

US EPA ARCHIVE DOCUMENT

Chapter 7. Funding Your Solid Waste Management Program

For many Native American tribes and Alaskan Native villages, securing program funding is the most difficult solid waste management challenge they face. Every step in developing, implementing, and maintaining a solid waste management program requires funding. Most tribes, unfortunately, do not have the economic base to fully support these programs. This chapter will address the major costs associated with solid waste management, funding sources and opportunities, and ways to build strong relationships to acquire needed funds. The Resources section at the end of this chapter provides ordering information for several funding-related resources available to tribes and Alaskan Native villages. This section also provides brief descriptions of some of the primary federal grant programs for which tribes and Alaskan Native villages are eligible (including contact information).

Major Program Costs

The major costs associated with managing solid waste include:

- Program planning
- Facility design and construction
- Equipment purchase

- Cleanup
- Operation and maintenance
- Personnel training and administration
- Landfill closure and post-closure care

Program Planning

Your tribe needs funding to perform waste audits to identify waste types and volumes, develop integrated solid waste management plans to coordinate and guide your program, and complete feasibility studies and cost assessments for different waste management options.

Facility Design and Construction

Solid waste management facilities can include recycling centers, convenience centers, transfer stations, and landfills. Tribes need funds to hire engineers and architects to design the facility, as well as for new road construction, improvements, and repairs; utility installation (i.e., water, electricity, natural gas); and other construction costs.

Equipment

Solid waste management programs and facilities require various types of equipment, such



Front-end loader moving waste at the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians' transfer station.

as collection vehicles, roll-off bins, waste compactors, and front-end loaders or bulldozers. Some programs also pay for the individual trash cans and recycling bins that are distributed to residents.

Operation and Maintenance

Once your program is in place or your facility begins operations, funds are needed to pay for

HAZWOPER certified workers clean up hazardous waste in Kokhanok Village (Alaska).



staff salaries or wages; operation, maintenance, and repair of equipment and facilities; community education and outreach initiatives; and enforcement of codes and ordinances.

Personnel Training and Administration

Collection vehicle drivers and facility staff need technical training to operate and maintain equipment. Enforcement officials will need training on proper implementation of tribal codes and ordinances. Environmental staff might require legal, environmental health, technical, communication and education, grant writing, or financial training.

Cleanup

Open dump cleanups require significant amounts of funds to plan and complete. Costs include the purchase or rental of roll-off bins or other waste containers, hauling fees, tipping fees at the transfer station or landfill, and labor costs.

Sources of Funding

There are two primary sources of solid waste funding—**internal** and **external**. Most tribes have found that they require a combination of several internal and external funding mechanisms to fully support their solid waste programs.

Potential internal funding sources include monies allocated from the tribal general fund, solid waste service user fees, revenue generated from the sales of recyclable materials, and tipping fees from accepting waste from neighboring communities and businesses at your transfer station or landfill.

External funds typically are grants and loans from federal agencies or, less frequently, private foundations or organizations. Many tribes have found that federal grants and loans are necessary to construct solid waste management facilities such as transfer stations or landfills because of the high capital cost.

There are a few exceptions, however, such as the Onondaga Nation in New York that paid for the construction of its transfer station completely on its own. It is important to note that very few federal grants will fund solid waste facility operation and maintenance costs. Tribes and Alaskan Native villages will need to fund facility operation and maintenance internally or through other means.

Internal Sources of Funding

Tribes can access the following internal sources for funding:

- Tribal general fund
- User fees
- Sale of recyclables
- Tipping fees from neighboring communities and businesses

Tribal General Fund

Tribes can fund a portion of their solid waste management program with money from the tribal general fund. On many reservations, however, general fund monies help finance programs that are considered a higher priority than solid waste, such as drinking and waste water management and schools.

Some tribes use some of the revenue generated from tribal businesses, such as casinos or manufacturing industries, to fund solid waste management, either through the general fund or specified set-asides. Use of the revenue from these operations varies from tribe to tribe. Another approach to generating revenue is to levy fees on the sale of products such as cigarettes, gas, or alcohol. The St. Regis Mohawk Tribe in New York, for example, has added fees to cigarette and gas sales. These fees go into the tribal general fund and finance the tribal government, including part of its solid waste management program.

User Fees

User fees for solid waste services are a common source of funding for many tribes. These fees include transfer station or landfill tipping fees and waste collection service fees. Many tribes use a flat user fee, while others have instituted Pay-As-You-Throw (PAYT) programs, which charge per bag or pound of waste disposed. The St. Regis Mohawk Tribe, for example, operates a PAYT program. Under this program, residents using the tribe's door-to-door waste collection service purchase special blue trash bags from the tribe. The tribe's collection truck attendants pick up these bags only. Residents that do not use the door-to-door collection service can bring their waste directly to the tribe's transfer station, where they are charged a per-pound disposal fee.

The Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla in northeast Oregon employ a similar program. The tribes offer a curbside collection service that costs \$22.70 per month. Customers can fill two 32-gallon garbage cans, which collection trucks pick up once a week. The tribes subsidize collection costs for senior citizens and disabled people—these customers only pay \$7 per month. As an alternative to curbside collection, residents can bring trash directly to the transfer station, where they pay for disposal services on a per-pound basis. These fees help fund the collection service and transfer station operation. Additionally, 7 percent of the collected fees is set aside for maintenance and repair of the transfer station.

In northeast Montana, the Fort Peck Reservation (Assiniboine and Sioux Tribes) Operations and Maintenance Department charges residents \$14 a month for curbside waste collection. This monthly fee is included on residents' utility bills. The fee only partially covers collection service operating costs, so the tribes are examining other ways to make the service self-sustaining. The tribes also maintain five roll-off sites as an alternative to

the curbside collection service. To use these sites, tribal members must purchase a permit. Residential permits are \$15 a month, while businesses and contractors pay \$300 a month. To provide an incentive for residents to reduce the amount of waste they produce, the tribes are considering replacing the monthly permits with a \$15 per visit tipping fee.

Sale of Recyclables

Another potential source of funding for your tribe's solid waste program is revenue from the sale of certain recyclable materials. The Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians in North Carolina, for example, discovered through a waste audit that the tribe generates large quantities of cardboard. Fortunately, a steady demand for recycled cardboard exists in the area, which allows the tribe to make a small profit from its sales. The St. Regis Mohawk Reservation in New York also sells recyclables to help fund its collection program and transfer station operations. The ability to sell recyclables will depend on local demand and markets, as well as your tribe's ability to generate a large enough volume of contaminant-free, high-value materials to make selling profitable. Remotely located reservations or those with small populations might not find it profitable to sell recyclables. For more information on tribal recycling programs, refer to Chapter 5.

Tribes and villages with composting operations have another potential opportunity for generating revenue—the sale of finished compost. The Eastern Band of Cherokee in North Carolina operates a successful composting operation at its transfer station. In fact, there is such a high demand from nurseries, landscapers, and individual homeowners for the finished compost that the tribe had to create a waiting list. Charging a fee for the finished compost product from the beginning is important, as it conveys to the tribal members and customers that the compost is a valuable material.

Tipping Fees from Neighboring Communities and Businesses

Allowing surrounding communities and businesses to use your transfer station is another potential source of revenue available to tribes. In order to accept off-reservation waste, your transfer station or landfill must have enough capacity to accommodate the extra waste. The Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians, for example, accepts waste at its transfer station from neighboring Swain County and some private businesses in Jackson County, North Carolina. Since the Cherokee designed its facility to accommodate its waste for the next 10 years, the facility currently has the excess capacity to accept Swain County's waste.

To be profitable, you will need to ensure that incoming revenue from tipping fees cover increased operation and maintenance, waste hauling, and disposal costs. You will need to research tipping fees in your area to make sure you can establish competitive rates that are still profitable. Calvin Murphy with the Cherokee Tribal Utilities cautions tribes against building a transfer station for profit. "You might not ever see a return on your investment," he said. "When sizing our transfer station, we concentrated on our own waste, not Swain County's waste."

The Confederated Tribes of Umatilla Indians in Oregon is considering accepting waste from neighboring counties at its transfer station. The transfer station has a design capacity of 200 tons per day. To break even, the transfer station must take in 60,000 tons per year (164 tons per day). Currently, the transfer station is taking in less than 30 tons per day. To offset operation and maintenance costs and move the facility into the black, the tribe is looking to expand its customer base beyond tribal residents and businesses to include customers in neighboring Pendleton City.

External Sources of Funding

Tribes can apply for grant funding from the following outside sources:

- Federal grants and loans
- Private and nonprofit foundations

Most grant funds and loans are used as start-up funds for recycling and other waste management programs, not to sustain long-term programs.

Federal Grants and Loans

Some federal agencies, including EPA, IHS, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services' Administration for Native Americans, USDA's Rural Development, HUD, and BIA, offer financial assistance to tribes and Native villages for solid and hazardous waste management projects. Most of the grants and loans available provide monies for planning, outreach and education, construction, or equipment purchase. As noted earlier, few federal grant programs, however, allow funds to be used for program or facility operation and maintenance.

TASWER also can help tribes and Alaskan Native villages secure funding by directing them to the appropriate representative for

“The challenge is finding a grant that fits your needs. Creativity is the key to success. Grant writers need to find ways to make grants fit tribal needs. At the same time, tribal leaders must realize that some needs can not be met through grants.”

~Deb Madison,
Environmental Program Manager,
Fort Peck Reservation Environmental
Protection Office

each source of funding. TASWER's Web site lists some sources of funding available to tribes and Alaskan Native villages.

Private and Nonprofit Foundations

A number of private and nonprofit foundations and organizations run environmental grant programs. The Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla in Oregon, for example, received a \$25,000 grant from the JELD-WEN Foundation to construct its transfer station and recycling program. EPA's *Grant Resources for Solid Waste Activities in Indian Country* provides an extensive list of private sources of funding for tribes and Alaskan Native villages.

Some tribes can fund their solid waste management program by piecing together grant

Wading Through the Paperwork

Securing federal grants and loans is a great way to pay for facility construction, but it does not come without difficulties or challenges. Frequently, the biggest roadblock to obtaining federal grants is the application. Most agency applications are very long and complicated. USDA's Rural Development grant/loan application, for example, provides a checklist of required items to help applicants, which is six pages long and double-sided. Some applications require specific information or data that many tribes do not have on hand, such as HUD's Indian Community Development Block Grant (ICDBG) application, which requires specific census data.

Even after you submit the application, the work is not necessarily complete. Laura Weber, director of solid waste management for the St. Regis Mohawk Reservation, relates how her tribe applied for and received HUD ICDBG, IHS, and USDA grants to pay for the construction of its transfer station. Even though the tribe received the ICDBG and IHS grants first, USDA served as the lead agency and required the tribe to follow the USDA grant management and paperwork guidelines for all three grants. As part of this, the tribe had to go through a complex series of procedures to finalize the design, perform site assessment testing, and secure a bonded contractor. At each step of the way, the tribe had to get the lead agency to approve everything in writing.

monies from a variety of sources. To manage its waste, the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla built a transfer station adjacent to the reservation. It took nearly 10 years of careful planning and more than \$1.3 million to design and build the transfer station. The tribes contributed \$200,000 of their own funds to this project. The remaining funds came from several federal grants, including a \$350,000 Indian Community Development Block Grant from HUD, a \$196,000 grant from the Administration for Native Americans, and a \$150,000 Sanitation Deficiency System grant from IHS. The tribes also received a \$564,000 loan from USDA and a \$25,000 grant from the private JELD-WEN Foundation.

Another possible strategy for increasing your tribe or village's chance of receiving grants is to break big projects into discreet portions and seek funding for the individual parts. For example, obtaining \$75,000 from an agency for a portion of your program, such as purchasing a collection truck, might be easier than obtaining \$600,000 for the entire program all at once.

To pay for the closure of its 12 identified open dumps and construct a balefill landfill and baler building, the Oglala Sioux Tribe (OST) of the Pine Ridge Reservation in South Dakota secured more than \$3.7 million dollars from federal agencies. The OST Tribal Council also contributed an additional \$100,000 to the project. This money was needed to comply with a 1990 U.S. District Court decision that ordered IHS, BIA, and the Oglala Sioux Tribe to close open dumps on the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation. These grants and loans covered solid waste management planning, open dump cleanup and closure, construction of the balefill and baler building, and the purchase of related equipment. Grants included:

- \$591,000 from EPA's Office of Solid Waste and Emergency Response
- \$600,000 from BIA's Office of Trust Responsibility
- \$724,000 from IHS's Sanitation Deficiency System
- \$1,200,000 from USDA's Rural Development (of which 75 percent was a grant and 25 percent a loan)
- \$337,268 from the Interagency Solid Waste Work Group
- \$250,000 from the Oglala Sioux Housing Authority

Finding Out About Funding Opportunities

There are many ways to learn about what funding opportunities are available to tribes and Alaskan Native villages. A few of the more common methods include:

- Announcements from federal agencies
- Internet searches
- Communication with other tribes
- Communication with regional agency representatives

Announcements from Federal Agencies

Most federal agencies announce grant and loan availability in the *Federal Register* and provide information on their Web sites. Some agencies send out announcements and solicitations for their grant programs. The Interagency Work Group, for example, mails an annual announcement and solicitation for its open dump cleanup grants.

Internet Searches

Many tribes learn about grant programs by conducting simple Internet searches. USDA's

Leveraging Non-Monetary Assets

In addition to seeking money for program development and implementation, many tribes have found that different forms of non-monetary assistance can be just as useful. Partnering with neighboring tribes and villages, local governments, or businesses and sharing resources such as information, equipment, labor, materials, services, or facilities can provide mutual benefits and help strengthen your solid waste management program. Cooperative arrangements with local governments can also help in addressing the impacts of activities outside of the reservation on tribal lands. Here are just a few examples of how tribes and Alaskan Native villages have leveraged non-monetary resources to make their programs a success.

- The Wyandotte Nation in Oklahoma, partnered with neighboring Ottawa County to clean up and secure an open dump site. The 4-acre open dump site was located on the Wyandotte Reservation, adjacent to a county road cutting through the tribe's land. The tribe cleaned the site and the county provided equipment and labor to dig a ditch alongside the road to prevent future illegal dumping at the site.
- When the Assiniboine and Sioux Nations of the Fort Peck Reservation in Montana were investigating options for expanding their waste collection system, they turned to neighboring Valley County for some free advice. Valley County had been successfully operating a waste collection system using several roll-off container drop-off sites that the tribes wanted to learn more about. Valley County willingly shared its knowledge and experience, and provided the tribes with enough information to help develop its own roll-off site system. The tribes also negotiated an agreement with the county to ship some of their waste to the Valley County Landfill.
- The Alaskan Native village of Galena, also known as Loudon Village, secured an agreement with an area barge company to back haul junk cars and other wastes from area villages for free. Carole Holley, the environmental program director for the Loudon Tribal Village Council, first contacted Captain Moore of the Yutana Barge Lines. The Yutana Barge Lines was involved in a lawsuit in 1996. As part of the settlement, the company agreed that its barges would provide free back hauling services to several villages. Captain Moore not only agreed to back haul the cars to his home port of Nenana, but also suggested that Ms. Holley call the Alaskan Railroad Corporation and ask about hauling the cars the remaining distance to Anchorage for final recovery and disposal. When Ms. Holley mentioned that Yutana Barge Lines was back hauling the cars for free, the railroad company volunteered its services for free as well. In the first year, more than 60 cars were removed from the villages. The car removal has become an annual event in the villages, and Captain Moore has agreed to continue providing free back hauling service.

Rural Development grants, for example, are accessible through Web sites that include descriptions of the grant programs, including applications, instructions for applying, and contact information for state and regional representatives.

One online database tribes and Alaskan Native villages can use to find out about grant opportunities is the Catalogue of Federal Domestic Assistance (CFDA), at

www.cfda.gov. It is a database of all federal assistance programs—including grant and loan programs—available to state, local, and tribal governments. After identifying potential sources of funding through CFDA, tribes should then go directly to the funding agencies for application information. Tribes also can search other federal agency Web sites for solid waste grants and loan information.

Communication with Other Tribes

Another way to learn about available grants is by talking with other tribes, either through informal conversations or networking at conferences and meetings. Conversations with neighboring tribes are a primary source of grant information for some tribes. Sharing information and experiences can be mutually beneficial. Some tribes even exchange successful grant applications to help improve future applications.

Communication with Regional Agency Representatives

In addition to speaking with other tribes or villages, you can speak directly with your regional agency representatives from EPA, IHS, BIA, USDA, and HUD. Some tribal

solid waste managers have noted that this is a crucial part of securing funds for your tribe or village and recommend building relationships with representatives from the various federal agencies.

Building Strong Relationships

One of the most important parts of the entire application process, and a major key to success in receiving funding, is having a good relationship with your agency representative. Agency representatives can help you complete your grant applications and make sure all of the required pieces are included. When working on your grant application, speak with your agency representative to make sure you have everything you need. Go

Making Solid Waste a Priority and Building Relationships: A Winning Combination

The Fort Peck Reservation in northeast Montana is home to the Assiniboine and Sioux Nations. In the early 1990s, the tribes realized that current waste disposal options were not meeting the reservation's needs. The tribes adopted a roll-off bin system, which a neighboring county had successfully used for several years. To build the first two roll-off sites, tribes applied for and received a HUD Indian Community Development Block Grant.

To build the three remaining sites, the tribes applied for and received funding from IHS's Sanitation Deficiency System (SDS). To get SDS funding, the tribes' Operation and Maintenance (O&M) staff had to convince the tribal council to designate solid waste as the top priority on their annual sanitation deficiency list. O&M staff explained that open dump sites are illegal and a liability for the tribe. Knowing that pictures can be an effective persuasion tool, O&M staff showed the council contrasting pictures of open dumps and roll-off sites.

O&M staff also spoke to the tribal council about their integrated solid waste management plan and explained how the roll-off sites were a key component of the plan. The staff showed the council how the roll-off sites fit into the big picture and demonstrated that the roll-off sites are part of a larger plan that includes recycling and waste prevention. IHS also helped convince the tribal council to make solid waste a priority. An IHS engineer explained to the tribal council that there was a good chance that the roll-off sites would get funded if the tribes placed solid waste at the top of their priority list.

Developing a relationship with their IHS engineers was important for the tribes. The first IHS engineer that tribal planners worked with was a friend, so the tribes felt comfortable communicating their needs to IHS through this engineer. This individual paved the way for future relationships, and as a consequence the tribes have had good relationships with successive IHS engineers.

to the agency office if you are having difficulty completing the application.

Laura Weber, director of solid waste management for the St. Regis Mohawk Reservation, also advocates relationship-building, based on her tribe's experience. Her tribe first learned about IHS Sanitation Deficiency System (SDS) funding for solid waste from an IHS engineer who worked on water projects with the tribe. In addition to informing the tribe about SDS funding, the engineer also pointed it toward HUD's Indian Community Development Block Grant (ICDBG) program.

St. Regis Mohawk's experiences further demonstrate the importance of building and maintaining relationships with your regional agency representatives. A short time after receiving one USDA grant, the tribe's USDA representative called to say it had grant funding available and that the St. Regis Mohawk Tribe should apply for it. The tribe worked closely with the regional project officer during the application process, and the tribe received the second grant for construction of its transfer station.

If your regional representatives are not responsive, invite them to your reservation to build a relationship with them. The St. Regis Mohawk Tribe conducts a weekend cultural sensitivity workshop to help individuals from outside the community understand the tribal perspective. Partnering with a regional representative can benefit both your tribe and the federal agency.

If your grant application is unsuccessful, call your agency representative and ask why, as well as how you can improve your chances in the future. The first time the St. Regis Mohawk Tribe applied for a HUD ICDBG, it was not selected. The tribe contacted the HUD office to find out why and ask for ways to improve the application. The HUD representative sent back the application with an evaluation form. The tribe used HUD's com-

“Educate [agency representatives] about your tribe's history, culture, and current situation. Explain your tribe's accomplishments, especially the ones dealing with solid waste. If they understand your tribe, who you are, and what you have accomplished, they are more likely to support you in future endeavors.”

~Kim Clausen-Jensen,
Oglala Sioux Environmental Protection Program

ments to revise the application. When the tribe resubmitted the application, HUD awarded the tribe an ICDBG.

In addition to building a relationship with your agency representatives, many tribes emphasized the importance of building a positive reputation for your tribe or village. Building trust is a major part of this process. If you can demonstrate to the agency representative that your tribe or village has been successful in the past and is responsible and accountable, your representative is more likely to support you in securing future technical assistance and funding. One way to build this trust is to make sure you submit all required reports and meet all agency requirements when you do receive a grant. This attention to detail is especially crucial with pilot projects. If agencies can not document the success of a pilot project, it is unlikely to be continued. Submitting the required reports helps the agency justify the project to internal federal reviewers and can help ensure that the project receives continued funding.

Chapter Highlights

- Use as many internal and external funding sources as possible to fund your solid waste program. Do not rely on a single source.
- Ensure that you have sufficient resources to continue funding program or facility

operation and maintenance once grant monies are gone.

- Leverage non-monetary assets to develop and sustain your program.
- Build and maintain strong relationships with agency representatives, neighboring governments, and other tribes and villages.
- Develop a reputation of being reliable and trustworthy. Live up to your end of the bargain!
- Be persistent and ask for help from agency representatives and other tribes and villages.

Resources

The following resources can help you find out where and how to apply for solid waste management grants:

- *Grant Resources for Solid Waste Activities in Indian Country* (EPA530-R-98-014), available on the Web at <www.epa.gov/epaoswer/non-hw/tribal/pdftxt/tribfund.pdf> or by contacting the RCRA Call Center at 800 424-9346.
- *Solid Waste Funding: A Guide to Federal Assistance* (EPA530-F-97-027), available on the Web at <www.epa.gov/epaoswer/non-hw/grants/grants.pdf> or by contacting the RCRA Call Center at 800 424-9346.
- *Preparing Successful Grant Proposals tip sheet* (EPA530-F-97-020), available on the Web at <www.epa.gov/epaoswer/non-hw/tribal/pdftxt/grant.pdf> or by contacting the RCRA Call Center at 800 424-9346.
- EPA's Grant Writing Tutorial, available on the Web at <www.epa.gov/grtlakes/seahome/grants.html>.

- The Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance, on available the Web at <www.cfda.gov>.
- Tribal Association of Solid Waste and Emergency Response (TASWER). Phone: 202 331-8084, Fax: 202 331-8068, Email:<contact@taswer.org>, on the Web at <www.taswer.org>. Contact TASWER for more information and assistance in connecting with the appropriate agency representative.

Federal Sources of Grant Funding

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) offers a number of grants for solid and hazardous waste projects. Each grant program provides funding for specific solid and hazardous waste management activities. To increase your chances of receiving a grant, match your program needs to the appropriate EPA program. Listed below are several grants available to tribes and Alaskan Native villages from EPA. Visit the Web sites provided with each description to learn more about each grant program and to get application information.

Office of Solid Waste Hazardous Waste Management Grants

These grants provide financial assistance to tribes and intertribal consortia for developing and implementing programs to manage hazardous waste. Programs can include developing and implementing hazardous waste codes, regulations, and ordinances, along with enforcement policies and procedures; identifying and assessing hazardous waste generation and management; developing and implementing integrated hazardous waste management plans; developing and implementing used oil collection and recycling programs; developing outreach and education materials; and creating hazardous waste management training. For more infor-

mation, contact your regional tribal hazardous waste management representative or call Denise Roy at 703 308-8458.

InterAgency Open Dump Cleanup Project Grants

The goal of the Tribal Solid Waste Interagency Workgroup Cleanup Project is to help tribes close or upgrade open dump sites. Specific goals include assisting tribes with: 1) completing and implementing comprehensive, integrated waste management plans, 2) developing realistic solid waste management alternatives, 3) closing or upgrading existing open dumps, and 4) developing post-closure programs. Since 1999, federal agencies have committed \$6.1 million to 31 tribes to clean up open dumps. EPA mails the Cleanup Project information and application package annually to every federally recognized tribe. It also is available from EPA's Tribal Municipal Solid Waste Funding Web page at <www.epa.gov/epaoswer/non-hw/tribal/finance.htm>. For more information, contact your regional solid waste Indian coordinator. To find your regional coordinator's contact information, visit <www.epa.gov/epaoswer/non-hw/tribal/about.htm>.

Alaska Solid Waste Management Demonstration Grant's Project

This collaborative project between the Alaska Native Health Board and EPA funds village-based solid waste projects. Grant awards range from \$2,000 to \$10,000. Eligible projects can range from developing a solid waste management plan to properly closing a community dump site. For further information, contact the Alaska Native Health Board, Phone: 907 562-6006, Fax: 907 563-2001, or E-mail: <solidwaste@anhb.org>. EPA's Tribal Municipal Solid Waste Funding Web page <www.epa.gov/epaoswer/non-hw/tribal/finance.htm> provides more details.

American Indian Environmental Office (AIEO) General Assistance Program (GAP) Grants

The primary purpose of GAP grants is to support the development of a core tribal environmental protection program. Tribes can use GAP grant funds for planning, building solid waste infrastructure, enforcement, or outreach and education. For a description of the GAP grant program, including eligibility and application information, visit <www.epa.gov/indian/pdfs/gap2000.pdf>.

Brownfields Economic Redevelopment Initiative

This initiative helps states and communities, including tribes and Alaskan Native villages, clean up and redevelop brownfields. Brownfields sites are abandoned, idled, or under-used industrial and commercial facilities where expansion or redevelopment is complicated by real or perceived environmental contamination. EPA offers several grant and loan opportunities under this initiative for which tribes and Alaskan Native villages are eligible. For more information on this initiative, visit <www.epa.gov/brownfields/topics.htm>. For complete brownfields application information, visit <www.epa.gov/brownfields/applicat.htm>.

Indian Health Service (IHS) provides health services to American Indians and Alaskan Natives. IHS inventories sanitation deficiencies in Indian and Alaskan Native communities—tribes or villages report sanitation deficiencies as proposed improvement projects each year. To significantly increase their chance of receiving IHS funding, tribes need to place their solid waste project at the top of their annual sanitation deficiency list. Tribes can use IHS Sanitation Deficiency System (SDS) funds to construct water, sewerage, and solid waste disposal systems and facilities. For more information on SDS funding, contact your regional IHS representative. Regional contact information is avail-

able through IHS' Area Offices and Facilities Web site, <www.ihs.gov/FacilitiesServices/AreaOffices/AreaOffices_index.asp>.

U.S. Department of Health and Human Services' Administration for Native Americans (ANA) awards funds to Native American tribes and Alaskan Native villages through environmental regulatory enhancement project grants. ANA publishes an announcement of funds available in the Federal Register. This announcement describes the grant's primary areas of focus, review criteria, and application method. For more information, visit <www.acf.dhhs.gov/programs/ana/notice.htm>.

U.S. Department of Agriculture Rural Development's Rural Utilities Service (RUS) Water and Environmental Programs provide loans, grants, and loan guarantees for drinking water, sanitary sewer, solid waste, and storm drainage facilities to tribes. Water and Waste Grants and Loans set aside funding for Native American tribes that can fund up to 75 percent of the cost of a project. What is not funded by the grant can be offered as a low-interest government loan. Tribes can use these grants and loans to construct, enlarge, extend, or improve rural water, sanitary sewage, solid waste disposal, and storm water disposal facilities. Visit the

RUS Web page at <www.usda.gov/rus/index2/rusregs.htm> for details and application information.

U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Community Development Block Grants (CDBG) program aims to develop viable communities by ensuring decent, affordable housing, a suitable living environment, and economic opportunities for low- to middle-income communities. Several tribes have used these grants to fund solid waste management projects or programs that improve housing developments. Within the CDBG program, HUD specifically sets aside funds for Native American tribes for Indian Community Development Block Grants (ICDBG). For eligibility and application information, visit HUD's CDBG Web page at <www.hud.gov/offices/cpd/communitydevelopment/programs/cdbg.cfm>.