



Solid Waste Infrastructure for Recycling Grants for Tribes and Intertribal Consortia

Notice of Funding Opportunity: Webinar #1

Resource Conservation and Sustainability Division
U.S. EPA Office of Resource Conservation & Recovery



Webinar Logistics

“Switch to Phone Audio”
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Resources from
Presenters, Zoom
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Questions
for Panelists

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Introduction



Agenda

- Introduction
- Funding Opportunity Overview
- Eligible Entities
- Requirements
- Evaluating Applications
- General EPA Requirements and Resources
- Questions and Answers



Goals of the Webinar

1

Provide an overview of the Solid Waste Infrastructure for Recycling funding opportunity for **Tribes and Intertribal Consortia**

2

Clarify information and answer questions about the scope, requirements, evaluation criteria and overall process



Circular Economy Strategy Series

 **Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL)**

 Solid Waste Infrastructure for Recycling Grants

 Recycling Education and Outreach Grants

 Battery Collection Best Practices and Labeling Guidelines



Objectives:

- A. Improve Markets for Recycling Commodities
- B. Increase Collection and Improve Materials Management Infrastructure
- C. Reduce Contamination in the Recycled Materials Stream
- D. Enhance Policies to Support Recycling
- E. Standardize Measurement and Increase Data Collection

EPA is establishing a 10-year vision that embraces circularity, sustainable materials management, addresses climate change, and environmental justice.



Solid Waste Infrastructure for Recycling (SWIFR) Grant Program

**SWIFR
Grant
Program**

Grants
for Political
Subdivisions

Grants for Tribes and
Intertribal Consortia

Grants for States and
Territories



SWIFR for Tribes and Intertribal Consortia: Round 2 Background

*Section I.A.
of the NOFO*

- EPA is focused on **assisting local waste management authorities** by supporting improvements to local post-consumer materials management.
- Funding solid waste infrastructure **increases recycling, reduces contamination, and promotes a circular economy** for sustainable materials management.
- Developing better solid waste management infrastructure and practices **reduces climate, environmental, and social impacts of materials use, and keeps valuable resources in use and out of landfills.**





Funding Opportunity Overview

Funding Structure and Period of Performance

*Section II of
the NOFO*

- Total estimated funding for this opportunity is approximately **\$20,000,000**
- EPA anticipates awarding approximately 20 assistance agreements, with at least one award per EPA region (depending on the quantity and quality of applications received) in amounts ranging from **\$100,000 - \$1,500,000** per award.
- Voluntary cost share will not be accepted or evaluated under this competition.
- Estimated start date for projects is March 2026.
- All project activities must be completed within the negotiated project performance period of 3 years.
- Funds may not be used for projects that are already complete and paid for.
- These grants are not PPG eligible.



Scope of Work

*Section I.E of
the NOFO*

Projects for Tribes and intertribal consortia **must** achieve one or more of the following objectives:

- **Develop or update plans** focused on encouraging environmentally sound post-consumer materials management such as source reduction (e.g., repair clinics, reuse centers), collection, storage, transportation, composting, recycling, and/or markets for recyclables;
- **Develop, strengthen, and/or implement comprehensive data collection** efforts that demonstrate progress towards the National Recycling Goal and Food Loss and Waste Reduction Goal;
- **Establish, increase, or expand materials management infrastructure**, such as facilities for reuse, recycling or composting; collection and storage bins for recyclable or organic material, purchasing and maintaining equipment or supplies such as scales, crushers, balers, and sorting equipment, trucks, forklifts, and safety equipment);
- **Establish or identify end-markets** for the use of recycled materials; or
- **Demonstrate an increase in the diversion** recycling rate, and/or quality of materials collected.



Types of Eligible Projects

*Section I.E of
the NOFO*

Projects **may** include (but are not limited to) projects that fund:

- **Developing or updating plans** focused on improving post-consumer materials management;
- **Planning and construction of facilities** for food recovery, reuse, recycling, composting or anaerobic digestion;
- **Programs that provide or increase access to prevention, reuse, and recycling** in areas that currently do not have access; including construction of and/or upgrades to drop-off and transfer stations (including but not limited to a hub-and-spoke model in rural communities);
- **Purchasing collection or storage bins** for recyclables or organic material;
- **Purchasing or leasing recycling equipment or supplies** for post-consumer materials management recovery efforts (e.g., crushers, balers, and sorting equipment, trucks, forklifts, safety equipment);
- **Activities focused on development of end-markets for materials** (e.g., working with a recycler to accept collected materials for processing);
- **Activities to support increasing and improving collection** of recyclable materials and/or organics and food waste, and backhaul;



Types of Eligible Projects (continued)

*Section I.E of
the NOFO*

- **Activities to reduce, reuse and recycle building materials** including deconstruction (dismantling buildings for reuse and recycling) and construction and demolition debris recycling equipment and projects;
- **Activities focused on reducing contamination** in the recycling stream;
- **Training, technical assistance, and/or tools required to plan, establish, or implement post-consumer materials recovery** (e.g., applicants may apply for funding for training employees on use and safety of recycling equipment, raise awareness of infrastructure and processes);
- **Education and outreach activities** relating to post-consumer materials management;
- **Land acquisition** when necessary for construction for improvements to tribal recycling facilities and waste management facilities subject to the requirements 2 CFR 200.311 and 2 CFR 200.316; and/or
- **Other activities that the applicant believes will further the objectives of the NOFO.**



Ineligible Costs

Section III.E of
the NOFO

- Landfilling, incineration, burn units, waste-to-energy (except anaerobic digestion), gasification, chemical and thermal recycling, biofuels, and environmental cleanup are **not eligible for funding** under this solicitation. Food processing is only eligible when paired with recycling activities.
- Surveys: EPA funds **cannot be used to design nor administer the collection of identical information** from 10 or more parties (for example, through surveys or focus groups).
 - Reasonable costs for analyzing and publishing the independently collected information **are allowable** to the extent authorized in the EPA approved budget for this agreement.
- **All costs must meet the requirements for allowability** in 2 CFR Part 200, Subpart E and applicable provisions of 2 CFR Part 1500.
- State and local government bonds: SWIFR cooperative agreement funding “ . . . **may not be used (directly or indirectly) as a source of payment** (in whole or in part) of, or security for, an obligation the interest on which is excluded from gross income under section 103 of Title 26” of the United States Code (as provided in 33 U.S.C. 4282(f)).





Requirements

Eligible Entities

*Section III.A
of the NOFO*

Entities eligible to apply:

- **Federally Recognized Tribes**, which include Alaskan Native Villages as defined in Public Law 92-203, and former Indian reservations in Oklahoma, as determined by the Secretary of the Interior, and
- **Intertribal consortia**, consistent with the requirements in 40 CFR 35.504(a).
 - Intertribal consortia must submit documentation demonstrating that all members of the consortium meet the eligibility requirements and authorize the consortium to apply for and receive assistance.

Entities not eligible:

- States and Territories
- Individuals
- For-profit and non-profit organizations

UPDATE: EPA amended the SWIFR for Tribes and Intertribal Consortia NOFO on November 8, 2024. The list of eligible entities in Section III.A: Eligible Applicants was revised to list “Indian Tribes” rather than “Federally Recognized Tribes.” Please refer to the revised NOFO on Grants.gov for details.



SWIFR Round 1 Grant Recipients

- The EPA may consider prioritizing applicants that:
 - have not previously received SWIFR grants, or
 - those that previously received SWIFR grants and have disbursed at least 25% of the funding for each SWIFR cooperative agreement they have with EPA **by January 15, 2025.**



Coalitions

*Section I.C
of the NOFO*

- **Groups of two or more eligible applicants** (see *Section III: Eligibility Information*) may choose to form a coalition and submit a single application under this NOFO.
 - A coalition is different from an intertribal consortium.
- One entity **must** be responsible for the grant (i.e., the grantee/lead applicant), and the other entities would be brought on via subawards.
- Coalitions **must** identify which eligible organization will be the recipient of the grant and which eligible organization(s) will be subrecipients.



Threshold Eligibility

*Section III.C of
the NOFO*

1. Address at least one of the mandatory grant objectives in *Section I.E: Scope of Work*.
2. Eligible entity, as described in *Section III.A: Eligible Applicants*.
3. Federal funds requested must be between \$100,000 and \$1,500,000.
4. Funds awarded under this NOFO may not be used to carry out the same activities that are already funded or in the process of being funded under other EPA financial assistance programs such as the Indian General Assistance Program, Tribal Hazardous Waste Management Grant Program, and the Tribal Response Program Grants or financial assistance applicants receive from other Federal agencies. **Applicants must provide a statement that their proposed project(s) do not duplicate other Federally funded grants received.**



Threshold Eligibility (continued)

*Section III.C of
the NOFO*

5. Substantially comply with the application submission instructions and requirements set forth in *Section IV: Application and Submission Information*.
6. Submit application through Grants.gov (except in limited circumstances where another mode of submission is specifically allowed for, as explained in *Section IV.C: Technical Issues with Submission*).
7. Applications submitted outside of Grants.gov or after the submission deadline will be considered late and deemed ineligible without further consideration unless the applicant can demonstrate it was due to EPA mishandling or because of technical problems associated with Grants.gov or relevant SAM.gov system issues.



Application Materials

Section IV.D
of the NOFO

Mandatory

- ❑ Application for Federal Assistance (Standard Form 424);*
- ❑ Budget Information for Non-Construction Programs (Standard Form 424A);*
- ❑ EPA Key Contacts Form 5700-54;*
- ❑ EPA Pre-award Compliance Review Report Form 4700-4;*
- ❑ Project Attachment Form (Summary Information Cover Letter + Narrative Proposal + Budget Table and Description)
 - See optional resources for these materials on [EPA's webpage](#).

**You can find the first 4 forms listed here in the NOFO listing in Grants.gov, under the "Packages" tab: <https://grants.gov/search-results-detail/356431>*



Application Materials

*Section IV.D.
of the NOFO*

Optional Documents

- ❑ Documentation demonstrating that the applicant is an intertribal consortia (if applicable)
- ❑ Negotiated indirect cost rate agreement (if applicable)
- ❑ SWIFR Round 1 grantees: A copy of a financial record displaying the amount of previous SWIFR cooperative agreement funds drawn down (e.g., a report from the Automated Standard Application for Payments (ASAP) or general ledger entries).
- ❑ Timeline and Milestones attachment

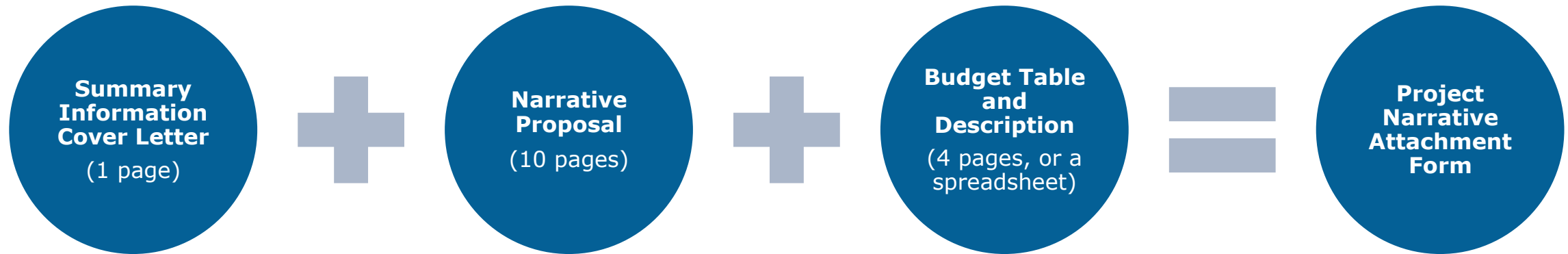
Documents that will not be considered during review

- ❑ The following documents will not be considered during the review process:
 - ❑ References/works cited, letters of support, staff CV/resumes, solid waste plans, engineering reports, or feasibility studies



Project Narrative Attachment Form

*Section IV.E
of the NOFO*



Project Narrative Attachment Form

- Must provide **factual information** about your proposed project. Do not include discussions of broad principles that are not specific to the proposed work or project covered by your application.
- Responses to evaluation criteria should include the **criteria number and title** but need not restate the entire text of the criteria.
- Provide **sufficient detail** to allow for an evaluation of the merits of the proposal.
- Vague descriptions, redundancy, and failure to address each of the evaluation criteria will result in a **lower ranking**.



Summary Information Cover Letter

*Section IV.E
of the NOFO*

- i. Project Title
- ii. Applicant Name
- iii. Eligible Entity Type
- iv. UEI Number
- v. Project Summary
- vi. Contact Information
- vii. Project Location
- viii. EPA Funding Requested
- ix. Project Period
- x. Program Objective Elements
- xi. Statement of Non-duplication
- xii. Cooperative Partners



Resources Available on EPA's Website

EPA has provided optional resources that can aid applicants in developing the following documents:

- **Project Narrative Attachment Form**, which includes:
 - Summary Information Cover Letter
 - Narrative Proposal
- **Budget Table and Description Spreadsheet** (*separate spreadsheet file*)

Additionally, EPA created the following optional resources to help with application submission:

- **Milestones Example**
- **Application Submission Checklist**

These optional resources are available on EPA's website: <https://www.epa.gov/infrastructure/solid-waste-infrastructure-recycling-grants-tribes-and-intertribal-consortia#resources>

Applicants who do not use these optional resources will not be penalized.





Evaluating Applications

Evaluation Criteria

*Section V.A
of the NOFO*

- Eligible entities whose applications meet the Threshold Criteria will be reviewed according to the evaluation criterion set forth in the following slides.
- Each application will be rated under a points system, with a total of **100 points** possible.
- Applicants may, but are not required to, use the Optional Templates for the Summary Information Cover Letter, the Narrative Proposal and the Budget Table & Description.



Evaluation Criteria Weighting

*Section V.A.
of the NOFO*

Project Summary &
Approach
(40 pts)

Impactful Approaches
& Solutions
(25 pts)

Measuring
Environmental Results
(10 pts)

Programmatic
Capability & Past
Performance
(10 pts)

Budget & Expenditure
of Awarded Grant
Funds
(15 pts)



Criterion 1: Project Summary & Approach (40 points)

Section V.A.
of the NOFO

- a. The Narrative Proposal includes a clearly written description of the overall project.
- b. The project meets the requirements in *Section I.E: Scope of Work*.
- c. The Narrative Proposal clearly identifies the goals and objectives of the project and includes an effective, easily understood plan with well-reasoned steps and milestones to meet the stated objectives.
- d. The Narrative Proposal sets forth a reasonable time schedule for the execution of the tasks associated with the project and for achieving the project goals and objectives by project end.



Criterion 2: Impactful Approaches & Solutions (25 points)

*Section V.A.
of the NOFO*

- a. Describe how the project results will improve the environmental conditions of the Tribal community(/ies) in the short and long term (including reducing greenhouse gas emissions), and any other community benefits associated with the anticipated project outcomes.
- b. Describe how the anticipated benefits of the project contribute to post-consumer materials management in Tribal communities.

Impactful projects may include, but are not limited to:

- solving local challenges around collection of materials in rural or isolated areas;
- operations or activities fostering environmentally sound materials management to multiple Tribes;
- coordinating regional source reduction, recycling or backhaul services;
- establishing or expanding a hub and spoke source reduction and/or recycling system;
- projects that will result in a significant decrease in greenhouse gas emissions;
- projects that will increase the long-term climate resilience of Tribal post-consumer materials management systems.



Criterion 3: Measuring Environmental Results (10 points)

*Section I.H. &
Section V.A.
of the NOFO*

- Propose strategies for **measuring and tracking** the expected outputs and outcomes described in *Section I.H: Measuring and Reporting Environmental Results: Outputs and Outcomes*.
- Outputs and outcomes must be **quantitative or qualitative**, and should be directly linked to a measure of environmental improvement and to project activities described in the Narrative Proposal.
- Please note that **all outputs and outcomes** listed in *Section I.H: Measuring and Reporting Environmental Results: Outputs and Outcomes* must be discussed to receive full points for this criterion (even if the anticipated result is “0” or “Not Applicable”).



Criterion 3: Measuring Environmental Results: *Outputs and Outcomes*

Section I.H.
of the NOFO

- Number of infrastructure investments/enhancements made spanning the spectrum of collection through end market development (e.g., bins purchased, post-consumer materials management systems created, technology improvements made).
- Tons of MSW/C&D collected, recycled, or composted, or managed via each relevant management pathway in the community served by the project.
- Tons of MSW/C&D generated per material type (e.g., plastic, food waste, etc.) and source in the community (e.g., household, school, or business) served by the project.
- Number of temporary or permanent jobs created (including part-time).
- GHGs reduced (in MTCO₂e) from collection, recycling, composting or management via other management pathways.
- Percentage of Tribes and Tribal members of intertribal consortia served as a result of establishing, increasing, expanding, or optimizing collection.
- Number of Tribes and member Tribes of intertribal consortia served as a result of establishing, increasing, expanding, or optimizing collection.



Criterion 4: Programmatic Capability & Past Performance (10 points)

Section IV.E
and V.A.
of the NOFO

- a. **Past performance** in successfully completing and managing the assistance agreements identified in response to *Section IV: Application and Submission Information* of the solicitation.
 - a. *Section IV* requires applicants to **submit a list of federally and/or non-federally funded assistance agreements** that your organization performed within the last three years (no more than 5 agreements, and preferably EPA agreements).
- b. **History of meeting the reporting requirements under the assistance agreements** identified in response to *Section IV: Application and Submission Information* of the solicitation including whether the applicant submitted acceptable final technical reports under those agreements and the extent to which the applicant adequately and timely reported on their progress towards achieving the expected outputs and outcomes under those agreements.
- c. **Staff expertise/qualifications** (including organizational experience), staff knowledge, and resources or the ability to obtain them, to successfully achieve the goals of the proposed project.

If you do not have any relevant or available past performance or past reporting information, **please indicate this in the application** and you will receive a neutral score for these subfactors.

If you do not provide any response for these items, **you may receive a score of 0 for these factors.**



Criterion 5: Budget & Expenditure of Awarded Grant Funds (15 points)

*Section V.A.
of the NOFO*

Applications 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. The Agency will evaluate the proposed project budget and narrative to determine the extent and quality to which:

- a. Costs are reasonable to accomplish the proposed goals, objectives, and measurable environmental outcomes.
- b. The proposed budget provides a detailed breakout of the approximate funding used for each major activity.
- c. The application conveys the approach, procedures, and controls for ensuring that awarded grant funds will be expended in a timely and efficient manner.

Provide the response to this criterion as part of your budget table and description. (See optional budget table and description spreadsheet resource provided on [EPA's Solid Waste Infrastructure for Recycling Grants for Tribes and Intertribal Consortia](#) webpage.)





General EPA Requirements and Resources

General EPA Grant Requirements

Section IV.B
of the NOFO

- **Register Now on SAM.gov!** These registrations are taking a month or more to complete!
- You must have an active SAM registration in www.SAM.gov to apply for the grant.
- Once your SAM.gov account is active, you must register in www.Grants.gov.

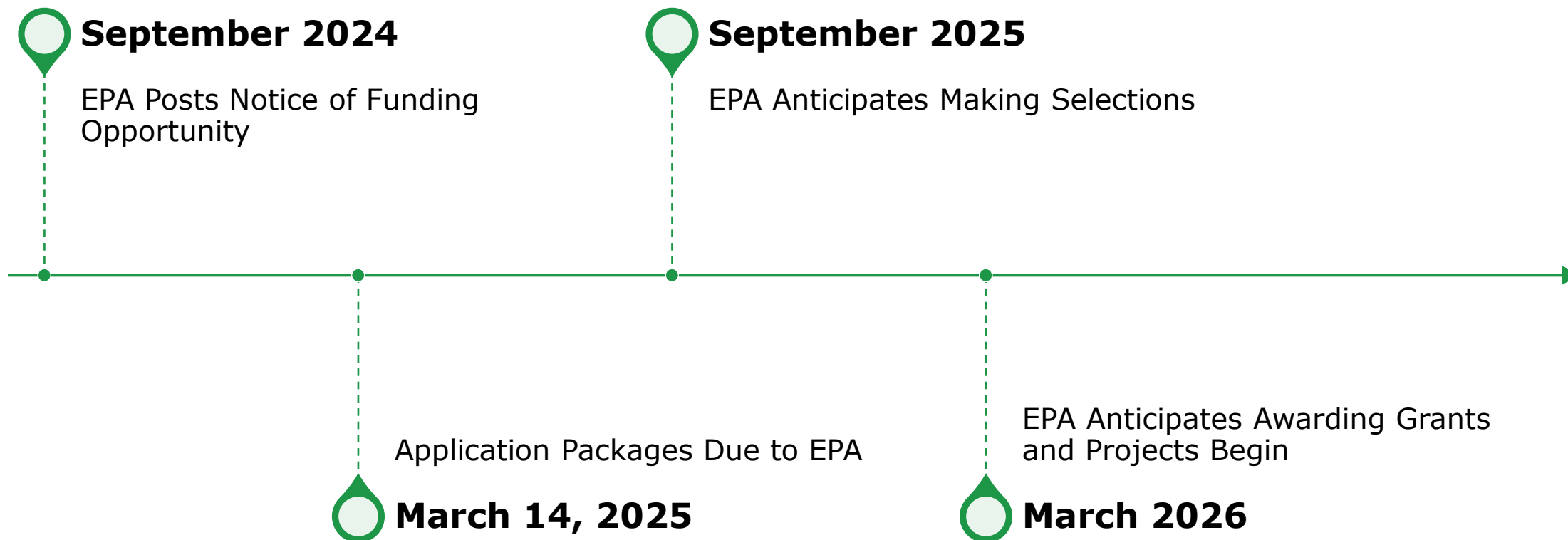


2 CFR Part 200 Updates

- OMB updated the Uniform Grants Guidance (2 CFR Part 200) [earlier this year](#). The changes are **effective October 1, 2024** and include updates relevant to SWIFR grants.
- We will discuss these changes further in Webinar 2 (October 29, 2024).
- See this webpage for more info: <https://www.epa.gov/grants/whats-new-uniform-grants-guidance-2024-revision-2-cfr-200>



Estimated Timeline



Tips for Preparing an Application

Start Early!

Clearly demonstrate the threshold and evaluation criteria

Provide detailed descriptions of proposed work

Double check calculations

Review the optional resources on [EPA's webpage](#)

Reach out to [the TCTACs](#) for assistance



Useful Links

Info on SWIFR Grants for Tribes and Intertribal Consortia

SWIFR Grants for Tribes Website

<https://www.epa.gov/infrastructure/grants-tribes-and-intertribal-consortia>

Resources

<https://www.epa.gov/infrastructure/solid-waste-infrastructure-recycling-grants-tribes-and-intertribal-consortia#resources>

Questions and Answers

<https://www.epa.gov/infrastructure/forms/questions-and-answers-swifr-grants-tribes-and-intertribal-consortia>

Info on BIL Grants

The EPA SWIFR Website

<https://www.epa.gov/rcra/bipartisan-infrastructure-law-transforming-us-recycling-and-waste-management>

Overview of BIL Grants

<https://www.epa.gov/infrastructure/bipartisan-infrastructure-law-transforming-us-recycling-and-waste-management>

Round 1 Grant Recipients

<https://www.epa.gov/infrastructure/recycling-grant-selectees-and-recipients>



Useful Links, continued

How to Prepare for a Grant Application

Prepare for a Grant Application website

<https://www.epa.gov/rcra/prepare-grant-application>

Instructions for Registering on SAM.gov

<https://www.epa.gov/infrastructure/prepare-grant-application#01>

Tips for Proofreading your Next Grant Application

<https://grantsgovprod.wordpress.com/category/learngrants/grant-writing-basics/>

How to Develop a Budget

<https://www.epa.gov/grants/how-develop-budget>

EPA Grants Management Training for Applicants and Recipients

www.epa.gov/grants/epa-grants-management-training-applicants-and-recipients

EPA Grants Policy Resources

<https://www.epa.gov/grants/epa-grants-policy-resources>



Useful Links, continued

Cross-Cutting Requirements

EPA General Terms and Conditions

<https://www.epa.gov/grants/epa-general-terms-and-conditions-effective-october-1-2023-or-later>

Build America, Buy America (BABA) Requirements

<https://www.epa.gov/cwsrf/build-america-buy-america-baba>

Quality Assurance Project Plans (QAPPs)

<https://www.epa.gov/irmpoli8/environmental-information-policy-procedures-and-standards>

National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA)

<https://www.epa.gov/nepa>

Davis-Bacon Act

<https://www.epa.gov/grants/davis-bacon-and-related-acts-dbra>

Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (DBE) Program Requirements


<https://www.epa.gov/grants/disadvantaged-business-enterprise-program-requirements>

Fair Share Objectives (FSOs)

<https://www.epa.gov/grants/fair-share-objectives>



Upcoming Webinars for the SWIFR Grant Program for Tribes and Intertribal Consortia

- Dates:
 - October 29, 2024, from 3:00-4:30 PM ET
- Purpose:
 - Clarify information and answer questions about subawards, procurement, partnerships, participant support costs, and other requirements
- Register online at this link, or scan the QR code 
<https://www.epa.gov/infrastructure/solid-waste-infrastructure-recycling-grants-tribes-and-intertribal-consortia#webinars>
 - Webinar recordings and slides will also be posted on the webpage.





Questions

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THANK YOU!

