are defined as follows:

Outputs are an environmental activity, effort, and/or associated work product related to an environmental goal or objective that will be produced or provided over time or by a specified date. Outputs may be quantitative or qualitative but must be measurable during the project period. Examples of outputs are:

- Conduct water sampling at a specific location.
- Complete a baseline needs assessment.
- Develop an Integrated Solid Waste Management Plan.
- Finalize the hazard mitigation plan.

Outcomes are the result, effect, or consequence that will occur from carrying out the activities under the grant. Outcomes may be environmental, behavioral, health-related, or programmatic; must be qualitative or quantitative; and may not necessarily be achievable during the project period. Examples of outcomes are:

- Increase the awareness of the Tribal community of the need to reduce open dumping (illegal disposal of waste).
- Increase the recycling rate for the Tribe's recycling program from 5% of the waste stream to 25% within 10 years.
- Develop a water quality program to submit to EPA for programmatic delegation.
- Reduce energy usage and waste at Tribal facilities over 5 years by developing plans and procedures for the Tribe to implement.

## **B. Program Goals and Objectives**

The activities to be funded under this funding announcement support FY 2022-2026 EPA Strategic Plan. Awards made under this funding opportunity will support Goal 2, Objective 2.1 of the Strategic Plan. All applications must be for projects that support the goals and objectives identified above.

Since GAP funding enables Tribes and intertribal consortia to plan, develop, and establish the capability to implement programs administered by the Environmental Protection Agency and specified in the assistance agreement as well as the development and implementation of solid and hazardous waste programs for Indian lands, other Goals and Objectives from the FY 2022-2026 EPA Strategic Plan could be included.

## **C. Statutory Authority**

**The following statutes, guidance, policies, and plans govern EPA's administration of GAP grants:**

Indian Environmental General Assistance Program Act of 1992 (See <https://www.govinfo.gov/content/pkg/USCODE-2020-title42/html/USCODE-2020-title42-chap55-subchapIII-sec4368b.htm>).

Indian Environmental General Assistance Program (GAP) Guidance on Financial Assistance Agreements (September 2022) (See <https://www.epa.gov/system/files/documents/2022-09/2022%20GAP%20Guidance.pdf>).

GAP Capacity Indicators (See <https://www.epa.gov/tribal/gap-capacity-indicators>).

GAP Technical Assistance Handbook (See <https://www.epa.gov/tribal/gap-technical-assistance-handbook>).

Solid Waste Disposal Act, commonly known as the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act Federal Regulations (See <https://www.epa.gov/laws-regulations/summary-resource-conservation-and-recovery-act>).

2 CFR Part 200 (See [https://www.ecfr.gov/cgi-bin/text-idx?tpl=/ecfrbrowse/Title02/2cfr200\\_main\\_02.tpl](https://www.ecfr.gov/cgi-bin/text-idx?tpl=/ecfrbrowse/Title02/2cfr200_main_02.tpl)).

2 CFR Part 1500 (See <https://www.ecfr.gov/cgi-bin/text-idx?SID=eacc0994182ec23301ae9335e0015f93&mc=true&node=pt2.1.1500&rgn=div5>).

40 CFR Part 35, Subpart B (See <https://www.ecfr.gov/current/title-40/chapter-I/subchapter-B/part-35/subpart-B> ).

OITA's FY23 – FY24 National Program Guidance (August 2022) (See <https://www.epa.gov/system/files/documents/2022-08/fy-2023-2024-oita-npg.pdf> ).

EPA Policy for the Administration of Environmental Programs on Indian Reservations (1984) (See <https://www.epa.gov/sites/default/files/2015-04/documents/indian-policy-84.pdf>).

EPA's FY22 – FY26 Strategic Plan (See <https://www.epa.gov/planandbudget/strategicplan#%3A~%3Atext%3DFY%202022%20%E2%80%93%20FY%202026%20EPA%20Strategic%20Plan%26text%3DThis%20Strategic%20Plan%20deepens%20EPA%27s%20Historically%20overburdened%20and%20underserved%20communities>).

## D. Funding Type

It is anticipated that successful applicants will receive assistance in the form of either a Grant Agreement or a Cooperative Agreement.

Cooperative agreements provide for substantial involvement between the EPA Project Officer and the selected applicant(s) in the performance of the work supported. Although the EPA will negotiate precise terms and conditions relating to substantial involvement as part of the award process, the anticipated substantial federal involvement for these projects may include:

- close monitoring of the successful applicant's performance to verify the results proposed by the applicant;
- collaboration during performance of the scope of work;
- in accordance with [2 CFR 200.317](#) and [2 CFR 200.318](#), review of proposed procurement;
- approving qualifications of key personnel; and
- review and comment on reports prepared under the cooperative agreement.

The EPA does not have the authority to select employees or contractors employed by the recipient. The final decision on the content of reports rests with the recipient.

## E. Requirements for Increasing Access to Results of EPA-Funded Extramural Scientific Research

Not applicable.

# 4. Application Contents and Format

## A. Application Forms

The following forms and documents are required under this announcement:

1. Work Plan
2. Application for Federal Assistance (SF-424)

3. Budget Information for Non-Construction Programs (SF-424A)
4. Certification Regarding Lobbying (EPA Form 6600-06) - **When the cumulative grant award is greater than \$100,000.**
5. EPA Key Contacts Form 5700-54
6. EPA Form 4700-4 Preaward Compliance Review Report
7. If the applicant's budget includes indirect costs, a copy of the Approved Indirect Cost Rate Agreement, or the latest proposal (whichever document is most recent)
8. Project Narrative (Staffing plan)
9. Detailed Budget

## Work Plan

An approvable work plan must specify:

- o The work plan components to be funded under the grant.
- o The estimated work years (i.e., FTE) and estimated funding amounts for each work plan component.
- o The work plan commitments for each work plan component, and a time frame for their completion.
- o A performance evaluation process and reporting schedule.
- o The roles and responsibilities of the applicant and EPA in carrying out the work plan commitments (i.e., explain who will do what).

In addition, the work plan must include:

- o A description of proposed eligible GAP activities and how they support the GAP national priorities identified in the 2022 GAP Guidance.
- o The expected outcomes and environmental results associated with each work plan component.
- o The expected outputs/deliverables that will be submitted to EPA for each commitment.
- o For each component, a reference to the corresponding Tribal priority (or priorities) in the ETEP, or if new, the applicant's plan to develop an ETEP (See Section 9 of this NOFA for more information on ETEPs).
- o A separate component for solid/hazardous waste service delivery activities (GAP Guidance Section 2.1.1 (2)).

## B. Applicants Using Contractors

Applicants must compete contracts for services and products, including consultant contracts, and conduct cost and price analyses, to the extent required by the procurement provisions of the regulations at 2 CFR Part 200.

For additional guidance, applicants should review [EPA's Best Practice Guide for Procuring Services, Supplies, and Equipment Under EPA Assistance Agreements](#), [EPA's Subaward Policy](#), and [EPA's Subaward Policy Frequent Questions](#).

## C. Release Copies of Applications

Copies of applications submitted under this NOFA will not be made publicly available.

## D. Coalition Coverage

See Section 2.A for intertribal consortia. This is the only type of coalition eligible to apply for this NOFA.

## E. Other Program Specific Application Information

### Budget

The budget must include sufficient detail for EPA to understand the applicant's planned expenditures, and all items in the budget must be reflected in the work plan.

#### Submitted budgets should:

- Include all applicable costs, which may include personnel, fringe, travel, equipment, supplies, contracts, consultants, other, and indirect costs.
- Include detailed cost estimates for equipment, supplies, contracts, and other.
- If the Tribe or intertribal consortium receives income from activities conducted through the grant, such as recycling, include an estimate of the income anticipated for the year (program income).

Regional Offices may not approve Tribal grants where it is anticipated that drawdown of a substantial portion of federal funds will be delayed until the end of the project period (e.g., Tribe plans to order a water monitoring piece of equipment that has a 10-month lead time before delivery) without the approval of the American Indian Environmental Office (AIEO). Before approving any such grant, AIEO will confer with the Office of Grants and Debarment and the Office of the Chief Financial Officer in a timely manner.

### Service Delivery Activities

Recipients may use GAP funding to provide waste service delivery activities, such as the collection, transportation, backhaul, and disposal of solid waste and/or recovered resources. Tribes seeking GAP funding for these activities should include a work plan commitment to report on:

1. the amount of waste collected, transported, backhauled, and disposed;
2. the type of materials serviced;
3. where the serviced materials originated; and
4. the final disposition of the waste materials.

For more information about waste and recovered materials classifications, see:

<https://www.epa.gov/smm/advancing-sustainable-materials-management-facts-and-figures>.

EPA provided the Supplemental Guidance on Providing Waste Data in GAP Progress Reports (see <https://www.epa.gov/general-assistance-program-gap/supplemental-guidance-providing-waste-data-gap-progress-reports>) to Project Officers in April 2024 to distribute to Tribes in their Region.

### GAP Supplemental Projects

Tribes are encouraged to submit project proposals for GAP Supplemental Projects as part of their regular GAP application. This way, if there are extra funds available, a Region will not have to request additional projects from the Tribes.

GAP Supplemental Project proposals are discreet projects and/or tasks that can be completed in addition to the GAP grant work plan described above, but similarly consist of a detailed budget and a work plan

with components/commitments that could be completed with additional funding. GAP Supplemental Projects may be funded after all the Region's initial GAP applications have been approved if additional funds are available. The scope of work for the Supplemental Projects should be appropriate for the amount of funding requested. Be aware that supplemental projects may not be funded, or a portion(s) may be approved for award at a reduced amount. Applicants may submit more than one Supplemental Project proposals. If multiple supplemental proposals are submitted, identify the order in which you would like them considered for funding.

### **Regional Supplemental Guidance**

Regions may provide supplemental application guidance; see additional information regarding supplemental proposals below in Section 7. Contact information for each Regional Tribal Program Manager is on the EPA website, <https://www.epa.gov/tribal/epa-tribal-program-managers>.

### **Additional Requirements**

All applicants must also have:

- Active/updated UEI (Unique Entity Identifier), SAM.gov, Login.gov, and Grants.gov registrations;
- A single or program-specific audit in compliance with 2 CFR §200 if the applicant spends \$1,000,000 or more in federal funds annually; and
- Included all information requested in this NOFA in the proposal.

## **5. Submission Requirements and Deadlines**

When submitting a new application (for the first year of the grant period), the full grant application must be received by electronic submission through Grants.gov by the date for your Region shown in the Application Submittal Schedule (See Table 1 above on page 2). When submitting a supplemental application (that is, for any year other than the first), the application may be submitted via Grants.gov (add the grant number in the previous grant number section), or you can email the application to your EPA Project Officer. GAP applications submitted after the Region's identified due date may not be considered for GAP funding (see Table 1). Refer to Regional guidance for requesting an extension or late submittals.

### **A. Submission Dates and Times**

See Section 1. C., Table 1- Application Submittal Schedule, above, for the specific dates for your Region. If there is a need to resubmit your application, check with your Project Officer for the best method.

### **B. Unique Entity Identifier (UEI) and System for Award Management (SAM.gov)**

#### **SAM.gov**

You must have an active account with SAM.gov. SAM.gov will provide a UEI for your organization, which is required to apply for grants using Grants.gov. To register, go to [SAM.gov Entity Registration](#) and click Get Started. From the same page, you can also click on the [Entity Registration Checklist](#) for the

information you will need to register. Make sure you are current with SAM.gov and UEI requirements before applying for the award.

SAM.gov registration can take several weeks. [Begin that process today.](#)

## Grants.gov

You must also have an active account with [Grants.gov](#). You can see step-by-step instructions at the Grants.gov [Quick Start Guide for Applicants](#).

Visit [How to Register to Apply for Grants](#) for additional information.

## Login.gov

You must also have an active account with [Login.gov](#). You can see step-by-step instructions at the Login.gov at <https://login.gov/help/get-started/overview>.

## C. Submission Instructions

Applicants applying for the first year of the grant cycle submit their GAP application through Grants.gov. For years 2, 3, and 4 (or 5 in the case of a PPG) applicants are to contact their Project Officer for direction in submitting these application packages. See Section 5.B. above for information on getting registered.

Important tips:

- To begin the application process under this grant announcement, go to Grants.gov and click the red “Apply” button at the top of the view grant opportunity page associated with this opportunity.
- See the Quick Start Guide for Applicants for instructions on how to submit.
- Make sure your application passes the Grants.gov validation checks.
- Do not encrypt, zip, or password protect any files.
- Your application must be submitted by an official representative of your organization who is registered with Grants.gov and is authorized to sign applications for federal financial assistance.
- If you receive an error or the button is grayed out, it may be because you do not have the appropriate role to submit in your organization. Contact Grants.gov for assistance at 1-800-518-4726 or [support@grants.gov](mailto:support@grants.gov).
- See Grants.gov Errors for information on other Grants.gov errors.
- The UEI listed on the application must be registered to the applicant organization's SAM.gov account. If not, the application may be deemed ineligible.

## D. Technical Issues with Submission

If applicants experience technical issues with Grants.gov, follow these procedures **before** the application deadline date:

- Contact the Grants.gov Support Center before the application deadline date.
- Document the Grants.gov ticket/case number.
- Send an email with “FY25 GAP Application” in the subject line to the Regional Tribal Program Manager listed in Section 1.E. or your EPA Project Officer before the application deadline and include the following:
  - Grants.gov ticket/case number(s)
  - Description of the issue

- The entire application package in PDF format.

Without this information, the EPA may not be able to consider applications submitted outside of Grants.gov.

## E. Intergovernmental Review

The application is not subject to Intergovernmental Review.

# 6. Application Review Information

## A. Responsiveness Review

Not applicable.

## B. Review Criteria

Applicants will be evaluated based on the extent to which they demonstrate that they have the capabilities, staff, resources, and equipment to successfully perform the project as described in [Section 3](#) of this funding opportunity.

Each Region should refer to Section 4.2 of the 2022 GAP Guidance when negotiating work plans and determining final award amounts, and should further consider:

- the amount of GAP funding the Region receives;
- the number of Tribes and intertribal consortia submitting applications;
- whether the application was received on time;
- the applicant's level of unexpended GAP funds;
  - *Current grant recipients must be making regular drawdowns per the terms and conditions of the grant agreement and not have a high balance of unexpended funds.*
- whether the work plan includes all the required elements, including components and commitments, long-term and intermediate outcomes, and outputs and deliverables;
- whether proposed activities are allowable and costs reasonable to achieve the project goals;
- whether proposed activities help the applicant to achieve priorities identified in the relevant ETEP(s);
  - *If the Tribe or intertribal consortium (where applicable) does not have a current ETEP, the work plan should include a commitment to complete one.*
- whether proposed activities meet the review factors, including past performance;
  - *Current grant recipients must be making satisfactory progress (meeting project goals and completing work plan commitments in a timely manner, and overseeing finances) and, if not, have a corrective action plan in place*
- whether the applicant is current on all reporting requirements.
  - *Current grant recipients must be up to date with all reporting requirements (progress reporting, closeout requirements for prior GAP grants, and annual Federal Financial Reports)*



Current grant recipients must also ensure that the proposed work plan is not identical to previous work plans and have a demonstrated history of being responsive to EPA requests for information and modifications.

### **Timely Expenditure of Grant Funds**

Under this criterion, applicants will be evaluated based on their approach, procedures, and controls for ensuring that awarded grant funds will be expended in a timely and efficient manner.

Grantees that have a high balance of unspent GAP funding (referred to as unliquidated obligations {ULO}), either currently or with a history of high ULOs, will be evaluated by the EPA Project Officer to determine whether a no-cost extension or reduced award may be most appropriate. Learn more about EPA's ULO policy at <https://www.epa.gov/sites/default/files/2020-11/documents/gpi-11-01-managing-unliquidated-obligations.pdf>.

### **Evaluation of the Scientific Data Management Plan**

Not applicable.

## **C. Review and Selection Process**

See Section 6 B, above.

### **Other Evaluation Factors**

None.

## **D. Risk Review**

# **7. Award Notices**

The EPA anticipates notification to applicants will be made no later than September 30, 2025. The notification will be sent to the original signer of the application or the project contact listed in the application. This notification is not an authorization to begin work. The official notification of an award will be made by the Regional Grants Office. Statutory authorization, funding, or other issues during the award process may affect the ability of the EPA to make an award. The award notice, signed by an EPA grants officer, is the authorizing document and will be provided through electronic or postal mail. The applicant may need to prepare and submit additional documents and forms, which must be approved by the EPA, before the grant can officially be awarded.

Recipients must demonstrate their commitment to carry out an award by either: 1) beginning to draw down funds within 21 days after the EPA award or amendment mailing date; or 2) not filing a notice of disagreement with the award terms and conditions within 21 days after the EPA award mailing date.

### **Administrative And National Policy Requirements**

Regulations governing the award and the administration of environmental programs for Tribes and intertribal consortium can be found in Title 40 of the Code of Federal Regulations (CFR), Part 35, Subpart B (40 CFR §35.500-35.518 – see <https://www.ecfr.gov/current/title-40/chapter-I/subchapter-B/part-35/subpart-B>) and 2 CFR §200 (See <https://www.ecfr.gov/current/title-2/subtitle-A/chapter-II/part-200>) and 1500 (See <https://www.ecfr.gov/current/title-2/subtitle-B/chapter-XV/part-1500>).

## 8. Post-Award Requirements and Administration

### A. Administrative and National Policy Requirements

The recipient and any sub-recipient must comply with the applicable [General Terms and Conditions](#). These terms and conditions are in addition to the assurances and certifications made as part of the award, terms and conditions, and restrictions reflected on the official assistance award document.

Awards issued as a result of this funding opportunity are subject to the requirements of the Uniform Administrative Requirements, Cost Principles and Audit Requirements for Federal Awards; Title [2 CFR Part 200](#) and [2 CFR Part 1500](#).

### B. Reporting

[EPA's General Terms and Conditions](#) in the Notice of Award will have information on performance and financial reports, including:

- How often you will report.
- Any required form or formatting.
- How to submit them.

### C. FFATA and FSRS Reporting

The [Federal Financial Accountability and Transparency Act](#) (FFATA) requires:

- Data entry at the FFATA Subaward Reporting System (FSRS) for all subawards and subcontracts you issue for \$30,000 or more.
- Reporting executive compensation for both recipient and subaward organizations.

## 9. Other Information

### A. Additional Provisions for Applicants

Additional provisions that apply this funding opportunity and/or awards made under this funding opportunity are included below.

#### ETEPs

In accordance with the GAP Guidance, EPA will work with each Tribe to develop and implement an ETEP, which sets the stage for stronger environmental and human health protection in Tribal communities. Click here for the [ETEP Fact Sheet \(see https://www.epa.gov/system/files/documents/2023-04/ETEP\\_Fact\\_Sheet\\_20APR23.pdf\)](https://www.epa.gov/system/files/documents/2023-04/ETEP_Fact_Sheet_20APR23.pdf).

Tribes and EPA should jointly review the ETEP annually, or at a minimum every five years, and update it as needed. Tribes may include activities to update their ETEP in their work plan proposals.

If an applicant has received a GAP grant in the last year but has not completed an ETEP, EPA may award new, incremental, or supplemental funding only for work plan activities related to finalizing the ETEP. For any Tribe seeking GAP funding that does not have an ETEP, including first time applications, the applicant should include developing an ETEP as a work plan commitment.

When updating ETEPs, EPA should list EPA-regulated entities and identify any related planned direct implementation activities. These activities are guides to illustrate the programs a Tribe may develop capacity to administer through program delegation, authorization, or approval. Steps to develop program capacity in these areas can be included in GAP work plans. EPA recommends that the Tribe work with their EPA Project Officer and program office staff to identify program development tasks and program approval processes. Tribes are encouraged to review the list of EPA-regulated entities to ensure it is accurate. Tribes may also identify regulated entities that are not within Indian country but that may impact the Tribe's environment.

For GAP awards made on or after October 1, 2022, capacity indicators should be incorporated into renewing ETEPs. Previously, applicants selected a capacity indicator for each work plan component; this is no longer required. Capacity indicators are measurable conditions that demonstrate environmental program capacity achieved with GAP funding; they are not the same as a list of eligible activities. The current list of GAP Capacity Indicators is available on EPA's website at [GAP Capacity Indicators](https://www.epa.gov/tribal/gap-capacity-indicators) (See <https://www.epa.gov/tribal/gap-capacity-indicators>). See Section 2.3 of the 2022 GAP Guidance for more information.

Tribal governments may choose not to receive GAP funds directly but instead request a consortium to receive funding to conduct environmental activities for their benefit. In this case, the recipient consortium, with input and agreement from the Tribe, will submit an ETEP to the Region outlining the long-term goals and activities they will conduct for the benefit of the Tribe. Refer to Section 3.5.1 of the GAP Guidance for further details.

## Indirect Costs

Indirect costs (IDCs) may be budgeted and charged by recipients of Federal assistance agreements in accordance with 2 CFR Part 200. EPA's Indirect Cost Policy for Recipients of EPA Assistance Agreements (IDC Policy) implements the 2 CFR Part 200, guidance, and the following applies to all EPA assistance agreements, unless there are statutory or regulatory limits on IDCs. For an assistance agreement recipient to use EPA funding for indirect costs, the IDC category of the recipient's assistance agreement award budget must include an amount for IDCs and at least one of the following must apply:

- Applicants that wish to use an IDC rate must have one of the following current (not expired) IDC rates:
  - Provisional
  - Final
  - Fixed rate with carry-forward
  - Predetermined
  - *De minimis*: Tribes may request up to a 15% *de minimis* rate from EPA on modified total direct costs authorized by 2 CFR 200.414(f).

IDCs incurred during any period of the assistance agreement that are not covered by the provisions above are not allowable costs and must not be drawn down by the recipient. Recipients may budget for IDCs while awaiting approval of their IDC rate by their cognizant Federal agency. However, recipients may not draw down IDCs until their rate is approved.

The IDC Policy does not govern indirect rates for subrecipients or recipient procurement contractors under EPA assistance agreements. Pass-through entities are required to comply with 2 CFR 200.332(b)(4)(i) and (ii) when establishing indirect cost rates for subawards.

See the Indirect Cost Guidance for Recipients of EPA Assistance Agreements for additional information at <https://www.epa.gov/grants/rain-2018-g02-r2>.

### **Build America, Buy America**

This is a requirement under the Build America, Buy America Act. If proposals include the use of funds for an infrastructure construction project located in the United States or for the purchase of a vehicle that will support the infrastructure project, all iron, steel, manufactured goods, and construction materials must be domestically made. This provision only applies to a construction project/vehicle purchase that is included in a financial assistance agreement greater than or equal to \$250,000, cumulative of all funding actions for the award. Applicants should direct questions about this requirement to the EPA Contact listed for this funding opportunity. For more information on Build America provisions and requirement, including how to request a waiver, visit EPA's Build America, Buy America website at <https://www.epa.gov/cwsrf/build-america-buy-america-baba>.