

US EPA ARCHIVE DOCUMENT

AGENCY: ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY (EPA)

TITLE: Community-Scale Air Toxics Ambient Monitoring

ACTION: Request for Proposals (RFP)

RFP NUMBER: EPA-OAR-OAQPS-11-05

CATALOG OF FEDERAL DOMESTIC ASSISTANCE (CFDA) NO: 66.034

DATES: The closing date and time for receipt of proposal submissions, regardless of mode of submission, is **May 23, 2011, 4:00 p.m., Eastern Daylight Savings Time (EDT)**. All hard copies of proposal packages must be received by Michael Jones **by May 23, 2011, 4:00 p.m. EDT** in order to be considered for funding. Electronic submissions must be submitted electronically to EPA through Grants.gov (<http://www.grants.gov>) **by May 23, 2011, 4:00 p.m. EDT** in order to be considered for funding. Proposals received after the closing date and time will not be considered for funding.

SUMMARY: This notice announces the availability of funds and solicits proposals for projects designed to assist state, local and tribal communities in identifying and profiling air toxics sources, assessing emerging measurement methods, characterizing the degree and extent of local air toxics problems, and tracking progress of air toxics reduction activities.

FUNDING / AWARDS: The total estimated available funding for this competitive opportunity is approximately \$4,500,000. EPA anticipates awarding up to approximately 15 - 20 assistance agreements from this announcement, subject to availability of funds, the quality of proposals received, and other applicable considerations.

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I. FUNDING OPPORTUNITY DESCRIPTION

A. Background

The National Air Toxics Ambient Monitoring Program was developed in conjunction with both the National Ambient Air Monitoring Strategy (<http://www.epa.gov/ttn/amtic/monstratdoc.html>) and the Agency's Urban Air Toxics Strategy (<http://www.epa.gov/ttn/atw/urban/urbanpg.html>). As the air toxics and general ambient air monitoring strategies are further developed, a common set of needs is being addressed on behalf of the ambient air monitoring community. The National Ambient Air Monitoring Strategy has provided a basic framework under which the air toxics program is well integrated. The linkage to the national strategy is illustrated by two dominant principles that emerged from the national strategy. First, monitoring programs must have an appropriate balance between national prescriptive measurements (e.g. trends) and more flexibility to address local issues that are not well handled through a national design given the diversity of toxics issues across the nation. The balance between the National Air Toxics Trends Station (NATTS) network and the community monitoring assessments reflects adherence to this principle. Second, the national strategy is directing a movement toward multiple measurements across numerous pollutant groups, recognizing the fact that most air pollution issues are well integrated from a scientific perspective, and enormous economies of scale are realized from integrating program management efforts across pollutant groups.

While the NATTS program is intended to gather and assess priority Hazardous Air Pollutant (HAP) data on a national scale, a primary objective of this solicitation is to identify and more accurately define the extent of local scale HAP impacts. To meet this objective, consideration of the National Air Toxics Assessment (NATA) in planning and executing the prospective projects is appropriate. NATA (<http://www.epa.gov/ttn/atw/natamain/>) is a valuable tool for identifying those air toxics which are of greatest potential concern, in terms of contribution to population risk. The assessment includes compiling a national emissions inventory of air toxics emissions from outdoor sources, estimating population exposures across the contiguous United States, and characterizing potential public health risk due to inhalation of air toxics including both cancer and non-cancer effects. On national and regional scales, NATA found ambient levels for several pollutants at or above inhalation health levels of concern to significant portions of the population. NATA results also indicate significant local risk levels at many communities nationwide. EPA is particularly interested in receiving air toxics monitoring related proposals from areas in those communities with the highest air toxics risk. Note, however, that for mobile sources NATA is best suited for use as an initial screen and, as feasible, could be supplemented by specific local indicators such as traffic intensity (e.g., motor vehicles per day, aircraft landings and takeoffs per year, etc.), proximity of receptors (e.g., residential areas, schools, etc.) to sources (e.g., major roads, airports, rail yards, etc.), and other similar relevant factors. Much of this type of information may be available through your state Department of Transportation.

A related recent effort to gather and assess priority HAP data on a local-scale was the School Air Toxics (SAT) Ambient Monitoring Program. In 2009, the Agency partnered with State and local air pollution control agencies to assess local-scale ambient HAP concentrations at sixty-five of the highest risk schools across the country. The schools were identified and selected after evaluating a number of factors including results from EPA computer modeling analyses, the mix of pollution sources near the schools, results from an analysis conducted for a recent newspaper series on air toxics at schools, and information from state and local air pollution agencies. Further information on the SAT Ambient Monitoring Program is available at <http://www.epa.gov/schoolair/>. The

relevance of this mention is that projects arising from this Community-Scale Air Toxics Ambient Monitoring grant competition are considered to be a logical follow-on to the SAT. For cases in which the target receptor is a school, the EPA's Draft School Siting Guidelines (available at <http://www.epa.gov/schools/siting/epaschoolsitingguidelines.pdf>) may be useful in determining the degree to which a school's proximity to a source may be relevant. Note, however, that there is no requirement that the focus of these projects be limited to schools, but rather any locale within a given community where the exposure potential may be greatest.

B. Scope of Work

EPA is soliciting proposals for projects designed to assist state, local and tribal communities in identifying and profiling air toxics sources, characterizing the degree and extent of local-scale air toxics problems, tracking progress of air toxics reduction activities, and assessing emerging measurement methods. These objectives are consistent with the EPA Administrator's stated priorities (<http://blog.epa.gov/administrator/2010/01/12/seven-priorities-for-epas-future/>).

To be considered for funding under this RFP, each project proposal in response to this RFP must address one, and only one, of the following three categories: community-scale monitoring, methods evaluation, or analysis of existing data. An applicant may submit separate proposals in more than one category, but each proposal must relate to only one of the categories. Proposals that address more than one category will be rejected.

Ideally, the aggregate of awarded projects should provide some typical examples that can be relied upon by communities in other areas as a basis for initial hazardous air pollutant situation assessments. An example might be characterization of particular pollutants or a source category (e.g., coke oven, petroleum refinery, etc.) that allows for either direct translation of results to other locations or provides directions for similar studies in areas experiencing common problems. In order to ensure a balanced program activity distribution, the Agency reserves the right to award only one assistance agreement for a particular activity if several proposals for the same activity are submitted even if the lower ranking of those several proposals are higher than proposals that address other pollutants or source categories.

1. Community-Scale Monitoring. This category is intended to assist state, local and tribal agencies in assessing the degree and extent to which air toxics problems impact their respective communities. Successful proposals will demonstrate a clear and compelling need or justification, examples of which may include, but are not limited to:

- a. Delineating local scale HAP concentration gradients that are driven by factors such as proximity to, and influence by, sources and other factors unique to particular communities. While gradient delineation isn't a purpose unto itself, it may be an integral part of a larger purpose such as conducting an exposure assessment, source characterization, or assessing the degree to which environmental justice may be a relevant issue in the affected community.
- b. Characterizing near-source concentrations from specific sources, such as transportation facilities, refineries, or other industry sectors; in particular, obtain information regarding substantially elevated ambient concentrations of toxics relevant to the source being investigated, including data on the pollutant profiles or source signatures. Such measurements assist regulators in their efforts to assess

the impact of emission reduction measures (e.g., accountability) and to characterize risk and its causes for the most highly impacted populations.

c. Supporting health effects assessments. Air toxics ambient monitoring data can in some situations provide a valuable database for health scientists to investigate the relationship of ambient toxic concentrations and health impacts. In some instances opportunities may arise for health studies to be conducted in conjunction with such ambient monitoring efforts, though direct linkage to an ongoing health study is not a precondition for project selection.

d. Developing a baseline reference frame of air quality concentrations that support estimates of community exposure and provide the basis for the longer term measuring of progress of a planned emissions strategy program (e.g., characterization of base concentration levels which will inform the Residual Risk assessment process [<http://www.epa.gov/ttn/atw/rrisk/rtrpg.html>] and provide a basis for measuring improvement for promulgated Residual Risk standards)) or evaluation of potentially increased exposure to air toxics from a new facility, expanded facility capacity or other increase or change in local-scale toxics emissions.

e. Evaluating and improving air quality models that in turn are used for exposure assessments. Air quality models are an important tool for exposure assessments. However, they require supporting observations to instill confidence in model results, or to direct needed improvement in underlying model formulations or related emission inventories.

2. Methods Evaluation. This category is intended to assist state, local and tribal agencies in evaluating emerging alternative sampling and analysis and/or monitoring methodologies that are of potential applicability to their particular situation as well as regionally and/or nationally. Successful proposals will demonstrate a clear and compelling need or justification, examples of which may include, but are not limited to:

a. Assess new methods for sampling and analysis of select priority HAPs (i.e., those that emerged as national or regional drivers as a result of the 2005 National Air Toxics Assessment). HAPs for which methods work is most critical are those which 1) account for a significant contribution to the National risk, and 2) often have either a) an existing method detection limit higher than the concentrations established for one in a million cancer risk or non-cancer hazard quotient of 0.1, b) uncertainties exceeding commonly accepted data quality limits, or c) onerous and/or unduly expensive sampling or analysis methodologies. Examples of pollutants which may meet some of these criteria include acrolein, other polar compounds such as 1,3-butadiene, and naphthalene.

b. Evaluate available advanced HAP monitoring technologies that can potentially operate on a routine basis. The target result of such projects is to ascertain the cost-effectiveness and accuracy (i.e., practical value) of existing innovative monitors, samplers, or analytical methods.

3. Analysis of Existing Data. This category is aimed at state, local and tribal agencies which have already collected a significant amount of air toxics monitoring data and need support to analyze and interpret their results. The objectives of a data analysis project should be consistent with those listed under Community-Scale Monitoring: supporting health assessments, evaluating air quality models, or characterizing community exposures. In addition to all other information required in this grant competition, the applicant should address the topics described below so that the relevance and potential utility of the data analyses can be assessed by the Agency proposal reviewers.

- a. Description of the original and current project objectives - trends study, risk screening or assessment, source characterization, etc.; identify any differences and associated rationale.
- b. Details regarding the HAP data to include but not limited to:
 - 1) Target analytes (what HAPs were measured) and why (sources of concern, etc.).
 - 2) Associated sampling and analysis methodologies employed; note any issues observed with either or both the sampling and/or analysis equipment.
 - 3) Sample frequency and duration; for the latter, both per sample (e.g., 2 minute grab samples versus 24 hour integrated samples), as well monitoring record dates and length (e.g., one month, six months, a year, 3 years, etc.).
 - 4) Number of samples collected, data quality issues (e.g., flagged or voided), etc.
 - 5) Associated detection limits and data reporting practices (e.g., whether or not zeros or some fraction of the Method Detection Limit (MDL) were substituted for values below the MDL).
- c. Indication of whether a Quality Assurance Project Plan was developed and approved for the collection of these data.
- d. Explanation as to why the data were not analyzed prior to now.
- e. Discussion on how results will be used now to address original monitoring study goals.

It is intended that the grant recipients increase their knowledge of air toxics data analysis thus “empowering” them to become more proficient with tools and procedures needed to conduct viable statistical and trends analysis which meet the needs of their agency. It’s likewise intended that, where possible, the analysis may be useful to other State, local, or Tribal agencies, and may become an integral part of the EPA’s national data analysis trend effort. *Note: because data analysis has historically been a requirement for all CSATAM grant recipients, prior awardees may not use this grant mechanism to perform the data analysis that should have been completed under a previous award.*

Data analysis projects may quantify multi-year trends in HAP concentrations and relate these changes to trends in local emissions and contributions to potential transport of these pollutants. Monitoring data can be used as a measure of air program progress and accountability. Alternately, data analyses may help identify problem emissions sources that remain to be addressed. HAP sources can be identified using source apportionment techniques including meteorological analysis and receptor modeling.

Air toxics data analysis guidance, to include suggestions and examples of various methodologies, is available at <http://www.epa.gov/ttn/amtic/toxdatt.html#workbook>.

Additionally, areas with significant air toxics impacts that are also Environmental Justice communities are of particular interest and should be incorporated into an applicant's proposed project. Further information on EPA's Environmental Justice Program is available at <http://intranet.epa.gov/oeca/oej/info/index.html>. In particular, EPA's Office of Environmental Justice has developed a "Toolkit for Assessing Allegations of Environmental Injustice" (<http://www.epa.gov/environmentaljustice/resources/policy/ej-toolkit.pdf>) which serves to 1) provide a conceptual and substantive framework for understanding the Agency's environmental justice program, and 2) present a systematic approach with reference tools that can be used and adapted to assess and respond to potential allegations of environmental injustice. Also available for use in identifying potential environmental justice areas is a mapping tool called "EJView" (formerly known as the Environmental Justice Geographic Assessment Tool) which allows users to create maps and generate detailed reports based on the geographic areas and data sets they choose. EJView (<http://epamap14.epa.gov/ejmap/entry.html>) includes data from multiple factors that may affect public and environmental health within a community or region, including demographic, health, environmental, and facility-level data.

C. EPA Strategic Plan Linkage and Anticipated Outcomes, Outputs and Performance Measures

Pursuant to Section 6a of EPA Order 5700.7, "Environmental Results under EPA Assistance Agreements," EPA must link proposed assistance agreements to the Agency's Strategic Plan. EPA also requires that grant applicants and recipients adequately describe environmental outputs and outcomes to be achieved under assistance agreements (see EPA Order 5700.7, Environmental Results under Assistance Agreements, <http://www.epa.gov/ogd/grants/award/5700.7.pdf>).

1. Linkage to EPA Strategic Plan

All proposals must support Goal 1, Clean Air and Global Climate Change; Objective 1.1: Healthier Outdoor Air, Sub-objective 1.1.1, of EPA's 2006-2011 Strategic Plan, which states, "Through 2011...[EPA will]...protect human health and the environment by attaining and maintaining health-based air-quality standards and reducing the risk from toxic air pollutants." Specifically, the proposed activities will support studies which advance the understanding of air toxics science, impacts, and mitigation approaches. Such studies will provide insights for developing strategies to reduce air toxics emissions and hazardous air pollutants that will have substantial environmental and human health benefits. These benefits may include reductions in ambient concentrations of air toxic pollutants thus reducing the potential for associated adverse health impacts.

2. Outputs

The term “output” means an environmental activity, effort, and/or associated work product related to an environmental goal and objective 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.

Expected outputs from the project(s) to be funded under this announcement may include the following:

- Publicly available HAP data in a central repository (EPA’s Air Quality System Database)
- Source profiles associated with transportation, refineries, and other industry sectors
- Community-specific assessments of air toxics problems
- Improved understanding of select new ambient HAP sampling and analysis methods

Progress reports and a final report will also be a required output, as specified in Section VI(C) of this announcement, “Reporting Requirements.”

3. Outcomes

The term “outcome” means the result, effect or consequence that will occur from carrying out an environmental program or activity that is related to an environmental or programmatic goal or objective. Outcomes may be qualitative and environmental, behavioral, health-related, or programmatic in nature, but must also be quantitative. They may not necessarily be achievable within an assistance agreement funding period.

Projects to be funded under this announcement are expected to produce multiple environmental outcomes, examples of which are as follows:

- Short-term
 - Problem identification
 - Increase community awareness (to include responsible parties / industry)
 - Improve measurement techniques
 - Evaluate and/or improve air quality models
- Mid-term
 - State or local policy action(s)
 - Responsible parties / industry mitigation action(s)
 - Wide-scale deployment of new measurement technique
 - Community action to mitigate HAPs
- Long-term
 - Reduce HAP emissions
 - Reduce ambient HAP concentrations
 - Reduce human exposure to HAPs
 - Reduce adverse health effects from HAPs

Each project proposal must carefully consider and list explicit, project-specific anticipated outcomes, in particular short- and mid-term outcomes. Further, explicit links between the short-, mid-, and long-term outcome(s) should be considered, developed and clearly

articulated.

NOTE: each assistance agreement arising from this competition will be required to submit an interim final report and a final report, the latter to be submitted 6-9 months after the former. The interim final report will be provided by the grant recipient at the conclusion of the project output phase and will include documentation regarding the degree to which the project output goals and objectives were met as well as a description of / prognosis for achieving the short- and mid-term project outcomes. The final report will include the material from the interim final and include documentation regarding the degree to which the short- and mid-term project outcomes were achieved as well as a description of / prognosis for achieving the mid- and long-term outcomes.

4. Performance Measures

The applicant should also develop performance measures they expect to achieve through the proposed activities and describe them in their proposal. These performance measures will help gather insights and will be the mechanism to track progress concerning successful process, output and outcome strategies and will provide the basis for developing lessons to inform future recipients. It is expected that the description of performance measures will directly relate to the project outcomes and outputs.

The following are questions to consider when developing output and outcome measures of quantitative and qualitative results:

What are the measurable short term and longer term results the project will achieve?

How does the plan measure progress in achieving the expected results (including outputs and outcomes) and how will the approach use resources effectively and efficiently?

D. Supplementary Information.

The statutory authority for this action is the Clean Air Act, §103(b)(3), which authorizes the award of grants for research, investigations, experiments, demonstrations, surveys, and studies related to the causes, effects, (including health and welfare effects), extent, prevention, and control of air pollution. Ambient air monitoring, specifically local-scale efforts to better characterize the distribution and sources of hazardous air pollutants, as well as improved ambient air monitoring methods to achieve characterization and human exposure assessment goals, is consistent with this authority.

II. AWARD INFORMATION

A. What is the amount of funding available?

The total estimated funding expected to be available for awards under this competitive opportunity is approximately \$4,500,000.

B. Partial Funding.

In appropriate circumstances, EPA reserves the right to partially fund proposals by funding discrete portions or phases of proposed projects. If EPA decides to partially fund a proposal, it will do so in a manner that does not prejudice any applicants or affect the basis upon which the proposal was evaluated and selected for award, and therefore maintains the integrity of the competition and selection process.

C. How many agreements will EPA award in this competition?

EPA anticipates award of up to approximately 15 - 20 assistance agreements under this announcement ranging in value from not less than \$50,000 to not more than \$750,000 (subject to the availability of funds, quality of evaluated proposals, and other applicable considerations). In addition, EPA reserves the right to make additional awards under this announcement, consistent with Agency policy, if additional funding becomes available after the original selections. Any additional selections for awards will be made no later than six months from the date of the original selections.

D. What is the project period for awards resulting from this solicitation?

The estimated project period for awards resulting from this solicitation will begin in the summer to fall of 2011. Proposed project periods may be up to 3.5 years.

E. Funding Type

The funding for selected projects will be in the form of a grant or cooperative agreement, determined on a case-by-case basis by the recipient and the appropriate Regional Office. Cooperative agreements permit substantial involvement between the EPA Project Officer and the selected applicants in the performance of the work supported. Although EPA will negotiate precise terms and conditions relating to substantial involvement as part of the award process, the anticipated substantial Federal involvement for this project will be:

- Close monitoring of the successful applicant's performance to verify the results proposed by the applicant;
- Collaboration during performance of the scope of work;
- In accordance with 40 CFR 31.36(g), review of proposed procurement;
- Approving qualifications of key personnel (EPA will not select employees or contractors employed by the award recipient);
- Reviewing and commenting on reports prepared under the cooperative agreement (the final decision on the content of reports rests with the recipient).

III. ELIGIBILITY INFORMATION**A. Eligible Entities**

Consistent with the Applicant Eligibility Section of CFDA 66.034, "Surveys, Studies, Research, Investigations, Demonstrations, and Special Purpose Activities Relating to the Clean Air Act" and the EPA's Assistance Agreement Competition Policy (EPA Order 5700.5A1), competition under this announcement is being limited to a subset of eligible applicants. Specifically, as projects

resulting from this competition will be awarded exclusively with State and Tribal Assistance Grant (STAG) funds, the only entities eligible to submit applications under this announcement are air pollution control agencies, as defined by Section 302(b) of the Clean Air Act (CAA), that are also eligible to receive grants under section 105 of the Clean Air Act, and/or federally recognized tribes.

B. Cost Sharing or Matching

No matching funds are required under this competition. Although cost-sharing/matching is not required as a condition of eligibility under this competition, under Section V of this announcement EPA will evaluate proposals based on a leveraging criterion.

Leveraging is generally when an applicant proposes to provide its own additional funds/resources or those from third party sources to support or complement the project they are awarded. Any leveraged funds/resources, and their source, must be identified in the proposal (See Section IV of the announcement). Leveraged funds and resources may take various forms as noted below.

Voluntary cost share is a form of leveraging. Voluntary cost sharing is when an applicant voluntarily proposes to legally commit to provide contributions to support the project when a cost share is not required. Applicants who propose to use a voluntary cost share must include the contributions for the voluntary cost share in the project budget on the SF-424. If an applicant proposes a voluntary cost share, the following apply:

- A voluntary cost share is subject to the match provisions in the grant regulations (40 CFR 30.23 or 40 CFR 31.24, as applicable).
- A voluntary cost share may only be met with eligible and allowable costs.
- The recipient may not use other sources of federal funds to meet a voluntary cost share unless the statute authorizing the other federal funding provides that the federal funds may be used to meet a cost share requirement on a federal grant.
- The recipient is legally obligated to meet any proposed voluntary cost share that is included in the approved project budget. If the proposed voluntary cost share does not materialize during grant performance, then EPA may reconsider the legitimacy of the award and take other appropriate action as authorized by 40 CFR Parts 30 or 31 as applicable.

Other leveraged funding/resources that are not identified as a voluntary cost share is another form of leveraging that may be met by funding from another federal grant, from an applicant's own resources, or resources from other third party sources. This form of leveraging should not be included in the budget and the costs need not be eligible and allowable project costs under the EPA assistance agreement. While this form of leveraging should not be included in the budget, the grant workplan should include a statement indicating that the applicant is expected to produce the proposed leveraging consistent with the terms of the announcement and the applicant's proposal. If applicants propose to provide this form of leveraging, EPA expects them to make the effort to secure the leveraged resources described in their proposals. If the proposed leveraging does not materialize during grant performance, then EPA may reconsider the legitimacy of the award and take other appropriate action as authorized by 40 CFR Parts 30 or 31 as applicable.

C. Threshold Eligibility Criteria

These are requirements that if not met by the time of proposal submission will result in elimination of the proposal from consideration for funding. Only proposals from eligible entities (see above)

that meet all of these criteria will be evaluated against the ranking factors in Section V of this announcement. Applicants deemed ineligible for funding consideration as a result of the threshold eligibility review will be notified within 15 calendar days of the ineligibility determination.

1. Proposals must substantially comply with the proposal submission instructions and requirements set forth in Section IV of this announcement or else they will be rejected. However, where a page limit is expressed in Section IV with respect to the narrative proposal, pages in excess of the page limitation will not be reviewed.
2. Proposals must be received by the EPA or through www.grants.gov as specified in Section IV of this announcement on or before the proposal submission deadline published in Section IV of this announcement. Applicants are responsible for ensuring that their proposal reaches the designated person/office specified in Section IV of the announcement by the submission deadline.
3. Proposals received after the submission deadline will be considered late and returned to the sender without further consideration unless the applicant can clearly demonstrate that it was late due to EPA mishandling or because of technical problems associated with www.grants.gov.
4. All proposals must support EPA's Strategic Plan Goal 1, *Clean Air and Global Climate Change* (see Section I.C.1).
5. Hard copy proposals will only be accepted via an **express delivery service**. EPA will not accept proposals submitted via e-mail, fax or standard 1st Class Mail delivery by the U.S. Postal Service. See Section IV.B.1 for detailed information regarding hard copy submission.
6. The minimum and maximum award values for assistance agreements arising from this competition will be \$50,000 and \$750,000, respectively. Proposals requesting funding below the minimum or above the maximum will not be considered for funding.
7. Applicants must address one (and only one) of the three categories listed in Section I.B.
8. Only eligible entities as described in section III. Part A are eligible to apply for funding under this RFP.

IV. PROPOSAL AND SUBMISSION INFORMATION

A. How to Obtain a Proposal Package

Applicants can download individual grant application forms from EPA's Office of Grants and Debarment website at: <http://www.epa.gov/ogd/AppKit/application.htm> .

To obtain a hard copy of materials, please send an email or written request to the Agency contact listed in Section VII of this announcement.

B. Mode of Proposal Submission

Applicants have the following options to submit their proposals: 1) Hard copy by express delivery service to the specified EPA contact below, or 2) electronically through www.grants.gov as explained in Appendix A. Proposals will not be accepted via fax, email, or standard 1st class mail delivery by the U.S. Postal Service. All proposals must be prepared, and include the information, as described below in Section IV.C “Content of Proposal,” regardless of mode of transmission.

1. **Hard Copy Submission**

Please provide one original of the proposal package (including signed and completed SF 424 and SF 424A forms) --**no binders or spiral binding**--to:

Hard Copy via Express Delivery (FedEx, UPS, DHL, USPS etc.)

Michael Jones
US EPA (Mail Code: C304-06)
4930 Page Road
Durham NC 27703

Hard Copy Proposal Submission Deadline

All hard copies of proposal packages must be received by Michael Jones **not later than 4:00 p.m. EDT on May 23, 2011.**

2. **Grants.gov Submission (see Appendix A)**

Proposal Submission Deadline: Your organization’s authorized official representative (AOR) must submit your complete proposal electronically to EPA through Grants.gov (<http://www.grants.gov>) **not later than 4:00 p.m. EDT on May 23, 2011.**

C. **Content of Proposal Submission**

The proposal package **must** include all of the following materials:

- **Standard Form (SF) 424, Application for Federal Assistance**
Complete the form (available at <http://www.epa.gov/ogd/AppKit/application.htm>). There are no attachments. Please be sure to include organization fax number and email address in Block 5 of the Standard Form SF 424.

Please note that the organizational Dun and Bradstreet (D&B) Data Universal Number System (DUNS) number must be included on the SF-424. Organizations may obtain a DUNS number at no cost by calling the toll-free DUNS number request line at 1-866-705-5711.

- **Standard Form (SF) 424A , Budget Information**
Complete the form (available at <http://www.epa.gov/ogd/AppKit/application.htm>). There are no attachments. The total amount of federal funding requested for the project period should be shown on line 5(e) and on line 6(k) of SF-424A, the amount of indirect costs should be

entered on line 6(j). The indirect cost rate (i.e., a percentage), the base (e.g., personnel costs and fringe benefits), and the amount should also be indicated on line 22.

- **Narrative Proposal**

The Narrative Proposal (**sections 1-3 below**) may not exceed a maximum of 10 single-spaced typewritten pages, including the Summary Page. Supporting materials, such as resumes and letters of support, can be submitted as attachments and are not included in the 10 page limit.

1. **Summary Information Page** (recommended not exceeding one page)

- a. Project Title
- b. Applicant Information. Include applicant (organization) name, address, contact person, phone number, fax and e-mail address.
- c. Funding Requested. Specify the amount you are requesting from EPA.
- d. Total Project Cost. Specify total cost of the project. Identify funding from other sources, including cost share or in-kind resources.
- e. Project period. Provide beginning and ending dates. (Projects are anticipated to begin date and end no later than date.)
- f. DUNS number-See Section VI.C.

2. **Narrative Proposal Work-Plan**

The narrative proposal work-plan must explicitly describe how the proposed project meets the guidelines established in Sections I-III of this announcement (including the threshold eligibility criteria in Section III.C), and must address each of the evaluation criteria set forth in Section V. *Applicants are strongly encouraged to structure their narrative proposal in the same manner, both content and sequence, as the evaluation criteria presented in Section V.*

- a. **Basis and Rationale**

Describe the particular situation the proposed project is intended to address, providing as much detail / supporting information as is reasonable and necessary to clearly portray the specific problem or issue. Discuss the situational relevance to the applicable category as described in Section I, Part B, and make a connection between the issue and your organization.

Provide a clear and compelling rationale / justification for the proposed project (e.g., 2005 NATA results for the affected location, discussion of local HAP sources, previous local-area ambient air monitoring data and/or studies, risk assessments, etc.). Make a case for your project in terms of local impacts, and discuss how your particular local situation / scenario and project could have relevance to locales / areas beyond your own.

- b. **Technical Approach**

Describe the project objectives and explain how those objectives will address the specific scenario you described in your basis and rationale discussion.

Describe and explain the proposed project plan / design (to include performance measures), and how that project plan will enable achieving the stated project objectives.

c. Data Analysis

Describe your data analysis plan, including information on 1) how the project design will support the data analysis objective(s), and 2) how the data analysis will be used. Potential data analyses include source apportionment / source signature identification risk characterization / exposure assessment, evaluation of new or emerging monitoring method utility and practical value, model evaluation and improvement, risk mitigation efforts, etc.

d. Environmental Justice Impacts

Describe how your proposed project will address Environmental Justice (EJ) issues and concerns, in particular how it will help to reduce exposure and adverse impacts of toxic air pollutants for the EJ community under consideration. Provide evidence that the community in question is 1) an EJ community, and that it is 2) significantly impacted by toxic air pollutants (*please see Section I.B for helpful information and tools in establishing this substantiating evidence*).

e. Community Collaboration / Outreach

Describe and provide evidence of any collaborative interaction and involvement with the local affected community during the project proposal development. Provide your plan for continued collaboration / community involvement throughout the project and beyond. *Note that communications and outreach funding must be reflected in the detailed itemized budget.*

f. Environmental Results: Outcomes, Outputs, Performance Measures

Identify the expected quantitative and qualitative outcomes and outputs of the project (see Section I.C), including what performance measurements or other means will be used to track and measure your progress towards achieving the expected outcomes and outputs, and how the results of the project will be evaluated.

g. Programmatic Capability and Past Performance

Submit a list of federally funded assistance agreements (assistance agreements include Federal grants and cooperative agreements but not Federal contracts) similar in size, scope and relevance to the proposed project that your organization performed within the last three years (no more than five agreements, and preferably EPA agreements) and describe (i) whether, and how, you were able to successfully complete and manage those agreements and (ii) your history of meeting the reporting requirements

under those agreements including whether you adequately and timely reported on your progress towards achieving the expected outputs and outcomes of those agreements (and if not, explain why not) and whether you submitted acceptable final technical reports under the agreements. In evaluating applicants under these factors in Section V, EPA will consider the information provided by the applicant and may also consider relevant information from other sources, including information from EPA files and from current/prior grantors (e.g., to verify and/or supplement the information provided by the applicant). If you do not have any relevant or available past performance or reporting information, please indicate this in the proposal and you will receive a neutral score for these factors (a neutral score is half of the total points available in a subset of possible points). If you do not provide any response for these items, you may receive a score of 0 for these factors.

h. Detailed Budget Narrative (*See Appendix B, Budget Sample*)

Clearly explain how EPA funds will be used. This section provides an opportunity for a narrative description of the budget found in the SF-424A. Applicants must itemize costs related to personnel, fringe benefits, contractual costs, travel, equipment, supplies, other direct costs, indirect costs, and total costs.

Management Fees: When formulating budgets for proposals, applicants must not include management fees or similar charges in excess of the direct costs and indirect costs at the rate approved by the applicants cognizant audit agency, or at the rate provided for by the terms of the agreement negotiated with EPA. The term "management fees or similar charges" refers to expenses added to the direct costs in order to accumulate and reserve funds for ongoing business expenses, unforeseen liabilities, or for other similar costs that are not allowable under EPA assistance agreements. Management fees or similar charges may not be used to improve or expand the project funded under this agreement, except to the extent authorized as a direct cost of carrying out the scope of work.

i. Leveraging (*See also Section III.B*)

Demonstrate how you will leverage additional funds/resources beyond the grant funds awarded to support the proposed project activities and how these funds/resources will be used to contribute to the performance and success of the proposed project. This includes but is not limited to funds and other resources leveraged from businesses, labor organizations, non-profit organizations, education and training providers, and/or Federal, state, tribal, and local governments, as appropriate. Describe the amount and type of leveraged resources to be provided, how you will obtain the leveraged resources, the likelihood the leveraging will materialize during grant performance, the strength of the leveraging commitment, and the role the leveraged resources will play to support the proposed project activities.

Selected applicants are expected to abide by their proposed leveraging commitments during grant performance and the failure to do so may affect the legitimacy of the award.

4. Attachments. These are optional and are not included in the 10 page limit. Nor are these attachments considered during evaluation of an applicant's proposal.

a. Biographical Sketch. Provide resumes or curriculum vitae for all principal investigators and any other key personnel.

b. Negotiated Indirect Cost Rate Agreement.

c. Quality Assurance Narrative Statement.

d. Support Letters-These should indicate how the supporting organization will assist in the project.

D. Can funding be used for the applicant to make subawards to acquire contract services or fund partnerships?

EPA awards funds to one eligible applicant as the recipient even if other eligible applicants are named as partners or co-applicants or members of a coalition or consortium. The recipient is accountable to EPA for the proper expenditure of funds.

Funding may be used to provide subgrants or subawards of financial assistance, which includes using subawards or subgrants to fund partnerships, provided the recipient complies with applicable requirements for subawards or subgrants including those contained in 40 CFR Parts 30 or 31, as appropriate. Applicants must compete contracts for services and products, including consultant contracts, and conduct cost and price analyses to the extent required by the procurement provisions of the regulations at 40 CFR Parts 30 or 31, as appropriate. The regulations also contain limitations on consultant compensation. Applicants are not required to identify subawardees/subgrantees and/or contractors (including consultants) in their proposal. However, if they do, the fact that an applicant selected for award has named a specific subawardee/subgrantee, contractor, or consultant in the proposal EPA selects for funding does not relieve the applicant of its obligations to comply with subaward/subgrant and/or competitive procurement requirements as appropriate. Please note that applicants may not award sole source contracts to consulting, engineering or other firms assisting applicants with the proposal solely based on the firm's role in preparing the proposal.

Successful applicants cannot use subgrants or subawards to avoid requirements in EPA grant regulations for competitive procurement by using these instruments to acquire commercial services or products from for-profit organizations to carry out its assistance agreement. The nature of the transaction between the recipient and the subawardee or subgrantee must be consistent with the standards for distinguishing between vendor transactions and subrecipient assistance under Subpart B Section .210 of OMB Circular A-133 , and the definitions of subaward at 40 CFR 30.2(ff) or subgrant at 40 CFR 31.3, as applicable. EPA will not be a party to these transactions. Applicants acquiring commercial goods or services must comply with the competitive procurement standards in 40 CFR Part 30 or 40 CFR Part 31.36 and cannot use a subaward/subgrant as the funding mechanism.

E. How will an applicant's proposed subawardees/subgrantees and contractors be considered during the evaluation process described in Section V of the announcement?

Section V of the announcement describes the evaluation criteria and evaluation process that will be used by EPA to make selections under this announcement. During this evaluation, except for those criteria that relate to the applicant's own qualifications, past performance, and reporting history, the review panel will consider, if appropriate and relevant, the qualifications, expertise, and experience of an applicant's named:

- Subawardees / subgrantees identified in the proposal if the applicant demonstrates in its proposal that if it receives an award that the subaward/subgrant will be properly awarded consistent with the applicable regulations in 40 CFR Parts 30 or 31. For example, applicants must not use subawards/subgrants to obtain commercial services or products from for profit firms or individual consultants.
- Contractor(s), including consultants, identified in the proposal if the applicant demonstrates in its proposal that the contractor(s) was selected in compliance with the competitive Procurement Standards in 40 CFR Part 30 or 40 CFR 31.36 as appropriate. For example, an applicant must demonstrate that it selected the contractor(s) competitively or that a proper non-competitive sole-source award consistent with the regulations will be made to the contractor(s), that efforts were made to provide small and disadvantaged businesses with opportunities to compete, and that some form of cost or price analysis was conducted. EPA may not accept sole source justifications for contracts for services or products that are otherwise readily available in the commercial marketplace.

EPA will not consider the qualifications, experience, and expertise of named subawardees / subgrantees and/or named contractor(s) during the proposal evaluation process unless the applicant complies with these requirements.

F. Submission Dates and Times

The closing date and time for receipt of proposal submissions, regardless of mode of submission, is **May 23, 2011, 4:00 p.m., Eastern Daylight Savings Time (EDT)**. All hard copies of proposal packages must be received by Michael Jones by this **May 23, 2011, 4:00 p.m. EDT**; electronic submissions must be submitted to www.grants.gov by this **May 23, 2011, 4:00 p.m. EDT**. Proposals received or submitted electronically after the closing date and time will not be considered for funding.

G. Confidential Business Information

In accordance with 40 CFR 2.203, applicants may claim all or a portion of their proposal as confidential business information. EPA will evaluate confidentiality claims in accordance with 40 CFR Part 2. Applicants must clearly mark proposals or portions of proposals they claim as confidential. If no claim of confidentiality is made, EPA is not required to make the inquiry to the applicant otherwise required by 40 CFR 2.204(c) (2) prior to disclosure. However, the agency considers competitive proposals confidential and protected from disclosure prior to the completion of the competitive selection process.

H. Pre-Application Assistance and Communications

In accordance with EPA's Assistance Agreement Competition Policy (EPA Order 5700.5A1), EPA staff will not meet with individual applicants to discuss draft proposal packages, provide informal comments on draft narrative proposals, or provide advice and/or guidance to applicants on how to respond to ranking criterion. Applicants are responsible for the contents of their proposals. However, EPA will respond to questions in writing from individual applicants regarding threshold eligibility criterion, administrative issues related to the submission of the proposal, and requests for clarification about the announcement.

V. APPLICATION REVIEW INFORMATION

Only eligible entities whose proposals meet the threshold criteria in Section III of this announcement will be reviewed according to the evaluation criterion set forth below. Applicants must explicitly address these criteria as part of their proposal package submittal. Each proposal will be rated under a points system, with a total of 100 points possible.

A. Evaluation Criteria

Criteria	Points
1. <u>Basis and Rationale:</u> Under this criterion, the Agency will evaluate the quality and extent of (7 pts) the particular situation the proposed project is intended to address, and the degree to which it relates to the relevant scenario(s) identified in Section I, Part B, and (7 pts) a clear and compelling rationale / justification for the proposed project (e.g., 2005 NATA results for the affected location, discussion of local HAP sources, previous local ambient air monitoring data and/or studies, risk assessments, etc.).	14
2. <u>Technical Approach:</u> Under this criterion, the Agency will evaluate the quality and extent of (7 pts) the project objectives and how those objectives will address the specific scenario, and (7 pts) the proposed project plan / design, and how that project plan will enable achieving the stated project objectives.	14
3. <u>Data Analysis:</u> Under this criterion, applicants will be evaluated based on the quality and content of their data analysis plan, including information on how the project design will support the data analysis objective(s), and how the data analysis will be used. Potential data analyses include source apportionment / source signature identification, exposure assessment / risk characterization, evaluation of new or emerging monitoring method utility and practical value, model evaluation and	12

improvement, risk mitigation efforts, etc.	
4. <u>Environmental Justice Impacts:</u> Under this criterion, the Agency will evaluate the extent to which the proposed project addresses environmental justice issues and concerns, including how it will help to reduce exposure and negative impacts of environmental risks to minority, low-income, and indigenous communities that the applicant can demonstrate are significantly impacted by toxic air pollution.	12
5. <u>Community Collaboration / Outreach:</u> Applicants will be evaluated based on the extent of their collaborative interaction and involvement with the local affected community during the project proposal development, and an effective plan and budget for continued collaboration / community involvement throughout the project and beyond.	12
6. <u>Environmental Results—Outcomes, Outputs and Performance Measures:</u> Under this criterion, the Agency will evaluate the effectiveness of the applicant's plan for tracking and measuring its progress toward achieving the expected project outputs and outcomes, including those identified in Section I of this announcement. In addition, the Agency will evaluate the performance measures proposed by the applicant and how they will be used to help track and measure the Applicants progress towards achieving the expected outputs and outcomes.	10
7. <u>Programmatic Capability and Past Performance:</u> Under this criterion, applicants will be evaluated based on their ability to successfully complete and manage the proposed project taking into account their (4 pts) organizational and staff experience, expertise and qualifications in conducting or managing projects of similar scope, if you are combining staff and organization, please add achieving success and timely completion of project (3 pts) past performance in successfully completing and managing the assistance agreements identified in the narrative proposal as described in Section IV.C of the announcement, and (3 pts) history of meeting the reporting requirements under the assistance agreements identified in the narrative proposal as described in Section IV.C of the announcement including the extent to which the applicant submitted timely and adequate a) progress reports, and b) acceptable final technical reports under those agreements (to include the extent to which the applicant reported on their progress towards achieving the expected outputs and outcomes under those agreements, and if such progress was not being made whether the applicant adequately reported why not). Note: In evaluating applicants under the second and third items of this criterion, the Agency will consider the information provided by the applicant and may also consider relevant information from other sources including agency files and prior/current grantors (e.g., to verify and/or supplement the information supplied by the applicant).	10

If you do not have any relevant or available past performance or reporting information, please indicate this in the proposal and you will receive a neutral score for these sub-factors (items I and II above-a neutral score is half of the total points available in a subset of possible points). If you do not provide any response for these items, you may receive a score of 0 for these factors.	
8. <u>Budget</u>: Under this criterion, the Agency will evaluate the proposed project budget to determine whether, (5 pts) costs are reasonable to accomplish the proposed goals, objectives, and measurable environmental outcomes, (5 pts) the proposed budget provides a detailed breakout of the approximate funding used for each major activity. An applicant's budget and budget narrative must follow the example provided in Section VIII, Appendix B of this RFP and account for both federal funds and any non-federal funds (e.g., any voluntary cost share or other leveraging). Applicants must precisely describe in their budget narrative how they will account for any non-federal funds and what role EPA funding will play in the overall project.	10
9. <u>Leveraging</u>: Under this criterion, applicants will be evaluated based on the extent they demonstrate that they will leverage additional funds/ resources, beyond the grant funds awarded, to support the proposed project activities and how these funds/resources will be used to contribute to the performance and success of the proposed project. This includes but is not limited to funds and other resources leveraged from within the applicant's / co-applicant's / partner's organization(s), businesses, labor organizations, non-profit organizations, education and training providers, and/or Federal, state, tribal, and local governments, as appropriate. Applicants will also be evaluated based on the amount and type of leveraged resources to be provided, how they will obtain the leveraged resources, the likelihood the leveraging will materialize during grant performance, the strength of the leveraging commitment, and the role the leveraged funds/resources will play to support the proposed project activities.	6

B. Review and Selection Process

Proposals will first be evaluated against the threshold factors listed in Section III. Only those proposals which meet all of the threshold factors will be evaluated using the evaluation criteria listed above by an EPA evaluation team. Each proposal will be given a numerical score and will be rank-ordered according to the numerical score. Preliminary funding recommendations will be provided to the Approving Official based on this ranking.

C. Other Factors

Final funding decisions will be made by the Approving Official based on the rankings and preliminary recommendations of the EPA evaluation team. In making the final funding decisions, the Approving Official may also consider programmatic priorities and geographic diversity of funds.

Once final decisions have been made, a funding recommendation will be developed and forwarded to the EPA Award Official.

VI. AWARD ADMINISTRATION INFORMATION

A. Award Notices

Following evaluation of proposals, all applicants will be notified regarding their status. EPA anticipates notification to successful applicants will be made via telephone, email or postal mail approximately 60 – 75 days after the announcement has closed. The notification will be sent to the original signer of the Standard Form (SF) 424, Proposal for Federal Assistance. Such notifications will advise the applicant that its proposed project has been successfully evaluated and *recommended* for award, but does *not authorize* the applicant to begin performance. The award notice signed by the EPA grants officer is the authorizing document and will be provided through postal mail. At a minimum, this process can take up to 90 days from the date of recommendation.

EPA anticipates notification to *unsuccessful* applicant(s) will be made via email or postal mail approximately 60 – 75 days after the announcement has closed. The notification will be sent to the original signer of the Standard Form (SF) 424, Proposal for Federal Assistance.

B. Administrative and National Policy Requirement

A listing and description of general EPA Regulations applicable to the award of assistance agreements may be viewed at:

http://www.epa.gov/ogd/AppKit/applicable_epa_regulations_and_description.htm.

Executive Order 12372, Intergovernmental Review of Federal Programs, may be applicable to awards resulting from this announcement. Applicants selected for funding may be required to provide a copy of their application to their [State Point of Contact](#) (SPOC) for review, pursuant to Executive Order 12372, Intergovernmental Review of Federal Programs. This review is not required with the Initial Application and not all states require such a review. A listing of State Point of Contacts (SPOC) may be viewed at: www.whitehouse.gov/omb/grants/spoc.html

C. Central Contractor Registration (CCR) and Data Universal Numbering System (DUNS) Requirements

Unless exempt from these requirements under OMB guidance at [2 CFR Part 25](#) (e.g., individuals), applicants must:

1. Be registered in the CCR prior to submitting an application or proposal under this announcement. CCR information can be found at <https://www.bpn.gov/ccr/>
 2. Maintain an active CCR registration with current information at all times during which it has an active Federal award or an application or proposal under consideration by an agency, and
 3. Provide its DUNS number in each application or proposal it submits to the agency.
- Applicants can receive a DUNS number, at no cost, by calling the dedicated toll-free DUNS Number request line at 1-866-705-5711, or visiting the D&B website at: <http://www.dnb.com>.

If an applicant fails to comply with these requirements, it will, should it be selected for award, affect their ability to receive the award.

D. Reporting Requirement

Quarterly progress reports, an interim final report and a final report will be required. Quarterly reports will include a discussion of technical progress, planned activities for the next quarter and a summary of expenditures. The interim final report will be due at the conclusion of the project output phase (approximately 6 months prior to the overall project period of performance) and will include a summary of the project or activity, advances achieved, costs of the project or activity, documentation regarding the degree to which the project output goals and objectives were met as well as a description of / prognosis for achieving the short- and mid-term project outcomes. The final report shall be completed within 90 calendar days of the completion of the period of performance and will provide updated and expanded detail and documentation to include the degree to which the short- and mid-term project outcomes were achieved as well as a description of / prognosis for achieving the remaining mid- and long-term outcomes. In addition, the final technical report will discuss the problems, successes, and lessons learned from the project or activity that could help overcome structural, organizational or technical obstacles to implementing a similar project elsewhere. The schedule for submission of quarterly reports will be established by EPA, after award.

E. Exchange Network

EPA, states, territories, and tribes are working together to develop the National Environmental Information Exchange Network, a secure, Internet- and standards-based way to support electronic data reporting, sharing, and integration of both regulatory and non-regulatory environmental data. States, tribes and territories exchanging data with each other or with EPA, should make the Exchange Network and the Agency's connection to it, the Central Data Exchange (CDX), the standard way they exchange data and should phase out any legacy methods they have been using. More information on the Exchange Network is available at www.exchangenetwork.net.

F. Disputes

Assistance agreement competition-related disputes will be resolved in accordance with the dispute resolution procedures published in 70 FR (Federal Register) 3629, 3630 (January 26, 2005) which can be found at <http://www.epa.gov/ogd/competition/resolution.htm>. Copies of these procedures may also be requested by contacting Michael Jones at jones.mike@epa.gov.

G. Subaward and Executive Compensation Reporting

Applicants must ensure that they have the necessary processes and systems in place to comply with the sub-award and executive total compensation reporting requirements established under OMB guidance at [2 CFR Part 170](#), unless they qualify for an exception from the requirements, should they be selected for funding.

H. Use of Grant Funds

An applicant that receives an award under this announcement is expected to manage assistance agreement funds efficiently and effectively and make sufficient progress towards completing the

project activities described in the work-plan in a timely manner. The assistance agreement will include terms/conditions implementing this requirement.

VII. AGENCY CONTACTS

For further information, contact:

Michael Jones
US EPA (Mail Code: C304-06)
AQAD/AAMG
Research Triangle Park NC 27711

Phone: (919) – 541-0528
jones.mike@epa.gov

All questions or comments must be communicated in writing via postal mail, fax or email to the contact person listed above. Questions and answers will be posted until the closing date of this announcement at the OAR Grants/Funding webpage:

http://www.epa.gov/air/grants_funding.html.

VIII. Other Information (Appendices)

Appendix A. Grants.gov Submission Instructions

Grants.gov Instructions

The electronic submission of your proposal must be made by an authorized official representative (AOR) of your institution who is registered with Grants.gov and is authorized to sign grant proposals for Federal assistance. For more information, go to <http://www.grants.gov> and click on “Get Registered” on the left side of the page. *Note that the registration process may take a week or longer to complete.* If your organization is not currently registered with Grants.gov, please encourage them to designate an AOR and ask that individual to begin the registration process as soon as possible.

To begin the proposal process under this grant announcement, go to <http://www.grants.gov> and click on the “Apply for Grants” tab on the left side of the page. Then click on “Apply Step 1: Download a Grant Application Package” to download the compatible Adobe viewer and obtain the application package. **To apply through grants.gov you must use Adobe Reader applications and download the compatible Adobe Reader version (Adobe Reader applications are available to [download for free on the Grants.gov website](#). For more information on Adobe Reader please visit the [Help section](#) on grants.gov at <http://www.grants.gov/help/help.jsp> or http://www.grants.gov/aboutgrants/program_status.jsp).**

Once you have downloaded the viewer, you may retrieve the application package by entering the Funding Opportunity Number, EPA-OAR-OAQPS-11-05, or the CFDA number that applies to the announcement (CFDA 66.034), in the appropriate field. You may also be able to access the proposal package by clicking on the Application button at the top right of the synopsis page for this announcement on <http://www.grants.gov> (to find the synopsis page, go to <http://www.grants.gov> and click on the “Find Grant Opportunities” button on the left side of the page and then go to

Search Opportunities and use the Browse by Agency feature to find EPA opportunities).

Proposal Submission Deadline: Your organization's AOR must submit your complete proposal package electronically to EPA through Grants.gov (<http://www.grants.gov>) no later than **May 23, 2011**.

Please submit *all* of the proposal materials described below.

Proposal Materials

The following forms and documents are required to be submitted under this announcement:

- I. Application for Federal Assistance (SF-424)
- II. Budget Information for Non-Construction Programs (SF-424A)
- III. Narrative Proposal-prepared as described in Section IV.C of the RFP
- IV. Other Attachments Form for other optional documents-See Section IV.C of the RFP:
 - a. **Biographical Sketch.** Provide resumes or curriculum vitae for all principal investigators and any other key personnel.
 - b. **Negotiated Indirect Cost Rate Agreement.**
 - c. **Quality Assurance Narrative Statement.**
 - d. **Support Letters**-These should indicate how the supporting organization will assist in the project.

The proposal package *must* include all of the following materials:

I. Standard Form (SF) 424, Application for Federal Assistance

Complete the form. There are no attachments. Please be sure to include organization fax number and email address in Block 5 of the Standard Form SF 424.

Please note that the organizational Dun and Bradstreet (D&B) Data Universal Number System (DUNS) number must be included on the SF-424. Organizations may obtain a DUNS number at no cost by calling the toll-free DUNS number request line at 1-866-705-5711.

II. Standard Form SF 424A – Budget Information:

Complete the form. There are no attachments. The total amount of federal funding requested for the project period should be shown on line 5(e) and on line 6(k) of SF-424A. If indirect costs are included, the amount of indirect costs should be entered on line 6(j). The indirect cost rate (i.e., a percentage), the base (e.g., personnel costs and fringe benefits), and the amount should also be indicated on line 22.

III. Narrative Proposal

The narrative proposal must be prepared as described in Section IV.C of the announcement. The document should be readable in PDF format and consolidated into a single file.

IV. Other Attachments Form-other optional documents (See above)

Application Preparation and Submission Instructions

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

For documents I and II, 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 you enter an invalid response or incomplete information in a field, you will receive an error message. When you have finished filling out each form, click “Save.” When you return to the electronic Grant Application Package page, click on the form you just completed, 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.”

For document III, you will need to attach electronic files. Prepare your narrative proposal as described in Section IV.C of the announcement and save the document to your computer as a PDF file. When you are ready to attach your proposal to the application package, click on “Project Narrative Attachment Form,” and open the form. Click “Add Mandatory Project Narrative File,” and then attach your proposal (previously saved to your computer) using the browse window that appears. You may then click “View Mandatory Project Narrative File” to view it. Enter a brief descriptive title of your 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 that you would like to submit to accompany your proposal (optional documents described above), you may click “Add Optional Project Narrative File” and proceed as before or use the Other Attachments Form. When you have finished attaching the necessary documents, click “Close Form.” When you 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.”

Once you have finished filling out all of the forms/attachments and they appear in one of the “Completed Documents for Submission” boxes, click the “Save” button that appears at the top of the Web page. It is suggested that you save the document a second time, using a different name, since this will make it easier to submit an amended package later if necessary. Please use the following format when saving your file: “Applicant Name – FY11 – Assoc Prog Supp – 1st Submission” or “Applicant Name – FY 11 Assoc Prog Supp – Back-up Submission.” If it becomes necessary to submit an amended package at a later date, then the name of the 2nd submission should be changed to “Applicant Name – FY11 Assoc Prog Supp – 2nd Submission.”

Once your proposal package has been completed and saved, send it to your AOR for submission to U.S. EPA through Grants.gov. Please advise your AOR to close all other software programs before attempting to submit the proposal package through Grants.gov. In the “Application Filing Name” box, your AOR should enter your organization’s name (abbreviate where possible), the fiscal year (e.g., FY11), and the grant category (e.g., Assoc Prog Supp). The filing name should not exceed 40 characters. From the “Grant Application Package” page, your AOR may submit the application package by clicking the “Submit” button that appears at the top of the page. The AOR will then be asked to verify the agency and funding opportunity number for which the application package is being submitted. If problems are encountered during the submission process, the AOR should reboot his/her computer before trying to submit the proposal package again. [It may be necessary to turn off the computer (not just restart it) before attempting to submit the package again.] If the AOR continues to experience submission problems, he/she may contact Grants.gov for assistance by phone at 1-800-518-4726 or email at <http://www.grants.gov/help/help.jsp>.

Proposal packages submitted thru grants.gov will be time/date stamped electronically.

Appendix B. Budget Sample

Budget Detail

This section of the work plan is a detailed description of the budget found in the SF-424A, and must include a detailed discussion of how EPA funds will be used. Applicants must **itemize** costs related to personnel, fringe benefits, travel, equipment, supplies, contractual costs, other direct costs, indirect costs, and total costs.

If the project budget includes any cost-share, the Budget Detail portion of the narrative proposal must include a detailed description of how the applicant will obtain the cost-share and how the cost-share funding will be used. If EPA accepts an offer for a voluntary cost-share, applicants must meet their sharing commitment as a legal condition of receiving EPA funding. If the proposed cost-share is to be provided by a third-party, a letter of commitment is required. Any form of cost-share included in the Budget Detail must also be include on the SF 424 and SF 424A. Please see Section III.B in this RFP for more detailed information on cost-share.

Applicants should use the following instructions, budget object class descriptions, and example table to complete the Budget Detail section of the work plan.

- **Personnel - List all staff positions by title. Give annual salary, percentage of time assigned to the project, and total cost for the budget period.** This category includes only direct costs for the salaries of those individuals who will perform work directly for the project (generally, paid employees of the applicant organization). If the applicant organization is including staff time (in-kind services) as a cost share, this should be included as Personnel costs. Personnel costs do not include: (1) costs for services of consultants, contractors, consortia members, or other partner organizations, which are included in the “Contractual” category; (2) costs for employees of subrecipients under subawards, which are included in the “Other” category; or (3) effort that is nor directly in support of the proposed project, which may be covered by the organization’s negotiated indirect cost rate. The budget detail must identify the personnel category type by Full Time Equivalent (FTE), including percentage of FTE for part-time employees, number of personnel proposed for each category, and the estimated funding amounts.
- **Fringe Benefits - Identify the percentage used, the basis for its computation, and the types of benefits included.** Fringe benefits are allowances and services provided by employers to their employees as compensation in addition to regular salaries and wages. Fringe benefits include, but are not limited to the cost of leave, employee insurance, pensions and unemployment benefit plans.
- **Travel - Specify the mileage, per diem, estimated number of trips in-State and out-of-State, number of travelers, and other costs for each type of travel.** Travel may be integral to the purpose of the proposed project (e.g. inspections) or related to proposed project activities (e.g. attendance at meetings). Travel costs do not include: (1) costs for travel of consultants, contractors, consortia members, or other partner organizations, which are included in the “Contractual” category; (2) travel costs for employees of subrecipients under subawards, which are included in the “Other” category.

- **Equipment - Identify each item to be purchased which has an estimated acquisition cost of \$5,000 or more per unit and a useful life of more than one year.** Equipment also includes accessories necessary to make the equipment operational. Equipment does not include: (1) equipment planned to be leased/rented, including lease/purchase agreement; or (2) equipment service or maintenance contracts. These types of proposed costs should be included in the "Other" category. Items with a unit cost of less than \$5,000 should be categorized as supplies, pursuant to 40 CFR 31.3 and 30.2. The budget detail must include an itemized listing of all equipment proposed under the project.
- **Supplies - "Supplies" means all tangible personal property other than "equipment".** The budget detail should identify categories of supplies to be procured (e.g., laboratory supplies or office supplies). Non-tangible goods and services associated with supplies, such as printing service, photocopy services, and rental costs should be included in the "Other" category.
- **Contractual - Identify each proposed contract and specify its purpose and estimated cost.** Contractual/consultant services are those services to be carried out by an individual or organization, other than the applicant, in the form of a procurement relationship. Leased or rented goods (equipment or supplies) should be included in the "Other" category. The applicant should list the proposed contract activities along with a brief description of the scope of work or services to be provided, proposed duration, and proposed procurement method (competitive or non-competitive), if known.
- **Other - List each item in sufficient detail for EPA to determine the reasonableness and allowability of its cost.** This category should include only those types of direct costs that do not fit in any of the other budget categories. Examples of costs that may be in this category are: insurance, rental/lease of equipment or supplies, equipment service or maintenance contracts, printing or photocopying, rebates, and subaward costs. Subawards (e.g., subgrants) are a distinct type of cost under this category. The term "subaward" means an award of financial assistance (money or property) by any legal agreement made by the recipient to an eligible subrecipient. This term does not include procurement purchases, technical assistance in the form of services instead of money, or other assistance in the form of revenue sharing, loans, loan guarantees, interest subsidies, insurance, or direct appropriations. Subcontracts are not subawards and belong in the contractual category. Applicants must provide the aggregate amount they propose to issue as subaward work and a description of the types of activities to be supported.
- **Indirect Charges - If indirect charges are budgeted, indicate the approved rate and base.** Indirect costs are those incurred by the grantee for a common or joint purpose that benefit more than one cost objective or project, and are not readily assignable to specific cost objectives or projects as a direct cost. In order for indirect costs to be allowable, the applicant must have a federal or state negotiated indirect cost rate (e.g., fixed, predetermined, final or provisional), or must have submitted a proposal to the cognizant Federal or State agency. Examples of Indirect Cost Rate calculations are shown below:
 - Personnel (Indirect Rate x Personnel = Indirect Costs)
 - Personnel and Fringe (Indirect Rate x Personnel & Fringe = Indirect Costs)
 - Total Direct Costs (Indirect Rate x Total direct costs = Indirect Costs)
 - Direct Costs minus distorting or other factors such as contracts and equipment
(Indirect Rate x (total direct cost – distorting factors) = Indirect Costs)

Example Budget Table

	EPA Funding	**Cost-Share
Personnel		
(1) Project Manager @ \$40/hr x 10 hrs/week x 52 wks		\$20,800
(3) Project Staff @ \$25/hr x 40 hrs/week x 40 wks	\$120,000	
TOTAL PERSONNEL	\$120,000	\$20,800
Fringe Benefits		
20% of Salary and Wages	20%(120,000)	20%(20,800)
- Retirement, Health Benefits, FICA, SUI	\$24,000	\$4,160
TOTAL FRINGE BENEFITS	\$24,000	\$4,160
Travel		
Travel for Project Manager and staff: 500 mi/mo @ \$0.55/mi x 12 mos.	\$3,300	
TOTAL TRAVEL	\$3,300	
Equipment		
TOTAL EQUIPMENT	0	
Supplies		
Office and related supplies to support training	\$10,000	
TOTAL SUPPLIES	\$10,000	
Contractual		
Support Services Contract	\$20,000	
TOTAL CONTRACTUAL	\$20,000	
Other		
TOTAL OTHER	\$0	
Indirect Charges		
Federal Negotiated Indirect Cost Rate = 10% (Indirect Rate x Personnel = Indirect Costs)	\$12,000	
TOTAL INDIRECT	\$12,000	
TOTAL FUNDING	(fed) \$189,300	(non-fed)\$24,960

TOTAL PROJECT COST (federal and non-federal)	\$214,260	
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** Cost-Share funds, while not required under this RFP, must also be included on the SF-424A as detailed in Section III.B of this RFA.

Note on Management Fees: When formulating budgets for proposals, applicants must not include management fees or similar charges in excess of the direct costs and indirect costs at the rate approved by the applicant's cognizant Federal audit agency, or at the rate provided for by the terms of the agreement negotiated with EPA. The term "management fees or similar charges" refers to expenses added to the direct costs in order to accumulate and reserve funds for ongoing business expenses, unforeseen liabilities, or for other similar costs that are not allowable under EPA assistance agreements. Management fees or similar charges cannot be used to improve or expand the project funded under this agreement, except to the extent authorized as a direct cost of carrying out the work plan.