AGENCY: **ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY (EPA)**

TITLE: **Columbia River Basin Restoration Funding Assistance Program - Middle and Upper Columbia River Basin**

ACTION: **Request for Applications (RFA)**

RFA NUMBER: **EPA-R10-OW-CRBRP-2022-02**

CATALOG OF FEDERAL DOMESTIC ASSISTANCE (CFDA) NO: 66.962

IMPORTANT DATES:

Tuesday, March 8, 2022	RFA CLOSES – APPLICATIONS DUE
May 2022	ANTICIPATED NOTIFICATION OF SELECTION
August 2022	ANTICIPATED AWARD

Application packages must be submitted electronically to EPA through Grants.gov (www.grants.gov) no later than **Tuesday, March 8, 2022, at 11:59 p.m. (ET)** in order to be considered for funding.

COVID-19 UPDATE: EPA is providing flexibilities to applicants experiencing challenges related to COVID-19. Please see the Flexibilities Available to Organizations Impacted by COVID-19 clause in Section IV of EPA's Solicitation Clauses (https://www.epa.gov/grants/epa-solicitation-clauses).

FUNDING / AWARDS: EPA anticipates awarding between $1,500,000 and $4,500,000 of Columbia River Basin Restoration Program (CRBRP) funding under this announcement. Awards will be issued and managed through EPA's Region 10 Office. EPA anticipates awarding about 15 cooperative agreements, ranging from $75,000 to $350,000 for the Middle and Upper Columbia River Basin portion of the Basin under this RFA, subject to the availability of funds, the quality of applications received, and other applicable considerations. Applicants may apply under both this RFA, and the Lower Columbia River Estuary RFA, which is issued separately, for basin-wide projects.

Minimum Application Amount: $75,000
Maximum Application Amount: $350,000
Total Available Funds: $1,500,000 - $4,500,000

SUMMARY: The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region 10 (EPA), is issuing a Request for Applications (RFA) from eligible entities to improve water quality in the Middle and Upper Columbia River Basin, through specific actions to reduce toxics, increase monitoring, and/or increase public education and outreach. The Columbia River Basin Restoration Program (CRBRP) will assist tribal, state, and local governments; nongovernmental entities, and others as they implement the *Columbia River Basin Toxics Reduction Action Plan* and the *Lower Columbia River Estuary Plan - Comprehensive Conservation and Management Plan* and conduct activities to support EPA national goals for the Columbia River Basin.

Eligible projects must address at least one of the following project categories: eliminating or reducing pollution; cleaning up contaminated sites; improving water quality; monitoring to evaluate trends; reducing runoff; protecting habitat; or promoting citizen engagement or knowledge. Priority for funding will be given to projects which are consistent with federal fiscal years 2021 and 2022 (FY21/22) funding priorities as described in the RFA.

Eligible entities include state governments, tribal governments, regional water pollution control agencies and entities, local government entities, nongovernmental entities, or soil and water conservation districts. The work must be for the purpose of environmental protection and restoration activities within the Columbia River Basin and may include programs, projects, and studies.

INFORMATIONAL WEBINAR SESSIONS:
EPA is hosting the same informational webinar on three different dates. Potential applicants are encouraged to participate in one of these information sessions to learn more about the Columbia River Basin Restoration program and the grant application process. Pre-registration is not required. Webinar links and dial-in information will be posted on our website: https://www.epa.gov/columbiariver/columbia-river-basin-restoration-funding-assistance-program

Wednesday, November 17, 2021, 1:00 - 2:30 p.m. (PT) *(4:00 - 5:30 p.m. (ET))*
Wednesday, December 1, 2021, 9:00 - 10:30 a.m. (PT) *(12:00 - 1:30 p.m. (ET))*
Tuesday, December 14, 2021, 9:30 - 11:00 a.m. (PT) *(12:30 - 2:00 p.m. (ET))*

During the webinar, EPA will highlight any changes to the program, review eligibility criteria, funding limits and mandatory cost share requirements. Participants will have the opportunity to ask questions. If you are unable to attend a session, a recording may be available upon request by sending an email to ColumbiaRiverBasinGrant@epa.gov.

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS: Applicants are encouraged to review the questions and answers posted at https://www.epa.gov/columbiariver/columbia-river-basin-restoration-funding-assistance-program for further clarification of this Request for Applications. EPA will respond to questions from applicants regarding threshold eligibility criteria, administrative issues related to the submission of the application, and requests for clarification about any of the language or provisions in the announcement through the questions and answers document. Applicants may email written questions to ColumbiaRiverBasinGrant@epa.gov. All questions submitted via email by 4:00 p.m. PT each Friday during the RFA open period will be answered and posted in the questions and answers document the following week. The deadline for submitting questions via email is Friday, February 25, 2022 at 4:00 p.m. PT. The estimated final posting to the questions and answers document will be Wednesday, March 2, 2022 at 4:00 p.m. PT. Further submittal information is described in Section IV.

NOTE: If you intend to name a contractor (including an individual consultant) or a subrecipient as a project partner or otherwise in your application, EPA recommends that you carefully review, and comply with, the directions contained in the "Contracts and Subawards" clause that can be accessed under the Section V.D clause for "Additional Provisions for Applicants Incorporated Into the Solicitation."

Table of Contents

I. FUNDING OPPORTUNITY DESCRIPTION 4
A. Background 4
B. Scope of Work 5
Project Categories 6
FY21/22 Priorities 6
Other EPA Interests 7
C. EPA Strategic Plan Linkage, Anticipated Outputs/Outcomes and Performance Measures 8
D. Statutory Authority 9
II. AWARD INFORMATION 9
A. What is the amount of funding available? 10
B. Incremental and Partial Funding 10
C. How many agreements will EPA award in this competition and what is the funding range? 10
D. What is the project period for awards resulting from this solicitation? 11
E. Funding Type 11
III. ELIGIBILITY INFORMATION 11
A. Eligible Entities 11
B. Cost-Sharing 12
C. Threshold Eligibility Criteria 13
IV. APPLICATION AND SUBMISSION INFORMATION 14
A. Requirement to Submit Through Grants.gov and Limited Exception Procedures 14
B. Submission Instructions 14
C. Technical Issues with Submission 16
D. Submission Date and Time 17
E. Funding Restrictions 17
F. Informational Webinar Sessions 18
G. Additional Provisions for Applicants Incorporated into the Solicitation 18
V. APPLICATION REVIEW INFORMATION 18
A. Evaluation Criteria 19
B. Review and Selection Process 22
C. Other Factors 22
D. Additional Provisions for Applicants Incorporated into the Solicitation 23
VI. AWARD ADMINISTRATION INFORMATION 23
A. Award Notices 23
B. Administrative and National Policy Requirements 23
C. Reporting Requirement 23
D. Disputes 24
E. Additional Provisions for Applicants Incorporated into the Solicitation 24
VII. AGENCY CONTACTS 24
APPENDIX A – Project Narrative and Attachments: Instructions, Format, and Content 26
1. Cover Page 26
2. Work Plan 27
Budget Detail 30
3. Other Attachments 35
Additional Resources 35
APPENDIX B – How to Fund Projects and Partnerships 36
Additional Resources 36
APPENDIX C - Application Submission Checklist 37
APPENDIX D – Project Location Description and Map 38

I. FUNDING OPPORTUNITY DESCRIPTION

A. Background

The Columbia River Basin is one of the world's great river basins in watershed size, river volume, and environmental and cultural significance. Covering nearly 260,000 square miles – approximately the size of the state of Texas – the Columbia River Basin is the nation's sixth largest watershed. The Basin drains portions of Canada's British Columbia province and seven U.S. states, but mostly Montana, Idaho, Washington, and Oregon. Within its boundaries lies multiple tribal reservations and 45 million acres of tribally co-managed land. The Basin contains great geographic and land-use diversity, including alpine peaks, forested slopes, semi-arid grassland and rangeland, arable agricultural land, and an extensive estuary. From its source in the Canadian Rockies, the mainstem Columbia River flows more than 1,200 miles to the Pacific Ocean. Its average annual flow – 270,000 cubic feet per second – makes it the United States' fourth largest river by discharge. Significant tributaries include the Kootenai, Pend Oreille, Spokane, Okanagan, Yakima, Snake, John Day, Deschutes, Willamette, and Cowlitz Rivers.

The Basin's aquatic ecosystem is critical to supporting the fish and wildlife and over 8 million people who reside within the watershed and depend on its resources for their health and livelihood. There is concern about the health of the Basin's aquatic ecosystem and the potential risk to human health due to the presence of toxics found in the fish, wildlife, water, and sediment. Toxic contamination is a human health risk and key environmental justice issue for tribal people and other high fish-consuming populations. Columbia River salmon and steelhead runs were once the largest in the world with as many as 16 million fish returning annually to spawn in the Basin. Columbia River tribes have depended on native fish species, including (but not limited to) salmon, steelhead, sturgeon, and lamprey for thousands of years for spiritual, cultural, and nutritional sustenance. Human activities including hydrologic modifications for flood control and power generation, industry, urban development, mining, and agricultural practices have affected fish spawning and rearing habitat, blocked, or impeded fish passage, and contributed toxic contaminants that have impaired water quality. Many scientists believe that recovery of salmon, steelhead, and other fish populations cannot be achieved without reducing toxics in water and sediment.

In 1992, the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) National Study of Chemical Residues in Fish found bioaccumulative toxics in Columbia River Basin fish tissue. Recognizing the historic importance of fish in the diets of tribal people and the potential human health impacts of toxics, the Columbia River Inter-Tribal Fish Commission (CRITFC) and EPA developed the 1994 Fish Consumption Survey of the Umatilla, Nez Perce, Yakama, and Warm Springs Tribes of the Columbia River Basin which found that tribal people were consuming 9 to 12 times more fish than the average US resident. EPA and CRITFC followed up that study with the Columbia River Fish Contaminant Study 1996-1998 which found 92 pollutants in fish from 24 tribal fishing sites, including contaminants with human health impacts such as polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs), dioxin, mercury, dichlorodiphenyltrichloroethane (DDT), and furans.

EPA convened the Columbia River Toxics Reduction Working Group in 2005 to share

information and collaborate on toxics reduction in the Columbia River Basin. The Working Group led the development of the 2009 Columbia River Basin State of the River Report for Toxics which addressed four contaminants: DDT, PCBs, mercury, and polybrominated diphenyl ethers (PBDEs) and the risk they pose to people, fish and wildlife, and highlighted successful efforts to reduce those contaminants. The 2009 report was followed by the 2010 Columbia River Basin Toxics Reduction Action Plan, which identified sixty-one actions needed across five categories: increasing public understanding to reduce toxics; increasing toxics reduction actions; conducting monitoring to identify sources and reduce contaminants; developing a regional research program; and developing a shared data management system. In 2014, the Working Group released its Strategy for Measuring, Documenting, and Reducing Chemicals of Emerging Concern, providing an outline for a research and monitoring strategy and a characterization of the impacts of chemicals of emerging concern on human health, aquatic life, and terrestrial wildlife.

On December 9, 2016, Congress passed the Columbia River Basin Restoration Act (CRBRA) as part of the Water Resources Development Act (WRDA), also known as the Water Infrastructure Improvements for the Nation (WIIN) Act of 2016. The WRDA was signed into law by the President on December 16, 2016. The legislation focuses on the U.S. portion of the Columbia River Basin including the States of Oregon, Washington, Idaho, and Montana. The newly created Section 123 of the Clean Water Act (CWA) directs EPA to establish a Columbia River Basin Restoration Program which includes a Working Group that is representative of states, tribal governments, industry, and other entities. Clean Water Act Section 123 (33 U.S.C. § 1275) also directs EPA to develop a voluntary, competitive grant program for "environmental protection and restoration programs throughout the Basin" Fiscal Year (FY) 2019 was the inaugural year of funding for this program, and also included FY 2020 funding.

For further information about the program as well as examples of currently funded projects, please visit https://www.epa.gov/columbiariver/about-epas-work-columbia-river-basin.

B. Scope of Work

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is issuing this Request for Applications (RFA) for projects from eligible entities to improve water quality in the Middle and Upper Columbia River Basin, through specific actions to reduce toxics, increase monitoring, and/or increase public education and outreach. The Columbia River Basin Restoration Program (CRBRP) will assist tribal, state, and local governments; nongovernmental entities, and others as they implement the *Columbia River Basin Toxics Reduction Action Plan* and the *Lower Columbia River Estuary Plan - Comprehensive Conservation and Management Plan* and conduct activities to support EPA national goals for the Columbia River Basin.

Pursuant to CWA § 123(b)(3)(C) and (d), eligible projects must address at least one of the following project categories: eliminating or reducing pollution; cleaning up contaminated sites; improving water quality; monitoring to evaluate trends; reducing runoff; protecting habitat; or promoting citizen engagement or knowledge. Priority for funding will be given to projects which are consistent with FY21/22 funding priorities as described below.

The work must be for the purpose of environmental protection and restoration activities within the Columbia River Basin and may include programs, projects, and studies. Applicants can submit a total of three (3) applications overall under this solicitation so long as each one is separately submitted and for a different project. A single application **must** include activities in one or more of the following categories.

Project Categories

1. **Eliminating or reducing pollution** including strategies or projects to reduce toxics into streams of the Columbia River Basin, including agricultural best management practices such as Pesticide Stewardship Partnerships, stormwater and sediment management, and pesticide collection and take back programs.
2. **Cleaning up contaminated sites** including targeted small-scale clean-up actions at sites not receiving funding under EPA CERCLA funded programs (Brownfields and Superfund) where hazardous chemicals, oil, pollutants and/or mining related contaminants have been released into the Columbia River Basin.
3. **Improving water quality** to reduce toxics in the Columbia River Basin.
4. **Monitoring to evaluate trends** including monitoring current conditions such as the sampling and analysis of Columbia River Basin water, fish and sediment focused on toxics.
5. **Reducing runoff** through agricultural best management practices and/or sediment and stormwater runoff controls, including green infrastructure.
6. **Protecting habitat** to reduce the impact of toxics on Columbia River Basin fish and wildlife.
7. **Promoting citizen engagement or knowledge** by increasing engagement and communication with individual community members (such as local, state and tribal environmental managers, and/or NGOs), creating bi-lingual outreach and education materials on the topic of toxics reduction, green chemistry pilot projects, and/or sharing examples of successful toxics reduction efforts.

FY21/22 Priorities

For the FY21/22 grant competition, evaluation points (under Section V) may be given to projects which address one or more of the following priorities, in addition to addressing one or more of the required project categories above; and build off existing successful efforts in the Columbia River Basin to address toxics and that leverage or expand on existing partnerships. Evaluation scores will not depend on the number of priorities addressed but rather on the quality with which the priorities are addressed. Across all priorities, there is a focus on toxics and their impact on human health and fish and wildlife. See documents on the Columbia River Basin RFA website for reference.

1. Increased monitoring and access to data from monitoring in the Columbia River Basin with a focus on toxics with an impact on human health and fish and wildlife.
2. Reducing stormwater and agricultural runoff by using strategies such as green infrastructure to reduce the toxicity and/or quantity of runoff and/or implementing agricultural best management practices (BMPs) such as Pesticide Stewardship partnerships.
3. Promoting citizen engagement or education to promote pollution prevention, for example, increasing knowledge on pollution prevention strategies and actions that can be taken by communities, businesses, and government to reduce toxics in the Basin.
4. Cleaning up contaminated sites including targeted small-scale clean-up actions at sites not receiving funding under EPA CERCLA funded programs (Brownfields and Superfund) where hazardous chemicals, oil, pollutants and/or mining related contaminants have been released into the Columbia River Basin.

Information on toxic contaminants covered by these priorities can be found on the grants website and include, but are not limited to, mercury, dichlorodiphenyltrichloroethane (DDT), polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs), polybrominated diphenyl ethers (PBDEs), the Columbia River Toxics Reduction Working Group list of priority pollutants https://www.epa.gov/columbiariver/prioritization-toxics-columbia-river and the toxic pollutants listed by reference in Section 307(a)(1) of the Clean Water Act (see 40 C.F.R. 401.15).

Other EPA Interests

Environmental justice (EJ) is the fair treatment and meaningful involvement of all people regardless of race, color, national origin, or income with respect to the development, implementation and enforcement of environmental laws, regulations and policies. Fair treatment means no group of people should bear a disproportionate share of the negative environmental consequences resulting from industrial, governmental and commercial operations or policies. Meaningful involvement means people have an opportunity to participate in decisions about activities that may affect their environment and/or health; the public's contribution can influence the regulatory agency's decision; community concerns will be considered in the decision-making process; and decision makers will seek out and facilitate the involvement of those potentially affected.

For purposes of this competition and the evaluation of applications, “underserved communities” means people/communities of color, low income, tribal and indigenous populations, and other vulnerable populations such as the elderly, children, and those who have pre-existing medical conditions.

In addition, climate change poses risks to human health, the environment, cultural resources, the economy and quality of life. These changes are expected to create further challenges to protecting human health and welfare and the environment.

EPA is interested in projects that: 1) mitigate for past environmental justice impacts and improve community health, resilience and/or sustainability; and 2) foster resilience and adaptation to changing climate and environmental conditions.

For example, projects may:

- Address or facilitate the identification and reduction of threats to communities that have environmental justice challenges; or
- Improve community health, resilience and/or sustainability; or
- Address the disproportionate and adverse human health, environmental, climate-related and other cumulative impacts; or
- Address impacts resulting from industrial, governmental, commercial and/or other actions that have affected and/or currently affect underserved communities; or
- Foster coastal resilience or adaptation to changing climate and environmental conditions.

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

Pursuant to Section 6a of EPA Order 5700.7, "Environmental Results under EPA Assistance Agreements," EPA must link proposed assistance agreements with 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, www.epa.gov/sites/production/files/2015-03/documents/epa_order_5700_7a1.pdf).

1. **Linkage to EPA Strategic Plan:** The activities to be funded under this announcement support EPA's Strategic Plan. Awards made under this announcement will support Goal 1, "Deliver a cleaner, safer, and healthier environment for all Americans and future generations by carrying out the Agency's core mission.," Objective 1.2, "Provide for Clean and Safe Water." And Objective 1.3, "Revitalize Land and Prevent Contamination". Under these objectives, EPA will "…in partnership with states and tribes, sustainably manage programs to support drinking water, aquatic ecosystems, and recreational, economic, and subsistence activities" and "provide better leadership and management to properly clean up contaminated sites to revitalize and return the land back to communities." Applicants must explain in their application how their project will further one or both of these objectives.

   Please read EPA's FY 2018-2022 Strategic Plan (www.epa.gov/planandbudget/strategicplan) for more information.

   EPA also requires that grant applicants adequately describe environmental outputs and outcomes to be achieved under assistance agreements (see EPA Order 5700.7A1, Environmental Results under Assistance Agreements, www.epa.gov/sites/production/files/2015-03/documents/epa_order_5700_7a1.pdf).

   Applicants should include specific statements describing the environmental results of the proposed project in terms of well-defined outputs and, to the maximum extent practicable, well-defined outcomes that will demonstrate how the project will contribute to the priorities described above. Specifically, the proposed activities must have outputs and outcomes related to one or more of the seven program priorities: eliminating or reducing pollution;

cleaning up contaminated sites; improving water quality; monitoring to evaluate trends; reducing runoff; protecting habitat; or promoting citizen engagement or knowledge.

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 over the term of the grant funding period. Applications must include a description of project outputs and the way in which recipients will track project milestones throughout the grant period. Project output examples may include, but are not limited to, number of presentations made, number of participants at an event, and draft and final reports produced.

   Progress reports and a final report will be required outputs, as specified in Section VI.C "Reporting Requirement," of this RFA.

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.

   Outcomes expected as a result of the awards under this announcement may include, but are not limited to, the following:
   - Pollutant and sediment load reductions, attainment of water quality objectives, or other numeric indicators of water quality improvement.
   - Ecological and/or human health benefits achieved.
   - Increases in the quantity or quality of monitoring on the Columbia River and its tributaries.
   - Improvements to the local economy, social conditions, and the welfare of residents in such communities.

   Additional information regarding EPA's definition of environmental results in terms of "outputs" and "outcomes" can be found at: https://www.epa.gov/sites/production/files/2015-03/documents/epa_order_5700_7a1.pdf and https://www.epa.gov/sfbay-delta/application-assistance#results.

D. Statutory Authority

The Columbia River Basin Restoration Program (CRBRP) is authorized by 33 U.S.C. § 1275, amended by Pub. L. 115-270, title IV, § 4105, Oct. 23, 2018, 132 Stat. 3875. CRBRP authorizes the award of grants for environmental protection and restoration of the Columbia River Basin. EPA's authority to obligate grant funds is subject to the availability of appropriated funds.

II. AWARD INFORMATION

A. What is the amount of funding available?

EPA anticipates awarding between $1,500,000 and $4,500,000 under this announcement, subject to the availability of funds, the quantity and quality of applications received, and other applicable considerations.

Applicants can submit a total of three (3) applications overall under this solicitation so long as each one is separately submitted and for a different project. If an applicant submits more than three (3) applications to EPA, the applicant will be contacted prior to EPA review of any of the applications to determine which application(s) the applicant will withdraw from the competition.

B. Incremental and Partial Funding

EPA may incrementally fund applications by funding phases of proposed projects. If an applicant is selected for incremental funding, EPA and the applicant will negotiate a final workplan, timeline and budget which has clearly delineated activities or phases with separate budget estimates for each activity/phase of a project within the project period. A portion of the total requested funding will be awarded at the beginning of the project period for the specified activities/phases. Subject to the availability of funds, and other applicable considerations, additional funding may be awarded later as an incremental budget amendment to fund the remaining activities/phases of the project.

In appropriate circumstances, EPA reserves the right to partially fund applications by funding discrete portions or phases of proposed projects. If EPA decides to partially fund an application, it will do so in a manner that does not prejudice any applicants or affect the basis upon which the application, or portion thereof, 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 and what is the funding range?

It is anticipated that approximately 15 cooperative agreements, ranging from $75,000 to $350,000, will be made from this announcement subject to the availability of funds, the quantity and quality of applications received, agency priorities, and other applicable considerations.

Applicants may apply under both this RFA and the Lower Columbia River Estuary RFA, which is issued separately, for basin-wide projects.

EPA reserves the right to make additional awards under this announcement, consistent with Agency policy and other applicable considerations, 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.

In addition, EPA reserves the right to reject all applications and make no awards under this announcement or to make fewer awards than anticipated.

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

The estimated project period for awards resulting from this solicitation is 24 months. The projects are expected to begin around September 2022, with an expected project completion date of 24 months after award.

E. Funding Type

The funding for selected projects will be in the form of a cooperative agreement. Cooperative agreements provide for 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 these projects may include:

- 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 2 C.F.R. 200.317 and 2 C.F.R. 200.318, review of proposed procurement;
- Approving qualifications of key personnel (EPA will not select employees or contractors employed by the award recipient); and
- Review and comment 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

Under this solicitation, only the following entities are eligible to apply for assistance, in accordance with 42 U.S.C. § 16131 and CFDA 66.962:

State governments, tribal governments, regional water pollution control agencies and entities, local government entities, nongovernmental entities, or soil and water conservation districts.

For the purposes of this announcement, EPA has determined that nongovernmental entities must be nonprofit organizations to be eligible for funding. Non-profit organization, as defined by 2 C.F.R. 200.70, means any corporation, trust, association, cooperative or other organization that: (1) is operated primarily for scientific, educational, service, charitable or similar purposes in the public interest; (2) is not organized primarily for profit; and (3) uses its net proceeds to maintain, improve and/or expand its operations.

Note that 2 C.F.R. Part 200 specifically excludes the following types of organizations from the definition of "non-profit organization" because they are separately defined in the regulation: (i) institutions of higher education; and (ii) state, local and federally recognized Indian tribal governments. While not considered to be a "non-profit organization(s)" as defined by 2 C.F.R. 200.70, institutions of higher education are, nevertheless, eligible to submit applications under

this RFA to the extent they fall within the definition above. Hospitals operated by state, tribal, or local governments or that meet the definition of nonprofit at 2 C.F.R. 200.70 are also eligible to apply. For-profit colleges, universities, trade schools, and hospitals are not eligible to apply.

For-profit organizations are not an eligible entity for this funding opportunity. Additionally, non-profit organizations described in Section 501(c)(4) of the Internal Revenue Code that engage in lobbying activities as defined in Section 3 of the Lobbying Disclosure Act of 1995 are not eligible to apply.

For the purposes of this RFA, tribal government includes "intertribal consortium" which is defined as a partnership between two or more tribes that is authorized by the governing bodies of those tribes to apply for and receive assistance under this program. Intertribal consortia are eligible to receive assistance under this program only if the consortium demonstrates that all members of the consortium meet the eligibility requirements for the program and authorize the consortium to apply for and receive assistance by submitting to EPA documentation of (1) the existence of the partnership between Indian tribal governments, and (2) authorization of the consortium by all its members to apply for and receive the assistance.

B. Cost-Sharing

1. **Mandatory Cost Share Requirement:** Projects under this RFA are subject to the following funding limitations and mandatory cost share requirements provided in CWA § 123(d)(2):
   - **a.** For non-tribal applicants EPA will fund up to 75% of the cost of the overall project (i.e., applicants are responsible for cost-sharing at least 25% of the cost with non-federal funds).
   - **b.** For tribal applicants EPA will fund up to 75% of the cost of the overall projects (i.e., tribal applicants are responsible for cost-sharing at least 25% of the cost with either non-federal and/or federal funds).

2. Any form of cost share must be included in the Budget Detail portion of the Work Plan, and the application must describe how and when the applicant will obtain the cost share and how the cost share funding will be used. Applicants may use their own funds or other sources for cost share if the standards of 2 C.F.R. 200.306, are met. If the proposed cost share is to be provided by a named project partner, a letter of commitment is required. Only eligible and allowable costs may be used for cost share. Unless the applicant is a tribal government other federal grants may not be used as cost share under this RFA 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. Please note: CRBRP funds may not be used to meet mandatory cost-sharing requirements for projects funded with environmental mitigation funds. Further, environmental mitigation funds may not be used to meet non-federal mandatory cost share requirements of any CRBRP grant.

3. Applications that include projects to which these mandatory cost share requirements apply must demonstrate, by the application submission date, on the SF-424 Application for Federal Assistance, on the SF-424A Budget Information, and in the Project Narrative how

the applicant will be able to meet these minimum mandatory cost share requirements if they are selected for an award, **or the application may be disqualified during the threshold eligibility review.** Specifically, the mandatory cost share funds must be indicated in at least one of the following blocks in Section 18, Estimated Funding, on the SF-424: b. Applicant; c. State; d. Local; or e. Other. The mandatory cost shared funds must also be indicated in Section A, Section B line 6.d, and Section C of the SF-424A.

C. Threshold Eligibility Criteria

These are requirements that if not met by the time of application submission will result in elimination of the application from consideration for funding. Only applications from eligible applicants (see Section III.A of this RFA) that meet these threshold eligibility criteria will be evaluated against the ranking criteria in Section V.A of this RFA. If necessary, EPA may contact applicants to clarify threshold eligibility questions prior to making an eligibility determination. Applicants deemed ineligible for funding consideration because of the threshold eligibility review will be notified within 15 calendar days of the ineligibility determination.

1. Application Submission

- **a.** Applications must substantially comply with the application submission instructions and application content requirements set forth in Section IV and Appendix A of this RFA or else they will be rejected.
- **b.** Where a page limit is expressed in Section IV and Appendix A of this RFA with respect to the Project Narrative, pages in excess of the page limitation will not be reviewed.
- **c.** Applications must be submitted through Grants.gov as stated in Section IV of this announcement (except in the limited circumstances where another mode of submission is specifically allowed for as explained in Section IV) on or before the application submission deadline published in Section IV of this announcement. Applicants are responsible for following the submission instructions in Section IV of this announcement to ensure that their application is timely and properly submitted.

  Applications submitted after the submission deadline will be considered late and deemed ineligible without further consideration unless the applicant can clearly demonstrate that it was late due to EPA mishandling or because of technical problems associated with Grants.gov or relevant SAM.gov system issues. An applicant's failure to timely submit their application through Grants.gov because they did not timely or properly register in SAM.gov or Grants.gov will not be considered an acceptable reason to consider a late submission.

2. Eligible projects must address at least one of the following project categories: eliminating or reducing pollution; cleaning up contaminated sites; improving water quality; monitoring to evaluate trends; reducing runoff; protecting habitat; or promoting citizen engagement or knowledge. (See Section 1.B.)

3. Applicants must request funding for activities that will be implemented in the Middle and Upper Columbia River Basin portion of the Basin. The Middle and Upper Columbia River

Basin is defined as the mainstem of the Columbia River from the Bonneville Dam to the Canadian Border and tributaries of the Columbia River in that region. (See Map in Appendix D).

4. Applications which request EPA assistance funds above or below the amounts specified in Section II.C of this RFA are not eligible and will not be reviewed.

5. Applicants can submit a total of three (3) applications overall under this solicitation. Each application must be for a different project and must be submitted separately. An applicant cannot submit two applications that both request funding for the same project in the same geographic area. If an applicant submits more than three (3) applications to EPA, the applicant will be contacted prior to EPA review of any of the applications to determine which application(s) the applicant will withdraw from the competition.

6. Applications that do not demonstrate compliance with the mandatory cost share requirements described in Section III.B.1 of this RFA are not eligible and will not be reviewed.

   Ineligible activities: If an application is submitted that includes any ineligible tasks or activities, that portion of the application will be ineligible for funding and may, depending on the extent to which it affects the application, render the entire application ineligible for funding.

IV. APPLICATION AND SUBMISSION INFORMATION

A. Requirement to Submit Through Grants.gov and Limited Exception Procedures

Applicants must apply electronically through Grants.gov under this funding opportunity based on the grants.gov instructions in this announcement. If your organization has no access to the internet or access is very limited, you may request an exception for the remainder of this calendar year by following the procedures outlined here. Please note that your request must be received at least 15 calendar days before the application due date to allow enough time to negotiate alternative submission methods. Issues with submissions with respect to this opportunity only are addressed in section *c. Technical Issues with Submission* below.

B. Submission Instructions

The electronic submission of your application must be made by an official representative of your institution who is registered with Grants.gov and is authorized to sign applications for Federal assistance. For more information on the registration requirements that must be completed in order to submit an application through grants.gov, go to Grants.gov and click on "Applicants" on the top of the page and then go to the "Get Registered" link on the page. If your organization is not currently registered with Grants.gov, please encourage your office to designate an Authorized Organization Representative (AOR) and ask that individual to begin the registration process as soon as possible. Please note that the registration process also

requires that your organization have a DUNS number and a current registration with the System for Award Management (SAM) and the process of obtaining both could take a month or more. Applicants must ensure that all registration requirements are met in order to apply for this opportunity through grants.gov and should ensure that all such requirements have been met well in advance of the submission deadline. Registration on Grants.gov, SAM.gov, and DUNS number assignment is FREE. Please see RAIN-2021-G01 for information about EPA's implementation of the upcoming Government-wide transition from DUNS to Unique Entity Identifier (UEI).

Applicants need to ensure that the AOR who submits the application through Grants.gov and whose DUNS is listed on the application is an AOR for the applicant listed on the application. Additionally, the DUNS listed on the application must be registered to the applicant organization's SAM account. If not, the application may be deemed ineligible.

To begin the application process under this grant announcement, go to Grants.gov and click on "Applicants" on the top of the page and then "Apply for Grants" from the dropdown menu and then follow the instructions accordingly. Please note: To apply through Grants.gov, you must use Adobe Reader software and download the compatible Adobe Reader version. For more information about Adobe Reader, to verify compatibility, or to download the free software, please visit Adobe Reader Compatibility Information on Grants.gov

You may also be able to access the application package for this announcement by searching for the opportunity on Grants.gov. Go to Grants.gov and then click on "Search Grants" at the top of the page and enter the Funding Opportunity Number, **EPA-R10-OW-CRBRP-2022-02**, or the CFDA number that applies to the announcement (CFDA 66.962), in the appropriate field and click the Search button.

Please Note: All applications must be submitted through Grants.gov using the "Workspace" feature. Information on the Workspace feature can be found at the Grants.gov Workspace Overview Page.

Application Submission Deadline: Your organization's AOR must submit your complete application package electronically to EPA through Grants.gov no later than **Tuesday, March 8, 2022, 11:59 PM ET**. Please allow for enough time to successfully submit your application and allow for unexpected errors that may require you to resubmit.

Please submit *all* of the application materials described below using the Grants.gov application package accessed using the instructions above.

Application Materials

The following forms and documents are required under this announcement:

Mandatory Documents:

1. Application for Federal Assistance (SF-424)
2. Budget Information for Non-Construction Programs (SF-424A)

3. EPA Key Contacts Form 5700-54
4. EPA Form 4700-4 Preaward Compliance Review Report
5. Narrative Proposal (Project Narrative Attachment Form) - prepared as described in Appendix A of this announcement

Optional Documents:

6. Other Attachments (Other Attachments Form), if applicable, prepared as described in Appendix A of this announcement
    - Cost Share Commitment Letters
    - Partnership Letters
    - Resumes
    - Indirect Cost Rate Agreement

Applications submitted through grants.gov will be time and date stamped electronically. If you have not received a confirmation of receipt from EPA (not from grants.gov) within 30 days of the application deadline, please contact **Michelle Wilcox** at **(360) 753-9469**. Failure to do so may result in your application not being reviewed.

C. Technical Issues with Submission

1. Once the application package has been completed, the "Submit" button should be enabled. If the "Submit" button is not active, please call Grants.gov for assistance at 1-800-518-4726. Applicants who are outside the U.S. at the time of submittal and are not able to access the toll-free number may reach a Grants.gov representative by calling 606-545-5035. Applicants should save the completed application package with two different file names before providing it to the AOR to avoid having to re-create the package should submission problems be experienced or a revised application needs to be submitted.

2. Submitting the application. The application package must be transferred to Grants.gov by an AOR. The AOR should close all other software before attempting to submit the application package. Click the "submit" button of the application package. Your Internet browser will launch and a sign-in page will appear. **Note: Minor problems are not uncommon with transfers to Grants.gov. It is essential to allow sufficient time to ensure that your application is submitted to Grants.gov BEFORE the due date identified in Section IV of the solicitation.** The Grants.gov support desk operates 24 hours a day, seven days a week, except Federal Holidays.

A successful transfer will end with an on-screen acknowledgement. For documentation purposes, print or screen capture this acknowledgement. If a submission problem occurs, reboot the computer turning the power off may be necessary and re-attempt the submission. Note: Grants.gov issues a "case number" upon a request for assistance.

3. Transmission Difficulties. If transmission difficulties that result in a late transmission, no transmission, or rejection of the transmitted application are experienced, and following the above instructions do not resolve the problem so that the application is submitted to Grants.gov by the deadline date and time, follow the guidance below. The Agency will make a decision concerning acceptance of each late submission on a case-by-case basis. All

emails, as described below, are to be sent to **Michelle Wilcox** with the FON in the subject line. If you are unable to email, contact **Michelle Wilcox** at **(360) 753-9469**. Be aware that EPA will only consider accepting applications that were unable to transmit due to Grants.gov or relevant https://www.sam.gov/SAM/ system issues or for unforeseen exigent circumstances, such as extreme weather interfering with internet access. Failure of an applicant to submit timely because they did not properly or timely register in SAM.gov or Grants.gov is not an acceptable reason to justify acceptance of a late submittal.

If you are experiencing problems resulting in an inability to upload the application to Grants.gov, it is essential to call Grants.gov for assistance at 1-800-518-4726 before the application deadline. Applicants who are outside the U.S. at the time of submittal and are not able to access the toll-free number may reach a Grants.gov representative by calling 606-545-5035. Be sure to obtain a case number from Grants.gov. If the problems stem from unforeseen exigent circumstances unrelated to Grants.gov, such as extreme weather interfering with internet access, contact **Michelle Wilcox** at **(360) 753-9469**.

4. Unsuccessful transfer of the application package: If a successful transfer of the application cannot be accomplished even with assistance from Grants.gov due to electronic submission system issues or unforeseen exigent circumstances, and you have already attempted to resolve the issue by contacting Grants.gov, send an email message to **wilcox.michelle@epa.gov** prior to the application deadline. The email message must document the problem and include the Grants.gov case number as well as the entire application in PDF format as an attachment.

5. Grants.gov rejection of the application package: If a notification is received from Grants.gov stating that the application has been rejected for reasons other than late submittal and it is too late to reapply, promptly send an email to **Michelle Wilcox** with the FON in the subject line within one business day of the closing date of this solicitation. The email should include any materials provided by Grants.gov and attach the entire application in PDF format.

Please note that successful submission through Grants.gov or via email does not necessarily mean your application is eligible for award.

D. Submission Date and Time

The closing date and time for submission of applications is **Tuesday, March 8, 2022, 11:59 p.m., Eastern Time (ET)**. Applications submitted after the closing date and time will not be accepted.

E. Funding Restrictions

1. Federal Matching Funds: No funds awarded under this RFA shall be used for matching funds for other federal grants unless expressly authorized by statute. Likewise, a non-tribal government recipient may not use federal funds as cost share funds for projects under this RFA.

2. Expenses Incurred Prior to the Project Period: Except for eligible pre-award costs as defined

in 2 C.F.R. 200.458 and as authorized by 2 C.F.R. 200.309 and 2 C.F.R. 1500.8, no funds awarded under this RFA shall be used to cover expenses incurred prior to the project period set forth in any assistance agreement funded under this RFA. Additionally, except for eligible pre-award costs as defined above, expenses incurred prior to the project period set forth in any assistance agreement funded under this RFA are not eligible as a cost share.

F. Informational Webinar Sessions

EPA will host the same informational session regarding this Request for Application via teleconference/webinar on three different dates based on the schedule below. Potential applicants are encouraged to participate in one of these sessions to learn more about the Columbia River Basin Restoration Program and the grant application process. During the webinar, EPA will highlight any changes to the program, review eligibility criteria, funding limits and mandatory cost share requirements. Participants will have the opportunity to ask questions. Pre-registration is not required.

Webinar links and dial-in information for the individual session can be found at: https://www.epa.gov/columbiariver/columbia-river-basin-restoration-funding-assistance-program

Session Dates and Times:
Wednesday, November 17, 2021, 1:00 - 2:30pm (PT) *(4:00 - 5:30pm (ET))*
Wednesday, December 1, 2021, 9:00 - 10:30am (PT) *(12:00 - 1:30pm (ET))*
Tuesday, December 14, 2021, 9:30 - 11:00am (PT) *(12:30 - 2:00 (ET))*

If you are unable to attend a session, a recording may be available upon request by sending an email to ColumbiaRiverBasinGrant@epa.gov. Questions and answers from these webinars will also be posted in the questions and answers document located at https://www.epa.gov/columbiariver/columbia-river-basin-restoration-funding-assistance-program.

G. Additional Provisions for Applicants Incorporated into the Solicitation

Additional provisions that apply to this solicitation and/or awards made under this solicitation, including but not limited to those related to confidential business information, contracts and subawards under grants, and application assistance and communications, can be found at www.epa.gov/grants/epa-solicitation-clauses. **These, and the other provisions that can be found at the website link, are important, and applicants must review them when preparing applications for this solicitation.** If you are unable to access these provisions electronically at the website above, please communicate with the EPA contact listed in this solicitation to obtain the provisions.

V. APPLICATION REVIEW INFORMATION

Only eligible entities whose applications meet all the threshold criteria in Section III of this RFA will be evaluated according to the evaluation criteria set forth below. **Applicants must**

explicitly address these criteria as part of their application package submittal, following the content requirements set forth in Appendix A. Each application will be rated using a point system. Applications will be evaluated based on a total of 110 points possible.

A. Evaluation Criteria

Criteria	Points
Total Possible Points	**110**
<u>1. Project Summary and Approach:</u> Under this criterion, applications will be evaluated based on the extent and quality of the applicant's project summary and overall approach. Specifically, EPA will evaluate the extent and quality to which the application: **A. (10 points)** includes a detailed project description, roles and responsibilities, and timeline and milestones as described in Appendix A of the RFA. **B. (5 points)** includes a well-conceived strategy for achieving the anticipated results associated with the project. **C. (5 points)** demonstrates multiple and diverse partnerships and builds on existing efforts in the Columbia River Basin. Applicants will be evaluated based on the extent to which they demonstrate that they will work in partnership with appropriate partners to effectively and efficiently implement the proposed project and whether their project is coordinated with and/or complements other projects or activities being performed by the applicant or others that will result in a greater positive environmental impact from the applicant's project. This includes evaluating the applicant's plans for obtaining collaboration and support from the public and private sectors in performing the project in order to expand its impact, the scope of the partnership (including the diversity/variety and number of partners), the type of collaboration proposed, the likelihood that it will materialize during project performance, and what role it will play in the overall project. Applicants that do not plan on collaborating with other groups in project performance will be evaluated based on the extent to which they demonstrate how they will be able to effectively perform and complete the project without such collaboration. Applicants may score higher on this criterion to the extent the Narrative Proposal demonstrates the protection or restoration potential of the project as part of a comprehensive place-based plan. **D. (5 points)** addresses one or more of the project categories as stated in Section I.B. **E. (15 points)** addresses FY21/22 priorities as stated in Section I.B. **F. (5 points)** addresses environmental justice and underserved and tribal communities as described in "Other EPA Interests" in Section I.B.	**50**

Applications will be evaluated based on the extent to which they demonstrate how the project will address the disproportionate and adverse (see below) human health, environmental, climate-related and other cumulative impacts, as well as the accompanying economic challenges of such impacts, resulting from industrial, governmental, commercial and/or other actions that have affected and/or currently affect the underserved communities described in Section I of the solicitation. As part of this evaluation, applications will be evaluated based on: how the project benefits the underserved communities including those that have experienced a lack of resources or other impediments to addressing the impacts identified above that affect their community and; the extent to which the project addresses engagement with these communities, especially local residents in these communities who will be affected by the project, to ensure their meaningful participation with respect to the design, project planning, and performance of the project. Disproportionate and adverse environmental, human health, climate-related and other cumulative impacts, as well the accompanying economic challenges of such impacts, may result when greater pollution burdens and/or consequences, and the impact of them, are more likely to affect or have affected the underserved communities described in this solicitation. The impacts may result from various factors including but not limited to being a function of historical trends and policy decisions. Factors that may indicate disproportionate and adverse impacts as referenced above include: differential proximity and exposure to adverse environmental hazards; greater susceptibility to adverse effects from environmental hazards (due to causes such as age, chronic medical conditions, lack of health care access, or limited access to quality nutrition); unique environmental exposures because of practices linked to cultural background or socioeconomic status (for example, subsistence fishing or farming); cumulative effects from multiple stressors; reduced ability to effectively participate in decision-making processes (due to causes such as lack of or ineffective language access programs, lack of programs to make processes accessible to persons with disabilities, inability to access traditional communication channels, or limited capacity to access technical and legal resources); and degraded physical infrastructure, such as poor housing, poorly maintained public buildings (e.g., schools), or lack of access to transportation. **G. (5 points)** demonstrates how and why their project will help protect human health and the environment, and help communities and ecosystems become more sustainable and resilient to the effects of climate change, as described in "Other EPA Interests" in Section I.B.	
2. Project Longevity: Under this criterion, applications will be evaluated based on whether the applicant and/or its project partners: **A. (5 points)** Show a commitment to identify and address water quality and environmental restoration and protection activities in the affected Middle and Upper Columbia River Basin, or the implementation of other strategies to promote and	

continue efforts to reduce toxics that goes beyond the project period. **B. (5 points)** Have developed in the past five years or have a documented commitment to developing before the end of the project period: 1) a publicly available long-term water quality and/or ecosystem restoration and protection plan with goals, or refinement of an existing water quality plan for the Middle and Upper Columbia River Basin; and/or 2) a publicly available report or education/outreach materials for meaningful engagement of the affected communities or entities regarding either the environmental and/or other issues that the project is intended to address.	**10**
3. Environmental Results – Results, Outputs and Outcomes: Under this criterion, applicants will be evaluated based on: **A. (10 points)** The extent and quality to which the applicant identifies and quantifies expected project outputs and outcomes, including those identified in Section I.C.2 and 3 of the RFA. **B. (5 points)** The effectiveness of the applicant's plan for tracking and measuring its progress toward achieving the expected project outputs and outcomes.	**15**
4. Programmatic Capability and Past Performance: Under this criterion, applicants will be evaluated based on their ability to successfully complete and manage the proposed project considering their: **A. (5 points)** Past performance in successfully completing and managing the assistance agreements identified in the Project Narrative as described in Appendix A of the RFA. **B. (5 points)** History of meeting the reporting requirements under the assistance agreements identified in the Project Narrative as described in Appendix A of the RFA, including whether the applicant submitted acceptable final technical reports under those agreements and the extent to which the applicant adequately and timely 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. **C. (5 points)** Organizational experience and plan for timely and successfully achieving the objectives of the proposed project. **D. (5 points)** Staff expertise and qualifications, staff knowledge, and resources or the ability to obtain them, to successfully achieve the goals of the proposed project. Note: In evaluating applicants under items A and B of this criterion, the Agency will consider the information provided by the applicant and may also consider relevant	**20**

information from other sources including agency files and prior/current grantors (e.g., to verify and/or supplement the information supplied by the applicant). If you do not have any relevant or available past performance or reporting information, please indicate this in the application and you will receive a neutral score for these sub-factors (items A and B 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 sub-factors.	
5. Budget: Under this criterion, applicants will be evaluated based on: **A. (5 points)** Their approach, procedures, and controls for ensuring that awarded grant funds will be expended in a timely and efficient manner. **B. (5 points)** Whether costs are reasonable to accomplish the proposed goals, objectives, and measurable environmental outcomes. **C. (5 points)** Whether the proposed budget provides a detailed breakout of the approximate funding used for each major activity. An applicant's SF-424, SF-424A and budget detail must account for both federal funds and any non-federal funds (e.g., any required or voluntary cost share/match if applicable). Applicants must precisely describe in their budget detail how they will account for any required or voluntary cost share/match, if applicable, and what role EPA funding will play in the overall project.	**15**

B. Review and Selection Process

Applications will be reviewed by a review panel and assistance agreements funded under this announcement will be selected by an EPA Region 10 Selection Official.

Applications will first be evaluated against the threshold factors listed in Section III.C of this RFA. Only those applications which meet all of the threshold factors will be evaluated by the review panel using the evaluation criteria listed above. Each application will be given a numerical score and will be rank-ordered by the review panel.

Preliminary funding recommendations will be provided to the EPA Selection Official based on these reviews and rankings.

C. Other Factors

Final funding decisions will be made by the EPA Region 10 Selection Official based on the rankings and preliminary recommendation of the review panel. In making the final funding decisions, the Selection Official may also consider CRBRP priorities, geographic diversity, number and size of awards, and agency priorities.

D. Additional Provisions for Applicants Incorporated into the Solicitation

Additional provisions that apply to this solicitation and/or awards made under this solicitation including the clause on Reporting and Use of Information Concerning Recipient Integrity and Performance can be found at EPA Solicitation Clauses. **These, and the other provisions that can be found at the website link, are important, and applicants must review them when preparing applications for this solicitation**. If you are unable to access these provisions electronically at the website above, please communicate with the EPA contact listed in this solicitation to obtain the provisions.

VI. AWARD ADMINISTRATION INFORMATION

A. Award Notices

Following evaluation of applications, all applicants will be notified regarding their status.

1. **Successful Applicants:** EPA anticipates notification to successful applicants will be made via electronic or postal mail between April and May 2022. The notification will be sent to the original signer of the application or the project contact listed in the application. This notification, which informs the applicant that its application has been selected and is being recommended for award is not an authorization to begin work. The official notification of an award will be made by the Regional Grants Management Office.

   Applicants are cautioned that only a grants officer is authorized to bind the Government to the expenditure of funds; selection does not guarantee an award will be made. For example, statutory authorization, funding, or other issues discovered during the award process may affect the ability of EPA to make an award to the applicant. The award notice, signed by the EPA grants officer, is the authorizing document and will be provided through electronic or postal mail. The successful applicant may need to prepare and submit additional documents and forms (e.g., work plan), which must be approved by EPA, before the grant can officially be awarded. The time between notification of selection and award of a grant can take up to 90 days or longer.

2. **Unsuccessful Applicants**: EPA anticipates notification to unsuccessful applicant(s) will be made via electronic or postal mail May 2022. The notification will be sent to the original signer of the Standard Form 424, Application for Federal Assistance.

B. Administrative and National Policy Requirements

A listing and description of general EPA Regulations applicable to the award of assistance agreements may be viewed at: www.epa.gov/grants/policy-regulations-and-guidance-epa-grants.

C. Reporting Requirement

Quarterly check-ins, semi-annual progress reports and a detailed final report will be required. Semi-annual reports summarizing technical progress, planned activities for the next quarter and a summary of expenditures are required. The final report shall be submitted to EPA within 90 calendar days of the completion of the period of performance. The final report must include: summary of the project or activity, outputs, outcomes, environmental results, advances achieved and costs of the project or activity. In addition, the final report shall 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 the grants are awarded. Award recipients may be provided with additional information and guidance on reporting performance measures and project progress after award.

D. 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 Grant Competition Dispute Resolution Procedures. Copies of these procedures may also be requested by contacting the person listed in Section VII of the announcement. Note, the FR notice references regulations at 40 C.F.R. Parts 30 and 31 that have been superseded by regulations in 2 C.F.R. parts 200 and 1500. Notwithstanding the regulatory changes, the procedures for competition-related disputes remains unchanged from the procedures described at 70 FR 3629, 3630, as indicated in 2 C.F.R. Part 1500, Subpart E.

E. Additional Provisions for Applicants Incorporated into the Solicitation

Additional provisions that apply to this solicitation and/or awards made under this solicitation, including but not limited to those related to DUNS, SAM, copyrights, disputes, and administrative capability, subrecipients and contractors (including individual consultants), can be found at: www.epa.gov/grants/epa-solicitation-clauses. **These, and the other provisions that can be found at the website link, are important, and applicants must review them when preparing applications for this solicitation**. If you are unable to access these provisions electronically at the website above, please communicate with the EPA contact listed in this solicitation to obtain the provisions.

VII. AGENCY CONTACTS

For further information, contact:

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
ATTN: Michelle Wilcox
300 Desmond Drive SE,
Suite 102
Lacey, WA 98503
Phone: (360) 753-9469
Email: ColumbiaRiverBasinGrant@epa.gov

All applicants are encouraged to review the questions and answers document posted at https://www.epa.gov/columbiariver/columbia-river-basin-restoration-funding-assistance-program for further clarification of this Request for Applications. EPA will respond to additional questions from individual applicants regarding threshold eligibility criteria, administrative issues related to the submission of the application, and requests for clarification about any of the language or provisions in the announcement through the questions and answers document.

Applicants may email written questions to: ColumbiaRiverBasinGrant@epa.gov. Please type "RFA Question" in the subject line of your email. All questions submitted via email by 4:00 p.m. PT each Friday during the RFA open period will be answered and posted in the questions and answers document the following week. The deadline for submitting questions via email is Friday, February 25, 2022 at 4:00 p.m. PT. The estimated final posting of the questions and answers document will be Wednesday, March 2, 2022 at 4:00 p.m. PT.

APPENDIX A – Project Narrative and Attachments: Instructions, Format, and Content

Instructions: The Project Narrative, which includes the 1. Cover Page and 2. Workplan below, must substantially comply with the instructions, format and content defined below. It 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.A. The project narrative, including the cover page (which is recommended not to exceed one page), workplan, and budget detail as described below, must not exceed a maximum of 10 single-spaced typewritten pages. Pages in excess of the 10-page limit will not be considered.

Supporting materials, such as partnership letters, cost share commitment letters, project team biographies, and negotiated indirect cost rate agreements can be submitted as attachments and are not included in the 10-page limit. Supporting materials should be submitted using the Other Attachments Form in Grants.gov.

Applicants should ensure that their project narratives are written clearly using understandable terms. Doing so will help ensure that the evaluation team members understand the purpose, outputs, and outcomes of the proposed project.

Applicants are not required, but are highly encouraged, to use the project narrative, including cover page, format below.

1. Cover Page

It is recommended that the cover page does not exceed one page. The cover page must include the following information:

a) **Project Title**

b) **Applicant Information**
   - Applicant (organization) name
   - Address (street, city, state, zip)
   - Office phone, fax number and website (if applicable)
   - Primary contact name, phone number, email address
   - DUNS number

c) **Eligible Entity**: Using the criteria outlined under Section III.A of this RFA, explain how you are an eligible entity.

d) **Budget Summary:** Summarize the information in the Budget Detail portion of this Project Narrative:

EPA Funding Requested	Mandatory Cost Share	Total Project Cost	Other Leveraged Funds (not required)

e) **Short Project Description**: Briefly describe your project (1-2 sentences), indicating

which one or more of the CRBRP priorities listed in Section 1.B. your project will cover.

f) **Project Location**: Briefly describe the primary area(s) where the activities and/or programs will be implemented or where benefits will be realized.

2. Work Plan

Applicants should ensure that the workplan addresses the evaluation criteria in Section V.A. of the RFA. Applicants should use the section and subsection numbers and headings below which correspond with the evaluation criteria in Section V.A. of the RFA. Please note that the actual evaluation criteria are in Section V. The workplan should be written clearly using understandable terms. Each workplan should include the following sections:

Section 1 - Project Summary and Approach

This section of the work plan should contain a detailed project description, including the following information:

A. PROJECT DESCRIPTION: Provide a detailed project summary and description of the proposed activities to be undertaken, roles and responsibilities of the applicant organization and any other project partners, contractors, or subgrantees, and timeline and milestones consistent with Section I.B. (Scope of Work) of the RFA. A detailed timeline for the project including milestones for specific tasks or deliverables, such as: bidding, procurement, obtaining permits, field sampling work, community outreach events, and progress and final reports. Applicants should schedule time for final report preparation into the project timeline. This section should include details about how the activities will meet the goal of the program. Include details of every activity for which the applicant is seeking funding. Applications should only include information in Section 1.a. of their workplan that will not be covered by another section of their workplan.

B. STRATEGY: Discuss your (and your partners', if applicable) strategy for achieving the anticipated results.

C. PARTNERSHIPS: Describe your approach for promoting and/or obtaining collaboration and support from either the public or private sectors in performing the project. List the proposed groups that will be involved in the project and any related projects and studies, and what each of the groups' roles will be in the project's staffing, funding, design and implementation. Describe the type of collaboration/support proposed, how you will ensure that it will materialize during project performance, and what role it will play in the overall project.

Describe how you will coordinate activities of the project with related or complementary projects and studies. IF YOU INTEND TO PROVIDE EPA FUNDS TO ANY COLLABORATING ORGANIZATION, PLEASE CAREFULLY REVIEW PROVISIONS ON "CONTRACTS AND SUBAWARDS" at: https://www.epa.gov/grants/epasolicitation-clauses. Please see Appendix B for more information.

D. PROGRAM CATEGORIES: A detailed description of how the project addresses one or more of the CRBRP program categories as stated in Section I.B of this RFA.

E. FY21/22 PRIORITIES: A detailed description of how the application addresses one or more of EPA's FY21/22 grant funding priorities as stated in Section I.B of this RFA.

F. ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE: Discuss how the project addresses environmental justice as stated in Section I.B of this RFA.

G. CLIMATE ADAPTATION: Discuss how the project addresses climate resiliency and adaptation as stated in Section I.B of this RFA.

Section 2 - Project Longevity

This section of the work plan should describe how water quality and environmental restoration and protection activities in the affected community or location, or the implementation of other strategies to promote and continue efforts to reduce toxics will go beyond the project period. It should include:

A. LONGEVITY: A detailed discussion of the applicant's and/or project partner's ability to promote and continue efforts after EPA funding for this project has ended. It should provide documentation of past commitment for the work and/or should describe how a publicly available commitment to continue the work will be demonstrated before the end of the project.

B. COMMITMENT: Describe how the applicant and/or its project partners have developed in the past five years or have a documented commitment to developing before the end of the project period: 1) a publicly available long-term water quality and/or ecosystem restoration and protection plan with goals, or refinement of an existing water quality plan for the Middle and Upper Columbia River Basin; and/or 2) a publicly available report or education/outreach materials for meaningful engagement of the affected communities or entities regarding either the environmental and/or other issues that the project is intended to address.

Where appropriate, please provide URLs to where materials may be found online.

Section 3 - Environmental Results, Outputs, Outcomes

A. OUTPUTS AND OUTCOMES: This section of the work plan must include a discussion of the outputs and outcomes of the project as defined in Section I.C.2 and 3 of the RFA. Specific outputs and outcomes should be included.

Example Outputs and Outcome Table

Anticipated Outputs and Outcomes		
Activities	*Outputs*	*Outcomes*

xxxxx	*# of xxxxx*	*Annual Improvements = xxxxx lbs contaminants reduced*
		Lifetime Contaminant Reduction = 500 lbs of contaminant x
		Lifetime Total Project Cost Effectiveness = $235,837/lbs contaminant reduced

B. PERFORMANCE PLAN: In this section of the workplan applicants must describe their plan for tracking and measuring progress toward achieving the expected project outputs and outcomes.

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?

Section 4 - Programmatic Capability and Past Performance

A. PAST PERFORMANCE: This section of the work plan must include a list of federally funded assistance agreements that your organization performed within the last three years. Assistance agreements include federal grants and cooperative agreements but not federal contracts. Please reference no more than three assistance agreements. EPA agreements are preferred. For each agreement listed, include:
    - Project Title
    - Assistance Agreement Number
    - Funding Agency and CFDA Number

    This section of the workplan should include a discussion of whether, and how, the applicant was able to successfully complete and manage the listed agreements.

B. REPORTING REQUIREMENTS: This section of the workplan should include a discussion of the applicant's history of meeting the reporting requirements under the agreements listed above, including submitting acceptable final technical reports and how the applicant documented and/or reported on whether it was making progress towards achieving the expected results (e.g., outputs and outcomes) under those agreements. If the applicant was not making progress, please indicate whether, and how, the applicant documented its reason for the lack of progress.

C. ORGANIZATIONAL EXPERIENCE: This section of the work plan must include information on your organizational experience for timely and successfully achieving the objectives of the proposed project.

D. STAFF AND RESOURCES: This section of the work plan should include information on

your staff expertise/qualification, staff knowledge, and resources or the ability to obtain them, to successfully achieve the goals of the proposed project. EPA will not consider the qualifications, experience, and expertise of named subawardees/subgrantees and/or named contractor(s) unless certain conditions/requirements are met. For additional information see Section IV.G of this RFA.

Section 5 - Budget Narrative and Detail

This section of the work plan is a detailed description of the budget found in the SF-424A and must include a discussion of the applicant's approach to ensuring proper management of grant funds, a detailed Budget Narrative, as well as the itemized Budget Table below. An applicant's Budget Table and Budget Narrative must account for both federal funds and any non-federal funds (e.g., any mandatory or voluntary cost share if applicable). Selected applicant(s) will need to submit a copy of their current indirect cost rate that has been negotiated with a federal cognizant agency prior to award. Additional guidance for developing the applicant's budget is available in RAIN-2019-G02, "Interim General Budget Development Guidance for Applicants and Recipients of EPA Financial Assistance."

A. EXPENDITURE OF AWARDED GRANT FUNDS: Applicants should provide a detailed discussion of their approach, procedures, and controls for ensuring that awarded grant funds will be expended in a timely and efficient manner.

B. REASONABLENESS OF COSTS: EPA will evaluate the reasonableness of the applicant's budget based on the applicant's narrative description of the budget and detailed breakout of requested funding for each work component or task.

C. BUDGET NARRATIVE:
- Description of the budget and estimated funding amounts for each work component/task. For applicants that provide a mandatory and/or voluntary cost share, the Budget Narrative must include a detailed description of how the applicant will obtain the cost share and how the cost share funding will be used. Funds are subject to the regulations governing cost share fund requirements at 2 C.F.R. Part 200. Any form of cost share included in the Budget Detail must also be included on the SF 424 and SF 424A. Please see Section III.B of this RFA for more detailed information on cost share.
- If a proposed cost share is to be provided by a named third-party, a letter of commitment is required.
- There are several ways CRBRP recipients may implement projects and fund project partners depending on the roles and responsibilities of each. These include direct implementation, subawards, and participant support costs. Please refer to **Appendix B** of this RFA for detailed guidance on these funding options and how to correctly categorize these costs in the workplan budget.

Budget Detail

Applicants should use the following instructions, budget object class descriptions, and example table to complete the Budget Detail section of the work plan, adding or deleting additional rows as necessary to accurately reflect the proposed project budget. In addition, EPA has issued

Interim General Budget Development Guidance for Applicants and Recipients of EPA Financial Assistance to assist applicants in classifying costs.

Applicants must **itemize** costs related to personnel, fringe benefits, travel, equipment, installation (labor) supplies, contractual costs, other direct costs (subawards, participant support costs), indirect costs, and total costs. Round up to the nearest dollar and do not use any cents.

Recipients may issue subawards, contracts, or participant support costs to implement projects. Please refer to Appendix B for detailed guidance on these funding options and how to correctly categorize these costs in the workplan budget.

- **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 (paid employees of the applicant organization as reflected in payroll tax records). 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 contractors (including consultants), which are included in the "Contractual" category; (2) costs for employees of subrecipients under subawards or non-employee program participants (e.g., interns or volunteers), which are included in the "Other" category; or (3) effort that is not 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 may include, but are not limited to the cost of leave, employee insurance, pensions, and unemployment benefit plans. If the applicant's fringe rate does not include the cost of leave, and the applicant intends to charge leave to the agreement, it must provide supplemental information describing its proposed method(s) for determining and equitably distributing these costs.

- **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). Only include travel costs for employees in the travel category. Travel costs do not include: (1) costs for travel of contractors (including consultants), which are included in the "Contractual" category; (2) travel costs for employees of subrecipients under subawards and non-employee program participants (e.g., trainees), which are included in the "Other" category. Further, travel does not include bus rentals for group trips, which would be covered under the contractual category. Finally, if the applicant intends to use any funds for travel outside the United States (including to Canada), the travel must be specifically identified. All proposed

foreign travel must be approved by EPA's Office of International and Tribal Affairs prior to being taken. Recipients may obtain OITA blanket approval for routine, frequent travel by motor vehicle for sampling and similar purposes.

- **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 that are not included in the purchase price for the equipment. 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 2 C.F.R. 200. 94. The budget detail must include an itemized listing of all equipment proposed under the project. If installation costs are included in the equipment costs, labor expenses shall be itemized with the detailed number of hours charged and the hourly wage.
  Note: If the applicant has written procurement procedures that define a threshold for equipment costs that is lower than $5,000 then that threshold takes precedence.

- **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 occasional photocopy services, and rental costs should be included in the "Other" category.

- **Contractual - Identify each type of proposed contract and specify its purpose and estimated cost.** Contractual services (including 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. EPA's Subaward Policy and supplemental Frequent Questions has detailed guidance available for differentiating between contractors and subrecipients. Leased or rented goods (equipment or supplies) should be included in the "Other" category. EPA does not require applicants to identify specific contractors. The applicant should list the proposed contract activities along with a brief description of the anticipated scope of work or services to be provided, proposed duration, and proposed procurement method (competitive or non-competitive), if known. If installation costs are included in the contractual costs, labor expenses shall be itemized with the detailed number of hours charged and the hourly wage.

  Any proposed non-competed/sole-source contracts in excess of $10,000 must include a justification. Note that it is unlikely that EPA will accept proposed sole source contracts for goods and services (e.g., consulting) that are widely available in the commercial market.

  Refer to EPA's Best Practice Guide for Procuring Services, Supplies, and Equipment Under EPA Assistance Agreements for EPA's policies on competitive procurements and encouraging the use of small and disadvantaged business enterprises.

- **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; participant support costs (i.e. rebates) and subaward costs.

  Subawards (e.g., subgrants) and Participant Support Costs are each 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 even if the agreement is referred to as a contract. Please refer to Appendix C of this RFA for detailed guidance on funding projects and partnerships and how to correctly categorize these costs in the workplan budget. "Other" 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 or Participant Support Costs as a separate line item in the "Other" category, and a description of the types of activities to be supported. Refer to EPA's Subaward Policy and supplemental Frequent Questions and Interim EPA Guidance for Participant Support Costs for additional guidance.

  - **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. Please see EPA's Indirect Cost Guidance for Recipients of EPA Assistance Agreements for additional information on indirect costs. 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, less distorting or other factors such as contracts and equipment (Indirect Rate x (total direct cost – distorting factors) = Indirect Costs)

See example Budget Table below.

Line Item and Itemized Cost	Total Cost	EPA Requested Funds	Mandatory Cost Share
(1) Project Staff @ $30/hr x 40 hrs/wk x 40 wks	$48,000	$24,000	$24,000
TOTAL PERSONNEL	$48,000	$24,000	$24,000
20% of Salary and Wages	20%(48,000)		
- Retirement, Health Benefits, FICA, SUI	$9,600	$5,000	$4,600
TOTAL FRINGE BENEFITS	$9,600	$5,000	$4,600
Mileage for PM: 100 mi/mo @ $.17/mi x 12 mo	$204	$204	
Mileage for Staff: 200 mi/mo @ $.17/mi x 12 mo	$408	$408	
TOTAL TRAVEL	$612	$612	$0
Sampling Unit	$20,000	$20,000	
Boat	$11,603	$11,603	
TOTAL EQUIPMENT	$31,603	$31,603	$0
Office Supplies	$1,000		$1,000
TOTAL SUPPLIES	$1,000		$1,000
Laboratory Services	$10,000	$10,000	
TOTAL CONTRACTUAL	$10,000	$10,000	
TOTAL OTHER			
Federal Negotiated Indirect Cost Rate = 10% (Indirect Rate x Personnel = Indirect Costs)	$4,800	$4,800	
TOTAL INDIRECT	$4,800	$4,800	
TOTAL FUNDING	$105,615	$76,015	$29,600
	TOTAL PROJECT COST[9]	EPA Requested Funds	Mandatory Cost Share
% of total		72%	28%
Other Leveraged Funds[10] (a description of other funds that are being used to support this project, not required)			

EPA Funding amount must be included on the SF-424 in Section 18.a and on the SF-424A in: Cell 5(e) under Section A – Budget Summary; and Column (1) under Section B – Budget Categories.

Voluntary and Mandatory Cost Share funds must be included on the SF-424 in Section 18.b-e and on the SF424A in: Cell 5(f) under Section A – Budget Summary; Columns (2) and (3) under Section B – Budget Categories; and Section C – Non-Federal Resources.

Total Project Cost must be included on the SF-424 in Section 18.g and on the SF-424A in: Cell 5(g) under Section A – Budget Summary; and Column (5), Row k under Section B – Budget Categories.

Other Leveraged Funds should NOT be included in the SF424 and SF424A.

3. Other Attachments
This information does not count towards the page limit and should be included using the Other Attachments form, if applicable.

Cost Share Commitment Letters: If applicable, project partners who are providing in-kind or monetary assistance must demonstrate their specific commitment to meet the proposed cost share. **Letters should be addressed to the applicant organization and included as attachments to the application. Please do not ask partners to submit letters directly to EPA.**

Partnership Letters: Letters of support that demonstrate strong, long-term involvement throughout the project from a variety of project partners are encouraged. Letters should specifically indicate how project partners and supporting organizations will participate in or directly assist in the design and performance of the project, or how obtaining support from project partners will allow the applicant to more effectively perform the project. Note the requirements for providing EPA funds to project partners under subawards and contracts described in Section IV.G. when making partnership arrangements. **Letters should be addressed to the applicant organization and included as attachments to the application. Please do not ask partners to submit letters directly to EPA.**

Resumes: Optional. Provide resumes or curriculum vitae for principal investigators (if any) and any other key personnel.

Indirect Cost Rate Agreement: If applicable.

Additional Resources
Additional information on how to apply for and manage grants can be found at: https://www.epa.gov/grants/how-apply-grants

Best Practice Guide for Procuring Services, Supplies, and Equipment Under EPA Assistance Agreements (https://www.epa.gov/grants/best-practice-guide-procuring-services-supplies-and-equipment-under-epa-assistance-agreements)

APPENDIX B – How to Fund Projects and Partnerships

There are several ways CRBRP recipients may implement projects and fund project partners depending on the roles and responsibilities of each. In addition to the information provided below, also refer to the "Partnerships, Contractors and Subawards" guidance in Section IV E of the General Solicitation Provisions.

Subawards: CRBRP grant recipients (i.e., pass-through entities) may make subawards to subrecipients to carry out a portion of the CRBRP funded program or project. Subawards establish a financial assistance relationship under which the subrecipient's employees and contractors implement programs and projects to accomplish the goals and objectives of the CRBRP grant. Note that with very few exceptions for profit firms are not eligible to receive subawards. Refer to Appendix A in EPA's subaward policy for examples of situations in which a for profit firm may be eligible for a subaward.

If a recipient chooses to pass funds from its CRBRP grant to other entities through subawards, the recipient must comply with applicable provisions of 2 C.F.R. Part 200, the EPA Subaward Policy, and EPA's National Term and Condition for Subawards. Note that under 2 C.F.R. 200.331 there are extensive requirements for subrecipient monitoring and management that apply to pass-through entities. Additionally, Federal requirements including the 2 C.F.R. Part 200 Procurement Standards "flow down" to subrecipients. By accepting a CRBRP grant, the recipient is certifying that it either has systems in place to comply with the regulatory and EPA policy requirements specified in these provisions, or that the recipient will refrain from making subawards with EPA funding until the required systems are designed and implemented.

There is no requirement for recipients to compete subawards under CRBRP, however pass-through entities may choose to select subrecipients competitively provided this practice is consistent with applicable statutes, regulations and the terms of their CRBRP grants. Recipients may use the subaward template contained in Appendix D of the Subaward Policy to assist them in complying with the "subaward content" requirements, however EPA does not mandate the use of this template.

Additional Resources

EPA Subaward Policy with attachments (https://www.epa.gov/grants/grants-policy-issuance-gpi- 16-01-epa-subaward-policy-epa-assistance-agreement-recipients). Includes:

- EPA Subaward Policy
- Appendix A: Distinctions Between Subrecipients and Contractors
- Appendix B: National Term and Condition for Subawards
- Appendix C: Model Programmatic Subaward Reporting Requirement
- Appendix D: Subaward Agreement Template

APPENDIX C - Application Submission Checklist

The application package ***must*** include all of the following materials. Use this checklist to ensure that all required materials have been included in your application package. It is provided for applicants' convenience and is not required. Do not submit this with your application.

□ Standard Form SF-424, Application for Federal Assistance

□ Standard Form SF-424A, Budget Information

□ EPA Form 4700-4, Pre-Award Compliance Review Report for All Applicants

□ EPA Form 5700-54, Key Contacts Form

□ Project Narrative

- □ Cover Page
- □ Work Plan
  - □ 1. Project Summary and Approach
  - □ 2. Project Sustainability
  - □ 3. Environmental Results – Outputs, Outcomes and Performance Measures
  - □ 4. Programmatic Capability and Past Performance
  - □ 5. Budget Narrative and Detail

Other Documents (use Other Attachments Form), if applicable:

□ Cost Share Commitment Letters

□ Partnership Letters

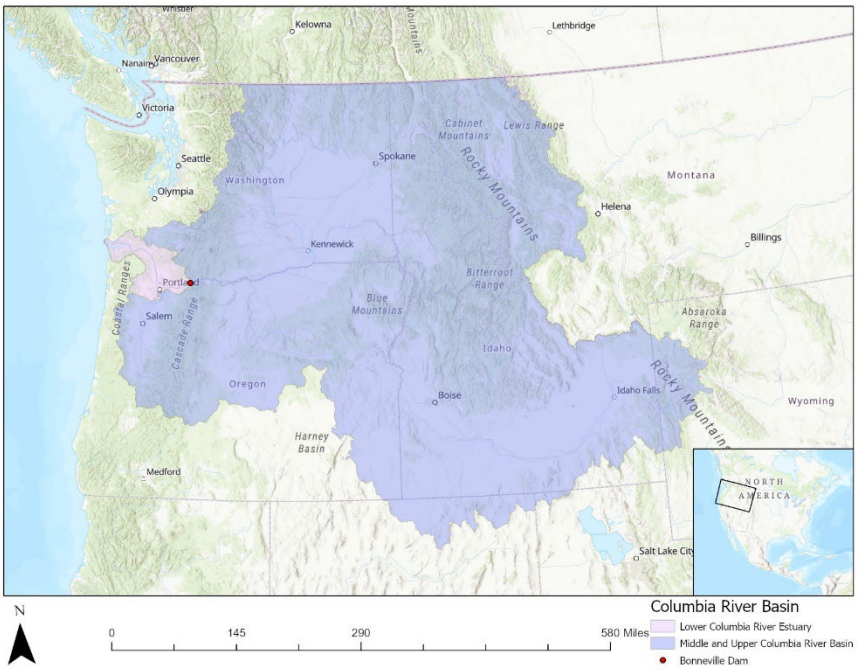
□ Indirect Cost Share Agreement

□ Resumes, optional

APPENDIX D – Project Location Description and Map

Applications for this RFA must support activities in the Middle and Upper Columbia River Basin portion of the Basin.

The Middle and Upper Columbia River Basin is defined as the mainstem of the Columbia River from the Bonneville Dam to the Canadian Border and tributaries of the Columbia River in that region (see map to the right).



For reference, the Lower Columbia Estuary is defined as the mainstem of the Columbia River from the Bonneville Dam to the Pacific Ocean and tidally influenced portions of tributaries of the Columbia River in that region (see map to the right). There is another RFA covering this area. Please see the [Columbia River Basin RFA website] for more information.

