

US EPA ARCHIVE DOCUMENT

EPA Grants Available to Implement Beach Monitoring and Public Notification Programs in 2011

Summary

EPA is making almost \$10 million in grants available in 2011 to eligible coastal and Great Lakes states, territories and tribes to help them implement programs to monitor water quality at the beach and to notify the public when water quality problems exist.

Background

Each swimming season, state and local health and environmental protection agencies monitor the quality of water at the nation's beaches. When bacteria levels in the water are too high, these agencies notify the public by posting beach warnings or closing the beach.

To improve water quality testing at the beach and to help beach managers better inform the public when there are water quality problems, Congress passed the Beaches Environmental Assessment and Coastal Health (BEACH) Act in 2000. Section 406 of this Act authorizes EPA to award grants to eligible states, territories and tribes to develop and implement beach water quality monitoring and notification programs for coastal and Great Lakes recreational beach waters. The grants also help these governments develop and implement programs to inform the public about the risk of exposure to disease-causing microorganisms in the water at the nation's beaches.

Funding

In 2011, EPA expects to award \$9.9 million in grants to eligible states, territories and tribes for their beach water protection programs. For this tenth year of the BEACH Act grants, EPA has set aside \$100,000 for the Grand Portage Band of the Minnesota Chippewa and the Makah Tribe, as well as any eligible tribes who may apply to develop a beach program; EPA expects to apportion these funds evenly among all eligible tribes that apply. EPA expects to award

grants to all eligible states and territories that apply based on an allocation formula. EPA consulted with states and the Coastal States Organization in 2002 to develop this formula, which considers three factors: 1) beach season length, 2) total miles of shoreline, and 3) coastal county population. EPA refers to this as the base formula. EPA also implements an additional formula as a supplement to the base formula. The Agency consulted with states in 2005-2006 to develop this supplemental formula, which considers two factors: 1) beach miles and 2) beach use. The results of the base and supplemental formulas are added together to arrive at a total grant for each eligible state and territory.

Based on this allocation formula, the amount of each implementation grant ranges from \$154,000 to \$539,000, if all 35 eligible states and territories apply. EPA expects all 35 eligible governments to apply. If fewer apply or qualify for the grants, then EPA will redistribute available funds to states according to the following principles:

- ◆ States that meet the eligibility requirements for implementation grants and have met the statutory conditions applicable to previously awarded section 406 grants will be awarded the full amount of funds allocated to the state under the formula described above.
- ◆ EPA may award program implementation grants to local governments in states that the Agency determines have not met the requirements for implementation grants.
- ◆ Consistent with CWA section 406(h), EPA will use grant funds to conduct a beach monitoring and notification program in the case of a state that has no program for monitoring and notification that is consistent with EPA's grant performance criteria.

2011 Allocation

For the state or territory of:	This year's allocation is expected to be:	Portion of the total that is the supplemental allocation
Alabama	\$268,000	\$5,628
Alaska	\$154,000	\$4,183
Am. Samoa	\$306,000	\$4,183
California	\$524,000	\$9,888
Connecticut	\$228,000	\$4,260
Delaware	\$216,000	\$5,628
Florida	\$539,000	\$11,257
Georgia	\$293,000	\$6,997
Guam	\$307,000	\$4,183
Hawaii	\$331,000	\$8,443
Illinois	\$249,000	\$5,705
Indiana	\$209,000	\$2,814
Louisiana	\$325,000	\$2,814
Maine	\$260,000	\$5,628
Maryland	\$276,000	\$7,074
Massachusetts	\$263,000	\$8,443
Michigan	\$288,000	\$9,811
Minnesota	\$209,000	\$4,183
Mississippi	\$262,000	\$4,183
New Hampshire	\$209,000	\$4,260
New Jersey	\$285,000	\$7,074
New York	\$357,000	\$8,443
North Carolina	\$311,000	\$8,443
CNMI	\$306,000	\$2,814
Ohio	\$228,000	\$4,260
Oregon	\$234,000	\$5,551
Pennsylvania	\$227,000	\$4,260
Puerto Rico	\$123,000	\$0
Rhode Island	\$220,000	\$6,997
South Carolina	\$305,000	\$8,443
Texas	\$392,000	\$8,443
U.S. Virgin Islands	\$306,000	\$2,814
Virginia	\$282,000	\$5,628
Washington	\$277,000	\$6,920
Wisconsin	\$231,000	\$5,628

The funding and project periods for fiscal year 2011 implementation grants will last one year.

Who Is Eligible to Apply?

To be eligible for BEACH Act grants, states and territories must have coastal and Great Lakes recreational waters next to beaches or similar points of access used by the public. In order for a tribe to be eligible, it must have coastal and Great Lakes recreational waters next to beaches or similar points of access used by the public, and also demonstrate that it meets the “treatment in the same manner as a state” criteria contained in Clean Water Act section 518(e). EPA encourages those tribes with coastal recreation waters to contact their EPA regional beach program coordinator (see http://water.epa.gov/type/oc/b/beaches/whereyoulive_state.cfm#region) for further information on the application process.

The BEACH Act also authorizes EPA to give a grant to a local government to implement a monitoring and notification program, but only if the Agency finds that the state is not implementing a program that meets the requirements of the Act. Local governments may contact their EPA Regional Office's beach program coordinator for further information.

In July 2002, EPA published the *National Beach Guidance and Required Performance Criteria for Grants* (823-B-02-004) which explains the requirements for states, territories, tribes, and local governments to qualify for implementation grants (see http://water.epa.gov/grants_funding/beachgrants/guidance_index.cfm.) To get a free printed copy of the guidance call 202-566-1729 or e-mail: center.water-resource@epa.gov.

How Does a State or Territory Apply?

Eligible states and territories may get an application from their EPA regional beach program coordinator (listed online and in the Federal Register Notice of Availability for the BEACH grants) or on EPA's website at http://water.epa.gov/grants_funding/beachgrants/grants_index.cfm.

For More Information

Please contact your EPA Regional beach program coordinator or EPA Headquarters at (202) 566-0400.