



*Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL):
EPA's Investments in Tribal Communities*

December 16, 2021

3:00-4:30 EDT

Agenda

- ▶ Welcome and Logistics
- ▶ Opening Remarks
 - ▶ Jane Nishida - Assistant Administrator, Office of International and Tribal Affairs
- ▶ Overview of the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law
 - ▶ Office of Water: Zach Schafer
 - ▶ Office of Air and Radiation: Jessica Mroz
 - ▶ Office of Chemical Safety and Pollution Prevention: David Widawsky
 - ▶ Office of Land and Emergency Management: Jennifer Wilbur
- ▶ Questions & Feedback
- ▶ Closing

EPA's Office of Water (OW)

Zach Schafer; *Senior Advisor, OW*

What is this funding for?

More than \$50 billion to improve our nation's drinking water, wastewater, stormwater, and our regional waters

Investments in Water Infrastructure:

- ▶ State Revolving Fund Support
 - ▶ \$11.7 billion Drinking Water SRF for safe drinking water
 - ▶ \$15 billion in Drinking Water SRF for dedicated funding to replace lead pipes.
 - ▶ \$4 billion in Drinking Water SRF to address emerging contaminants
 - ▶ \$11.7 billion to ensure clean water for communities.
 - ▶ \$1 billion to address emerging contaminants in wastewater
- ▶ Water Infrastructure Improvement for the Nation (WIIN) Grants
 - ▶ \$5 billion to address PFAS and emerging contaminants in drinking water in disadvantaged communities

EPA's Office of Water (OW)

The majority of BIL funding - including funding for Tribes - supports water infrastructure improvements, replacement of lead service lines, and addresses emerging contaminants

Funding Mechanisms (How can Tribes access this funding?)

- ▶ State Revolving Fund (SRF) Tribal Set Aside programs. The Drinking Water Infrastructure Grants Tribal Set-Aside and the Clean Water Indian Set-Aside programs
- ▶ The SRF tribal set-aside's funding levels, which are established through Congressional appropriations, are anticipated to be 2% of total Clean Water and Drinking Water SRF BIL program funding, respectively.
- ▶ Both the Clean Water Tribal Set-Aside and the Drinking Water Tribal Set-Aside are implemented by the Regions in close coordination with Tribes, the Indian Health Service (IHS) and other federal partners.

When will this funding be made available?

- ▶ In FY22 the BIL is anticipated to provide more than \$154 million in Tribal funding through the Clean Water and Drinking Water Tribal Set-Aside programs to support infrastructure investments and address lead and emerging contaminants.
- ▶ EPA will distribute these funds through the Regions.

EPA's Office of Water (OW)

Additional water investments through BIL over the next five years will include:

- ▶ More than \$1.8 billion to protect regional waters through place-based programs where EPA is working hand in hand with states, Tribes, and communities to restore natural habitats, remediate pollution, and protect coastal wetlands and neighboring areas in regions around the country.
 - ▶ BIL provides \$1.7 billion to EPA's 12 federally recognized Geographic Programs. Certain programs will include competitive and non-competitive funding opportunities for tribes.
 - ▶ BIL also provides \$132 million to the National Estuary Program, shared across 28 federally recognized estuaries, to restore water quality and ecosystems across the Atlantic, Pacific, Gulf, and Caribbean coasts of America.
- ▶ \$60 million to fund the Gulf Coast of Mexico Hypoxia Task Force's work to reduce nutrient pollution throughout the Mississippi River Watershed and Gulf of Mexico
- ▶ \$50 million will support states and Tribes as Underground Injection Control (UIC) Grants and \$25 million to support permitting class VI UIC wells to support carbon sequestration programs build toward a low-carbon future. States and tribes that have received primary enforcement authority for the UIC program are eligible to receive UIC grant funding.

EPA's Office of Air and Radiation (OAR)

Jessica Mroz; Tribal Coordinator, Office of Transportation and Air Quality

What is this funding for?

More than 25 million children ride the bus to school each day, some breathing polluted air from diesel school buses. By deploying electric and lower emission school buses, fewer children will face increased asthma risks and other health problems linked to diesel air pollution.

Opportunities and Benefits for Tribes:

- ▶ \$5 billion for decarbonizing the nation's school bus fleet.
 - ▶ Tribes, Tribal organizations, and Tribally-controlled schools responsible for providing bus service to one or more Bureau-funded schools or responsible for the purchase of school buses are eligible recipients for funding.

EPA's Office of Air and Radiation (OAR)

Funding Mechanisms (How can Tribes access this funding?)

- ▶ EPA can consider prioritizing applications that propose to replace school buses that serve Bureau-funded schools and that serve local education agencies which receive basic support payments under the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 for children who reside on Tribal land.
- ▶ Awards up to 100% of the cost of the replacement bus; charging or fueling infrastructure are also eligible for awards. EPA may award funding for bus replacement through grants, rebates, or contracts.

When will this funding be made available?

- ▶ Funding will be available for five years to replace existing school buses with clean school buses. Clean buses include zero emission and alternative fuel school buses.

Learn More:

- ▶ www.epa.gov/cleanschoolbus

Office of Chemical Safety and Pollution Prevention (OCSPP)

David Widawsky; *Director, Data Gathering and Analysis Division, OCSPP*

What is this funding for?

- ▶ Pollution prevention (P2), also known as source reduction, is any practice that reduces, eliminates, or prevents pollution at its source prior to recycling, treatment or disposal.

Opportunities and Benefits for Tribes:

- ▶ \$100 million for the Pollution Prevention (P2) Program and the launch of a new program targeting environmental justice.
 - ▶ Increasing access to practices that eliminate or reduce pollution at the source will benefit communities, individuals, and the environment. P2 protects the environment by conserving and protecting natural resources while strengthening economic growth.

Office of Chemical Safety and Pollution Prevention (OCSPP)

Funding Mechanisms (How can Tribes access this funding?)

- ▶ As part of EPA's P2 program, the agency offers grants to eligible organizations that will provide technical assistance to businesses in order to help those businesses develop and adopt source reduction practices (also known as P2). States, federally recognized Tribes, intertribal consortia, and other entities are eligible for these competitive two-year grants.

When will this funding be made available?

- ▶ BIL - funded P2 Grants, awarded over the next five years, will eliminate the requirement of 50% grantee matching funds, which increases access to P2 grants for all communities, including Tribes.
- ▶ EPA expects to publish the next request for grant applications (RFA) in late-January/early-February and select recipients by the summer of 2022.

Office of Land and Emergency Management (OLEM)

Jennifer Wilbur, *Senior Budget Officer*

What is this funding for?

- ▶ More than \$5 billion for cleaning up longstanding pollution in communities.

Opportunities and Benefits for Tribes:

- ▶ \$3.5 billion to the Superfund Remedial program will allow EPA to initiate work on all backlogged remedial construction projects and accelerate cleanups at National Priorities List sites across the country, including sites in Indian country and with Native American interest.
- ▶ \$1.5 billion investment in EPA's Brownfields Program over the next five years to remove barriers to brownfields assessment, cleanup, and reuse and transform communities across the country.
- ▶ \$375 million in infrastructure funding in support of recycling initiatives.

Office of Land and Emergency Management (OLEM)

Funding Mechanisms (How can Tribes access this funding?)

- ▶ EPA will be allocating \$1.2 billion to section 104 competitive cleanup grants, Brownfield technical assistance
- ▶ \$300 million for non-competitive Section 128(a) State and Tribal Response Program
- ▶ The recycling initiatives will primarily flow through the Solid Waste Infrastructure for Recycling (SWIFR) Grant Program and Recycling Education and Outreach Efforts.

When will this funding be made available?

- ▶ EPA will distribute these funds within different timeframes over the next five years

Questions and Feedback

How to ask a question or make a statement

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 - ▶ “Raise” your hand and the facilitator will unmute your microphone
 - ▶ Write your question/comment into the message function and it will be read allowed
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 - ▶ Press *7 to unmute yourself

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Thank you!

For more information on the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law please monitor our website

- ▶ <https://www.epa.gov/infrastructure>

For more information on EPA Tribal Programs, please visit our website

- ▶ <https://www.epa.gov/tribal>