



Bipartisan Infrastructure Law: Notice of Funding Opportunity

Solid Waste Infrastructure for Recycling (SWIFR) Grants for Political
Subdivisions: Round 2

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





Agenda

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





Introduction

Goals of the Webinar

1

Provide an overview of the Solid Waste Infrastructure for Recycling funding opportunity for **Political Subdivisions of States and Territories**

2

Clarify information 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.



Statutory/Regulatory Authority

**Section I.B.
of the NOFO**

Section 302(a) of the Save Our Seas 2.0 Act of the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law established the “Post-Consumer Materials Management Infrastructure Grant Program” (SWIFR grants) and provides \$275,000,000 for REO grants for Federal Fiscal Years 2022 through 2026 at \$55,000,000 per year. Pursuant to Section 302(a) of the Save Our Seas Act 2.0, the SWIFR grant program will:

- Implement the series of strategies on building a circular economy for all;
- Support improvements to local post-consumer materials management, including municipal recycling programs; and
- Assist local waste management authorities in making improvements to local waste management systems.

***Post-consumer materials management** refers to the systems, operation, supervision and long-term management of processes and equipment used for post-use material (including packaging, goods, products, and other materials), including collection; transport; and systems and processes related to post-use materials that can be recovered, reused, recycled, repaired, or refurbished.*



Solid Waste Infrastructure for Recycling (SWIFR) Grant Program

SWIFR Grant Program

Grants
for Political
Subdivisions

Grants for Tribes and
Intertribal Consortia
Coming Soon!

Grants for States and
Territories



SWIFR for Political Subdivisions: 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 and assisting local waste management authorities.
- 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.B.
of the NOFO*

- Total estimated funding for FY24 is approximately **\$58,000,000**.
- EPA anticipates awarding approximately 20 to 30 assistance agreements, with at least one award per EPA region in amounts ranging from **\$500,000 - \$5,000,000** per award.
- No cost matching is required.
- Estimated start date for projects is December 2025.
- 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.



Scope of Work

*Section I.F. of
the NOFO*

- All applications must address one or more of the following objectives, as they relate to the track under which the application is applying:
 - **Establish, increase, expand, or optimize** collection and improve materials management infrastructure;
 - **Fund the creation and construction of tangible infrastructure,** technology, or other improvements to reduce contamination in the recycled materials stream;
 - **Establish, increase, expand, or optimize** capacity for materials management;
 - **Establish, improve, expand, or optimize** end-markets for the use of recycled commodities; or
 - **Demonstrate a significant and measurable increase** in the diversion, recycling rate, and quality of materials collected for municipal solid waste.



Types of Eligible Projects

*Section I.F. of
the NOFO*

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

- Programs that provide or increase access to prevention, reuse, and recycling in areas that currently do not have access; including development of and/or upgrades to drop-off and transfer stations (including but not limited to a hub-and-spoke model in rural communities), etc.
- The purchase of recycling equipment, including but not limited to sorting equipment, waste metering, trucks, processing facilities, etc.;
- Upgrades to material recovery facilities (MRFs) such as optical sorters, artificial intelligence, etc.;
- Education and outreach projects as a minor element of larger infrastructure improvements;
- Construction of and/or upgrades to composting facilities or anaerobic digesters to increase capacity for food and organics recycling;
- Development of and/or upgrades to curbside collection programs or drop-off stations for organics;
- Development of and/or upgrades to reuse infrastructure such as online reuse platforms, community repair spaces, technology and equipment to improve materials management reuse options, food donation, and upcycling, staging areas for material reuse/donation, reuse warehouses, and reuse centers, and electronic waste and computer recycling and refurbishing;
- Other activities that the applicant believes will further the objectives of the RFA provided those activities are eligible for funding under statute and the terms of this RFA.



Prohibition on Use of Funds

*Section III.E.
of the NOFO*

- EPA funds (directly paid by the EPA or from the recipient's cost-share) cannot be used to design nor administer the collection of identical information from 10 or more parties, and EPA personnel may not participate in such activities.
- Reasonable costs for analyzing and publishing the independently collected information are allowable to the extent authorized in the EPA approved budget for this agreement.





Requirements

Eligible Entities

*Section III.A.
of the NOFO*

Entities eligible to apply:

- Political subdivisions of states and territories
 - Examples: local government, city, county, township, village, parish, district, etc.
 - State or territorial institutions of higher education, special districts, housing authorities, Councils of Government (COGs), and others must provide documentation that they are considered a political subdivision of the state.
- Coalitions of political subdivisions of states and territories

Entities not eligible:

- Tribes and Intertribal Consortia
- States
- Individuals
- For-profit and non-profit organizations



Coalitions

*Section I.C.
of the NOFO*

- EPA recognizes that awards of \$500,000 to \$5,000,000 may be too large for small or rural applicants to effectively manage.
- As a result, **coalitions of small or rural applicants are eligible entities for funding.**
- Groups of **two or more eligible applicants** (political subdivisions of states) may choose to form a coalition and submit a single application under this NOFO.
- One entity must be responsible for the grant (i.e., the grantee/lead applicant) and the other entities would be brought on via subawards.



Environmental Justice

*Section I.C. of
the NOFO*

The just treatment and meaningful involvement of all people regardless of income, race, color, national origin, Tribal affiliation, or disability, in agency decision-making and other Federal activities that affect human health and the environment so that people:

- are fully protected from disproportionate and adverse human health and environment effects (including risks) and hazards, including those related to climate change, the cumulative impacts of environmental and other burdens, and the legacy of racism or other structure or systemic barriers; and
- have equitable access to a healthy, sustainable, and resilient environment in which to live, play, work, learn, grow, worship, and engage in cultural and subsistence practices.

For more information on Environmental Justice at EPA, visit our website:

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



Program Tracks

*Section I.E. of
the NOFO*

As described in the Request for Applications, the Solid Waste Infrastructure for Recycling grant program for political subdivisions will fund projects under two tracks:

- **Track 1:** Projects that benefit disadvantaged communities as defined under Section I.C: Key Definitions of this RFA. EPA anticipates that approximately 40% (or \$23,200,000) of the funding will be awarded to projects that benefit **disadvantaged communities.**
- **Track 2:** Projects that benefit all other communities that **do not** meet the definition of disadvantaged communities.



Disadvantaged Communities

Section I.C. of
the NOFO

Justice40, a Biden Administration initiative, sets a goal that 40% of program benefits flow to disadvantaged communities. EPA expects to award approximately **40% of funding** to projects that benefit disadvantaged communities, which are defined for this competition as a community that meets at least one of the following:

1. Meets one or more of the eight **disadvantaged categories** identified in the [Climate and Economic Justice Screening Tool](#) (CEJST) developed by the Council on Environmental Quality.
2. Located in a **U.S. Territory** (Puerto Rico, Virgin Islands, Guam, American Samoa, Commonwealth of Northern Mariana Islands).

Note: To determine whether a community meets this definition, applicants must submit a screenshot of CEJST along with a brief narrative to illustrate that the proposed project will benefit a disadvantaged community.





Evaluating Applications

Threshold Eligibility

*Section III.C.
of the NOFO*

1. Applications must address at least one of the mandatory objectives described in *Section I.G: Scope of Work*.
2. Eligible entity, as described in *Section III.A: Eligible Applicants*.
3. If an applicant chooses to identify a procurement contractor(s) or subrecipient(s), applicant must demonstrate compliance with the requirements in *Section III.D: Named Contractors and Subrecipients*
4. Federal funds requested must be between \$500,000 and \$5,000,000.
5. Indicate if project qualifies for Track 1 or Track 2 as defined under *Section I.E: Program Tracks* and include information demonstrating that the application qualifies.
6. Recipients of EPA SWIFR grants in previous rounds of funding are not eligible for funding under this solicitation. Applicants must attest that they do not have an open EPA SWIFR grant.
7. Substantially comply with the application submission instructions and requirements set forth in *Section IV.B: Submission Instructions*.
8. Submit application through Grants.gov.
9. Applications submitted 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 Form 4700-4 Pre-award Compliance Review Report;
- ❑ Project Attachment Form (Summary Information Cover Letter + Narrative Proposal + Budget Table and Description)



Application Materials

*Section IV.D.
of the NOFO*

Optional Documents

- ❑ documentation demonstrating that competitive procurement was followed if specific names of contractors or equipment is mentioned in the application;
- ❑ documentation demonstrating that the applicant is considered a political subdivisions of a state; and/or,
- ❑ a copy of a financial record displaying the amount of cooperative agreement funds drawn down (e.g., a report from the Automated Standard Application for Payments (ASAP) or general ledger entries).

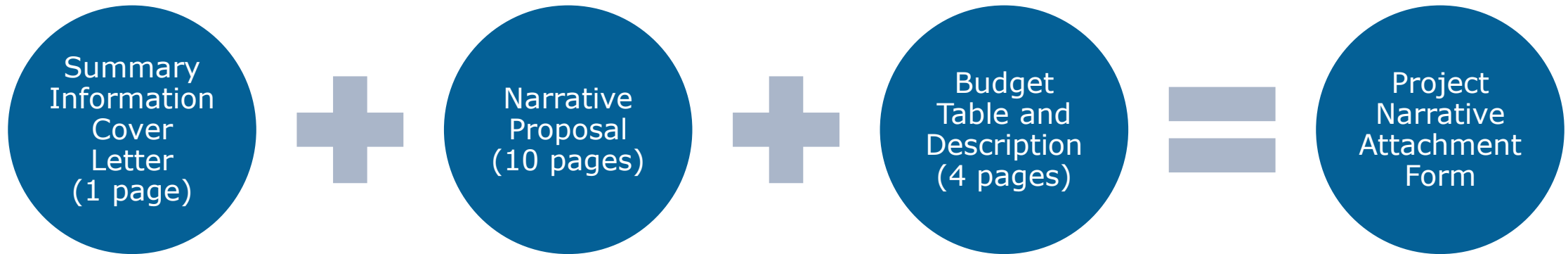
Documents that will not be considered during review

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



Project Narrative Attachment Form

*Section IV.E.
of the NOFO*



- Factual information about your proposed project must be provided. Do not include discussions of broad principles that are not specific to the proposed work or project covered by your application.
- Vague descriptions, redundancy, and failure to address each of the evaluation criteria will result in a lower ranking.



Summary Information Page

*Section IV.E.
of the NOFO*

- i. Project Title
- ii. Applicant Name
- iii. Eligible Entity Type
- iv. Qualification for Program Track
- v. [UEI Number](#)
- vi. Project Summary
- vii. Contact Information
- viii. Project Location
- ix. Total Project Cost
- x. EPA Funding Requested
- xi. Project Period
- xii. Program Objective Elements
- xiii. Award of Grants from Previous Rounds of Funding
- xiv. Cooperative Partners



Resources Available on EPA's Website

EPA will provide optional resources that will aid applicants in developing the following submission documents:

- Summary Information Cover Letter
- Narrative Proposal
- Budget Table and Description

Additionally, EPA will include the following resources to help with application submission:

- Milestones Template
- Helpful Tips and Reminders Checklist



Evaluation Criteria

*Section V.A.
of the NOFO*

- Eligible entities whose applications meet the Eligibility Information in *Section III.C.* of the announcement 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
(30 pts)

Impactful
Approaches and
Solutions
(25 pts)

Environmental
Justice
(15 pts)

Measuring
Environmental
Results
(10 pts)

Budget and
Expenditure
(10 pts)

Programmatic
Capability and Past
Performance
(10 pts)



Build America, Buy America Act (BABA)

*Section VI.F.
of the NOFO*

- Applicants should be aware that if their proposals include using Federal funds for a project that includes the **purchase of goods, products, and materials on any form of construction, alteration, maintenance, or repair of infrastructure** in the United States for identified EPA financial assistance funding programs, they must comply with Buy America Sourcing requirements under the Build America, Buy America provisions of the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act.
- More information:
 - [EPA Grant Terms and Conditions](#)



National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA)

*Section VI.H.
of the NOFO*

- The National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) applies as a general matter to federal actions, including actions funded by federal agencies.
- NEPA requires environmental impact statement (EIS) and/or Environmental Assessments (EA) be prepared for actions with potentially significant impacts.
- Grant funds may not be used to conduct an EIS or EA.
- Applicants should be aware that an EIS or EA may be required as a part of the project.
- EPA is exploring a categorical exclusion for NEPA requirements and can provide additional information in the future.



Davis-Bacon Act

*Section VI.G.
of the NOFO*

- EPA must ensure that “. . . all laborers and mechanics employed on projects funded directly, or assisted in whole or in part, by a [SWIFR grant] be paid wages at rates not less than those prevailing on projects of a character similar in the locality as determined by the Secretary of Labor in accordance with [the Davis Bacon Act]”.
- The Davis Bacon Act applies to contractors and subcontractors performing work on federally-funded or assisted construction contracts in excess of \$2,000.
- A term and condition specifying Davis Bacon Act compliance requirements will be included in SWIFR cooperative agreements that fund construction.



Minority Business Enterprises (MBE) / Women Business Enterprises (WBE)

- EPA's Disadvantaged Business Enterprises (DBE) regulations are found at [40 CFR Part 33](#).
- These regulations ensure nondiscrimination in the award of contracts under EPA financial assistance agreements.
- Minority and Women Business Enterprises are included in EPA's DBE program.
- The DBE program helps remove barriers to the participation of DBEs in the award of contracts under EPA financial assistance agreements.
- The DBE program provides appropriate flexibility to recipients of EPA financial assistance in establishing and providing contracting opportunities for DBEs.



Quality Assurance Project Plans (QAPPs)

*Section VI.J.
of the NOFO*

- In accordance with 2 C.F.R. 1500.12, projects that include the generation or use of environmental data are required to submit a QAPP.
- A QAPP describes how environmental information operations are planned, implemented, documented, and assessed during the life cycle of a project.
- EPA Project Officers will work with all selected recipients on quality assurance (QA) requirements. Once the award is made, if a QAPP is required for the project, the applicant will develop the document and submit for EPA's approval.
- Selected applicants cannot begin environmental information operations until EPA approves the QAPP.



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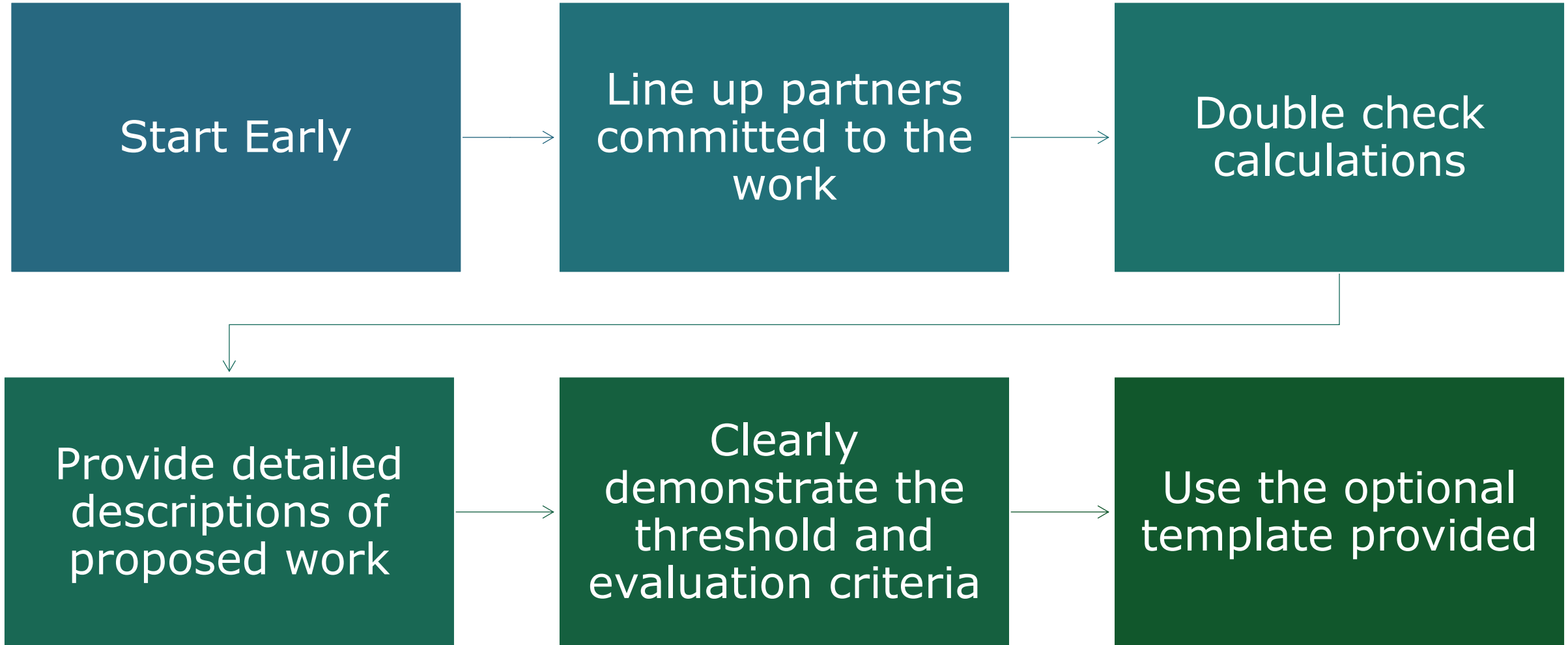
Resources

Resources

- For more information on subawards, procurement, and partnerships please see the recording at the link below:
 - Link to webinar recording:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xq3sa12elsE>
 - Link to presentation slides:
https://www.epa.gov/system/files/documents/2023-01/SWIFR_RFA_second_presentation.pdf



Tips for Preparing an Application



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.



Estimated Timeline



Useful Links

- *The EPA SWIFR Website:* <https://www.epa.gov/rcra/bipartisan-infrastructure-law-transforming-us-recycling-and-waste-management>
- *SWIFR Grants for Political Subdivisions Website:* <https://www.epa.gov/rcra/grants-political-subdivisions>
- *Best Practice Guide for Procuring Services, Supplies, and Equipment Under The EPA Assistance Agreements:* www.epa.gov/grants/best-practice-guide-procuring-services-supplies-and-equipment-under-epa-assistance-agreements
- *The EPA Subaward Policy with attachments:* www.epa.gov/grants/grants-policy-issuance-gpi-16-01-epasubaward-policy-epa-assistance-agreement-recipients
- *The EPA Interim General Budget Development Guidance for Applicants and Recipients of EPA Financial Assistance:* www.epa.gov/sites/default/files/2019-05/documents/applicant-budget-development-guidance.pdf
- *The EPA Solicitation Clauses:* www.epa.gov/grants/epa-solicitation-clauses
- *The EPA Grants Policy Resources:* www.epa.gov/grants/epa-grants-policy-resources
- *The EPA Grants Management Training for Applicants and Recipients:* www.epa.gov/grants/epa-grants-management-training-applicants-and-recipients
- *Build America, Buy America Requirements:* <https://www.epa.gov/cwsrf/build-america-buy-america-baba>



Useful Links, continued

- *Prepare for a Grant Application Website:* <https://www.epa.gov/rcra/prepare-grant-application>
 - *Instructions for Registering on SAMS.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>





Questions

SWIFR@epa.gov



THANK YOU!

