AGENCY: Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)
TITLE: Climate Pollution Reduction Grants Program: Implementation Grants General Competition
ACTION: Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) Amendment No. 3
FUNDING OPPORTUNITY NUMBER: EPA-R-OAR-CPRGI-23-07
Assistance Listing No: 66.046
DATE: January 16, 2024

SUMMARY: This Notice makes amendments to the above referenced funding opportunity to update information about entities eligible to apply for the grant; the requirements for coalition applications and Memoranda of Agreement; preferred files and filename formats; adjustments to evaluation criteria 6; and clarification regarding Global Warming Potential (GWP) values to use. This Notice also amends the referenced funding opportunity to provide a checklist containing all required and optional application elements and important details regarding their inclusion in the application.

Specifically, amendments are made on the following pages:

Pages 17-20. Table 2 was updated to reflect that the State of Wyoming withdrew from the planning grant program on November 30, 2023. A paragraph on page 19 was edited to reference the five states (instead of the previous four) now listed as ineligible for the CPRG implementation grant phase. The list of MSA exceptions on page 20 now includes the Cheyenne, WY Metro Area.

Pages 18-19. Table 2 and the paragraph on page 19 are edited to reflect that any municipal entity that is not a city, town, borough, county, parish, or district must provide documented proof that the state or territory in which it is located considers the entity to be a public body created by or pursuant to state law, and that it is accountable to municipal or state units of government. Similarly, state entities other than state agencies, departments, and other executive branch-level offices must provide documentation that the state or territory in which it is located considers the entity to be a public body created by or pursuant to state law.

Page 20. The paragraph is edited to reflect that a coalition's Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) is not required by the application deadline, but the lead applicant should plan to submit the MOA by July 1, 2024 to CPRG@epa.gov. The lead applicant must include in their application a signed letter of intent from each coalition member stating the member's intent to sign the MOA.

Page 22. Threshold eligibility criterion 6 is edited to remove the requirement to include the MOA with a coalition application and add the requirement that coalition applications include letters of intent from each applicant participating in the coalition.

Page 23. Threshold eligibility criterion 8 is edited by striking "disregard" and adding "reject" such that it now reads, "If the applicant does not respond to EPA within two business days of being contacted, EPA will review the last application(s) submitted and will reject all others."

Page 25: EPA has updated the link to Grants.gov Registration website

Pages 28-30. *Application Materials* and *Project Narrative, Instructions, Format, and Content* are edited to include file and filename formats for each document included in the Application Materials, the associated forms in Grants.gov, and clarify which documents are required and which are optional documents. This list adds "letters of intent" as required for coalition applications and removes the requirement to provide a Memorandum of Agreement with the application.

Page 30. A sentence was added to "Type of Application," clarifying that coalitions must only be comprised of members that provide the letters of intent

Page 31. In Section 1a "Description of GHG Reduction Measures," the following sentence was added regarding expectations for coalition applications:

- [A coalition application] should also affirmatively declare that the lead applicant will submit an MOA signed by all coalition members by July 1, 2024, or provide an alternative date and justification if they will not be able to meet the July 1st date.

Page 40. In Section 6a "Programmatic Capability and Past Performance," edits clarify that applicants may list "non-federal" grants in addition to federal grants. In Section 6b, the clause "information from EPA files" was struck and "agency files" was inserted in its place.

Page 49. The clause reading "identified in the coalition's MOA" was struck from the following sentence: "All members of the coalition ~~identified in the coalition's MOA~~ must be listed as subrecipients, except the eligible applicant that will be the recipient of the grant (the lead applicant."

Page 51. Evaluation criteria 1a was edited adding the following clause regarding expectations for coalition applications:

- [In the case of a coalition application…], affirmatively declares that the lead applicant will submit an MOA signed by all coalition members by July 1, 2024, or provides an alternative date and justification if they will not be able to meet the July 1st date.

Page 54. Adds "or non-federal" to evaluation criteria 6a.

Page 54. Corrects a typo in 6c that previously read "…staff knowledge, and resources or ability of obtain them…" to "…staff knowledge, and resources or ability to obtain them…"

Page 56. In Section VI.A, the following sentences were added:

- "The lead applicant for a coalition must submit an MOA signed by all members of the coalition. The lead applicant for a coalition should plan to submit a signed MOA by July 1, 2024. Failure to submit a timely MOA may impact EPA's ability to award the grant. See Appendix E for further guidance on the MOA."

Page 64 and 65. Two paragraphs are edited to clarify that applicants should use Global Warming Potential (GWP) values from the 2013 IPCC AR5 Fifth Assessment Report.

Page 68-70. Appendix D is edited to clarify the application checklist that lists each application element, whether the element is required or optional, each element page limit (if applicable), each element file format, and recommended filename for each element (if applicable).

Page 71. Appendix E is edited to clarify that the Memorandum of Agreement is not due at the time of application but that a MOA signed by all members of a coalition must be provided to EPA before EPA will award any grant. Coalitions should plan on submitting their MOAs to EPA at CPRG@epa.gov by July 1, 2024. Failure to submit the MOA in a timely manner may impact EPA's ability to award the grant. Also, in the bulleted list of elements that should be included in an MOA, the following bullet is edited as follows (underlined text as addition; strikethrough as struck):

- Provide a statement that the lead applicant <u>will be accountable to EPA and</u> accepts full responsibility ~~for the performance of the coalition and will be accountable to EPA~~ for effectively carrying out the full scope of work and the proper financial management of the grant.

Revised January 16, 2024

AGENCY: ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY (EPA)

TITLE: Climate Pollution Reduction Grants Program: Implementation Grants General Competition

ACTION: **Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO):** Request for Applications

FUNDING OPPORTUNITY NUMBER: EPA-R-OAR-CPRGI-23-07

ASSISTANCE LISTING NO: 66.046

FUNDING AVAILABLE: Approximately $4.3 Billion

KEY DATES

September 20, 2023	NOFO: REQUEST FOR APPLICATIONS ISSUANCE
February 1, 2024	OPTIONAL NOTICE OF INTENT TO APPLY IS DUE
March 15, 2024	DEADLINE FOR SUBMITTING QUESTIONS
April 1, 2024	NOFO CLOSES – APPLICATIONS DUE BY 11:59 PM (ET)
July 2024	ANTICIPATED NOTIFICATION OF FUNDING SELECTION
October 2024	ANTICIPATED AWARD

APPLICATION SUBMISSION DEADLINE: Application packages must be submitted electronically to EPA through Grants.gov (www.grants.gov) no later than **April 1, 2024, at 11:59 p.m. (ET)** in order to be considered for funding. Questions related to this NOFO should be submitted to CPRG@epa.gov. The deadline for submitting questions is **March 15, 2024**. EPA will not respond to questions submitted after that date.

NOTICE OF INTENT TO APPLY: To allow for efficient management of the competitive process, EPA requests submittal of an informal Notice of Intent (NOI) to Apply by **February 1, 2024** to CPRG@epa.gov. Please include in the body of the email the dollar amount of the anticipated funding request and one to two sentences about the scope and sector(s) of the greenhouse gas (GHG) reduction measures likely to be included in the potential implementation grant application. Additionally, if intending to apply as the lead applicant representing a coalition, please list all anticipated coalition members (coalition members must also be eligible applicants; see Section III.A for more details). Submission of an NOI is optional and non-binding; it is a process management tool that will allow EPA to better anticipate the resources required for efficient evaluation of submitted applications.

CONTRACTS AND SUBAWARDS: If the applicant intends to name a contractor (including an individual consultant or equipment vendor) or a subrecipient as a project partner or otherwise in the application, EPA recommends that applicants carefully review and comply with the directions contained in Section IV of this NOFO and at EPA Solicitation Clauses. Refer to EPA's

Best Practice Guide for Procuring Services, Supplies, and Equipment Under EPA Assistance Agreements for additional guidance. Applicants must demonstrate that named contractors (including individual consultants and equipment vendors) were selected in compliance with the competitive requirements of the Procurement Standards in 2 CFR Part 200 as interpreted in EPA guidance and/or that named subrecipients meet the eligibility requirements in EPA's Subaward Policy for EPA to consider their qualifications and role in the proposed project.

Climate Pollution Reduction Grants Program
Implementation Grants General Competition

Table of Contents

I. Funding Opportunity Description 5

A. Background and Summary 5

B. Program Goals and Objectives 6

C. Environmental Results and Strategic Plan Information 13

D. Statutory Authority 14

E. Additional Provisions for Applicants Incorporated into the Solicitation 15

II. Federal Award Information 15

A. Amount of Funding Available 15

B. Number and Amount of Awards 15

C. Partial Funding 16

D. Additional Awards 16

E. Award Funding and Incremental/Full Funding 16

F. Period of Performance 17

G. Funding Type 17

III. Eligibility Information 17

A. Eligible Applicants 17

B. Voluntary Cost Sharing or Matching Funds 21

C. Threshold Eligibility Criteria 21

D. Ineligible Costs and Activities 22

IV. Application and Submission Information 23

A. How to Register to Apply for Grants Under This Competition 23

B. Application Process 27

1. Application Materials 28

2. Project Narrative Instructions, Format, and Content 30

C. Partnership and Coalition Coverage 50

D. Releasing Copies of Applications 51

V. Application Review Information 52

A. Evaluation Criteria 52
B. Review and Selection Process 56
C. Other Factors 56
D. Anticipated Announcement and Federal Award Dates 57
VI. Award Administration Information 57
A. Award Notices 57
B. Reporting Requirements 57
C. Prevailing Wage Requirements 59
D. Build America, Buy America Requirements 59
VII. EPA Contacts 60
Appendix A. Additional Information Regarding Contracts, Subawards, and Participant Support Costs 61
A. Background 61
B. Contracts 61
C. Subawards 61
D. Participant Support Costs 63
Appendix B. Global Warming Potentials for GHGs 65
Appendix C. Required Technical Appendix and Optional GHG Emission Reduction Calculations Spreadsheet 66
E. Overview 66
F. Technical Appendix 66
G. GHG Emission Reduction Calculations 68
Appendix D. Application Submission Checklist 69
Appendix E. Guidelines for a Memorandum of Agreement for a Coalition 72

I. Funding Opportunity Description

A. Background and Summary

The 2022 Inflation Reduction Act (IRA) established the Climate Pollution Reduction Grants (CPRG) program,[1] which provides funds in two distinct but related phases:

1. **Planning grants:** $250 million for states, U.S. territories,[2] municipalities,[3] air pollution control agencies, tribes,[4] and groups thereof[5] to develop plans to reduce greenhouse gases (GHGs).[6] The Priority Climate Action Plan (PCAP) is the first deliverable due under the CPRG planning grants.
2. **Implementation grants:** $4.6 billion for competitive grants to eligible applicants to implement GHG reduction programs, policies, projects, and measures (collectively referred to as "GHG reduction measures," or "measures") identified in a PCAP developed under a CPRG planning grant.

This notice of funding opportunity (NOFO) announces the availability of up to $4.3 billion for the CPRG implementation grants general competition. Lead organizations for CPRG planning grants must submit their PCAPs to EPA by the deadline of March 1, 2024, in order for lead organizations and other eligible applicants under this announcement to submit grant applications to fund measures contained in those plans. EPA anticipates awarding approximately 30 to 115 grants ranging between $2 million and $500 million under this general competition. Further detail on award tiers can be found in Table 1 of Section II.B.

A separate NOFO, issued under Funding Opportunity Number EPA-R-OAR-CPRGT-23-09, announces the availability of approximately $300 million for competitive CPRG implementation

[1] See IRA section 60114, "Climate Pollution Reduction Grants."
[2] For purposes of the CPRG program, "U.S. territories" means the U.S. Virgin Islands, Guam, American Samoa, and the Northern Mariana Islands.
[3] Clean Air Act section 302(f) defines "municipality" as a city, town, borough, county, parish, district, or other public body created by or pursuant to State law. For purposes of awarding the CPRG planning grants to municipalities, EPA used 2020 U.S. Census data for metropolitan statistical areas (MSAs) to identify the country's most populous metropolitan areas, comprised of municipalities. The general concept of an MSA is that of a core area containing a substantial population nucleus, together with adjacent communities having a high degree of economic and social integration with that core. MSAs contain at least one urbanized area of 50,000 or more population. An MSA may include one or more counties.
[4] EPA has determined that based on the exclusion of Alaskan Native Corporations (ANCs) from the definition of "Indian tribe" in section 302(r) of the Clean Air Act that ANCs are not eligible for direct grants from EPA under this program. ANCs may, however, receive "non-coalition member" subawards from eligible CPRG grantees.
[5] As of the date of publication of this announcement, CPRG planning grant funding has been or is expected to be awarded to support development of climate action plans for 46 states plus the District of Columbia and Puerto Rico, 79 of the country's most populous MSAs, more than 200 tribes, and four U.S. territories.
[6] For purposes of the CPRG program, greenhouse gases, or GHGs, are defined as carbon dioxide, hydrofluorocarbons, methane, nitrous oxide, perfluorocarbons, and sulfur hexafluoride (see Clean Air Act section 137 (d)(2)).

grants exclusively for eligible tribes and territories. While eligible tribes and territories may also apply for grants under this CPRG implementation grants general competition, those interested in the CPRG implementation grant competition for tribes and territories should seek the Funding Opportunity Number EPA-R-OAR-CPRGT-23-09 for more information.

Applications for this implementation grant general competition are due on April 1, 2024. Entities eligible to apply for an implementation grant under this competition include lead organizations that were direct recipients of CPRG planning grants and other state, municipal, tribal, and territorial entities that seek to implement GHG reduction measures included in an applicable PCAP developed under a CPRG planning grant. Section III.A provides more detail on eligible applicants for this NOFO.

B. Program Goals and Objectives

Recognizing the urgency to address GHG pollution contributing to climate change, the Biden-Harris Administration and Congress established the $5 billion CPRG program as part of the 2022 IRA. EPA takes seriously its responsibility to protect human health and the environment as the United States faces the increasingly harmful impacts of climate change. Across the country, communities are experiencing more deadly wildfires and storm surges, more extreme drought and water scarcity, and dangerous levels of flooding, among other impacts. The Fourth National Climate Assessment found that intense extreme weather and climate-related events, as well as changes in average climate conditions, are expected to continue to damage infrastructure, ecosystems, and social systems that provide essential benefits to communities. If left unchecked, future climate change is expected to further disrupt many areas of life and exacerbate existing challenges to prosperity posed by aging and deteriorating infrastructure, stressed ecosystems, and long-standing inequalities. However, with this challenge comes an opportunity to invest in a cleaner economy that will spur innovation and economic growth while building more equitable, resilient communities.

Accordingly, the CPRG general competition for implementation grants is designed to enable states, municipalities, tribes, and territories to achieve the following goals:

1. Implement ambitious measures that will achieve significant cumulative GHG reductions by 2030 and beyond;
2. Pursue measures that will achieve substantial community benefits (such as reduction of criteria air pollutants (CAPs) and hazardous air pollutants (HAPs)), particularly in low-income and disadvantaged communities;
3. Complement other funding sources to maximize these GHG reductions and community benefits; and,
4. Pursue innovative policies and programs that are replicable and can be “scaled up” across multiple jurisdictions.

The CPRG general competition is also designed to incentivize eligible applicants to apply for funding together as a coalition to implement GHG reduction measures regionally, across multiple municipalities, state boundaries, or even state and tribal boundaries. Details on eligible applicants and coalitions are available in Section III.A.

Relationship Between CPRG PCAPs and Implementation Grant Eligibility

Applications for grants under this NOFO must seek funding to implement measures that are included in a PCAP developed with funding from a CPRG planning grant. Implementation grant applications can be submitted not just by the lead organization that received CPRG planning grant funds ("lead organization"), but also by state and territorial agencies, municipalities, air pollution control agencies, and tribes that did not directly receive planning grant funds but that seek funding to implement one or more measures included in an applicable PCAP.

The CPRG planning grant program guidance specified that when developing a PCAP, lead organizations must coordinate and collaborate with other eligible entities within their jurisdictions and ensure that priority measures are included in the plan that are implementable by those entities. In all cases, the lead organizations for CPRG planning grants are required to make their PCAPs available to other entities for their use in developing implementation grant applications, and EPA will publicly post all PCAPs received on the CPRG website.

EPA strongly encourages lead organizations to make draft versions of their PCAPs available as early as possible so that entities considering whether to submit an implementation grant application can begin development of their applications well before the April 1, 2024, application deadline. EPA also encourages eligible applicants that are considering applying for a CPRG implementation grant to participate in the PCAP development process and provide input on priority measures to include in the plan, in collaboration with other participants and stakeholders. EPA will not award multiple grants to implement the same measure in the same location; therefore, communication and coordination between entities that may be considering applying to fund similar measures should occur prior to applications being submitted. See Section III of this NOFO for more details on eligible applicants.

GHG Reduction Measures in CPRG Implementation Grant Applications

EPA encourages eligible applicants to seek implementation funds for GHG reduction measures that will significantly reduce cumulative GHG emissions by 2030 and beyond, and that will accelerate decarbonization across one or more major sectors responsible for GHG emissions (i.e., industry, electric power, transportation, commercial and residential buildings, agriculture/natural and working lands, and waste and materials management). EPA will score grant applications based on multiple evaluation criteria described in Section V.A of this NOFO, with an emphasis on the magnitude of near-term GHG reductions that will be achieved by the proposed measures.

Applications may include one or more proposed GHG reduction measures. A GHG reduction measure may reduce GHG emissions or enhance carbon removal.[7] Documentation must be

[7] Measures that enhance "carbon removal" are those that increase the removal of carbon dioxide from the

provided to support the estimated GHG emission reductions for each proposed measure. In general, EPA anticipates that applications may seek funding for the following types of measures:

- A new, stand-alone GHG reduction measure that will be implemented solely through CPRG funding;
- An expansion of a GHG reduction measure that is already being implemented, where the expansion of the measure will be funded through CPRG funding; and,
- A new GHG reduction measure for which the applicant has already secured partial funding and needs additional funding from the CPRG program to secure the total funding needed to fully implement the measure.

Applications should provide details on each measure as laid out in Section IV.B. Applications will be evaluated as a whole and will not be assessed by individual GHG reduction measures; therefore, applicants should include only those measures that are eligible and meet the requirements described in this announcement.

EPA expects to receive implementation grant applications covering a broad range of potential GHG reduction measures. Applicants have flexibility to tailor the new or expanded GHG reduction measures included in their applications to the specific plans and needs of their jurisdictions. Applications that successfully address the specific evaluation criteria in Section V will also be consistent with the following program objectives:

- Stimulate transformation toward a decarbonized economy and demonstrate approaches that are replicable to unlock opportunities for even greater emissions reductions;
- Result in benefits (and do not result in negative impacts) to low-income and disadvantaged communities, such as CAP and HAP reductions, equitable economic growth, and improved quality of life outcomes, where applicable;
- Support measures for which dedicated funding or financing from other sources (e.g., under other provisions of the 2022 IRA, the 2021 Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL), the 2021 American Rescue Plan Act (ARP), and the 2021 Creating Helpful Incentives to Produce Semiconductors and Science Act (CHIPS)) is unavailable or that leverage other sources of public and private funding to the fullest extent possible prior to seeking CPRG funding;
- Achieve GHG emission reductions that are long-lasting and certain;
- Incorporate high labor standards, emphasize job quality, and support equitable workforce development; and,
- Ensure accountability by providing clear assumptions, metrics, timelines, authorities, and budget details.

---

atmosphere through, for example, the uptake of carbon and storage in soils, vegetation, and forests. Such measures may include actions related to management of lands in their current use, or as lands are converted to other uses.

EPA is partnering with other federal agencies to strategically design funding opportunities and efficiently deploy resources provided by the IRA, BIL, ARP, and CHIPS, among others. Applications for CPRG implementation grants will be evaluated on the degree to which they demonstrate a strong need for CPRG implementation funding that is unmet by other funding sources. Applicants should explain how they have explored the availability of other federal and state grants, tax incentives, and other funding streams to implement their GHG reduction measure(s) and why these sources are not sufficient (see Section IV.B and criterion 1.b in Section V.A).

GHG Reduction Measure Examples

Drawing on a variety of information – including workplans submitted by CPRG planning grantees, measures highlighted in the CPRG Request for Information, and input received during CPRG stakeholder listening sessions – EPA has prepared the following illustrative list of potential GHG reduction measures for which applicants may choose to seek CPRG implementation grant funding. This list is neither exhaustive nor definitive with respect to the measures that may be included in competitive applications under this NOFO. Applicants should consider the evaluation criteria in Section V.A when deciding on which measure or measures to include in their applications.

Transportation Sector

- Programs to increase the share of electric light-, medium-, and heavy-duty vehicles, and to expand electric vehicle charging infrastructure
- Electrification requirements for state, municipal, territorial, and tribal vehicle, transit, or equipment fleets
- Transportation pricing programs that reduce vehicle miles traveled (VMT), such as parking pricing and congestion and road pricing
- Policies to support transportation management incentive programs to reduce vehicle trips or travel and expand transit use, such as van-pool programs, ridesharing, transit fare subsidies, and bicycle facilities
- New or expanded transportation infrastructure projects to facilitate public transit, micro-mobility, car sharing, bicycle, and pedestrian modes
- Incentive programs to purchase zero-emission vehicles and equipment to replace older heavy-duty diesel vehicles and equipment
- Programs to increase efficiency and reduce GHG emissions at ports and freight terminals, such as vehicle or equipment idle reduction, vessel-speed reduction, equipment electrification, and shore power
- Update building and zoning codes to encourage walkable, bikeable, and transit-oriented development
- Encourage mode shift from private vehicles to walking, biking, and public transportation (e.g., complete streets, bike share programs, bike storage facilities, low-speed electric bicycle subsidies, public transit subsidies)

Electric Power Sector

- Renewable portfolio standards and/or clean electricity standards

- Energy efficiency portfolio standards
- Emission trading systems (e.g., cap-and-trade programs) and carbon pricing measures
- GHG performance standards for electric generating units
- Installation of renewable energy and energy storage systems on municipal facilities
- Programs to support smart-grid and/or behind-the-meter technologies to reduce power losses, reduce peak demand, and enable consumer participation in distributed generation
- Targeted incentives for installation of renewable energy and energy storage systems on commercial and residential buildings, such as net metering, tax credits, rebates, and streamlined interconnection standards
- Policies and measures to streamline permitting for renewable energy projects
- Development of distributed or community-scale renewable energy generation, microgrids, or vehicle-to-grid infrastructure in disadvantaged communities, including remote and rural regions

Buildings Sector

- Adoption and implementation of the most up-to-date building energy codes or stretch codes for new commercial and residential buildings
- Implementation of a clean heat standard
- Incentive programs for implementation of end-use energy efficiency measures in existing government-owned, commercial, and residential buildings
- Incentive programs for the purchase of certified energy-efficient appliances, heating and cooling equipment, lighting, and building products to replace inefficient products
- Programs and policies to promote electrification of government-owned, commercial, and residential buildings
- Programs and policies to accelerate the incorporation of efficient electric technologies and electric vehicle charging at new single-family, multi-unit, or affordable residential buildings and commercial buildings, including building codes related to electric vehicle charging
- Implementation of a building energy performance management program for government-owned buildings
- Implementation of a new benchmarking and building performance standards
- Programs to promote recovery and destruction of high-global warming potential (GWP) hydrofluorocarbons (HFCs) used in existing appliances, air conditioning systems, and commercial chillers

Industrial Sector

- Standards addressing GHG emissions from industrial facilities and from energy production sectors, including emissions from industrial process heat and industrial processes
- Programs to support or incentivize implementation of energy efficiency measures in industry, including energy audits, strategic energy management, equipment upgrades, and waste heat utilization

- Programs to support or incentivize GHG reductions in industrial energy use and industrial processes, including use of low/no carbon fuels, electrification, renewable energy, and process improvements
- Programs to develop, expand, and support markets for low-embodied carbon materials and products, such as cement and steel

Waste, Water, and Sustainable Materials Management Sector

- Standards and incentives to reduce methane emissions from landfills and wastewater treatment facilities, including through collection for use or destruction
- Programs and incentives to reduce or divert waste (including food and/or yard waste) through improved production practices, improved collection services, and increased reuse or recycling rates
- Programs and incentives to reduce GHG emissions associated with plastics production, use, and waste management
- Programs to expand composting and bio-digestion infrastructure to reduce GHG emissions and increase beneficial use of organic waste
- Policies and programs to reduce construction and demolition waste through building reuse, deconstruction, and material diversion and reuse
- Installation of renewable energy and energy efficiency measures at wastewater treatment facilities

Agricultural Sector

- Incentive programs to fund electric agricultural equipment technologies
- Incentives for technologies and techniques that reduce nitrous oxide emissions from fertilizer application
- Incentives to promote anaerobic digesters to capture methane and generate renewable energy or produce renewable fuel

Carbon Removal Measures

- Policies to promote improved forest management to enhance carbon stocks on forested land
- Urban afforestation and green infrastructure programs and projects
- Restoration of degraded lands (e.g., brownfields, mine reclamation) and forested lands to enhance carbon sequestration
- Policies to enhance carbon stocks in coastal estuaries, such as wetlands and mangroves.

Low-Income and Disadvantaged Communities

Applications for CPRG implementation grants will be evaluated for benefits to low-income and disadvantaged communities (see criterion 4 in Section V.A). For the purposes of this NOFO, EPA defines low-income and disadvantaged communities as any community that meets at least one of the following characteristics:

- Any census tract that is included as disadvantaged in the Climate and Economic Justice

Screening Tool (CEJST)[8];

- Any census block group that is at or above the 90th percentile for any of EJScreen's Supplemental Indexes when compared to the nation or relevant state[9]; or,
- Any geographic area within tribal lands as included in EJScreen.[10] (The CPRG program considers that federally recognized tribes meet the definition of disadvantaged communities for the purposes of this grant program.)

EPA recognizes that these areas may include a wide range of communities, such as communities with environmental justice concerns, traditional energy communities, and rural communities.

EPA provides a GIS map layer that combines the CEJST and EJScreen information above to facilitate identification of low-income and disadvantaged communities (as defined for EPA IRA programs). This map layer can be found on the EJScreen website.[11] Although some states may have state-specific definitions of low-income and disadvantaged communities, applicants for CPRG implementation grants must use EPA's definition.

EPA is committed to meeting the objectives of the Justice40 Initiative set forth in Executive Order 14008, which sets the goal that 40 percent of the overall benefits of relevant federal investments flow to disadvantaged communities, which have been or are marginalized, underserved, and overburdened by pollution. Individual applicants do not have to explicitly demonstrate that 40 percent of the benefits of each measure or project will flow to disadvantaged communities. Instead, EPA will conduct an analysis of the GHG emission reduction measures and the benefits to disadvantaged communities resulting from the CPRG program as a whole.

Environmental Justice

EPA is committed to accelerating environmental justice (EJ) in communities overburdened by

---

[8] CEJST has an interactive map and uses datasets that are environmental and socioeconomic indicators of burdens. Percentiles show how much burden each Census tract experiences compared to other tracts. To qualify as a disadvantaged community in the CEJST, one of the burden indicators must be above the 90th percentile.

[9] EJScreen is EPA's environmental justice mapping and screening tool that uses national datasets for environmental and socioeconomic indicators to show how a selected area compares to the state, EPA region, or the nation. EJScreen operates at a finer geographic scale of Census block groups than the CEJST, allowing EJScreen Supplemental Indexes to identify smaller areas that may be disadvantaged within a larger non-disadvantaged area. To identify areas in EJScreen that meet one of the above definitions of a low-income or disadvantaged community, applicants should use the "Supplemental Indices" option under the tool's map layers.

[10] The Tribal Lands category in EJScreen to use for this purpose includes Alaska Native Allotments (EPA Metadata Record), Alaska Native Villages (EPA Metadata Record), American Indian Reservations (EPA Metadata Record), American Indian Off-reservation Trust Lands (EPA Metadata Record), and Oklahoma Tribal Statistical Areas (EPA Metadata Record).

[11] The EJScreen mapping tool is available at: https://ejscreen.epa.gov/mapper/. To locate the map layer displaying areas that meet the EPA definition of low-income and disadvantaged communities, go to the "Places" Tab, then select "Justice40/IRA" from the drop-down menu, and then select "EPA IRA Disadvantaged Communities." At the time of release of this NOFO, EJScreen version 2.2 was the current version.

pollution through its IRA investments, including through the CPRG program. This program is responsive to the Administration's call for agencies to advance EJ in Executive Order 14096: *Revitalizing Our Nation's Commitment to Environmental Justice for All*.

C. Environmental Results and Strategic Plan Information

Pursuant to Section 6.a of EPA Order 5700.7A1, "Environmental Results under EPA Assistance Agreements," EPA must align proposed grant programs and 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. Applicants must 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 Strategic Plan goals listed below. EPA will evaluate "outputs and outcomes" under criterion 3 in Section V. More guidance on outputs and outcomes is provided in Section IV.B.

(1) Linkage to EPA Strategic Plan: The activities to be funded under this announcement must support EPA's Fiscal Year (FY) 2022-2026 Strategic Plan. Awards made under this announcement will support Goal 1, "Tackle the Climate Crisis"; Objective 1.1, "Reduce Emissions that Cause Climate Change." Under this objective, EPA will "aggressively reduce the emissions of greenhouse gases from all sectors while increasing energy and resource efficiency and the use of renewable energy." All applications must be for projects that support this goal and objective. For more information see EPA's FY 2022 – 2026 EPA Strategic Plan.

(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 able to be assessed during an assistance agreement funding period.

Examples of outputs from the implementation of GHG reduction measures funded under this announcement may include, but are not limited to:

- Number of: equipment or technology installations, such as zero-emission vehicles; renewable energy installations and smart meters; electrified appliances (e.g., heat pumps) installed; buildings retrofitted; industrial equipment electrified; biodigesters installed; trees planted;
- Policies and measures enacted, adopted, and/or expanded, and related procedural milestones in implementing GHG reduction measures; and/or,
- Staff hired to implement GHG reduction measures, associated low-income and disadvantaged community provisions, and associated trainings for workforce development.

Progress reports and a final report will also be required outputs, as specified in Section VI.B.

(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 environmental, behavioral, health-related, or programmatic in nature but must also be quantifiable. They may not necessarily be achievable within a grant funding period.

At a minimum, the application should list the following outcomes from the GHG reduction measures proposed for CPRG implementation grant funding:

- Reduction in cumulative metric tons of GHG emissions:
  - From 2025 through calendar year 2030, and
  - From 2025 through calendar year 2050.

If applicable, the application should also list the following outcomes from the GHG reduction measures proposed for CPRG grant funding:

- Reduction in annual amount of CAP and/or HAP emissions in 2030, and
- Reduction in annual amount of CAP and/or HAP emissions in low-income and disadvantaged communities in 2030.

Other potential outcomes may include, but are not limited to:

- Lower energy demand and residential/commercial energy expenditures;
- Reduced energy bills for residents in low-income and disadvantaged communities, and throughout the applicant's jurisdiction;
- Reduced exposure to hazardous air pollution or unhealthy ambient air quality;
- Increased staff capacity to implement GHG reduction measures;
- Enhanced level of community engagement, as measured by an increased number of ongoing actions to engage with organizations and residents of disadvantaged communities, and other interested parties;
- Number of high-quality jobs created throughout the applicant's jurisdiction and in low-income and disadvantaged communities; and/or,
- Increased resilience to climate change impacts as measured by the number of buildings or Census tracts that meet certain resiliency standards.[12]

D. Statutory Authority

The IRA (Public Law 117-169) amended the Clean Air Act (CAA) (42 U.S.C. § 7401 *et seq*.) to include section 137 (42 U.S.C. § 7437), which authorizes EPA to make grants for greenhouse gas

[12] The U.S. Climate Resilience Toolkit defines climate resilience as "the capacity of a community, business, or natural environment to prevent, withstand, respond to, and recover from a disruption." To find EPA resources for local governments on climate resilience, including strategies, tools, and case studies, visit the Climate Change Adaptation Resource Center (ARC-X).

air pollution reduction plans and implementation activities. CAA section 137(a)(1) appropriates $250 million to EPA to award climate pollution planning grants to eligible entities comprised of states, air pollution control agencies, municipalities, tribes, or a group of one or more of these entities. CAA sections 137(a)(2) and (c) appropriate $4.75 billion (less three percent to EPA for administrative costs) to EPA to make competitive grants to states, air pollution control agencies, municipalities, tribes, or a group of one or more of these entities to implement the programs, policies, measures, and projects developed under a climate pollution planning grant. CAA section 137 also requires that implementation grant applicants address the degree to which a grant application would reduce GHG emissions in total and with respect to low-income and disadvantaged communities. CAA section 137(d)(2) defines "greenhouse gas" as the air pollutants carbon dioxide, hydrofluorocarbons, methane, nitrous oxide, perfluorocarbons, and sulfur hexafluoride.

E. Additional Provisions for Applicants Incorporated into the Solicitation

Additional provisions that apply to Sections III, IV, V, and VI, and/or awards made under this solicitation can be found at EPA Solicitation Clauses. These provisions are important for applying to this solicitation and applicants must review them when preparing applications for this solicitation. They include requirements and restrictions applicable to all EPA grant funding. If an applicant is unable to access these provisions electronically at the website above, please contact the EPA point of contact listed in Section VII of this solicitation to obtain a copy of the provisions.

II. Federal Award Information

A. Amount of Funding Available

The total funding expected to be available for awards under the CPRG implementation grants general competition is approximately $4.3 billion. Funding is dependent upon Agency appropriations, funding availability, Agency priorities, and other applicable considerations. EPA has issued a separate NOFO under Funding Opportunity Number EPA-R-OAR-CPRGT-23-09 for a competition reserved exclusively for eligible tribes and territories. Eligible tribes and territories may also apply for grants under this CPRG implementation grants general competition.

B. Number and Amount of Awards

EPA anticipates awarding a total of approximately 30 to 115 grants under this announcement subject to the availability of funds, the quantity and quality of applications received, Agency priorities, and other applicable considerations. Awards are expected to range between $2 million and $500 million. EPA expects to award grants within five tiers described in Table 1 with funds targeted for each tier. EPA has established these tiers to provide funding opportunities for a range of potential applicants. These ranges reflect differences in the scope, scale, and cost of GHG reduction measures and are intended to help applicants structure their applications to best reflect the cost of their proposed measures and their ability to implement the grant. The total grant amount requested in an application will determine the tier within which the

application will be evaluated. Applications will be evaluated against other applications within the same tier.

Table 1: Grants Ranges and Funding by Tier

Tier	Grant Ranges	Funds Targeted for Each Tier	Anticipated Number of Grants to be Awarded
Tier A	$200,000,000 – $500,000,000	$2 billion	4-10
Tier B	$100,000,000 – $199,999,999	$1.3 billion	6-13
Tier C	$50,000,000 – $99,999,999	$0.6 billion	6-12
Tier D	$10,000,000 – $49,999,999	$0.3 billion	6-30
Tier E	$2,000,000 – $9,999,999	$0.1 billion	10-50

The actual award amounts, total amount of funding, and number of awards made under each of the tiers described in this section may differ from the estimated amounts for many reasons including but not limited to the number of meritorious applications received in each tier, Agency priorities, and funding availability. In addition, EPA reserves the right to increase or decrease (including decreasing to zero) the total dollar amount for awards under each tier.

C. Partial Funding

In appropriate circumstances, EPA reserves the right to partially fund applications by funding discrete portions or phases of proposed GHG reduction measures in overall applications. 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, thereby maintaining the integrity of the competition and selection process.

D. Additional Awards

EPA reserves the right to make additional awards under this solicitation, consistent with Agency policy and guidance, if additional funding remains or becomes available after the original selections are made. EPA intends that any additional selections for awards may be made no later than six months after the original selection decisions. In addition, EPA reserves the right to reject all applications and make no awards under this announcement or to make fewer awards than anticipated.

E. Award Funding and Incremental/Full Funding

Awards will be fully funded at the start of the grant period. EPA award recipients may incur allowable costs 90 calendar days before EPA makes the award. Pre-award expenses more than 90 calendar days prior to the date of award require prior approval by EPA. All costs incurred before EPA makes the award are at the applicant's risk. EPA is under no obligation to reimburse such costs if for any reason the applicant does not receive a federal award, or if the federal award is less than anticipated and inadequate to cover such costs. See 2 CFR 1500.9.

F. Period of Performance

The estimated period of performance for awards resulting from this solicitation will be up to five years. The estimated project start date for awards is October 1, 2024.

G. Funding Type

Successful applicants will be awarded funding as a grant.

III. Eligibility Information

Note: Additional provisions that apply to this section can be found at EPA Solicitation Clauses.

A. Eligible Applicants

Section 137(c)(1) of the CAA states that CPRG implementation grants shall be awarded to eligible entities to implement plans developed under CPRG planning grants. The eligible entities under this competition are consistent with assistance listing 66.046 and CAA section 137.

Table 2 describes the eligible applicants for the CPRG implementation grants competition under this NOFO. In general, entities eligible to apply for an implementation grant under this announcement are states, municipalities, air pollution control agencies, tribes,[13] territories, and groups thereof. More specifically, states, municipalities, tribes, and territories that directly received a CPRG planning grant are eligible to apply for an implementation grant. In addition, municipalities, air pollution control agencies, and tribes that did not directly receive a planning grant but that seek funding to implement one or more GHG reduction measures that are included in an applicable PCAP (submitted to EPA by March 1, 2024) are eligible to apply. An applicable PCAP is one that geographically covers the entity and contains GHG reduction measures that can be implemented by the entity.

Table 2. Entities Eligible to Apply for CPRG Implementation Grants

[13] EPA has determined that based on the exclusion of Alaskan Native Corporations (ANCs) from the definition of "Indian tribe" in section 302(r) of the Clean Air Act that ANCs are not eligible for direct grants from EPA under this program. ANCs may, however, receive "non-coalition member" subawards from eligible CPRG grantees.

Entity	Eligible	Ineligible
State (including District of Columbia and Puerto Rico)	A state (including the District of Columbia and Puerto Rico but excluding Florida, Iowa, Kentucky, South Dakota, and Wyoming) can apply for funding to implement measures included in its PCAP. Eligible applicants are: • Lead organizations for state CPRG planning grants • Other state agencies (including state air pollution control agencies), departments, or other executive branch-level offices	• State agencies (including state air pollution control agencies) in Florida, Iowa, Kentucky, South Dakota, and Wyoming
Municipality	A municipality as defined under Clean Air Act section 302(f) can apply for funding to implement measures included in an applicable state, MSA, or territorial PCAP. Eligible applicants are: • Lead organizations for MSA CPRG planning grants • Other municipal agencies (including local air pollution control agencies), departments, or other municipal government offices • Councils of government, metropolitan planning commissions, or other regional organizations comprised of multiple municipalities	• Municipalities and local air pollution control agencies in Florida, Iowa, Kentucky, South Dakota, and Wyoming that are not covered by an MSA PCAP
Tribe or Tribal Consortium	A tribe or tribal consortium can apply for funding to implement measures included in an applicable tribal, state, or MSA PCAP. Eligible applicants are: • Lead organizations for tribal CPRG planning grants • Other tribal agencies (including tribal air pollution control agencies), departments, or other tribal government offices or tribal consortia	• Non federally recognized tribes • Alaska Native Corporations • Tribes or tribal consortia not covered by a state, MSA, or tribal PCAP

Entity	Eligible	Ineligible
Territory	Each territory covered by CPRG (American Samoa, Northern Mariana Islands, Guam, and the U.S. Virgin Islands) can apply for funding to implement measures included in its PCAP. Eligible applicants are: • Lead organizations for CPRG planning grants for one of the territories above • Other territorial agencies (including territorial air pollution control agencies), departments, or other territorial government offices	
Coalition of Eligible Applicants	A coalition consisting of two or more eligible applicants (including tribal consortia, and coalitions of agencies from states, municipalities, tribes, and/or territories) can apply to jointly implement one or more measures included in an applicable state, MSA, tribal, or territorial PCAP	

A municipality defined under Clean Air Act section 302(f) is a city, town, borough, county, parish, district, or other public body created by or pursuant to state law.

A municipal entity that is not a city, town, borough, county, parish, or district must provide documentation that the state or territory in which it is located considers the entity to be a public body created by or pursuant to state law and that is it accountable to municipal or state units of government. Examples of acceptable forms of proof include legal opinions from the state Attorney General or equivalent or from the entity's Chief Legal Officer.

Similarly, state entities other than state agencies, departments, and other executive branch-level offices are eligible to apply if:

- They constitute a public body created by or pursuant to state law and;
- They are accountable to the state level government.

A state entity other than a state agency, department, or executive branch-level office must provide documentation that the state or territory in which it is located considers the entity to be a public body created by or pursuant to state law.

Because the State of Florida, State of Iowa, Commonwealth of Kentucky, State of South Dakota, and State of Wyoming declined to participate in the planning grant phase of this program, no state agencies, departments, or other executive branch-level offices in those five states can be

eligible applicants for the CPRG implementation grant phase. Similarly, no municipal government office or air pollution control agency within those five states is eligible to apply under this NOFO, except for those municipalities and air agencies covered by an applicable PCAP developed for an MSA receiving a planning grant including the following:

1. Miami-Fort Lauderdale-Pompano Beach, FL Metro Area
2. Tampa-St. Petersburg-Clearwater, FL Metro Area
3. Orlando–Kissimmee–Sanford, FL Metro Area
4. Jacksonville, FL Metro Area
5. North Port-Sarasota-Bradenton, FL Metro Area
6. Des Moines-West Des Moines, IA Metro Area
7. Cedar Rapids, IA Metro Area
8. Iowa City, IA Metro Area
9. Omaha-Council Bluffs, NE-IA Metro Area
10. Louisville/Jefferson County, KY-IN Metro Area
11. Lexington-Fayette, KY Metro Area
12. Bowling Green, KY Metro Area
13. Cincinnati, OH-KY-IN Metro Area
14. Rapid City, SD Metro Area
15. Cheyenne, WY Metro Area.[14]

Note that for tribes, tribal consortia, and territories to be considered eligible applicants for implementation grants under this general competition NOFO, the relevant tribe, tribal consortium, or territory that received the CPRG planning grant must have submitted its PCAP to EPA by March 1, 2024 (the same date that PCAPs are due from states and MSAs). Otherwise, tribal and territorial PCAPs are due to EPA by April 1, 2024, in advance of the application deadline for the separate CPRG implementation grant competition reserved for tribes and territories under Funding Opportunity Number EPA-R-OAR-CPRGT-23-09.

An eligible applicant may apply to this competition either as an individual applicant or as a "lead applicant" in a coalition. An *individual applicant* may make subawards to partners (subrecipients) to carry out a portion of the grant's activities provided that the subawards are consistent with the grant's terms and conditions and with all applicable requirements, including the EPA Subaward Policy. For individual applicants that plan to make subawards to partners, EPA encourages those applicants to include letters of commitment from such partners.

A *coalition* is a special type of partnership, also subject to subaward requirements, including the EPA Subaward Policy. For purposes of this grant program, a coalition is a group of two or more eligible applicants that share a strong and substantial commitment to the proposed measures (e.g., financially, materially, or operationally) such that withdrawal by any single member from

[14] Update on January 16, 2024: Cheyenne, WY Metro Area has initiated the process to participate in the CPRG planning grants. Cheyenne was made eligible for planning grant funds after the State of Wyoming withdrew from the planning grant program on November 30, 2023.

the coalition would fundamentally alter the design or expected outputs and outcomes of the proposed measures.

The lead applicant for any coalition application selected for award will be required to submit a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) signed by all coalition members prior to receiving the award. The MOA does not need to be submitted at the time of application, but the lead applicant should plan to submit the MOA signed by all coalition members by July 1, 2024, to CPRG@epa.gov. To demonstrate the other members' commitment to the coalition, the lead applicant must include in their application a signed letter of intent from each coalition member stating the member's intent to sign the MOA.

See Appendix E, "Guidelines for a Memorandum of Agreement for a Coalition," for guidance on recommended elements of an MOA. Failure of the lead applicant to submit the coalition's signed MOA in a timely manner may impact EPA's ability to award the grant if the coalition application is selected. See Section IV.C for more information about partnership and coalition coverage.

Each eligible applicant is limited to submitting two grant applications: one as the individual applicant and one as the lead applicant for a coalition. Applicants may participate in more than one coalition but may only serve as lead applicant for one coalition.

B. Voluntary Cost Sharing or Matching Funds

No cost sharing/matching funds or leveraged resources are required as a condition of eligibility under this competition. Funds awarded under this program cannot be used to meet the matching funds requirement under another federal grant program.

C. Threshold Eligibility Criteria

All applications will be reviewed for eligibility and must meet the eligibility requirements described in Section III to be considered eligible. If necessary, EPA may contact applicants to clarify threshold eligibility questions prior to making an eligibility determination. Applicants deemed ineligible for funding consideration due to the threshold eligibility review or due to a lack of timely response to EPA inquiries will be notified within 15 calendar days of the ineligibility determination.

1. Applications must substantially comply with the application submission instructions and requirements set forth in Section IV or else they will be rejected. Pages in excess of the page limitations expressed in Section IV.B, including the 25-page limitation for the workplan, will not be reviewed. Applications should use a legible font type and size.
2. All applications must be submitted through Grants.gov as stated in Sections IV.A and B (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 of April 1, 2024, 11:59 PM ET (see Section IV.A). Applicants are responsible for following the submission instructions in Section IV.A to ensure that the application is timely and

properly submitted. Please note that applicants experiencing technical issues with submitting through Grants.gov should follow the instructions provided in Section IV.A, which include both the requirement to contact Grants.gov and the requirement to email a full application to EPA at CPRG@epa.gov prior to the April 1, 2024, deadline.

EPA will only consider accepting applications outside of Grants.gov from applicants that are able to demonstrate that they are unable to submit through Grants.gov due to Grants.gov or relevant SAM.gov system issues or for unforeseen exigent circumstances, such as extreme weather interfering with internet access. Failure of an applicant to submit prior to the application submission deadline because they did not properly or timely register in SAM.gov or Grants.gov is not an acceptable reason to justify acceptance of an application outside of Grants.gov. **NOTE: Registering in SAM.gov or Grants.gov can take a month or more. Applicants are advised to begin their registration process early so it does not interfere with drafting the application near the deadline.**

3. Applications must support Goal 1, "Tackle the Climate Crisis;" Objective 1.1, "Reduce Emissions that Cause Climate Change" of EPA's Strategic Plan described in Section I.C.
4. Applications must request EPA assistance funds to implement GHG reduction measures contained in a PCAP developed under a CPRG planning grant.
5. Applications must request EPA assistance funds within the range of $2 million to $500 million, as specified in Section II.B. Applications that request EPA assistance funds less than $2 million or in excess of $500 million are not eligible and will not be reviewed.
6. Applications may only be submitted by eligible applicants as described in Section III.A. If a lead applicant submits an application for a coalition without letters of intent from each eligible applicant participating in the coalition, that application will be treated as an individual application for the lead applicant (see Threshold Eligibility Criteria 8).
7. A group of eligible applicants applying as a coalition as defined in Section III.A may not submit multiple applications for the same set of GHG reduction measures using different lead applicants (i.e., submitting the same application under different lead applicants). In the event that EPA receives more than one such application, EPA will review the most recent application submitted and will disregard all others.
8. An eligible applicant as defined in Section III.A may submit one application as the individual applicant and one application as the lead applicant for a coalition. In the event that an applicant exceeds these limits, EPA will contact the applicant prior to review to determine which application(s) to withdraw from the competition. If the applicant does not respond to EPA within two business days of being contacted, EPA will review the last application(s) submitted and will reject all others.

D. Ineligible Costs and Activities

All expenses must meet the allowability requirements in 2 CFR Part 200, Subpart E and applicable provisions of 2 CFR Part 1500. To be considered eligible, costs must be necessary and

reasonable to implement the GHG reduction measures described in the application. Applications that include ineligible expenses are ineligible to receive funding for such costs, and inclusion of ineligible expenses may render the full application unsuitable for funding.

Successful applications for this program must focus on the implementation of PCAPs for states, MSAs, tribes, and territories to reduce climate pollution through GHG reduction measures and include the required elements and qualities outlined in Section IV.B. 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 integrity of the application, render the entire application ineligible for funding. Applications that include measures not considered to be GHG reduction measures, and those that do not include elements required in the application, may be considered ineligible for funding for this reason.

Using CPRG funds to aid regulated entities (e.g., subaward from a state to private entity) to comply with EPA regulatory requirements is not an eligible activity under this program.

Applicants may seek funding for projects outside the scope of this grant program by applying for federal grant programs better tailored to their needs. Federal BIL and IRA funding opportunities for which applicants to this program may be eligible can be found here or at Grants.gov.

IV. Application and Submission Information

Note: Additional provisions that apply to this section can be found at EPA Solicitation Clauses.

A. How to Register to Apply for Grants Under This Competition

Note: The registration process can take a month or more. EPA advises applicants to start the process as soon as possible so that it does not overlap or interfere with finalizing the application.

Applicants should visit How to Register to Apply for Grants for additional information. All EPA grant applications must be submitted online, except in limited circumstances. Organizations must be registered in two government systems to apply for EPA grants:

1. The System for Award Management (SAM.gov) registers organizations to conduct business with the U.S. Government, which includes federal grants.
2. Grants.gov is the official system for managing all federal grant applications.

These two systems share information. Together, they provide access to everything needed to identify federal grant opportunities and to complete the online application process.

Note that individuals access both systems through a single user account set up in Login.gov. Creating a Login.gov account is easy. If the applicant does not have a Login.gov account, they will be prompted to create one when they register with SAM.gov or Grants.gov. Learn more about Login.gov.

If the applicant has done business with the federal government previously, they can and should check their entity status using their government issued Unique Entity Identifier (UEI) to determine if their registration is active. SAM.gov requires entities to renew their registration every 365 days to keep it active. Organizations should ensure that their SAM.gov registration includes a current e-Business (EBiz) Point of Contact (POC) name and email address. The EBiz POC is critical for Grants.gov registration and system functionality. If the point of contact has changed, the applicant may need to contact the Federal Service Desk for help with their SAM.gov account: (866) 606-8220. The Federal Service Desk hours of operation are Monday – Friday 8am – 8pm ET.

Please note that SAM.gov registration is different than obtaining a UEI only. Obtaining a UEI only validates the applicant's organization's legal business name and address. Please review the Federal Service Desk's Frequently Asked Questions document for additional details.

Follow these steps to register to apply for EPA grants. **Start the registration process early**. The process can take a month or more. Errors or inconsistencies in registration in the two systems can prolong the process. Applicants are encouraged to start the registration process **before beginning the application**. Applicants that have registered in SAM.gov in the past should check their registration status at least a month before applying under this competition.

Step 1. Register the Organization in SAM.gov

Organizations must register with SAM.gov to obtain a UEI, which is a 12-character alphanumeric identifier assigned to each unique organization. There is no fee for registering with SAM.gov and registration must be renewed annually.

Registration in SAM.gov requires providing assertions, representations and certifications, and other information so that the federal government can verify the existence and uniqueness of the organization. Follow these steps to get started:

1. Go to the SAM.gov Entity Registration page. Review the "Before You Get Started" section and download the Entity Registration Checklist to help prepare.
2. Click the "Get Started" button when ready. Applicants may be prompted to accept the usage terms and sign in through Login.gov. If necessary, click the "Get Started" button again after signing in.
3. Applicants will be prompted to choose what they want to do. Most grant applicants will select the option to "Register for Financial Assistance Awards Only."
4. Select the appropriate option and click the "Next" button.
5. Proceed through the registration process by answering the questions and providing the necessary information.

Organizations will need to designate an EBiz POC. The EBiz POC is likely to be the organization's chief financial officer or authorizing official. There can be only one EBiz POC for each unique organization. The EBiz POC will:

- Manage the SAM.gov account and login.
- Set up the Grants.gov profile for the organization (see Step 2 below).
- Oversee all activities for the organization within Grants.gov.
- Assign all roles in Grants.gov for individuals from the organization who will be involved in applying for grants, including the Authorized Organization Representative (AOR), Expanded AOR roles, Workspace Manager, and Custom roles (see Step 3 below).

Note that the EBiz POC does not submit grant proposals for the organization. Proposals are submitted by the AOR in Grants.gov. After the information submitted through the registration process is authenticated, the EBiz POC will receive an email from SAM.gov indicating that the registration is active.

Contact the Federal Service Desk for help with the applicant's SAM.gov account, to resolve technical issues, or chat with a help desk agent: (866) 606-8220. The Federal Service Desk hours of operation are Monday – Friday 8am – 8pm ET.

Once the applicant's SAM.gov account is active, the applicant must register in Grants.gov. Grants.gov will electronically receive the applicant's organization information, such as EBiz POC email address and UEI.

Step 2. Create a User Account and Applicant Profile in Grants.gov

After obtaining a UEI, an organization must create an applicant profile in Grants.gov.

The EBiz POC will set up the applicant profile in 2 steps:

1. Create a user account in Grants.gov with the same email address used by the EBiz POC in SAM.gov. The email address is used to match the EBiz POC from SAM.gov to Grants.gov.
2. Create the applicant profile in Grants.gov using the UEI obtained from SAM.gov.

Grants.gov registration is FREE. If the applicant has never applied for a federal grant before, they should review the Grants.gov Applicant Registration instructions. As part of the Grants.gov registration process, the EBiz POC is the only person that can affiliate and assign applicant roles to members of an organization. In addition, at least one person must be assigned as an AOR. Only person(s) with the AOR role can submit applications in Grants.gov. Please review the Intro to Grants.gov - Understanding User Roles and Learning Workspace - User Roles and Workspace Actions for details on this important process. Applicants need to ensure that the AOR who submits the application through Grants.gov and whose UEI is listed on the application is an AOR for the applicant listed on the application. Additionally, the UEI listed on the application must be registered to the applicant organization's SAM.gov account. If not, the application may be deemed ineligible.

Contact Grants.gov for assistance at 1-800-518-4726 or support@grants.gov to resolve technical issues with Grants.gov. 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 1-606-545-5035. The Grants.gov Support Center is available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, excluding federal holidays.

Step 3. Create Individual Grants.gov Accounts for Organization Members

There is no fee for registering with Grants.gov. Each member of the organization who will participate in the online grant application process needs to register an individual account on Grants.gov.

1. Go to the Grants.gov registration page.
2. Complete the form, which includes specifying a username and password. This username and password are used to create the Grants.gov account. Applicants will be prompted to link the Grants.gov account to their Login.gov account.
3. Associate the applicant's individual account with the organization's UEI. The applicant will also enter the organization's Profile Name and the applicant's Job Title.

The organization's EBiz POC can delegate administrative roles to other Grants.gov users associated with the UEI, as necessary. Learn more about managing roles in Grants.gov.

Step 4. Learn How to Use Workspace in Grants.gov

Workspace is the application in Grants.gov that an organization's grant team uses when applying for federal grants. Workspace is a role-based tool, in which the user's assigned role controls permissions to perform specific actions, such as accessing and editing application forms. As noted in Step 3 above, the EBiz POC has the initial responsibility to assign roles to individuals.

The core roles include:

- Expanded AOR: has the most privileges.
- Standard AOR: allows user to submit the final application and perform other actions.
- Workspace Manager: the minimum role required to create a workspace and begin work on an application.

Custom roles can also be created. Becoming familiar with Grants.gov Workspace roles and understanding the process will help applicants be better prepared to submit applications. The videos on this page are just two of many Grants.gov training resources to help applicants get started.

If the applicant's organization has no access to the internet or access is very limited, the applicant may request an exception by following the procedures outlined in Exceptions to the Grants.gov Submission Requirement website. Please note that the request must be received at

least 15 calendar days before the application due date to allow enough time to negotiate alternative submission methods.

B. Application Process

To begin the application process under this grant announcement, go to Grants.gov and click the "Search Grants" tab. Search the opportunity number associated with this opportunity – EPA-R-OAR-CPRGI-23-07. Once the opportunity has been selected, click the red "Apply" button at the top of the "View Grant Opportunity" page.

The electronic submission of applications to this funding opportunity must be made by an official representative of the organization who has been registered as an AOR and is authorized by the organization to sign applications for federal financial assistance. If the submit button is grayed out, it may be because an individual does not have the appropriate role to submit for their organization. Contact the organization's EBiz POC or contact Grants.gov for assistance at 1-800-518-4726 or support@grants.gov.

Applicants need to ensure that the AOR who submits the application through Grants.gov and whose UEI is listed on the application is an AOR for the applicant listed on the application, specifically on the SF-424. Additionally, the UEI listed on the application must be registered to the applicant organization's SAM.gov account. If not, the application may be deemed ineligible. Applications submitted through Grants.gov will be time and date stamped electronically. Please note that successful submission of the application through Grants.gov does not necessarily mean the application is eligible for award. Any application submitted after the application's deadline will be deemed ineligible and not be considered.

Technical Issues with Submission

If applicants experience technical issues during the submission of an application that they are unable to resolve, follow these procedures **before** the application deadline of April 1, 2024 at 11:59 PM ET:

- Contact Grants.gov Support Center **before** the application deadline.
- Document the Grants.gov ticket/case number.
- Send an email with "EPA-R-OAR-CPRGI-23-07" in the subject line to CPRG@epa.gov **before** April 1, 2024 at 11:59 PM ET and **include the following**:
    - Grants.gov ticket/case number(s)
    - Description of the issue
    - The entire application package in PDF format.

Without this information, EPA may not be able to consider applications submitted outside of Grants.gov. Any application submitted after the application deadline will be deemed ineligible and **not** be considered.

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

EPA will make decisions concerning acceptance of each application submitted outside of Grants.gov on a case-by-case basis. EPA will only consider accepting applications that were unable to submit through Grants.gov due to Grants.gov or relevant SAM.gov system issues or for unforeseen exigent circumstances, such as extreme weather interfering with internet access. Failure of an applicant to submit prior to the application submission deadline because they did not properly or timely register in SAM.gov or Grants.gov is not an acceptable reason to justify acceptance of an application outside of Grants.gov.

1. Application Materials

This section identifies the forms and documents that are required under this announcement and optional attachments that may be included as part of the application. EPA requests that applicants use the file and filename formats as provided below and in Appendix D. Where the filename format includes *ApplicantName*, applicants should substitute *ApplicantName* with the eligible applicant name or abbreviation. See Appendix D for an application checklist including the items below in tabular form.

* The forms and documents listed below are required unless indicated as optional.

- Standard Form 424, *Application for Federal Assistance*. Please note that the organizational Unique Entity Identifier (UEI) must be included on the SF-424.
- Standard Form 424A, *Budget Information for Non-Construction Programs*
- EPA Form 4700-4, *Pre-Award Compliance Review Report*. See EPA's Applicant Tips for completing this form.
- EPA Form 5700-54, *Key Contacts Form*
- Grants.gov Lobbying Form
- Standard Form LLL, *Disclosure of Lobbying Activities*. (Required if applicable)
- *Project Narrative Attachment Form*. The Project Narrative Attachment Form allows multiple attachments to be uploaded. The following attachments below should be prepared as described in Section IV.B.2 and attached to the Project Narrative Attachment Form:
    - Cover page. EPA has provided an example Cover Page with the posting for this NOFO on Grants.gov. Format: PDF. Filename: Cover_*ApplicantName*.pdf.
    - Workplan (up to 25 pages). Format: PDF or Word. Filename: Workplan_*ApplicantName*.pdf or .docx.
    - Budget Narrative (up to 10 additional pages of descriptive budget narrative). Format: PDF or Word. Filename: Budget_*ApplicantName*.pdf or .docx.
    - Technical appendix (up to 10 additional pages). Explains the assumptions and methodology for determining the estimated GHG emission reductions for each measure; see Appendix C. Format: PDF or Word. Filename: Techappx_*ApplicantName*.pdf or .docx.
    - [Optional] Budget Spreadsheet. See optional budget spreadsheet provided with this NOFO on Grants.gov. Format: Excel. Filename: Budgetcalcs_*ApplicantName*.xlsx.

  - [Optional] GHG emission reduction calculations spreadsheet that provides the GHG emission reduction calculations for each measure (no page limit); see Appendix C. Format: Excel. Filename: GHGcalcs_*ApplicantName*.xlsx.
- *Other Attachments* Form. The Other Attachments Form allows multiple attachments to be uploaded. The following attachments should be attached using the Other Attachments Form:
  - Copy/copies of the applicable PCAP(s) serving as the basis for the application. Ensure filename indicates the relevant PCAP state, MSA, tribe, or territory. Format: PDF or Word. Filename: *NameofPCAP_ApplicantName*.pdf or .docx.
  - For coalition applications: Letters of intent from each coalition member (no page limit), as described in Section III.A. Ensure filename provides an indication of the organization submitting the letter. Format: PDF or Word. Filename: *CoalitionMemberName*_LOI_*ApplicantName*.pdf or .docx.
  - List of Climate and Economic Justice Screening Tool (CEJST) Census tract IDs or EPA's EJScreen Census block group IDs for each community that may be affected by a proposed measure in the application. Format: Excel. Filename: Areas_*ApplicantName*.xlsx.
  - [Optional] Team biographies. Resumes or curriculum vitae for key staff, managers, and any other key personnel. If submitted, this should be referenced under Section 6.C of the workplan. Format: PDF or Word. Example filename: LastName_bio_*ApplicantName*.pdf or .docx.
  - [Optional] Letters of commitment. Letters that demonstrate strong, long-term involvement throughout the project from project partners are encouraged. Letters should specifically indicate how project partners and supporting organizations, including applicable labor organizations, will participate in or directly assist in the design and performance of the project. Letters should also explain how obtaining support from project partners will allow the applicant to more effectively perform the project. Letters should be addressed to the applicant organization and should be included as attachments to the application. Partners **should not** submit letters directly to EPA. Format: PDF or Word. Example filename: *EntityName*_LOC_*ApplicantName*.pdf or .docx.

When saving application files, please ensure that the following characters are ***not*** included in the file names: ~ " # % & * : < > ? / \ { | }. Including these characters may cause problems with application files. When saving a file in PDF format, please do so through the word processing software and not as a scanned image.

Applications submitted through Grants.gov will be time and date stamped electronically. If applicants wish to confirm receipt of their application from EPA (not from Grants.gov), please contact CPRG@epa.gov within 30 days of the close of this solicitation.

The organization's AOR must submit the complete application electronically to EPA through Grants.gov no later than **April 1, 2024, 11:59 PM ET**.

2. Project Narrative Instructions, Format, and Content

The "project narrative" for the set of GHG reduction measures included in the application should substantially comply with the instructions, format, and content described below. It should also address the evaluation criteria in Section V.A of this NOFO. The project narrative should include a cover page and workplan. The workplan must not exceed a maximum of 25 pages. Pages in excess of the 25-page limit for the workplan will not be reviewed. EPA recommends applicants use the Calibri font, a font size of 11, and 1-inch margins. Applicants must submit the following documents, either in the same or different file as the cover page and workplan:

- Budget narrative (optional budget spreadsheet and up to 10 additional pages of descriptive budget narrative), and
- Technical appendix that explains the assumptions and methodology for developing the estimated GHG emissions reductions associated with the measures (up to 10 additional pages).

The budget narrative and technical appendix do not count toward the 25-page limit for the workplan.

Optional supporting materials can be submitted as attachments and are not included in the 25-page limit for the workplan. Supporting materials should be submitted using the "*Other Attachments*" form, as described in Section IV.B.1.

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

<u>Cover Page</u>

The cover page serves as an application summary and does not count toward the 25-page limit for the workplan. The cover page should include the following information:

- **Applicant Information**
  - Applicant organization
  - Primary contact name, phone number, and email address
- **Type of Application: individual application or coalition application**
  - If applying as the lead applicant for a coalition, provide a list of other coalition members that have provided letters of intent as part of the application (as described in Section III and Section IV.B.1).
- **Funding Requested:** Total CPRG implementation grant funding requested.
- **Application Title**
- **Brief Description of GHG Measures:** Describe each GHG reduction measure contained in the application (1-2 sentences each).
- **Sector(s):** Indicate the sector(s) associated with the GHG reduction measures included in the application: industry; electric power; transportation; commercial and residential

buildings; agriculture/natural and working lands; waste and materials management; or, other.

- **Expected Total Cumulative GHG Emission Reductions:** Identify the total cumulative GHG emission reductions in metric tons for the measures in the application for the period 2025 through 2030, and for the period 2025 through 2050.
- **Location(s)**: List the primary location(s) where the GHG reduction measures will be implemented (e.g., city and state).
- **Applicable PCAP Reference(s):** Provide references to applicable PCAP(s) under which each GHG reduction measure is covered (including PCAP lead organization, PCAP title, PCAP website link, list of GHG reduction measures, and PCAP page numbers).

EPA has provided an example Cover Page on the posting for this NOFO on Grants.gov. Use of this example Cover Page is optional.

Workplan

Applicants must ensure that the workplan addresses the evaluation criteria in Section V.A. Applicants should use the section and subsection numbers and headings below which correspond with the evaluation criteria in Section V.A. The workplan should be written clearly using understandable terms. EPA has provided an optional workplan outline on the posting for this NOFO on Grants.gov.

Section 1: Overall Project Summary and Approach (45 possible points)

a. Description of GHG Reduction Measures (20 possible points)

Provide a detailed description of each of the proposed GHG reduction measures to be undertaken, consistent with Section I.B. These descriptions should include the major features, tasks, and milestones for each measure. The application should also explain how these features, tasks, and milestones will ensure success of the measures. The application should also describe underlying assumptions and risks associated with those features, tasks, and milestones. At a minimum, the application should discuss risks that could reasonably lead to delays or interruptions in the development or implementation of a GHG reduction measure or could impact its effectiveness. The application should discuss the extent to which GHG emission reductions may be affected by these risks. If the application is from a coalition of eligible applicants, it should briefly describe the role(s) and responsibilities of each coalition member in the project design and implementation. It should also affirmatively declare that the lead applicant will submit an MOA signed by all coalition members by July 1, 2024, or provide an alternative date and justification if they will not be able to meet the July 1st date. The application should also include an explanation of how each GHG reduction measure included in the application relates to a GHG reduction measure included in the relevant PCAP(s), why each measure was selected as a priority, and a description of how each measure will meet the goals of the CPRG program. Applications may include additional key information in Section 1.a of the workplan not otherwise covered in another section of the application.

b. Demonstration of Funding Need (10 possible points)

Applicants must demonstrate a strong need for CPRG implementation funding that is unmet by other funding sources. Applicants should explain if and how they have explored the availability of other federal and state grants, tax incentives, and other funding sources to implement their GHG reduction measures and why these sources are not sufficient. The application should include a list of federal and non-federal funding sources (e.g., EPA's GHG Reduction Fund Solar for All program) that the applicant has applied for, secured, and/or will secure to implement the GHG reduction measures, if applicable. For GHG reduction measures for which the applicant has secured partial funding, which may include tax incentives, the applicant should explain why CPRG funds are also needed. Applicants should review funding opportunities on the White House BIL Guidebook and IRA websites prior to applying under this announcement.

c. Transformative Impact (15 possible points)

Applicants should describe the extent to which the proposed GHG reduction measures have the potential to create transformative opportunities or impacts that can lead to significant additional GHG emission reductions. Transformative impacts could include:

- Pioneering, replicable, and scalable policies or programs to increase the deployment of existing GHG emission reduction technologies or mitigation approaches;
- GHG emission reductions from hard-to-abate sectors where GHG emission reduction measures are not widely adopted; or,
- Market transformations that accelerate the deployment and market adoption of emerging GHG emission reduction technologies or practices.

Section 2: Impact of GHG Reduction Measures (60 possible points)

Applications should describe the magnitude of both near-term and long-term cumulative GHG emission reductions, the relative cost-effectiveness of those reductions, and the reasonableness and quality of the assumptions and calculations used to determine the reductions and cost-effectiveness of those reductions.

Applicants should provide quantitative totals of estimated GHG emission reductions in terms of metric tons of CO_2-equivalent, calculated using the global warming potentials in the IPCC's Fifth Assessment Report (see Appendix B of this NOFO). The application should include estimated reductions for the following GHGs, as relevant, for each GHG reduction measure: carbon dioxide, hydrofluorocarbons, methane, nitrous oxide, perfluorocarbons, and sulfur hexafluoride.

For applications that include multiple GHG reduction measures, applicants should provide individual calculations, explanations, and documentation for each GHG reduction measure. Applications should also include the cumulative total amount of estimated CO_2-equivalent

emission reductions and overall cost-effectiveness for the entire suite of GHG reduction measures (see Appendix C).

Applications should only quantify emission reductions that will occur as a result of EPA's CPRG implementation grant funding. If CPRG funding represents a fraction of the total funding for a GHG measure, the total estimated GHG emission reductions should be scaled by the same fraction in order to quantify GHG emission reductions associated with CPRG funding. In other words:

> Quantified GHG reductions from CPRG funding = [(Requested CPRG funding)/(Total funding to implement measure)] x (Total estimated GHG reductions of measure)

Quantified reductions should not include those that would already occur because of federal, state, tribal, territorial, local and/or other regulatory requirements or other funding sources.

a. Magnitude of GHG Reductions from 2025 through 2030 (20 possible points)

   Applications should describe the magnitude of cumulative GHG emission reductions and the durability of the reductions that will be achieved through implementation of each GHG reduction measure for the period 2025 through 2030. Emission reductions should be estimated for the period 2025 through 2030 on a cumulative basis. For each GHG reduction measure, applicants should provide estimated metric tons of CO_2-equivalent emission reductions resulting from the measure. Applicants should also provide the sum total of GHG reductions resulting from all measures in the application. In describing the durability of the GHG emission reductions, applicants should discuss the extent to which the measures will result in a permanent reduction in cumulative GHG emissions.

b. Magnitude of GHG Reductions from 2025 through 2050 (10 possible points)

   Applications should describe the magnitude of cumulative GHG emission reductions and the durability of the reductions that will be achieved through implementation of each GHG reduction measures for the period 2025 through 2050. Emission reductions should be estimated for the period 2025 through 2050 on a cumulative basis. For each GHG reduction measure, applicants should provide estimated metric tons of CO_2-equivalent emission reductions resulting from the measure. Applicants should also provide the sum total of GHG reductions resulting from all measures in the application. In describing the durability of the GHG emission reductions, applicants should discuss the extent to which the measures will result in a permanent reduction in cumulative GHG emissions.

c. Cost Effectiveness of GHG Reductions (15 possible points)

   Applications should include information demonstrating the cost effectiveness of the GHG reductions anticipated from the measures included in the application. Applicants should include a calculation of the requested CPRG implementation grant dollars divided by the quantified GHG emission reductions for the period 2025-2030 calculated to meet criterion 2.a for the set of measures included in the application. For applications with more than one GHG reduction measure, the quantified emission reductions of all

measures should be added together before conducting the calculation. Applicants may also provide a qualitative narrative explaining any factors that affect the measures' cost-effectiveness (e.g., sector dynamics, expected beneficiaries of the measures, prevailing costs in the implementation areas, or other circumstances). In other words:

> Cost effectiveness of GHG reductions = (Requested CPRG funding) / (Sum of Quantified GHG reductions from CPRG funding from 2025-2030)

d. Documentation of GHG Reduction Assumptions (15 possible points)

Applicants must provide a technical appendix, along with the project narrative, demonstrating the reasonableness of their GHG emission reduction estimates. The technical appendix should explain the methodology and assumptions used by the applicant for developing the estimated GHG emission reductions associated with each measure (up to 10 additional pages). EPA will not review any technical appendix pages in excess of 10 pages. The requirements of this document are explained in Appendix C.

For each GHG reduction measure, applications should demonstrate the quality, thoroughness, reasonableness, and comprehensiveness of the methodology, assumptions, and calculations described for developing the estimated GHG emission reductions. In the technical appendix, annual GHG emission reduction estimates should also be provided for each measure, in addition to cumulative GHG emission reductions. These annual and cumulative estimates should be provided for two time periods: 2025-2030 and 2025-2050. The application should document the method for estimating GHG emission reductions, including the basis for emission scenarios, relevant assumptions, and models or methods used and any uncertainties in these calculations. Applicants should use the latest available information, whenever possible, including the latest enacted federal, state, tribal, territorial, local, and/or other requirements and policies, where applicable.

All applicants should provide measure-specific assumptions and data elements needed to calculate GHG emission reductions. The rigor of the methodology and assumptions used in GHG emission reduction calculations should be commensurate with the level of funding requested in the application.

Applicants may provide an optional GHG emission reduction calculations spreadsheet that includes information on the quantification used to calculate the anticipated emission reductions for each GHG reduction measure. The GHG emission reduction calculations spreadsheet does not have a page limit.

Both the technical appendix and GHG emission reduction calculations will not count toward the 25-page limit for the workplan.

Section 3: Environmental Results – Outputs, Outcomes, and Performance Measures (30 possible points)

a. Expected Outputs and Outcomes (10 possible points)

Applicants should identify the expected outputs and outcomes (see Section I.C) for each GHG reduction measure. Specific outputs and outcomes should be provided and may include short- and longer-term activities. At a minimum, applicants must list GHG emission reductions as outcomes. Furthermore, for measures that are reasonably expected to have direct co-pollutant (e.g., CAPs and/or HAPs) emissions changes, applicants should also list CAP and/or HAP emissions reduced in general and in low-income and disadvantaged communities as expected outcomes. While applicants are expected to quantify GHG reductions, EPA does not expect applicants to quantify CAP and/or HAP emission reductions in their application.

Grant recipients will be required to track progress toward achieving these specific outcomes, as discussed in Section VI.B.

b. Performance Measures and Plan (10 possible points)

Applicants should describe the proposed performance measures that will be the mechanism to track, measure, and report progress toward achieving the expected outputs and outcomes for each GHG reduction measure. Applicants should describe their plan for tracking and measuring progress toward achieving the expected outputs and outcomes established in Section 3.a of the workplan and explain how the results of each GHG reduction measure will be evaluated. This should include details on the approach to quantify and disclose the actual GHG emission reductions and associated CAP and HAP changes (if applicable) accomplished by each GHG measure.

c. Authorities, Implementation Timeline, and Milestones (10 possible points)

The applicant should describe the parties responsible for implementing each GHG reduction measure, including roles and responsibilities for each party, including sub-awardees (including other members of a coalition), contractors, and other entities, whose cooperation is necessary for success of the measures. Applicants should also articulate which party or parties have the authority to carry out each proposed measure or, in the case where they do not currently have authority, provide a clear plan and timeline to obtain it during the grant period. Applicants should also list all other entities whose cooperation or participation is necessary for GHG reduction measure implementation.

Applicants should include a detailed implementation timeline for each GHG reduction measure included in the application, including milestones for completing specific tasks by the end of the grant period, such as quality assurance project plans, bidding, procurement, installation, and reporting, along with estimated dates. Applicants should account for semi-annual and final report preparation in the project timeline.

Section 4: Low-Income and Disadvantaged Communities (35 possible points)

Applications should include GHG measures that are designed to deliver benefits and/or avoid disbenefits to low-income and disadvantaged communities and should demonstrate ongoing

meaningful engagement with those communities.

a. Community Benefits (25 possible points)

Applications should discuss and quantify, where possible, direct and indirect benefits and potential disbenefits to low-income and disadvantaged communities. Applicants should use the definition of low-income and disadvantaged communities as provided in Section I.B. Only communities qualifying as low-income and disadvantaged communities according to EPA's IRA definition and the benefits associated with those communities will be considered under this evaluation criterion. The application should also thoroughly describe any anticipated negative impacts to low-income and disadvantaged communities and concrete strategies for mitigating those risks.

Applicants are required to include a list of the CEJST Census tract IDs or EPA's EJScreen Census block group IDs and name of the relevant jurisdiction (e.g., city, town, etc.) for areas that may be affected by the proposed GHG reduction measures.[15] This required attachment to the application will not count towards the 25-page limit for the workplan. See Sections I.B and IV.B.

Furthermore, applications should clearly identify a plan and process for continuing to assess, quantify, and report benefits and avoided disbenefits to these communities, including co-pollutant impacts (e.g., CAP and HAP emission reductions), throughout the grant period. Grant recipients will be required to submit to EPA an analysis of these benefits (see Section VI.B).

In some cases, GHG reduction measures may benefit low-income and disadvantaged communities in a broad geographic area. For instance, a state-wide program may benefit all such communities within the state. Furthermore, GHG reduction measures implemented in a geographic region may provide co-pollution benefits to downwind communities outside of their jurisdiction. In these cases, applicants should list the communities reasonably expected to be impacted.

Examples of expected direct and indirect benefits to these communities from GHG reduction measures could include:

- Direct and indirect benefits from mitigating climate impacts (e.g., reduced risk of wildfires, drought, extreme weather events, and/or sea level rise);
- Increased resilience to climate change from GHG reduction measures that have both GHG reduction benefits and climate adaptation benefits (e.g., heat island mitigation strategies help reduce GHG emissions by reducing energy demand and help reduce health impacts due to extreme heat);
- Improved public health resulting from reductions in co-pollutants (e.g., CAPs, such as NOx, ozone, $PM_{2.5}$, and HAPs), such as reductions in new asthma cases

[15] EPA will use this information in determining the "degree to which greenhouse gas air pollution is projected to be reduced in total and with respect to low-income and disadvantaged communities," consistent with section 137(c)(2) of the Clean Air Act.

and reductions in hospital admissions and emergency department visits;
- Creation of high-quality jobs and new workforce training opportunities in low-income and disadvantaged communities with an emphasis on expanding opportunities for individuals that face barriers to employment;
- Improved access to services and amenities;
- Decreased energy costs and improved energy resilience;
- Reduced noise pollution;
- New green space and/or community beautification;
- Increased access to transportation alternatives;
- Improved housing quality, comfort, and safety; and/or,
- Other benefits identified during consultation with residents of low-income and disadvantaged communities.

Regarding creation of high-quality jobs and training opportunities, applications may request funding to be used for high-quality workforce development activities tied to a proposed measure that benefit individuals in low-income and disadvantaged communities. Workforce development can be a community benefit through its creation of equitable career pathways and training opportunities. Specifically, this includes preparing individuals for high-quality, middle-skill career pathways that enable economic mobility, rather than short-term, low-wage jobs. This could involve using high-quality training models, such as:

- Pre-apprenticeship programs with connections to one or more Registered Apprenticeship Programs;
- Registered Apprenticeship Programs;
- Joint Labor-Management Training Programs;
- Paid internships; and/or,
- Partnerships with community colleges that award an industry-recognized credential.

Workforce development programs should have a strategy for including individuals with barriers to employment and can request funding for case management and supportive services, such as childcare and transportation, for participants to address common barriers. Applicants are strongly encouraged to collaborate with partners with expertise in job quality and workforce development on this portion of the application. This may include partnering with a state Department of Labor or state or local workforce board. Applicants are also strongly encouraged to partner with worker representatives, including labor unions or worker centers, to promote worker-centric, high-quality workforce development opportunities.

EPA provides a technical reference document for developing a low-income and disadvantaged communities benefits analysis here.

b. Community Engagement (10 possible points)

Community engagement through 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. Applicants should provide a qualitative discussion of:

1. How input by low-income and disadvantaged communities has been incorporated into this application; and
2. How meaningful engagement with low-income and disadvantaged communities will be continuously included in the development and implementation of the GHG reduction measures throughout the life of this grant. Applicants should specify how they plan to ensure early and consistent inclusion of various linguistic, cultural, institutional, geographic, and other perspectives throughout project development and implementation.

Letters of commitment should be included in the application as an attachment if applicable and will not count toward the 25-page workplan page limit; see Section IV.B. These letters of commitment should describe the partners' support for and/or involvement with the project.

Grant recipients will be expected to report on their community engagement and, as applicable, their strategy for mitigating environmental risks (see Section VI.B).

Examples of meaningful community involvement could include, but are not limited to:

- Developing an outreach and engagement strategy; promoting the use of a wide variety of techniques to create early, frequent, and continuing opportunities for community engagement;
- Creating a transparent planning process that also provides opportunity for early risk mitigation;
- Holding community consultations or public input meetings;
- Providing a publicly accessible list of all upcoming community engagement opportunities (e.g., listening sessions, outreach, questions and answers sessions, door-to-door visits, and community meetings);
- Creating a community work group or advisory board made up of community members;
- Having a community-elected member(s) on the planning and project team; and/or,
- Getting community feedback on local benefits and prioritizing what they value most.

Section 5: Job Quality (5 possible points)

In alignment with Executive Order 14082: *Implementation of the Energy and Infrastructure Provisions of the Inflation Reduction Act of 2022*, EPA is committed to using IRA investments,

including the CPRG program, to support the creation of high-quality, family-sustaining jobs with the free and fair choice to join a union. This includes an emphasis on the quality of jobs, not just the number of jobs created by these federal investments.

Applications should describe concrete, specific strategies to ensure CPRG implementation grant funds and the implementation of the GHG reduction measures generate high-quality jobs with a diverse, highly skilled workforce and support "high road" labor practices. Job quality should be thought of expansively and should consider opportunities to incorporate strong labor standards for all partners involved in implementing the GHG reduction measures, including contractors, sub-contractors, and sub-awardees. Applicants are strongly encouraged to review the eight Good Jobs Principles developed by the U.S. Department of Labor and Department of Commerce and the Good Jobs Toolkit when developing their application.
If an applicant does not believe this job quality criterion is relevant for their proposed measures, they should indicate this in the application and provide a clear justification (e.g., a targeted policy measure using the applicant's existing government workforce may not be expected to create new job opportunities directly).

Examples of strategies include, but are not limited to:

- Clear commitments to paying at least the median area income for all workers (where prevailing wage is not required by law);
- Requiring employers, including contractors and subcontractors, to provide family-sustaining benefits and retirement contributions;
- Employees are represented by a collective bargaining agreement;
- Formal partnerships with labor organizations and other workers' rights groups;
- Clear examples of how you will protect employees' rights to freely and fairly join a union and collectively bargain, such as agreeing to voluntary recognition/ majority sign-up and requiring participating contractors to commit to remaining neutral in union organizing and operations;
- Use of Project Labor Agreements or Community Workforce Agreements on construction projects;[16]
- Incorporating labor and job quality standards into procurement activities associated with the measure;
- Health and safety plans that are developed in conjunction with workers, including anti-harassment training for workers and management, OSHA training to minimize workplace hazards (e.g., OSHA 10 and OSHA 30), and supplemental health and safety training as needed;
- Use of Registered Apprenticeship labor to expand the pool of highly skilled workers (e.g., a commitment to using qualified apprentices for at least 10% of the total labor hours on a project);

[16] Executive Order 14063, Use of Project Labor Agreements for Federal Construction Projects, February 4, 2022, https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/presidential-actions/2022/02/04/executive-order-on-use-of-project-labor-agreements-for-federal-construction-projects/.

- Use of second-chance hiring policies, or the practice of hiring individuals with a criminal record, to expand opportunity for individuals with justice-system involvement;
- Benchmarks and goals to hire individuals from disadvantaged communities, in alignment with applicable law;
- Providing supportive services, such as childcare and transportation assistance, for employees that need them; and/or,
- Promoting stable, predictable employment through minimizing the use of temporary or contract workers, and an explanation of how workers will be properly classified.

Applicants are strongly encouraged to collaborate with partners with expertise in job quality and labor standards for this component of the application, such as their state Department of Labor and labor unions. Applicants may attach any letters of commitment from applicable labor organizations including unions and other workers' rights groups they plan to partner with as optional attachments (does not contribute to the workplan 25-page limit).

Section 6: Programmatic Capability and Past Performance (30 possible points)

Applicants to all EPA grants must report on programmatic capability and past performance from federally funded or non-federally funded assistance agreements. If the applicant does not have any relevant or available past performance or past reporting information, they should indicate this in the application.

a. Past Performance (10 possible points)

   Submit a list of up to five federally funded or non-federally funded assistance agreements that the applicant is performing or has performed within the last three years. Assistance agreements include federal and non-federal grants and cooperative agreements, but not federal or non-federal contracts. These assistance agreements should be awards made directly to the applicant. For each of these agreements, include:

   - Project title
   - Assistance agreement number (if applicable)
   - Federal or non-federal funding agency and assistance listing number (formerly known as the CFDA number) (if applicable)
   - Brief description of the agreement (no more than two sentences)
   - Contact from organization that funded the assistance agreement.

   Include a discussion of whether and, if so, how the applicant was able to successfully complete and manage the listed agreements.

b. Reporting Requirements (10 possible points)

   For each of the assistance agreements listed, the applicant should describe their history of meeting the reporting requirements under the agreement(s). This should include:

   - Whether the applicant submitted acceptable interim and/or final reports under those agreements;

- The extent to which the applicant adequately and timely reported on its progress toward achieving the expected outputs and outcomes under those agreements; and,
- If progress was not being made, whether the applicant adequately reported why not.

Note: In evaluating applicants under the past performance criteria in 6.a and 6.b, EPA will consider the information provided by the applicant and may also consider relevant information from other sources, including agency files and from current/prior grantors (e.g., to verify and/or supplement the information provided by the applicant).

c. Staff Expertise (10 possible points)

The applicant should include information on their organization, including a description of the staff's knowledge, expertise, qualifications, and resources, and/or the ability to obtain them, to successfully achieve the proposed project's goals and GHG reduction measures. Biographical sketches, including resumes or curriculum vitae for key staff, managers, and any other key personnel can be included as an optional project team biography attachment, as listed in Section IV.B. The optional attachment does not count towards the 25-page limit of the workplan.

Section 7: Budget (45 possible points)

Applicants must submit a budget narrative attached to their project narrative (including an optional budget spreadsheet and up to 10 additional pages). The budget narrative is a detailed description of the budget found in the SF-424A and should include a discussion of the applicant's approach to ensuring proper management of grant funds, and itemized budget table(s) (see example below). The budget spreadsheet and additional pages for the budget narrative will not count toward the 25-page limit for the workplan. EPA will not review any additional budget documents beyond those described here, including pages of the budget narrative in excess of 10 pages. If an applicant chooses to include any federal and non-federal voluntary cost share, they must account for those funds in the budget table and budget narrative. Selected applicant(s) may need to submit a copy of their current indirect cost rate that has been negotiated with a federal cognizant agency prior to award. (Additional indirect cost guidance is available in RAIN-2018-G02, "Indirect Cost Guidance for Recipients of EPA Assistance Agreements.") 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. Budget Detail (20 possible points)

Applicants should provide a detailed breakout for each GHG reduction measure in their application by funding type included in the proper budget category for each activity requesting funds. Applicants should consult EPA's "Interim General Budget Development Guidance for Applicants and Recipients of EPA Financial Assistance." Costs for implementing GHG reduction measures may include:

- Staffing and contractual costs necessary to implement GHG reduction measures;
- Building, materials, equipment, and infrastructure costs to implement GHG reduction measures;
- Programs to disburse funds to consumers, businesses, and other parties, in the form of subsidies, incentives, or other mechanisms, that result in GHG emission reductions;
- Subawards to municipalities, other states, air pollution control agencies, regional planning organizations, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), academic institutions, etc.;
- Studies, assessments, data collection, etc., needed to develop and implement GHG reduction measures;
- Evaluation and metrics-tracking activities;
- Planning and implementing meetings, workshops, and convenings to foster collaboration among and between levels of government, the public, and key stakeholders;
- Outreach and education for stakeholders and members of the public;
- Modeling and analytical costs, including purchase or licensing of software, data, or tools;
- Training and staff capacity-building costs to implement GHG reduction measures;
- Supplies (e.g., office supplies, software, printing, etc.) related to implementing GHG reduction measures;
- Incidental costs related to the above activities, including but not limited to travel, membership fees, and indirect costs; and/or,
- Other allowable activities as necessary to implement the GHG reduction measures.

Applicants should use the instructions and budget object class descriptions below and may use the example table below to complete the detailed budget section of the project narrative. EPA has provided an optional budget spreadsheet to aid applicants in developing the required budget table(s) for the budget narrative. The budget spreadsheet can be found on the posting for this NOFO on Grants.gov. Applicants may submit a budget spreadsheet (no page limit) with their application, in addition to the budget narrative (up to 10 pages). Applicants should include applicable rows of costs for each budget category in their budget table(s) to accurately reflect the proposed budget for each GHG reduction measure. Applicants must itemize costs related to personnel, fringe benefits, travel, equipment, installation or labor supplies, contractual costs, other direct costs (i.e., subawards, participant support costs), indirect costs, and total costs.

Note: Funds disbursed under the CPRG are subject to Davis Bacon Prevailing Wage requirements as explained in Section VI.C and to Build America, Buy America (BABA) as explained in Section VI.D.

For applicants proposing to implement a participant support cost or rebate program, the rebates are appropriately listed under the “Other” budget category as “Participant

Support Costs." For more information on participant support costs, see Appendix A and RAIN-2018-G05, "EPA Guidance on Participant Support Costs."

Budget Categories

- **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 individual 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); related to proposed project activities (e.g., attendance at meetings); or, related to a technical training or workshop that supports effective implementation of the project activities. 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. EPA will not award any funds for travel outside of the U.S.

- **Equipment - Identify each item to be purchased that 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 CFR § 200.1, "Equipment." 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. 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. Projects that include the construction, alteration, maintenance, or repair of infrastructure in the United States must comply with the BABA Term and Condition if selected for award. Please refer to Section VI.D for additional information and consider this information when preparing the budget. The procurement of equipment should follow EPA's Best Practice Guide for Procuring Services, Supplies, and Equipment Under EPA Assistance Agreements.

- **Supplies - "Supplies" means all tangible personal property other than "equipment."** The budget detail should identify categories of supplies to be procured (e.g., laboratory supplies or office supplies). Non-tangible goods and services associated with supplies, such as printing service, photocopy services, and rental costs should be included in the "Other" category. The procurement of supplies should follow EPA's Best Practice Guide for Procuring Services, Supplies, and Equipment Under EPA Assistance Agreements.

- **Contractual – Identify each 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 provide detailed guidance 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. 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 may include the following: insurance; rental/lease of equipment or supplies; equipment service or maintenance contracts; printing or photocopying; participant support costs (such as non-employee training stipends, childcare support, transportation, and subsidies or rebates for purchases of pollution control equipment); and, subaward costs. Applicants should describe the items included in the "Other" category and include the estimated amount of participant support costs in a separate line item. Additional information about participant support costs is contained in RAIN-2018-G05, "EPA Guidance on Participant Support Costs."

  Subawards (e.g., subgrants to other members of a coalition) and participant support costs are a distinct type of cost under this category. The term "subaward" means an award of financial assistance (money or property) by any legal agreement made by the recipient to an eligible subrecipient even if the agreement is referred to as a contract. Rebates, subsidies, and similar one-time, lump-sum payments to program beneficiaries for purchase of eligible emission control technologies are considered participant support costs. Please refer to Appendix A 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 as a separate line item in the "Other" category and must include a description of the types of activities to be supported. Refer to EPA's Subaward Policy and supplemental Frequent Questions for additional guidance.

- **Indirect Charges - If indirect charges are budgeted, indicate the approved rate and base.** Indirect costs are those incurred by the recipient 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. 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)

Additional indirect cost guidance is available in RAIN-2018-G02, "Indirect Cost Guidance for Recipients of EPA Assistance Agreements."

Example Budget Table (may be submitted as a budget spreadsheet or as part of the 10-page budget narrative)

Industrial Decarbonization GHG measure							
Categories	**Line Item & Itemized Costs**	**Year 1**	**Year 2**	**Year 3**	**Year 4**	**Year 5**	**Total EPA Funding**
PERSONNEL							
	Project Manager @ $80,000/yr 0.5 FTE, with salary increases	$40,000	$42,500	$45,000	$47,500	$50,000	$225,000
	Project Staff @ $60,000, 0.5 FTE, with salary increases	$30,000	$32,500	$35,000	$37,500	$40,000	$175,000
	TOTAL PERSONNEL	**$70,000**	**$75,000**	**$80,000**	**$85,000**	**$90,000**	**$400,000**
FRINGE BENEFITS							
	Full-time Employees @ 17% of salary	$11,900	$12,750	$13,600	$14,450	$15,300	$68,000
	TOTAL FRINGE	**$11,900**	**$12,750**	**$13,600**	**$14,450**	**$15,300**	**$68,000**
TRAVEL							
	Travel for conference and workshop presentations:						
	Airfare - $400 roundtrip @ 1 roundtrip per year	$400	$400	$400	$400	$400	$2,000
	Luggage Fees - $25 per flight @ 2 flights per year	$50	$50	$50	$50	$50	$250
	Hotel - $150 per day @ 3 days per year	$450	$450	$450	$450	$450	$2,250
	Per Diem - $71 per day @ 3.5 days per year	$249	$249	$249	$249	$249	$1,243
	Taxi - $45 per year	$45	$45	$45	$45	$45	$225
	Parking - $20 per day @ 4 days per year	$80	$80	$80	$80	$80	$400
	Mileage for local travel (500 miles per year at $0.655/mile)	$328	$328	$328	$328	$328	$1,638
	TOTAL TRAVEL	**$1,601**	**$1,601**	**$1,601**	**$1,601**	**$1,601**	**$8,005**
EQUIPMENT	2 Building Thermal Imagers @ $9,000 each	$18,000	$0	$0	$0	$0	$0
	TOTAL EQUIPMENT	**$18,000**	**$0**	**$0**	**$0**	**$0**	**$0**

Industrial Decarbonization GHG measure							
Categories	**Line Item & Itemized Costs**	**Year 1**	**Year 2**	**Year 3**	**Year 4**	**Year 5**	**Total EPA Funding**
SUPPLIES							
	1 Laptop Computer @ $2,500	$2,500	$0	$0	$0	$0	$2,500
	TOTAL SUPPLIES	**$2,500**	**$0**	**$0**	**$0**	**$0**	**$2,500**
CONTRACTUAL							$0
	Contractor to perform 30 energy assessments per year at industrial facilities. Assumes 740 hours per assessment (pre-visit analysis, site visit, post-visit analysis, report with recommendations) @ $46/hr	$1,021,200	$1,021,200	$1,021,200	$1,021,200	$1,021,200	$5,106,000
	Contract for 10 small or medium-scale projects per year at industrial facilities (renewable energy, energy storage, energy efficiency, electrification, or energy planning). Assumes average cost $450,000/project	$4,500,000	$4,500,000	$4,500,000	$4,500,000	$4,500,000	$22,500,000
	Contract for 5 large-scale energy efficiency or decarbonization demonstration projects per year at industrial facilities (e.g., industrial heat pumps). Assumes average cost $3 million/project	$15,000,000	$15,000,000	$15,000,000	$15,000,000	$15,000,000	$75,000,000
	TOTAL CONTRACTUAL	**$20,521,200**	**$20,521,200**	**$20,521,200**	**$20,521,200**	**$20,521,200**	**$102,606,000**
OTHER							$0
	Participant Support Costs- 2 Environmental Interns @ $4,000 summer stipend	$8,000	$8,000	$8,000	$8,000	$8,000	$40,000

Industrial Decarbonization GHG measure							
Categories	**Line Item & Itemized Costs**	**Year 1**	**Year 2**	**Year 3**	**Year 4**	**Year 5**	**Total EPA Funding**
	Participant Support Cost- Industrial Retrofit Rebates 50 facilities/yr @ $200,000 each	$10,000,000	$10,000,000	$10,000,000	$10,000,000	$10,000,000	$50,000,000
	TOTAL OTHER	**$10,008,000**	**$10,008,000**	**$10,008,000**	**$10,008,000**	**$10,008,000**	**$50,040,000**
INDIRECT COSTS							
	Indirects Costs (23% of personnel costs)	$16,100.00	$17,250.00	$18,400.00	$19,550.00	$20,700.00	$92,000.00
	Total Indirect Costs	**$16,100.00**	**$17,250.00**	**$18,400.00**	**$19,550.00**	**$20,700.00**	**$92,000.00**
	TOTAL FUNDING FOR INDUSTRIAL PROGRAM	**$$30,649,301**	**$$30,635,801**	**$30,642,801**	**$30,649,801**	**$30,656,801**	**$193,216,505**

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

b. Expenditure of Awarded Funds (15 possible points)

Applicants should provide a detailed written description of the applicant's approach, procedures, and controls for ensuring that awarded grant funds will be expended in a timely and efficient manner within the grant period.

c. Reasonableness of Costs (10 possible points)

Applications should demonstrate the reasonableness of the budget for each GHG reduction measure in the narrative description of the budget and detailed breakout of requested funding for each work component or task. Applicants should provide a detailed description of every itemized budget item/cost, including how every budget item/cost relates to the project narrative and specific emission reduction activities. Instructions for what to include in the Budget Detail are described in Section 7.a above.

Applicants must itemize the cost categories as listed above and in the SF-424A: personnel, fringe benefits, contractual costs, travel, equipment, supplies, 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 A for detailed guidance on these funding options and how to correctly categorize these costs in the workplan budget.

C. Partnership and Coalition Coverage

One entity must be responsible for any grant awarded under this program. Eligible applicants applying as an individual applicant (the "pass-through entity") should identify any subrecipient(s) of the award. Coalition applications must identify which eligible applicant will be the recipient of the award (the lead applicant and "pass-through entity") and which eligible applicant(s) will be subrecipient(s) of the award. All members of the coalition must be listed as subrecipients, except the eligible applicant that will be the recipient of the grant (the lead applicant).

Subawards must be consistent with the definition of that term in 2 CFR 200.1 and comply with EPA's Subaward Policy. The pass-through entity that administers the grant and subawards will

be accountable to EPA for proper expenditure of the funds and reporting and will be the point of contact for the coalition. As provided in 2 CFR 200.332, subrecipients are accountable to the pass-through entity for proper use of EPA funding and grantees are required to report on their subaward monitoring activities under 2 CFR 200.332(d).

Any contracts for services or products funded with EPA financial assistance must be awarded under the competitive procurement procedures of 2 CFR Part 200 and 2 CFR Part 1500, as applicable. The regulations at 2 CFR 1500.10 contain limitations on the extent to which EPA funds may be used to compensate individual consultants. Do not name a procurement contractor (including a consultant) as a "partner" or otherwise in the application unless the contractor has been selected in compliance with competitive procurement requirements. In accordance with 2 CFR 200.320I(2) and (4), EPA does not accept justifications for sole source contracts for services or products available in the commercial marketplace based on a contractor's role in preparing an application or existing relationships that an applicant may have established without complying with competitive procurement requirements. Refer to the Best Practice Guide for Procuring Services, Supplies, and Equipment Under EPA Assistance Agreements for guidance on competitive procurement requirements and consultant compensation.

Successful applicants that do not name procurement contractors in their applications must also comply with these requirements, regardless of if the contractor was procured before or after the EPA grant agreement is awarded. For example, firms or individual consultants that develop or draft specifications, requirements, statements of work, or invitations for bids or requests for proposals must be excluded from competing for such procurements as provided in 2 CFR 200.319(b).

D. Releasing Copies of Applications

Applications submitted under this NOFO may be released in part or in whole in response to a Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request. Furthermore, copies or portions of the applications selected for award may be made publicly available on EPA's website or another public website for a period of time after selected applications are announced.

EPA strongly recommends that applications not include trade secrets or commercial or financial information that is confidential or privileged, or sensitive information that, if disclosed, would invade an individual's personal privacy (e.g., an individual's salary, personal email addresses, etc.). However, if such information is included, it will be treated in accordance with 40 CFR § 2.203. (Review EPA clause IV.a, Confidential Business Information, under EPA Solicitation Clauses.) Clearly indicate which portion(s) of the application the applicant is claiming as confidential, privileged, or sensitive information, or state 'n/a' or 'not applicable' if the application does not have confidential, privileged, or sensitive information. As provided at 40 CFR § 2.203(b), if no claim of confidential treatment accompanies the information when it is received by EPA, it may be made available to the public by EPA without further notice to the submitter.

V. Application Review Information

Note: Additional provisions that apply to this section can be found at EPA Solicitation Clauses.

Only eligible applicants whose application meets the threshold eligibility criteria in Section III of this NOFO will be evaluated according to the criteria set forth in the table below. **Applicants should explicitly address these criteria as part of their application package submittal in the project narrative, following the content requirements set forth in Section IV and Appendix C. Applications will be evaluated for each criterion based on 1) the extent to which the response clearly meets the content requirements in Section IV and Appendix C, and 2) the quality and completeness of the overall response.** Each application will be rated using a point system based on a total of 250 possible points.

A. Evaluation Criteria

Evaluation Criteria	Points
1. Overall Project Summary and Approach a. (20 points) Description of GHG Reduction Measures. The application will be evaluated on the quality of the response and extent to which it: • Provides a detailed description of each of the proposed GHG reduction measures to be undertaken; • Describes the major features, tasks, milestones, and potential risks for each measure; • In the case of a coalition application, describes the roles and responsibilities of each coalition member in the project design and implementation, and affirmatively declares that the lead applicant will submit an MOA signed by all coalition members by July 1, 2024, or provides an alternative date and justification if they will not be able to meet the July 1st date; and, • Explains how each GHG reduction measure relates to a priority GHG reduction measure included in the relevant PCAP, why each measure was selected as a priority, and how each measure will meet the goals of the CPRG program. b. (10 points) Demonstration of Funding Need. The application will be evaluated on the quality of the response and extent to which it: • Demonstrates a strong need for EPA CPRG implementation funding; • Explains if and how other funding streams have been explored, and why these sources are not sufficient; and, • Lists federal and non-federal funding sources the applicant has applied for, has secured, and/or will secure to implement the GHG reduction measures, if applicable.	45

Evaluation Criteria	Points
c. (15 points) Transformative Impact. The application will be evaluated on the quality of the response and extent to which it demonstrates that the GHG reduction measures have the potential to create transformative opportunities or impacts that can lead to significant additional GHG emissions reductions.	
2. Impact of GHG Reduction Measures a. (20 points) Magnitude of GHG Reductions from 2025 through 2030. The application will be evaluated on the magnitude of cumulative GHG emission reductions and the durability of the reductions to be achieved by the proposed GHG reduction measures from 2025 through 2030, using appropriate methodologies and assumptions. Applications will be assessed on the estimated emission reductions that will directly result from EPA CPRG implementation grant funding. b. (10 points) Magnitude of GHG Reductions from 2025 through 2050. The application will be evaluated on the magnitude of cumulative GHG emission reductions and the durability of the reductions to be achieved by the proposed GHG reduction measures from 2025 through 2050, using appropriate methodologies and assumptions. Applications will be assessed on the estimated emission reductions that will directly result from EPA CPRG implementation grant funding. c. (15 points) Cost Effectiveness of GHG Reductions. The application will be evaluated on the quality of the response and the: • Cost effectiveness of the GHG reduction measures in terms of the CPRG implementation grant dollars requested divided by cumulative GHG metric ton of CO_2-equivalent emission reductions to be achieved from 2025 through 2030 for the set of measures in the application, and • Qualitative narrative explaining any factors that may affect the cost-effectiveness calculation. d. (15 points) Documentation of GHG Reduction Assumptions. The application will be evaluated on the quality, thoroughness, reasonableness, and comprehensiveness of the methodologies, assumptions, and calculations used for developing the estimated GHG emission reductions for the GHG reduction measures included in the application, including GHG reductions from 2025 through 2030; GHG reductions from 2025 through 2050; and, the estimated cost per metric ton of CO_2-equivalent GHG reductions to be achieved from 2025 through 2030 for the collection of measures in the application.	60
3. Environmental Results – Outputs, Outcomes, and Performance Measures a. (10 points) Expected Outputs and Outcomes. The application will be evaluated on the quality of the response and extent to which it identifies expected outputs and	30

Evaluation Criteria	Points
outcomes, as defined in Section I.C for each GHG measure, including listing GHG emission reductions and listing co-pollution (CAP and HAP) emission changes as outcomes, among others. b. (10 points) Performance Measures and Plan. The application will be evaluated on the quality of the response and the extent to which it: • Provides a clear description of the proposed performance measures to track, measure, and report progress toward achieving the expected outputs and outcomes for each GHG reduction measure, and • Describes the plan for effectively tracking and measuring progress in implementing each GHG reduction measure. c. (10 points) Authorities, Implementation Timeline, and Milestones. The application will be evaluated on the quality of the response and extent to which it: • Identifies the parties and their roles and responsibilities for implementing each GHG reduction measure; • For each measure, describes whether the implementing entity has current authority to carry out the measure and if they do not, articulates the plan and timing for obtaining it during the grant period; and, • Provides the detailed implementation timeline for each measure, including key milestones for specific tasks, and discusses the key actions needed to meet the project goals and objectives by the end of the grant period.	
4. Low-Income and Disadvantaged Communities a. (25 points) Community Benefits. The application will be evaluated on the quality of the response and extent to which it: • Provides a comprehensive discussion and assessment of expected benefits and/or avoided disbenefits to low-income and disadvantaged communities from the proposed GHG reduction measures; • Lists CEJST Census tract IDs or EPA's EJScreen Census block group IDs for areas that may be affected by GHG reduction measures; and, • Describes the plan to assess, quantify, and report a more thorough quantitative analysis of associated community benefits, including co-pollutant (CAP and HAP) emission reductions. b. (10 points) Community Engagement. The application will be evaluated on the quality of the response and extent to which it: • Explains how input from low-income and disadvantaged communities was incorporated into the application, and	35

Evaluation Criteria	Points
• Describes how meaningful engagement with low-income and disadvantaged communities will be continuously included in the implementation of the GHG reduction measures.	
5. Job Quality (5 points). The application will be evaluated on the quality of the response and extent to which it describes, as applicable, concrete strategies and commitments to ensure job quality, strong labor standards, and a diverse, highly skilled workforce for the implementation of the GHG reduction measures.	5
6. Programmatic Capability and Past Performance a. (10 points) Past Performance. The application will be evaluated on the quality of the response and extent to which it demonstrates that the applicant has past performance in successfully managing and completing the federal or non-federal assistance agreements as described in Section IV.B. b. (10 points) Reporting Requirements. The application will be evaluated on the quality of the response and extent to which it: • Demonstrates that the applicant has a history of meeting the reporting requirements under the assistance agreements identified in the project narrative as described in Section IV.B, and • Describes whether the applicant submitted acceptable final technical reports under those agreements; 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 sufficient progress was not being made, whether the applicant adequately reported the reason for insufficient progress. c. (10 points) Staff Expertise. The application will be evaluated on the quality of the response and extent to which it demonstrates that the applicant has the requisite organizational experience, including staff expertise and qualifications, staff knowledge, and resources or ability to obtain them, to successfully achieve the goals of the proposed project. *Note: In evaluating applicants under criteria 6.a and 6.b, EPA will consider the information provided by the applicant and may also consider relevant information from other sources, including agency files and prior/current grantors (e.g., to verify and/or supplement the information supplied by the applicant). If the applicant does not have any relevant or available past performance or reporting information, please indicate this in the application. The application will receive a neutral score for criteria 6.a and 6.b. A neutral score is 5 points of 10 possible points for each criterion. If the applicant does not provide any response for these items, they may receive a score of 0 for these criteria.*	30

Evaluation Criteria	Points
7. Budget and Timely Expenditure of Grant Funds a. (20 points) Budget Detail. The application will be evaluated on the quality of the response and extent to which the proposed budget provides a detailed breakout by funding type in the proper budget category for each activity for which the applicant is requesting funding. b. (15 points) Expenditure of Awarded Funds. The application will be evaluated on the quality of the response and extent to which it demonstrates that the approach, procedures, and controls described in the application will ensure that awarded grant funds will be expended in a timely and efficient manner. c. (10 points) Reasonableness of Cost. The application will be evaluated on the quality of the response and extent to which the proposed grant expenditures are reasonable for accomplishing the proposed goals, objectives, and measurable environmental outcomes described in the application.	45
Total	250

B. Review and Selection Process

Applications will first be evaluated against the threshold factors listed in Section III.C. of this NOFO. Only those applications that meet all of the threshold factors will be evaluated by a review panel using the evaluation criteria listed above. Each eligible application will be given a numerical score and will be rank-ordered by the review panel against other applications in the same funding tier. For this general competition, EPA will have five funding tiers as described in in Section II.B. EPA intends to make awards to top ranked applications in each tier. Preliminary funding recommendations will be provided to the EPA selection official based on the panel reviews and rankings. Final funding decisions will be made by the EPA selection official based on 1) the rankings and preliminary recommendations of the EPA evaluation team, and 2) the other factors listed in Section V.C.

EPA anticipates awarding no more than two grants to applicants at the same level of government within a single jurisdiction (e.g., a single state, municipality, tribal area, or territory). In addition, EPA will make selections to ensure diverse geographic coverage of CPRG implementation funding across the different funding tiers. However, EPA reserves the right to exceed these targets in the event that there is an inadequate number of meritorious applications from entities in other jurisdictions.

C. Other Factors

In making the final funding decisions, the EPA selection official may also consider certain programmatic priorities and the geographic diversity of awardees. Additional consideration

may be given to making awards that advance the Justice40 Initiative,[17] provide GHG reduction measures in key sectors, and/or provide greater diversity in the types of entities receiving CPRG implementation funds (e.g., state agencies and departments, municipal agencies and departments, tribal and territorial agencies and departments). Once final decisions have been made, a funding recommendation will be developed and forwarded to the EPA award official.

D. Anticipated Announcement and Federal Award Dates

EPA anticipates it will announce selection decisions by July 2024 and tentatively plans to issue awards by October 2024.

VI. Award Administration Information

Additional provisions that apply to this section can be found at EPA Solicitation Clauses.

A. Award Notices

EPA anticipates notification to successful applicants will be made via electronic mail by EPA's Office of Air and Radiation (OAR). 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 applicable EPA Regional Grants Management Offices or EPA's Office of Grants and Debarment. 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 availability, or other issues discovered during the award process may affect the ability of EPA to make an award to an applicant. The award notice, signed by an EPA grants officer, is the authorizing document and will be provided through electronic mail. The successful applicant may need to prepare and submit additional documents and forms (e.g., revised workplan), which must be approved by EPA, before the grant can officially be awarded. The lead applicant for a coalition must submit an MOA signed by all members of the coalition. The lead applicant for a coalition should plan to submit a signed MOA by July 1, 2024. Failure to submit a timely MOA may impact EPA's ability to award the grant. See Appendix E for further guidance on the MOA. The time between notification of selection and award of a grant can take up to 90 days or longer.

B. Reporting Requirements

Progress Reports. Semi-annual progress reports and a detailed final report will be required for each grant awarded. Semi-annual reports summarizing technical progress, accomplishments, and milestones achieved including a description of outputs and outcomes, planned activities for the next six months, and a summary of expenditures to date are required. Grant recipients will also be expected to report on their community engagement, and, as applicable, their strategy for mitigating environmental risks, and progress on job quality (see Section IV.B.2).

[17] More information on Justice40 at EPA can be found at: https://www.epa.gov/environmentaljustice/justice40-epa.

One year after grant award, as part of their second semi-annual progress report, the grant recipient should provide a report that quantifies benefits to low-income and disadvantaged communities, including changes in co-pollutant emissions. The co-pollutant changes should be reported in general and in low-income and disadvantaged communities for the GHG measures implemented under the awarded grant. Since co-pollutant reductions occurring in low-income and disadvantaged communities may represent only a portion of the total benefits estimated from a given GHG emission reduction measure or suite of measures, the grant recipient should estimate the proportion of total benefits that occur in the identified communities. This report should also provide an update on ongoing and planned community engagement.

The detailed final report shall be submitted to EPA within 120 calendar days of the completion of the period of performance. The final report must include a summary of the GHG reduction measures implemented, outputs and outcomes achieved, and costs of the measures. In addition, the final report shall report the total GHG emissions and other pollutants reduced (in general and in low-income and disadvantaged communities), provide a summary of community engagement, and discuss the problems, successes, and lessons learned from the implementation of the GHG reduction measures that could help overcome structural, organizational, or technical obstacles to implementing a similar project elsewhere. Consistent with EPA's commitment to conducting business in an open and transparent manner, EPA may make portions of the progress reports or final reports publicly available on EPA's website or another public website. The schedule for submission of semi-annual 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.

Performance Measures. The applicant should develop performance measures they expect to use through the proposed activities and describe them in the application. These performance measures will help gather insights and will be the mechanism to track progress concerning successful processes and output and outcome strategies and will provide the basis for developing lessons to inform potential future work. It is expected that the description of performance measures will directly relate to the project outcomes and outputs (see Section I.C), including but not limited to:

- Overseeing subrecipients, and/or contractors and vendors;
- Tracking and reporting project progress on expenditures and purchases; and,
- Tracking, measuring, and reporting accomplishments and proposed timelines/milestones.

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

- What are the measurable short-term and long-term results the GHG reduction measures 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?
- What are the expected locations of the outputs and outcomes?

C. Prevailing Wage Requirements

As required by section 314 of the Clean Air Act, grants for construction activities will be subject to prevailing wage requirements as determined by the U.S. Department of Labor under the Davis-Bacon Related Acts (42 USC §7614) authority. EPA will provide terms and conditions on Davis-Bacon compliance requirements in agreements that fund *Construction* as that term is defined at 40 CFR 33.103.

D. Build America, Buy America Requirements

Certain projects that may be funded under this competition may be subject to domestic content sourcing requirements under the Build America, Buy America (BABA) provisions of the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA) (P.L. 117-58, §§70911-70917). These provisions apply when a grantee uses federal funds for the purchase of goods, products, and materials on any form of construction, alteration, maintenance, or repair of public infrastructure in the United States.[18] The Buy America preference requirement applies to all of the iron and steel, manufactured products, and construction materials used in an infrastructure project under an award for identified EPA financial assistance funding programs.

These sourcing requirements require that all iron, steel, manufactured products, and construction materials used in federally funded infrastructure projects must be produced in the United States. The recipient must implement these requirements in its procurements, and these requirements must flow down to all subawards and contracts at any tier. For legal definitions and sourcing requirements, the recipient must consult EPA's Build America, Buy America website.

CPRG implementation grants are subject to BABA, which requires applicants to comply with BABA requirements or obtain a waiver for each infrastructure project. Under BABA, the Buy America preference only applies to articles, materials, and supplies that are consumed in, incorporated into, or affixed to an infrastructure project. Note that any mobile source vehicles/engines funded by this program would not be considered "infrastructure." Projects

[18] See Memorandum M-22-11 from Executive Office of the President to heads of Executive Departments and Agencies, April 22, 2022, "Initial Implementation Guidance on Application of Buy America Preference in Federal Financial Assistance Programs for Infrastructure." From page 4: "The IIJA's definition of "infrastructure" encompasses public infrastructure projects. Thus, the term "infrastructure" includes, at a minimum, the structures, facilities, and equipment for, in the United States, roads, highways, and bridges; public transportation; dams, ports, harbors, and other maritime facilities; intercity passenger and freight railroads; freight and intermodal facilities; airports; water systems, including drinking water and wastewater systems; electrical transmission facilities and systems; utilities; broadband infrastructure; and buildings and real property. Agencies should treat structures, facilities, and equipment that generate, transport, and distribute energy - including electric vehicle (EV) charging - as infrastructure."

limited to the construction or improvement of a private residence for personal use also would not constitute an infrastructure project.

When supported by rationale provided in IIJA §70914, the recipient may submit a waiver to EPA. The recipient should request guidance on the submission instructions of an EPA waiver request from their EPA Project Officer. A list of approved EPA waivers is available on the Build America, Buy America website.

In addition to BABA requirements, all procurements under grants may be subject to the domestic preference provisions of 2 CFR §200.322. See the "Build America, Buy America" clause in EPA Solicitation Clauses.

VII. EPA Contacts

Further information, including technical information, eligibility information, and electronic submission information, may be obtained by contacting EPA at the following email address: CPRG@epa.gov. Information regarding this NOFO obtained from sources other than this Agency contact may not be accurate.

Questions and answers will be posted until one week prior to the closing of this announcement on the CPRG website. The cut-off date for submitting questions related to this NOFO is **March 15, 2024, at 11:59 p.m. (ET)**.

Appendix A. Additional Information Regarding Contracts, Subawards, and Participant Support Costs

A. Background

The Standard Form 424A (SF-424A) includes a separate row for "contractual" costs and "other" costs. As noted in Section 6 under Section IV.B, the "other" cost category on the SF-424A should be used to cover both subawards and participant support costs. Depending on the project, these costs may be applicable to a CPRG implementation grant application. This appendix helps clarify these differences. Additional information about participant support costs is contained in RAIN-2018-G05, "EPA Guidance on Participant Support Costs."

If a recipient intends to fund the proposed project's technologies that they do not directly own, the recipient may have the option to: (1) issue a contract; (2) make a subaward to an eligible entity; or, (3) provide participant support costs to a program beneficiary. For options (2) and (3), the recipient may be able to fund technology and installation costs, but only subawards can be used to fund direct and indirect costs. If the grant recipient only intends to fund equipment and installation costs, the recipient may choose to provide participant support costs to a program beneficiary rather than a subaward.

B. Contracts

As described in 2 CFR § 200.331, a contract is for the purpose of obtaining goods and services for the recipient's own use and creates a procurement relationship with the contractor. Characteristics indicative of a procurement relationship between the recipient and a contractor are when the contractor:

- Provides the goods and services within normal business operations;
- Provides similar goods or services to many different purchasers;
- Normally operates in a competitive environment;
- Provides goods or services that are ancillary to the operation of the federal program; and,
- Is not subject to compliance requirements of the federal program as a result of the agreement, though similar requirements may apply for other reasons.

Grant recipients that enter into procurement contracts must comply with the applicable procurement provisions in 2 CFR § 200.317 through 200.327.

C. Subawards

Under 2 CFR § 200.1, subrecipient means a non-federal entity that receives a subaward from a grantee to carry out part of a federal program but does not include program beneficiaries receiving participant support costs; see section D of this appendix. Coalitions are subject to subaward requirements. Grant recipients may make subawards to subrecipients to carry out a portion of the grant project; in such case, the grant recipient is also known as a "pass-through entity." 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 grant. It is important to bear in mind that subrecipients are subject to the same federal requirements as the pass-through entity.

Under this competition, a non-federal entity is eligible to receive a subaward even if it is not eligible to receive a grant from EPA directly. While there may be some situations in which a subaward to an individual may be appropriate, those situations are rare.

Subrecipients only receive reimbursement for their actual direct or approved indirect costs and do not "profit" from the transaction. For-profit entities participating in grant activities are typically contractors rather than subrecipients.

EPA's Award Official must approve subawards to for-profit entities and individuals on the basis of either a precise description of the subaward in the EPA approved budget and project narrative, or on a transaction-by-transaction basis.

The applicant's project narrative and budget narrative should include detailed descriptions of any proposed subawards and include cost estimates for subawards as line items under the "Other" budget category in the SF-424A; see Section 6 in Section IV.B. Should a recipient decide to make a subaward that was not described in the approved project narrative and budget, the recipient must obtain prior written approval from EPA's Award Official for the subaward.

If a recipient chooses to pass funds from its grant to other entities through subawards, the recipient must comply with applicable subaward provisions of 2 CFR Part 200, the EPA Subaward Policy, and EPA's General Term and Condition for Subawards. Note that under 2 CFR § 200.331 through 200.333, there are extensive requirements for subrecipient monitoring and management that apply to pass-through entities.

Many of the federal administrative grant regulations in 2 CFR Part 200 and 2 CFR Part 1500, as well as the grant terms and conditions in the assistance agreement, "flow down" to subrecipients receiving a subaward. Such requirements need to be identified in the written subaward agreement between the recipient and the subrecipient. Additionally, if a subrecipient intends to procure goods or services using CPRG implementation grant funds, the subrecipient must comply with the applicable federal procurement standards in 2 CFR Part 200, 2 CFR Part 1500, and 40 CFR Part 33 as these requirements also "flow down" to subrecipients.

There is no requirement for recipients to compete subawards under this NOFO; however, pass-through entities may choose to select subrecipients competitively provided this practice is consistent with applicable statutes, regulations, and the terms and conditions of their CPRG implementation grant.

Recipients may use the subaward template contained in Appendix D of EPA's Subaward Policy to assist them in complying with the "subaward content" requirements; however, EPA does not mandate the use of this template.

D. Participant Support Costs

Recipients may provide participant support costs (PSCs) to program beneficiaries to enable beneficiaries to participate in the recipient's program or project. PSCs include rebates, subsidies, stipends, or other payments to program beneficiaries by a grantee, subrecipient, or contractor. For example, PSCs might be used for the purchase of eligible technologies. Program beneficiaries, rather than the grant recipient, would own the new technology.

PSCs differ from subawards in that the beneficiary is participating in the grant recipient's GHG reduction measures instead of implementing their own measures. Program beneficiaries may include but are not limited to individual owner/operators, private or public fleet owners, or residents in the applicable area; however, program beneficiaries are not employees, contractors, or subrecipients of the grant recipient. For example, PSCs could include supplies, per diem, travel expenses, and/or registration fees paid to or on behalf of a participant in connection with a meeting, workshop, conference, symposium, or training project conducted under the award.

Recipients may also use PSCs to make purchases on behalf of program beneficiaries. In some situations, this approach allows grant recipients to achieve economies of scale and/or take advantage of existing purchase contracts. Competitive procurement requirements apply to the grant recipient when the recipient takes this approach.

The federal administrative grant regulations in 2 CFR Part 200 and 2 CFR Part 1500, as well as the grant terms and conditions in the recipient's grant agreement, generally do not "flow down" to program beneficiaries receiving PSCs except that costs must be reasonable and incurred within the grant period. Requirements for compliance with civil rights laws and ensuring that program beneficiaries are eligible to receive federal financial assistance are applicable as explained in "*EPA Guidance on Participant Support Costs*." In addition, program beneficiaries must abide by requirements to ensure that the funds are used only for authorized purposes.

If a grantee, subrecipient, or contractor is issuing PSCs, it must have a written agreement in place. The written agreement should not be structured as a subaward agreement and should not refer to program beneficiaries as subrecipients consistent with 2 CFR 200.1, "Subrecipient." In addition, the written agreement should not include language requiring the program beneficiary to comply with the federal grant regulations at 2 CFR Part 200, 2 CFR Part 1500, or the terms and conditions found in the award between EPA and the recipient, other than requiring that the costs must be reasonable, necessary, and allocable. The written agreement should also include the following:

- A description of the activities and amounts that will be supported by the PSCs;
- The program and/or statutory requirements that the program beneficiary must abide by in order to ensure that the funds are used only for authorized purposes;
- Specify which party will have title to the technologies (e.g., vehicles, engines, equipment

and/or appliances), if any, purchased with PSCs;
- Source documentation requirements to ensure proper accounting of the PSCs; and,
- Any reporting that must be submitted by the program beneficiary.

EPA's Award Official must approve PSCs on the basis of either a precise description of the PSCs in the EPA approved budget and workplan, or on a transaction-by-transaction basis. The applicant's workplan and budget narrative should include detailed descriptions of any proposed PSCs and include cost estimates for PSCs as line items under the "Other" budget category. Should a recipient decide to issue PSCs that were not described in the approved work plan and budget, the recipient must obtain prior written approval from EPA's Award Official. Moreover, after a grant is awarded, should a recipient decide to modify the amount approved (upwards or downwards) for PSCs, prior written approval from EPA's Award Official is also required.

When creating budgets, applicants/recipients must exclude PSCs from Modified Total Direct Costs for calculation of indirect costs as required by 2 CFR 200.1, "Modified Total Direct Costs."

Resources

- RAIN-2018-G05, "EPA Guidance on Participant Support Costs."

- Best Practice Guide for Procuring Services, Supplies, and Equipment Under EPA Assistance Agreements

- Grants Policy Issuance 16-01: EPA Subaward Policy for EPA Assistance Agreement Recipients, with attachments, 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 B. Global Warming Potentials for GHGs

Global Warming Potential (GWP) allows for comparisons of the global warming impacts of different gases. Specifically, it is a measure of how much energy the emissions of 1 ton of a gas will absorb over a given period of time, relative to the emissions of 1 ton of carbon dioxide (CO_2). The larger the GWP, the more a given gas warms the Earth compared to CO_2 over that time period. The time period usually used for GWPs is 100 years. GWPs provide a common unit of measure, which allows analysts to add up emissions estimates of different gases (e.g., to compile a national GHG inventory) and allows policymakers to compare emissions reduction opportunities across sectors and gases. Although the GWP for certain GHGs was modified in the IPCC AR6 Sixth Assessment Report released in March 2023, applicants should use the GWP values below - from the 2013 IPCC AR5 Fifth Assessment Report.

Global Warming Potentials (GWP) for Greenhouse Gases				
Greenhouse Gas	**100-Year Global Warming Potential[a]**		**Greenhouse Gas**	**100-Year Global Warming Potential[a]**
Carbon dioxide (CO_2)	1		HFC-245fa	858
Methane (CH_4)[b]	28		HFC-365mfc	804
Nitrous oxide (N_2O)	265		CF_4	6,630
HFC-23	12,400		C_2F_6	11,100
HFC-32	677		C_3F_8	8,900
HFC-41	116		C_4F_6 [c]	0.003
HFC-125	3,170		c-C_5F_8	2
HFC-134a	1,300		C_4F_{10}	9,200
HFC-143a	4,800		c-C_4F_8	9,540
HFC-152a	138		C_5F_{12}	8,550
HFC-227ea	3,350		C_6F_{14}	7,910
HFC-236fa	8,060		SF_6	23,500
HFC-43-10mee	1,650		NF_3	16,100

Footnotes

a. GWP values are calculated over a 100-year time horizon. If the 100-year GWP of a fluorinated GHG (F-GHG) is not listed in table above, see Chapter 8, Appendix 8.A, Table 8.A.1 in IPCC AR5 Fifth Assessment Report (2013).

b. The methane GWP includes the direct effects and those indirect effects due to the production of tropospheric ozone and stratospheric water vapor. The indirect effect due to the production of CO_2 is not included.

c. Calculated by EPA based on Radiative Efficiency (RE) and atmospheric lifetime provided in IPCC (2013).

Source: IPCC AR5 Fifth Assessment Report (2013)

Appendix C. Required Technical Appendix and Optional GHG Emission Reduction Calculations Spreadsheet

E. Overview

Appendix C describes requirements for applicants with respect to the technical appendix that must be submitted as an attachment to the project narrative or in the project narrative for evaluation criterion 2.d (see Section IV.B.2 and Section V.A). The technical appendix (up to 10 pages) explains the assumptions and methodologies used in developing the estimated GHG emissions reductions for each GHG reduction measure.

Applicants should "show their work" so that EPA can understand the basis for the GHG emission reductions estimated for each GHG reduction measure in the application. Applicants should provide information such as the methods, models, key assumptions, related outputs, and individual calculations supporting their GHG reduction estimates. Estimates of both annual and cumulative GHG emission reductions should be provided for each GHG reduction measure for two time periods: 2025 through 2030, and 2025 through 2050. Applicants should not double-count GHG emission reductions resulting from different GHG reduction measures.

In addition to the technical appendix, applicants may provide an optional GHG emission reduction calculations spreadsheet (no page limit) that provides the specific GHG emission reduction calculations for each GHG reduction measure in the application.

Neither the technical appendix nor GHG emission reduction calculations will count toward the 25-page limit for the workplan. Additional details are provided below.

F. Technical Appendix

Applicants must include a technical appendix that explains the methodology and assumptions for developing the estimated GHG emission reductions for each measure in the application. This maximum 10-page appendix should include the key elements listed below. Applicants should use the latest available information whenever possible and provide detailed and specific references for any models and/or tools used. (Although the global warming potential (GWP) for certain GHGs was modified in the IPCC AR6 Sixth Assessment Report released in March 2023, applicants should use GWP values from the 2013 IPCC AR5 Fifth Assessment Report.) Applicants should describe uncertainties associated with the estimated GHG emission reduction estimates, including those related to key assumptions, such as emission factors, activity information, economic considerations, or other data; see Section IV.B.2.

Additional important information may also include quantitative tables, graphs, charts and/or other data. EPA will not review pages in excess of the 10-page limit for the technical appendix.

Measure-Specific Documentation:

- **GHG Reduction Estimate Method**: Describe the methods used to arrive at the measure-related activity data or other outputs and the GHG emission reduction estimate (e.g., engineering estimates, modeling, existing publicly available tool or calculator).

- **Models/Tools Used**: List or describe the specific models or tools used to develop the GHG emission reduction estimate; the name of the developer/provider of the model/tool (e.g., EPA); and, any other detailed references (e.g., specific versions of the model or tool), as appropriate.
- **Measure Implementation Assumptions:** Provide key assumptions related to the implementation of the GHG reduction measure (e.g., data supporting assumed rate of measure implementation, implementation milestones, measure lifetime, capital cost assumptions, operation and maintenance cost assumptions).
- **GHG Reduction Estimate Assumptions:** Provide key assumptions used as part of the method for estimating GHG emission reductions (e.g., emission rates; emission factors; input assumptions if modeling is used, such as cost and performance data, energy prices).
- **Reference Case Scenario (GHG Emissions or Activity Level)**: Describe the reference scenario that is used to quantify GHG emission reductions for each measure, as applicable. The type of reference scenario may differ depending upon the type of GHG reduction measure.
    - For example, an activity-level reference scenario approach might include a reference level of energy efficiency for a type of energy use equipment or GHG emission intensity under standard market practice for a type of activity, application, or equipment.
    - In contrast, a GHG emissions reference scenario approach might include documented base year GHG emissions for the application or sector where the GHG reduction measure will be implemented or projected future GHG emissions in the absence of the implemented GHG reduction measure.

  For a reference scenario based on projected "business as usual" (BAU) GHG emissions, the timeframe of the BAU projection should align with the timeframe for quantified emission reduction estimates. Provide key assumptions that apply for the reference scenario(s) used. If using a BAU projection, indicate whether the BAU projection includes the effect of non-CPRG federal incentives (e.g., grants, tax incentives) provided through programs or legislation such as IRA, BIL, and/or CHIPS.
- **Measure-Specific Activity Data**: Provide relevant activity data that is used for estimating GHG emission reductions for each measure. This may include data such as energy savings (e.g., MMBtu by fuel or MWh saved), electrical output (e.g., MWh), vehicle miles traveled, units of equipment installed, or other metrics used to track the implementation and/or effects of a GHG reduction measure. Applicants should use reasonable assumptions for measure implementation (e.g., market availability and level of use for a technology-related measure or level of participation for an activity-related measure).
- **GHG Emissions Reduced:** For each GHG reduction measure, provide measure-specific estimated annual GHG emission reductions (e.g., absolute reduction in metric tons of CO_2 equivalent [$mtCO_2e$]) and cumulative GHG emission reductions for the periods 2025 through 2030, and 2025 through 2050.

G. GHG Emission Reduction Calculations

Applicants may include, as additional documentation, the GHG emission reduction calculations that quantify the GHG emission reductions for each measure included in their application in a spreadsheet file. This spreadsheet may show the specific formulas, assumptions, and/or model inputs used to determine the estimated GHG emission reductions.

The GHG emission reduction calculations can either be included at the end of the project narrative file or as a separate file attachment. The GHG reduction calculations component has no page limit.

Appendix D. Application Submission Checklist

The Application Submission Checklist below identifies the forms and attachments that are required in order to have a complete application and optional attachments that may be included as part of the application. EPA requests that applicants use the filenames provided in the last column of the Checklist below in order to help facilitate the review process. For the provided filenames, an applicant should substitute the italicized text with their own (e.g., substitute *ApplicantName* with the eligible applicant name or abbreviation). If an applicant is submitting more than one application, they should indicate in the *ApplicantName* whether it is the "individual" or "coalition" application.

This checklist does not need to be submitted with the application.

	Application Element	**Required or Optional**	**Page Limit**	**File Format**	**Filename**
	Standard Form 424, *Application for Federal Assistance.* Please note that the organizational Unique Entity Identifier (UEI) must be included on the SF-424.	Required	N/A	Form	N/A
	Standard Form 424A, *Budget Information for Non-Construction Programs*	Required	N/A	Form	N/A
	EPA Form 4700-4, *Pre-Award Compliance Review Report.* See EPA's Applicant Tips for completing this form.	Required	N/A	Form	N/A
	EPA Form 5700-54, *Key Contacts Form*	Required	N/A	Form	N/A
	Grants.gov, *Lobbying Form*	Required	N/A	Form	N/A
	Standard Form LLL, *Disclosure of Lobbying Activities.* Some applicants may be required to complete this form to disclose lobbying activities pursuant to 31 U.S.C. 1352.	Required if applicable	N/A	Form	N/A
	Project Narrative Attachment Form. The Project Narrative Attachment Form allows for multiple attachments to be uploaded. The following attachments should be prepared as described in Section IV.B.2 and attached to the Project Narrative Attachment Form:				
	Cover page. See example cover page PDF file provided with this NOFO on Grants.gov. Upload as attachment to Project Narrative Attachment Form.	Required	N/A	PDF	Cover_*ApplicantName*.pdf
	Workplan. See optional outline provided with this NOFO on Grants.gov. Upload as attachment to Project Narrative Attachment Form. Sections include: ☐ Overall Project Summary and Approach ☐ Impact of GHG Reduction Measures ☐ Environmental Results – Outputs, Outcomes, and Performance Measures	Required	25	PDF or Word	Workplan_*ApplicantName*.pdf or .doc

	Application Element	Required or Optional	Page Limit	File Format	Filename
	☐ Low-Income and Disadvantaged Communities ☐ Job Quality ☐ Programmatic Capability and Past Performance ☐ Budget (with accompanying budget narrative)				
	Budget narrative. Descriptive budget narrative (up to 10 additional pages). Upload as attachment to Project Narrative Attachment Form.	Required	10	PDF or Word	Budget_*ApplicantName*.pdf or .doc
	Budget spreadsheet. See optional budget spreadsheet provided with this NOFO on Grants.gov. Upload as attachment to Project Narrative Attachment Form.	Optional	N/A	Excel	Budgetcalcs_*ApplicantName*.xlsx
	Technical appendix. Explains the assumptions and methodology for determining the estimated GHG emission reductions for each measure; see Appendix C of NOFO. Upload as attachment to Project Narrative Attachment Form.	Required	10	PDF or Word	Techappx_*ApplicantName*.pdf or .doc
	GHG emission reduction calculations spreadsheet. Provides the GHG emission reduction calculations for each measure (no page limit); see Appendix C. Upload as attachment to Project Narrative Attachment Form.	Optional	N/A	Excel	GHGcalcs_*ApplicantName*.xlsx
	Other Attachments Form. The Other Attachments Form allows for multiple attachments to be uploaded. The following attachments should be attached to the Other Attachments Form:				
	Copy/copies of the applicable PCAP(s) serving as the basis for the application. Ensure filename indicates the relevant PCAP state, MSA, tribe, or territory. Upload as attachment to Other Attachments Form.	Required	N/A	PDF or Word	*NameofPCAP_ApplicantName*.pdf or .doc
	Letters of Intent are required from each eligible applicant participating as a member of a coalition application as described in Section III.A. Ensure filename provides an indication of the organization submitting the letter. Upload as attachment to Other Attachments Form.	Required for coalition applications	N/A	PDF or Word	Example: *CoalitionMemberName*_LOI_*ApplicantName*.pdf or .doc
	List of Climate and Economic Justice Screening Tool (CEJST) Census tract IDs or EPA's EJScreen Census block group IDs for each community that may be affected by a proposed measure in the application. Upload as attachment to Other Attachments Form.	Required	N/A	Excel	Areas_*ApplicantName*.xlsx

	Application Element	**Required or Optional**	**Page Limit**	**File Format**	**Filename**
	Team biographies. Resumes or curriculum vitae for key staff, managers, and any other key personnel. Upload as attachment to Other Attachments Form.	Optional	N/A	PDF or Word	Example: *LastName*_bio_ *ApplicantName*. pdf or .doc
	Letters of commitment. Letters that demonstrate strong, long-term involvement throughout the project from project partners. Upload as attachment to Other Attachments Form.	Optional	N/A	PDF or Word	Example: *EntityName*_LOC_*ApplicantName*.pdf or .doc

Appendix E. Guidelines for a Memorandum of Agreement for a Coalition

A Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) is not due at time of application, but the MOA signed by all members of a coalition must be provided to EPA before EPA will award any grant. Coalitions should plan on submitting their MOAs to EPA at CPRG@epa.gov by July 1, 2024. Failure to submit the MOA in a timely manner may impact EPA's ability to award the grant. The MOA provides documentation that the organizations have consulted with each other and are committed to fulfilling their respective roles and responsibilities to successfully implement the GHG reduction measures described in the application.

The following elements should be included in an MOA:

- List each partner agency committing to participate in the coalition.
- State the purpose of the MOA.
- Clearly describe the agreed upon roles, responsibilities, and commitments each partner will provide to ensure project success. The roles and responsibilities should align with overall project goals, objectives, and target outputs.
- Describe the proposed operating model for the coalition.
- Describe how the collaboration and partnerships associated with the coalition will benefit the project.
- Describe the resources each partner will contribute to the project. Such resources could include project management, staff time, technical analyses, in-kind contributions, training or facilitation, or other related services.
- Provide a statement that the lead applicant will be accountable to EPA and accepts full responsibility for effectively carrying out the full scope of work and the proper financial management of the grant.
- Provide a statement that other coalition members who are grant subrecipients will be accountable to the lead applicant for proper use of EPA funding and successful project implementation.
- The MOA must be signed by all coalition partners. Signatories must be officially authorized to sign on behalf of their agency or organization, and their signature should include title and agency name.