



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

OFFICE OF WATER

May 31, 2023

MEMORANDUM

SUBJECT: Bipartisan Infrastructure Law: Gulf Hypoxia Program FY 23 Implementation
Memorandum for Sub-Basin Committee and Land Grant University Consortium
Cooperative Agreements

FROM: Radhika Fox
Assistant Administrator

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "R. Fox", is written over the name and title of the sender.

TO: Kirsten Wallace, Upper Mississippi River Basin Association
Richard Harrison, ORSANCO
Jenny Seifert, University of Wisconsin (Land Grant University Consortium)

1. Introduction

On November 15, 2021, President Biden signed the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL, P.L. 117-58), also known as the “Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act of 2021” (IIJA). The law’s transformational investment in clean water includes more than \$50 billion for water infrastructure and water resource protection to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), the single largest investment in water infrastructure the federal government has ever made.

Through the BIL, EPA will invest in strategies to improve water quality in the Mississippi River/Atchafalaya River Basin (MARB) and reduce the low oxygen (hypoxic), or “dead,” zone in the northern Gulf of Mexico (Gulf), which is one of the largest hypoxic zones in the world. Specifically, the BIL includes \$12 million per year for five years (\$60 million in total) for actions to support the Mississippi River/Gulf of Mexico Watershed Nutrient Task Force’s (Hypoxia Task Force or HTF) Gulf Hypoxia Action Plan (Action Plan) through a new Gulf Hypoxia Program (GHP). EPA will provide 10 percent of GHP funds to eligible Tribes and Nations¹ within the MARB part of the HTF states, for a total of \$6 million over the five-year period.²

The HTF is composed of 5 federal agencies,³ 12 states⁴ bordering the Mississippi and Ohio rivers, and a representative from the National Tribal Water Council. EPA and the State of Iowa serve as Co-Chairs of the HTF. Three multi-state Sub-Basin Committees (SBCs) and a Land Grant University consortium

¹ For the purposes of this memorandum, Tribe is used as a collective term encompassing Tribes, Nations, Pueblos, and other entities.

² See Section 2 of this guidance for details on eligibility and funding amounts.

³ National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, U.S. Department of Agriculture, U.S. Department of Interior, and U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

⁴ Arkansas, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kentucky, Louisiana, Minnesota, Mississippi, Missouri, Ohio, Tennessee, and Wisconsin.

(LGU) are key member partners (hereafter partners). While EPA has long supported the HTF, with general support for state and tribal water quality programs and small, intermittent grants, the BIL provides for dedicated, sustained funding for implementing the Action Plan.

Through this BIL investment, EPA will build on its partnership with HTF members (the states, tribes, SBCs, and the LGU) to make significant progress toward reducing nutrient loads that will improve water quality in the Gulf and throughout the MARB. Through improved water quality, communities across the MARB can benefit from safer drinking water, protected fisheries, and a more stable economy.

This memorandum is a supplement to EPA’s June 9, 2022 memorandum, [*Bipartisan Infrastructure Law: Gulf Hypoxia Program FY 22 Guidance for State Cooperative Agreements*](#) (state implementation memo) and will support the award of cooperative agreements⁵ to as many as four entities with FY 23, FY 24, and FY 25 BIL appropriations. Section 2 of the state implementation memo provides information on the history of the HTF and the Action Plan while Section 3 presents an overview of key GHP priorities. Consistent with EPA’s implementation of the BIL funding across various programs, this memorandum also builds on key agency priorities discussed in Section 4 of the state implementation memo, which include ensuring that program benefits are realized by disadvantaged communities, advancing water quality actions that provide climate co-benefits, fully enforcing civil rights, supporting the American worker, and supporting domestic manufacturing.

This memorandum is organized in the following manner:

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⁵ GHP cooperative agreements are awarded under Federal Assistance Listing 66.487.

2. BIL GHP Partner Eligibility

BIL funding is to be used to support implementation of the Action Plan and must be spent within the MARB part of the HTF states.

Sub-Basin Committees

Two Sub-Basin Committees have been identified by the states as representative organizations: ORSANCO in the Ohio Basin, and the Upper Mississippi River Basin Association in the Upper Mississippi Basin. These organizations are HTF Coordinating Committee members as established through the 2001 Action Plan. The Action Plan notes:

The States established Sub-Basin Committees for the Upper Mississippi Basin, the Ohio Basin, and the Lower Mississippi Basin. These committees have worked to coordinate actions in the Sub-Basin states. The Sub-Basin Committees have opened the discussion to include many stakeholders not represented on the Task Force, including additional Basin states, state agencies, and interested parties and organizations. (Action 2 of 2001 Action Plan)

Actions one, two, three, and six of the Action Plan call for Sub-Basin Committees to help HTF members do the following:

- 1. Complete and implement comprehensive nitrogen and phosphorus reduction strategies for states within the Mississippi/Atchafalaya River Basin encompassing watersheds with significant contributions of nitrogen and phosphorus to the surface waters of the Mississippi/ Atchafalaya River Basin, and ultimately to the Gulf of Mexico.*
- 2. Complete and implement comprehensive nitrogen and phosphorus reduction strategies for appropriate basin-wide programs and projects. Target first those programs and projects with significant federal lead or co-implementation responsibilities.*
- 3. While developing comprehensive state and federal nitrogen and phosphorus reduction strategies and continuing current reduction efforts, examine and, where possible, implement opportunities to enhance protection of the Gulf and local water quality through existing federal and state water quality, water management, and conservation programs.*
- 6. Coordinate, consolidate, and improve access to data collected by State and Federal agencies on Gulf Hypoxia and Mississippi/Atchafalaya River Basin program activities and results.*

As of the issuance of this memorandum, there currently is not a Sub-Basin Committee in the Lower Mississippi Basin that is eligible for federal funding. In 2022, EPA consulted with the five HTF member Lower Mississippi Basin states to confirm that there is a need for an organization representing these states that can receive a GHP grant as the HTF member. The states are in discussions to form a representative organization. If a representative organization is established by the end of FY 24, EPA will make a grant award to the representative organization.

Each eligible SBC will receive a total of \$400,000 by FY 25.

Land Grant University Consortium

In 2019, the LGU and the HTF renewed a 2014 MOU “to strengthen cooperation among the parties to fulfill the commitments of the [Action Plan], especially Actions 1 and 2 related to the development and implementation of federal and state nutrient reduction strategies. ...

“This MOU provides a framework for greater collaboration at various levels among Mississippi/Ohio River Basin states tasked with developing a nutrient reduction strategy for their state with their LGU that has research and extension education capacity to address agriculture’s contribution to excessive nutrient loadings. The framework includes the following elements:

1. Formation and maintenance of a network of LGUs among the twelve HTF states that focuses on the development and implementation of nutrient reduction strategies and for the activities of the HTF.
2. Organization and engagement of appropriate LGU faculty to work with its HTF member agency within each state.
3. Outreach and education to the agricultural community at the state and national levels.”

Under item one of this framework, the LGU established SERA-46, a formal United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA) LGU committee that promotes multi-state research and extension activities. SERA-46 brings together researchers and extension specialists who share common interests and expertise related to the environmental, social, and economic factors that contribute to nutrient loss from agricultural lands, state-level nutrient impairments, and hypoxia in the Gulf of Mexico.

A cooperative agreement will be awarded to the University of Wisconsin, incrementally funded up to \$600,000, to support the LGU HTF activities during FY 23-25.

3. BIL GHP Requirements

Workplan. BIL GHP partner workplans are the primary vehicles for documenting activities undertaken with BIL GHP funds. The workplans will provide transparency and communicate the intended outputs and outcomes of BIL GHP funded actions on advancing the Action Plan. Additionally, partners should consider how their projects assist HTF members in anticipating and prepare for climate-related impacts and disasters (e.g., droughts, floods, sea level rise, and storm surge, changing salinity, extreme heat, wildfires) and identify water quality actions that can also yield climate adaptation or mitigation co-benefits (e.g., nature-based solutions for natural hazard mitigation). See Section 4 for details on workplan components.

Tracking of funds. BIL GHP funds must be awarded and tracked separately from other Environmental Program Management (EPM) funds, such as those from the Gulf of Mexico Division Farmer to Farmer grants program, EPA Headquarters (HQ) nonpoint source training support, or Wetlands Program grants. Partners may use BIL GHP cooperative agreement funds to provide sub-awards or contracts, but the funds must be tracked separately from other EPA STAG or EPM funds, either through a separate task or a phased approach. EPA will provide further guidance on these reporting processes and requirements well before grantees are asked to report. The earliest grantees will need to report will be one year after funds are awarded.

Match. There are no match requirements in the BIL applicable to the GHP funds; recipients must justify any sub-award match requirements.

Cooperative agreements. EPA will award up to four cooperative agreements, which will allow for close collaboration between EPA and each Sub-Basin Committee and LGU. This collaboration will lead to workplans based on the highest-impact actions to advance Action Plan goals.

Cooperative agreement timelines are to be no more than five years. Cooperative agreements may be funded incrementally over three years, but partners may plan for a cooperative agreement that extends up to five years. The estimated project period for cooperative agreements will begin in the fourth quarter of 2023, with work expected to be completed by the end of the fifth year following cooperative agreement award.

Non-competitive awards. EPA will make awards on a non-competitive basis, which will allow for close collaboration between EPA and partners to advance the Action Plan goals.

Authority. Funding for this program is provided by the BIL. EPA will utilize CWA Section 104(b)(3) to award partner cooperative agreements. Section 104(b)(3) permits EPA to make grants and cooperative agreements to “conduct and promote the coordination and acceleration of, research, investigations, experiments, training, demonstrations, surveys, and studies relating to the causes, effects, extent, prevention, reduction, and elimination of pollution.”⁶ Appropriations are provided for annual funding for FY 23-25.

Project areas. The BIL authorizes funds to be used to support implementation of the Action Plan; therefore, project funding must be expended to benefit the MARB⁷ part of the 12 HTF member states. *BIL GHP-funded partner staff must support Action Plan implementation.* These BIL GHP-funded staff can also work on projects in other geographic areas, provided other funds are used to support their work in areas outside of the MARB part of the 12 HTF states. Partners should note the percentage of staff time in the budget worksheet (Appendix 1, Documents 2 and 5) that will be used to support GHP activities.

4. BIL GHP Eligible Activities for Partner Workplans

Partner workplan activities should support the HTF Action Plan.⁸ Refer to Appendix 1 for required workplan content. Workplans must reflect the strategic outcomes described in this section in addition to any further outcomes that are most suitable and beneficial to HTF members. EPA will evaluate other potentially eligible activities on a case-by-case basis when reviewing workplans.

SBCs

The SBCs have played an important convening role to the overall MARB effort since the start of the HTF and play a key cross-boundary role in large river monitoring, regional trend analyses, and regional coordination and convenings.

EPA will support each of the SBCs with up to a five-year workplan period that includes the following strategic outcomes to advance multi-state collaboration in the MARB that will help to achieve the goals of the Action Plan:

⁶ CWA 104(b)(3), 33 USC 1254(b)(3).

⁷ The MARB is defined as HUC Codes 05, 06, 07, 08, 10, and 11 (<https://water.usgs.gov/GIS/huc.html>).

⁸ HTF Action Plan and Goal Framework. <https://www.epa.gov/ms-htf/hypoxia-task-force-action-plans-and-goal-framework>.

1. Convene regional, state, and other stakeholders not represented on the Task Force, including additional basin states, basin tribes, agencies, and interested parties and organizations to gather input, facilitate peer-to-peer learning opportunities, and encourage collaboration across boundaries.
2. Help the states engage disadvantaged communities in nutrient reduction planning and activities within their boundaries.
3. Support states in the respective sub-basins as they implement and coordinate comprehensive nutrient reduction strategies across boundaries. For example, where states are looking to adopt programs or practices of other sub-basin states, provide coordination and assistance where possible to ensure data generated across state programs will provide a regional picture of progress.
4. Coordinate, consolidate, and improve access to data and present regional progress towards the Action Plan goals.

LGU

EPA will support the University of Wisconsin with up to a five-year workplan period that includes the following strategic outcomes to advance HTF progress towards the goals of the Action Plan:

1. Document and communicate nutrient reduction progress towards the goal at the basin scale to the public, particularly progress made by agricultural producers to implement conservation practices, including those with climate co-benefits, without federal and state financial assistance, which are often omitted from current practice inventories.
2. Support networks of state, tribal, and sub-basin stakeholders including tribes, disadvantaged communities, farmers, and watershed professionals including state and tribal agency staff in reporting and communicating results to the public.
3. Advance research in support of nutrient reduction strategies, including coordination with HTF federal member research agencies/offices, e.g., USDA's Agricultural Research Service and EPA's Office of Research and Development.

5. BIL GHP Documentation and Reporting

BIL GHP Partner workplans are the primary vehicles for documenting activities undertaken with BIL GHP funds. The workplans will provide transparency and communicate the intended outputs and outcomes of BIL GHP funded actions on advancing the Action Plan. EPA is building a simplified GHP module in the existing NPS Program Grants Reporting and Tracking System (GRTS)⁹ that will house GHP annual reports. Partners will be asked to report how outputs address both equity and climate priorities.

Partners will enter all water quality monitoring data collected using BIL GHP funds into the Water Quality Exchange (WQX). In addition to the required WQX data elements, partners must submit "GHP" as the Project ID; a requirement for all water quality data collected using GHP funds. A standard Project ID across all data collected under GHP is essential to tracking progress and measuring and promoting the program's success. Resources for WQX submissions and WQX training information are available in Appendix 2.

⁹ USEPA Grants Reporting and Tracking System (GRTS). <https://www.epa.gov/nps/grants-reporting-and-tracking-system-grts>.

Partners will enter data directly to GRTS via the GRTS database, however an XML enabled Excel spreadsheet will be made available for offline data entry as well. GRTS training will be available upon request. If a partner opts to submit GRTS data via the Excel spreadsheet, they must submit the file to the appropriate EPA HQ staff to be uploaded to GRTS. The following information will be reported for each partner cooperative agreement in GRTS. The type of data entered for each item is shown in parentheses:

1. Implementation project type (dropdown list)
2. Partner full-time employees funded by GHP cooperative agreements (number)
3. Dollars awarded to sub-recipients, grants, and contracts (amount)
4. Project title (narrative)
5. Project description (overview narrative, objective, and methods)
6. Project schedule (start date and completion date)
7. Waterbody name (text)
8. Waterbody information (waterbody type) (drop-down menu)
9. HUC12 (dropdown)
10. Partner project contact (text)
11. Contact email (text)
12. Description of planning and review of GHP workplan and implementing activities to ensure compliance with Title VI (narrative)
13. Description of actions that provide climate adaptation or mitigation co-benefits (narrative)
14. Public meetings, trainings, or workshops hosted and attended, location, date, and number of HTF member agencies participating (narrative)
15. Appropriation year (text)
16. Project budget (breakdown per federal/GHP/other, in-kind, etc.)
17. Sources of point source and NPS pollution addressed (drop-down menu)*
18. This project will/did result in pollutant load reductions for nitrogen (yes/no); estimate (narrative: load reduction amount, units, method [model name, or direct measure/monitoring data])*
19. This project will/did result in pollutant load reductions for phosphorus (yes/no); estimate (narrative: load reduction amount, units, method)*
20. This project will/did result in pollutant load reductions for sediment (yes/no); estimate (narrative: load reduction amount, units, method)*
21. Description of actions and opportunities provided to ensure disadvantaged communities realize the benefits of the GHP to the greatest extent possible; report the percentage of investments going to disadvantaged communities (%)
22. Conservation practices and systems implemented (acres, feet, etc.); identify the drainage area treated by these practices and systems (acres)*
23. Description of anticipated outputs and outcomes (qualitative and quantitative), referenced by strategic outcome number in Section 4 (narrative for each of 1–4 for SBCs and for each of 1–3 for LGU)
24. Description of additional anticipated outputs and outcomes that support the goals of the Action Plan (narrative)
25. Project progress reports and final reports (narrative)

*Optional field

EPA may include additional reporting requirements. If so, the Project Officer for the cooperative agreement will inform partners in advance of reporting deadlines.

6. BIL GHP Oversight

EPA HQ Office of Water, Office of Wetlands, Oceans, and Watersheds staff will oversee performance of partner GHP-funded assistance agreements. Oversight entails evaluating progress towards completing the outputs identified in approved workplans; providing findings/feedback to each recipient; including findings in the cooperative agreement file; and in cases where deficiencies are noted, developing an action plan to address performance problems. Specifically, HQ will evaluate draft workplan documentation of efforts to advance climate priorities with BIL GHP funds and provide technical assistance, as appropriate, to partners to support meeting the objectives outlined in this implementation memorandum. HQ staff will serve as Project Officers for partner cooperative agreements; HQ staff will review workplans, and EPA Regional staff will be provided an opportunity to review. See Section 3 for details on workplan components. During the cooperative agreement periods of performance, HQ staff will hold regular check in calls with the grantees to monitor progress and provide direct technical support to partners tailored to the specific needs of each entity and their projects. For example, EPA can help identify opportunities for partners to leverage additional federal programs in support of their projects; provide expert technical and policy support in implementing CWA programs; help partners overcome programmatic barriers to progress by engaging other federal agencies; adaptively manage and assess progress toward reaching the Action Plan goals; assist with data compilation and reporting; and promote innovative research at EPA and other agencies in support of partners' needs.

7. EPA Contacts

For more information or for general questions, please reach out to Katie Flahive, flahive.katie@epa.gov, 202-566-1206.

Appendix 1: Content of Application Submission

The cooperative agreement application materials must be submitted through Grants.gov, (<https://www.grants.gov/view-opportunity.html?dpp=1&oppId=344727>) by **11:59pm EDT on July 31, 2023**. See the state guidance¹⁰ for step-by-step instructions on registering at Grants.gov. The application package must include the following application forms and attachments:

- 1. Application for Federal Assistance Standard Form (SF) 424:** The electronic submission of the application must be made by an Authorized Official Representative who is registered with Grants.gov and is authorized to sign applications for Federal assistance. Applicants need to ensure that the Authorized Official Representative who submits the application through Grants.gov and whose Unique Entity Identifier (UEI) is listed on the application is an Authorized Official Representative for the applicant listed on the application. Applicants must ensure that the UEI listed in Block 8.c. is assigned to the applicant organization in Block 8.a.
- 2. SF-424A, Budget Information:** Applicants are to characterize costs for construction contractors as “Construction” and costs for architectural and engineering services as “Contractual.” Costs for in-kind contractor services should be categorized as “Other.”
- 3. EPA Form 4700-4, Pre-Award Compliance Review Report.** Collects information that enables EPA to determine whether applicants are developing projects, programs, and activities on a non-discriminatory basis.
- 4. EPA Key Contacts Form 5700-54:** A minimum of two contacts should be identified. Please be sure the contacts on this form are consistent with the other forms. The Authorized Official Representative on this form must be the signatory on the other forms. If additional pages are needed, attach these additional pages to the electronic application package by using the “Other Attachments Form” in the “Optional Documents” box.
- 5. Project Narrative Attachment Form:** Includes Project Approach, Environmental Results, Milestone Schedule, Detailed Budget Narrative, Quality Assurance. Use this form to submit the **Summary Information Page and Project Workplan** (prepare as described below).

Application Preparation and Submission Instructions (see Grants.gov instructions at the end Appendix 1 in the state guidance):

Documents 1 through 5 listed under Application Materials above should appear in the “Mandatory Documents” box on the Grants.gov Grant Application Package page.

For Documents 1 through 4, click on the appropriate form and then click “Open Form” below the box. The fields that must be completed will be highlighted in yellow. Optional fields and completed fields will be displayed in white. If an invalid response or incomplete information in a field is entered, an error message will display. When finished filling out each form, click “Save.” Return to the electronic Grant Application Package page, click on the completed form, and then click on the box that says, “Move Form to Submission List.” This action will move the document over to the box that says, “Mandatory Completed Documents for Submission.”

¹⁰ USEPA. 2022. *Bipartisan Infrastructure Law: Gulf Hypoxia Program FY 22 Guidance for State Cooperative Agreements*. https://www.epa.gov/system/files/documents/2022-06/BIL%20GHP%20State%20Guidance%20FY%202022%20-%20June2022_Final_signed.pdf.

For Document 5, attach electronic files. Prepare the narrative workplan as described in the box below and save the documents as a PDF file. To attach the workplan to the application package, click on “Project Narrative Attachment Form,” and open the form. Click “Add Mandatory Project Narrative File,” and then attach the PDF file workplan using the browser window that appears. Click “View Mandatory Project Narrative File” to view it. Enter a brief descriptive title of the project in the space beside “Mandatory Project Narrative File Filename.” The filename should be no more than 40 characters long. If there are other attachments to submit to accompany the workplan, click “Add Optional Project Narrative File” and proceed as before. When finished attaching the necessary documents, click “Close Form.” Return to the “Grant Application Package” page, select the “Project Narrative Attachment Form,” and click “Move Form to Submission List.” The form should now appear in the box that says, “Mandatory Completed Documents for Submission.”

Describe each item in sufficient detail for EPA to determine cost-effectiveness, reasonableness and allowability of costs. Cost-effectiveness will consider the organizational overhead (indirect costs), direct costs, and ability to control costs versus anticipated results of services.

Do not include confidential business information in the workplan. Partners should be aware that under 2 CFR 200.315 data produced under an award, and any information provided to EPA, is subject to the Freedom of Information Act.

Template for Document 5 Summary Information Page and Project Workplan

Summary Information Page (Should not exceed two pages)

Project Title: Please limit to 60 characters. EPA reserves the right to change the project title for its administrative convenience.

Organization Information: Include organization name, address, contact person, phone number, and e-mail address. Do not include private information.

Proposed Funding Request. Total dollar amount requested from EPA.

Brief Project Description. Summarize the workplan for implementing the Action Plan in a clear and succinct manner using **plain language** and in 100 words or less. Do not use acronyms. This description may be posted to the EPA Web, published in EPA press releases, and the HTF Newsletter. If applicable, include programmatic links to the partner's programmatic website(s). EPA reserves the right to make unilateral changes to conform to posting requirements.

Environmental Results: Please describe major environmental results anticipated from this project. (Details will be included in the workplan; this is a high-level summary.)

Place of Performance: Ensure the boundary is within the 12 HTF member states and in the MARB. Identify the place of performance, defined as the geographic extent of where work will occur, of the cooperative agreement.

Project Period: Provide anticipated project start date and anticipated project completion date. The estimated project period will begin in Summer 2023.

Project Workplan (No page limit)

Project Approach: Describe the approach and include any maps, charts, and/or figures. Include a sentence briefly stating how the project supports EPA Strategic Plan¹¹ Goal 5: Ensure Clean and Safe Water for All Communities, Objective 5.2: Protect and Restore Waterbodies and Watersheds.

Workplans should reflect one or more of the required strategic outcomes described in Section 3 and any further outcomes that are most suitable and beneficial to the partner.

Include information about how the partner will manage and monitor subawards for successful completion of projects, and ensure subawardees comply with quality assurance, financial, and reporting requirements.

Include proposed public meeting dates, locations, and outreach strategies.

Partners should identify and prioritize eligible activities in their FY 23 GHP workplans that will advance climate and HTF goals. Partners should ensure that the development and implementation of their strategies and projects proposed for the GHP cooperative agreements are in compliance with the requirements of Title VI.

Include budget resources necessary for completing a Quality Management Plan (QMP) or Quality Assurance Project Plan (QAPP), if applicable, sharing project information broadly, and reporting progress.

Environmental Results: Include the following:

- Describe anticipated outputs and outcomes for strategic outcomes 1–4 defined in Section 4 of this memorandum (qualitative and quantitative, include social indicator(s)).
- Describe the anticipated products/results expected to be achieved from accomplishing the project.
- Describe how the partner will qualitatively and quantitatively measure and track the environmental results and pollutant load reductions (nitrogen, phosphorus, and co-benefits) from subaward projects and report those results (outputs and outcomes) to EPA.

Milestone Schedule: Provide a milestone schedule that covers each year of the total project period requested (up to five years for the cooperative agreement) and provide a breakout of the project activities into phases with associated tasks and a timeframe for completion of tasks. The milestone schedule should show timeframes and major milestones to complete significant project tasks. Include an approach to ensure that (1) any subawards are completed in sufficient time to allow the partner to aggregate results and lessons learned and to ensure subawardees have been reimbursed for eligible incurred costs and (2) awarded funds will be expended in a timely and efficient manner. The schedule must include a detailed table.

¹¹ USEPA. 2022. *FY 2022-2026 EPA Strategic Plan*. <https://www.epa.gov/system/files/documents/2022-03/fy-2022-2026-epa-strategic-plan.pdf>.

Transferability of Results and Dissemination to Public: Describe the plan to transfer results to similar projects and disseminate to the public, including the following:

- Gather and share information and lessons learned from the project(s) to include a written summary to be shared with the public at HTF meetings, materials to share on EPA’s GHP website, blurbs to send to EPA for publication in the HTF Newsletter, any targeted materials to share with stakeholders, and any other plans to share results from the proposed projects.
- Efforts to support regional and basin-wide progress tracking.

Detailed Budget Narrative: Provide a detailed budget narrative referencing each category identified in the SF-424A (Document 2) and estimated funding amounts for each workplan component/task not easily understandable or that require additional information. Describe each item in sufficient detail for EPA to determine cost-effectiveness, reasonableness, and allowability of costs. Common examples where this is necessary are:

- Description of the roles and responsibilities of personnel.
- Description of what supplies will be used for.
- Description of why the purchase of equipment is preferable to rental of equipment.
- Description of activities of a subawardee, etc.
- Description of technical support request from EPA under “Other” category.

Partners can refer to this guidance on budget development:

<https://www.epa.gov/sites/default/files/2019-05/documents/applicant-budget-development-guidance.pdf>. In addition to this guidance, additional support that may be used by applicants when preparing budgets can be found on EPA’s [General Budget Development Guidance for Applicants and Recipients of EPA Financial Assistance](#) webpage.

Quality Assurance: If the partner plans to collect or use environmental data or information, explain how the partner will comply with quality assurance requirements.

Appendix 2: Web Resources

Enforcement and Compliance History Online (ECHO) Water Quality Indicators (WQI) Map:

ECHO provides integrated compliance and enforcement information for more than one million regulated facilities. Partners may be able to utilize this data to identify permitted dischargers within their watersheds. The Water Quality Indicators (WQI) Map makes it easy to identify pollutant hotspots based on nutrient and pathogen water quality monitoring data from the U.S. Water Quality Portal. This data may be useful to partners for identifying hotspots within their watershed if monitoring data are available.

- ECHO Home Page: <https://echo.epa.gov/>
- WQI Map: <https://echo.epa.gov/maps/wqimap>
*Users may need to request access by visiting <https://echo.epa.gov/help/login-and-access#governmentusers>

How's My Waterway: This tool provides the public with information about the condition of their local waters based on data that states, federal, tribal, local agencies, and others have provided to EPA. Water quality information is displayed on three scales: community, state, and national. More recent or more detailed water information may exist that is not yet available through EPA databases or other sources. Partners may find information on local watershed water quality, restoration and protection efforts, information about state water programs, and more. For assistance with the website contact mywaterway@epa.gov.

- How's My Waterway: <https://mywaterway.epa.gov/>
- Training: <https://www.epa.gov/watershedacademy/how-s-my-waterway-january-2023-webcast>

Nonpoint Source (NPS) Data Explorer (GRTS Data Explorer): This map presents all states and territories that contain NPS watershed restoration projects. The NPS projects are summarized by state as well as various levels of watersheds: subbasins (8-digit HUCs) and subwatersheds (12-digit HUCs) at the local level. You can click on any state or territory to drill deeper into these watersheds to find NPS projects, or you may selectively search by HUC12 code, HUC8 code, or by subwatershed name. This mapper is primarily useful for displaying watershed projects entered in GRTS. However, there is also the option to include in your search the number of 'statewide' projects entered in GRTS. These 'statewide' projects will not show on the map itself once watersheds are visible; however, data for these projects will still appear in the reports by state. Partners may find this tool useful for technical assistance resources and monitoring strategy development.

- NPS Data Explorer:

Nonpoint Source (NPS) Success Story Mapper: This page features water quality improvements and success stories about primarily NPS pollution-impaired water bodies, where restoration efforts have led to documented water quality improvements. Projects described on these pages have received funding from CWA Section 319 and/or other funding sources dedicated to solving NPS impairments. These stories also describe innovative strategies used to reduce NPS pollution, the growth of partnerships and a diversity of funding sources. Partners are encouraged to use the mapper to identify potential project ideas based on what has been conducted in their region.

- NPS Success Story Mapper: <https://ordspub.epa.gov/ords/grts/f?p=109:191:::NO:::map>

Water Quality Exchange (WOX) and Water Quality Portal (WQP): WQX is the mechanism for data partners to submit water quality monitoring data to EPA. WQP is the mechanism for anyone, including the public to retrieve this data from EPA. WQP is the largest source for water quality monitoring data in the nation. Water quality data from over 900 federal, state, and tribal agencies and other groups are available to support water quality analyses. For assistance with WQX or WQP contact your [Regional WQX Contact](#) or wqx@epa.gov.

- Water Quality Data Home Page: <https://www.epa.gov/waterdata/water-quality-data>
- Water Quality Portal: <https://www.waterqualitydata.us/>
- Water Quality Exchange: <https://www.epa.gov/waterdata/water-quality-data-upload-wqx>