



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
REGION IX
75 Hawthorne Street
San Francisco, CA 94105-3901

DATE: November 22, 2024

TO: All federally recognized tribes within the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 9 geographic area

FROM: U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 9

SUBJECT: Funding Announcement guidance for available FY25 tribal funding under Section 103 and 105 of the Clean Air Act, 42 USC §7403

Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance (CFDA) Number 66.038 – training, investigations, and special purpose activities of federally-recognized Indian Tribes consistent with the Clean Air Act (CAA), tribal sovereignty, and the protection and management of air quality; and CFDA Number 66.001 – Air Pollution Control Program Support

SUMMARY INFORMATION:

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 9 anticipates awarding approximately 30 grants to federally recognized tribes within the Region 9 geographic area for funding tribal air pollution control programs, air quality education and assessment projects, and the development of tribal air program capacity. It is expected that the awards will range from \$50,000 to \$120,000. Projects will be funded for work to be done in Fiscal Year 2026 (FY26), between October 1, 2025, and September 30, 2026. Funding decisions will not be announced until May or June, 2025.

The EPA authorities for awarding these grants are Sections 103 and 105 of the Clean Air Act, 42 USC §7403. All funded activities must be related to air pollution and/or air pollution control. In addition, the goal of these grants is to assist tribes in developing the capacity to manage their air quality programs in accordance with their individual needs. Grants awarded under these programs are governed by administrative requirements under 2 CFR Parts 200 and 1500. There is no matching requirement for Section 103 grants; there is a 5%-40% match for Section 105 grants. Section 105 grants that are part of a performance partnership grant (PPG) will no longer have the requirement of a match. That includes CAA 105 programs without Treatment in a Manner Similar to a State (TAS) where the match would normally be 40%.

CONTACT INFORMATION:

Kate Harper, (415) 947-4150, or harper.kathryn@epa.gov
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U.S. EPA Region 9, Air and Radiation Division

DEADLINE:

Proposals must be submitted electronically as a PDF to R9tribalairfunding@epa.gov on or before 6:00 p.m. PST Monday, February 24, 2025.

LATE PROPOSALS WILL NOT BE CONSIDERED.

FUNDING PRIORITIES:

The purpose of this grant program is to provide funding for tribal air pollution control programs and projects. Projects may include investigations, experiments, demonstrations, surveys, and studies relating to the causes, effects, extent, prevention, enforcement, and control of ambient and indoor air pollution. These activities may include: air quality characterization studies, identifying, investigating, and mitigating air pollution sources, air quality monitoring studies, and training and community education and outreach. Funds will be awarded to carry out projects in Indian country belonging to federally recognized tribes that fall within the EPA Region 9's geographic area.

Generally, Region 9 will prioritize funding based on the severity of air pollution on the reservation, the size and population of the reservation, and demonstrated history of the tribe's ability to contribute to addressing any air pollution concerns.

NOTE: Applicants who receive a grant award under this funding opportunity notice may not use funds from other federal assistance agreements/programs to fund the same activities proposed under this Funding Announcement.

EPA'S STRATEGIC PLAN AND ANTICIPATED PROGRAMMATIC ENVIRONMENTAL RESULTS

A. Linkage to the EPA Strategic Plan

Activities must relate to and fit within the scope of EPA's Strategic Plan's goals and objectives. Ambient (outdoor) and indoor air projects and programmatic activities are related to Goal 4 – Ensure Clean and Healthy Air for All Communities.

Objective 4.1: Improve Air Quality: Work with states and tribes to improve air quality and reduce localized pollution and health impacts.

Objective 4.2: Improve Indoor Air.

The *Strategy for Achieving the Objective* under Goal 4 affirms that the EPA works in cooperation with states, tribes, and local governments to design and implement air quality standards and programs.

B. Measuring Environmental Results

Applicants need to demonstrate a clear linkage between the relevant goals listed in the EPA Strategic Plan (2022-2026) discussed above and the grant's expected outputs and outcomes. Pursuant to EPA Order 5700.7, "*Environmental Results Under EPA Assistance Agreements*," the EPA requires that all grant recipients adequately address environmental outputs and outcomes. Outputs and outcomes differ both in their nature and in how they are measured. Applicants must

discuss anticipated environmental outputs and outcomes from proposed grant work plan objectives and performance measures.

Expected **environmental outcomes** (or progress towards long term goals) occur by carrying out an environmental program or activity that is related to an environmental or programmatic goal or objective. Outcomes may be environmental, behavioral, health-related, or programmatic in nature, and must be quantitative. Examples of outcomes may include: a significant number of community members with increased awareness of indoor air quality issues, and/or increased number of tribal residents breathing cleaner air.

Expected **environmental outputs** (or deliverables) refer to an environmental activity, task, effort, and/or associated work product that will be produced or provided over a period of time or by a specified date. Outputs may be quantitative or qualitative but must be measurable during an assistance agreement funding period. Examples of environmental outputs may include: an air quality management plan, an emissions inventory, or air monitoring data.

AWARD INFORMATION:

The EPA Region 9 anticipates awarding approximately 30 grants ranging in size from \$50,000 to \$120,000. Requests of more than \$120,000 may be considered, depending on need and funding availability. All proposals should be submitted for work to be performed during the period of October 1, 2025, to September 30, 2026. **Due to funding limitations, it is unlikely that all tribes that submit proposals will receive a grant. Also, tribes may receive an amount less than they applied for.**

PROPOSAL SUBMISSION INFORMATION:

Applicants should submit proposals electronically as a PDF document to EPA Region 9 at the email address listed below in Section B. **FULL APPLICATIONS WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED AT THIS TIME** (i.e., SF-424 forms should not be submitted, only the proposal narrative and budget).

A. Applicants should submit one electronic PDF copy of their proposal to EPA Region 9 (see Section B below for more details). Proposals may not exceed 10 pages (any additional pages will not be reviewed) and must be at least 11-point font.

Proposals must address the following items:

1. Name of Tribe
2. Contact information for this project (environmental director and project staff, organization name, address, phone, e-mail address).
3. A statement that your organization is a federally-recognized tribe within the Region 9 geographic area.
4. A brief explanation of any previous air related activities under Clean Air Act or General Assistance Program grant funding.
5. A brief description of your tribe (tribal population, geographic areas covered, etc.).
6. A narrative description of how your tribe addresses each aspect of Funding Factors 1, 2, and 3

(see pages 5 and 6 of this announcement). **Proposals that do not address the Funding Factors specifically will not be considered.**

7. Amount of proposed federal funding requested.
8. Expected environmental outcomes (accomplishments) or outputs (deliverables), with dates and interim milestones.
9. Work plan summary (work plan tasks, outcomes/deliverables, timeline for completion of tasks, and estimated staff time for completing each work plan task).
10. Proposals with air monitoring tasks must state whether the data will be collected for regulatory purposes or for informational purposes. Ambient air quality data collection for regulatory purposes must be approved by the EPA and should meet specific current requirements to assure quality data. (See page 6 for details on these requirements.)
11. Tribes currently collecting air monitoring data for informational or regulatory purposes must submit a one or two-page summary of air quality monitoring data from the past 12-month period.

NOTE: THE DATA SUMMARY IS NOT PART OF THE 10 PAGE LIMIT.

B. Submission Due Date

Proposals must be submitted electronically as a PDF on or before February 24, 2025.

LATE PROPOSALS WILL NOT BE CONSIDERED.

Please send one PDF copy of your proposal to:

R9tribalairfunding@epa.gov

For questions regarding electronic submittal and additional assistance, please contact Kate Harper, (415) 947-4150, harper.kathryn@epa.gov or Aaron Jackson, (415) 972-3821, jackson.aaron@epa.gov.

C. Confidential Business Information

It is not recommended that confidential information be included in the proposal. However, if confidential business information is included, it will be treated in accordance with 40 CFR Part 2. In accordance with 40 CFR 2.203, applicants must clearly mark applications/proposals or portions of applications/proposals they claim as confidential. If no claim of confidentiality is made, the EPA is not required to make the inquiry to the applicant otherwise required by 40 CFR 2.204(c)(2) prior to disclosure.

FUNDING FACTORS (proposals that do not specifically address each of these factors will not be considered):

Funding Factor 1 – Air Quality Issues and Environmental Risk

Your proposal will be evaluated based upon how well it describes and addresses air pollution and

public health concerns of the tribe:

1A: Are your tribal lands located in an area that has been designated by the EPA as “nonattainment” for one or more of the pollutants for which there are National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS)? Please answer yes or no, and if yes, for which pollutant(s).

1B: Please describe any Clean Air Act Title V major sources of air pollution located within your tribal jurisdiction. *Please include estimates of emissions from these sources where possible.*

1C: Please describe other non-major air pollution sources of concern located within tribal jurisdiction (e.g., minor sources, open burning, etc.). We are particularly interested in sources such as casinos, dry cleaners, gas stations, sand and gravel operations, oil and gas processing, restaurants, auto and auto body shops, internal combustion engines, and electric generators. *Please include estimates of emissions from these sources where possible.*

1D: Please describe (in detail) other air pollution and public health problems, for example: transport of air pollution from off the reservation (including nearby stationary sources and urban areas), asthma prevalence in the community, indoor air concerns, woodstove burning, wildfires, or any other concerns for the tribe. Where possible, provide quantitative information about pollution and indoor air concerns.

Funding Factor 2 – Current Air Quality Program Activities

2A: Air Quality Characterization and Monitoring

- (1) Please state whether your tribe has created an Emissions Inventory for the reservation, and if so, when it was submitted to the EPA and what issues it raised.
- (2) If your tribe is either currently monitoring for air quality, or proposing to do so, please state the current or planned monitoring objective. Most Region 9 tribes are approved by the EPA to monitor for informational purposes only. Please refer to the EPA’s Tribal Designations Policy for more detail about the use of data in determining criteria pollutant attainment status.¹
- (3) Please describe the status of any Quality Assurance Project Plan (QAPP) and the date that your tribe’s QAPP was approved or submitted to the EPA Region 9. If the QAPP was submitted more than five years ago, the tribe must submit a revised QAPP. This also applies to QAPPs for Radon or other Indoor Air Quality concerns. For any questions about Quality Assurance (QA), contact Audrey Johnson, manager of the QA Office at (415) 972-3431.
- (4) Please describe the type of existing air monitoring equipment used by the tribe and the pollutants monitored; this can also include indoor air monitoring or indoor air data collection.

¹ A few tribes with longstanding air monitoring programs and a specific need are approved to monitor for regulatory purposes (i.e., comparing the tribe’s air quality data to the National Ambient Air Quality Standards for EPA planning purposes). Link to the Tribal Designations Policy: <https://www.epa.gov/sites/production/files/2016-02/documents/ozone-designation-tribes.pdf>

If there is no ongoing monitoring, but information about tribal public health has been collected, please provide information about the data, and why this is a concern for the tribe.

- (5) Please state whether your tribe submits air quality monitoring data into the EPA's national Air Quality System (AQS) database. If yes, provide the date your tribe began entering data into AQS. If your tribe is collecting data about public health, please state what your plans are for using the data (e.g., tribe plans to use data from respiratory survey to do targeted outreach to tribal members affected).

2B: Program Development

- (1) Does your tribe have Treatment in a Similar Manner as a State (TAS) for any section of the Clean Air Act? If yes, please list the approved statutes and describe any air quality actions that your tribe has taken under TAS (e.g., reviewing and commenting on nearby major source permits).
- (2) Please describe any air quality regulations promulgated by your tribal government.
- (3) Please describe any air permitting/compliance activities.

2C: Air Quality Outreach, Participation, and Collaboration

- (1) Please describe activities which involve the dissemination of information regarding air pollution to the community and/or tribal leadership.
- (2) Please describe efforts your tribe has made to participate proactively in both national and regional air quality initiatives on an ongoing basis.
- (3) Please describe demonstrated or proposed collaboration, information sharing, or providing technical assistance to other tribes or air pollution control agencies. Give specific examples regarding the work that has been completed (i.e., number of meetings and how the tribe successfully participated). Include information about the results/outcomes of those collaborations.

Funding Factor 3 – Programmatic Capability

3A: Past Performance

Please describe your tribe's past performance in successfully completing all EPA grant projects, not just those related to air quality, including whether your tribe was able to complete work plan tasks and deliverables, submit required progress and financial reports in a timely fashion, and comply with all applicable grant conditions (if not, explain why). Note: we expect that past work plan tasks will not be included in this year's work plan (except for ongoing tasks).

3B: Tracking and Meaningful Progress

Please describe your plan for tracking and measuring progress toward achieving expected outcomes and outputs identified in the Strategic Plan/Environmental Results section of this Guidance (see description on pages 2 and 3). Please describe how past outcomes and outputs have been achieved in previous grant periods.

Clarification of current ambient air monitoring data requirements

Due to recent increases in legal challenges regarding revisions to EPA's NAAQS and subsequent area designations, EPA is reminding all state, local, and tribal organizations that ambient air quality data used by EPA in regulatory decision making must be accurate and reliable. In addition, severe resource constraints limit EPA in the number of tribes we are able to support in conducting regulatory monitoring.

EPA recognizes that these requirements are complex. Staff in our Region 9 Air Quality Analysis Office and Quality Assurance Office, as well as at the Tribal Air Monitoring Support Center in Las Vegas, Nevada, are available to help if needed.

This link has information concerning quality assurance of air quality data:
<https://www.epa.gov/amtic/ambient-air-monitoring-quality-assurance>.

In addition, below is a list of the existing quality assurance and ambient air monitoring requirements that all air monitoring organizations should follow if data is to be used for regulatory purposes:

- Have approved quality planning documents (Quality Management Plan, Quality Assurance Project Plan, and Standard Operating Procedures)
- Have an approved Annual Network Design Plan
- Have appropriately sited monitoring
- Have instruments that are EPA approved Federal Reference Method (FRM) or Federal Equivalent Method (FEM)
- Have co-located monitoring (using a pair of samplers for quality assurance), as required (including PM_{2.5} FRM co-location with FEM)
- Perform all required quality control checks (daily to monthly)
- Have two sets of standards (one for calibration and Quality Control, and one for Audits)
- Provide resources in order to participate in applicable audit programs:
 - ◆ Performance Evaluation Program (PEP) for PM_{2.5}, Pb, & PM_{10-2.5}
 - ◆ National Performance Audit Program (NPAP) for O₃, NO₂, SO₂, & CO
- Collect at least three years of quality assured data
- Have data that is greater than 75% complete
- Report data quarterly to EPA's Air Quality System database (within 90 days of collection)
- Be part of an approved Primary Quality Assurance Organization (PQAO) that has Independent Quality Assurance. Each PQAO should:
 - ◆ Perform audits as required (quarterly to semi-annually)
 - ◆ Calibrate all equipment and standards as required (quarterly to annually)
- Participate in a Technical System Audit (TSA) once every three years

If you have any questions about these requirements, please contact Fletcher Clover of EPA Region 9's Air Quality Analysis Office at 415-972-3991 or clover.fletcher@epa.gov.