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

TITLE: **Community-Scale Air Toxics Ambient Monitoring**

ACTION: **Request for Proposals (RFP)**

RFP NUMBER: **EPA-OAR-OAQPS-17-03**

CATALOG OF FEDERAL DOMESTIC ASSISTANCE (CFDA) NO: 66.034

DATES: The closing date and time for receipt of proposal submissions, is **March 22, 2017, 11:59 p.m., Eastern Daylight Time (EDT)**. Proposal packages must be submitted electronically to EPA through Grants.gov (http://www.grants.gov) **by March 22, 2017, 11:59 p.m. EDT** in order to be considered for funding. Proposals received after the closing date and time will not be considered for funding.

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

FUNDING / AWARDS: The total estimated available funding for this competitive opportunity is approximately $4,000,000. EPA anticipates awarding approximately 10 - 15 assistance agreements from this announcement, subject to availability of funds, the quality of proposals received, and other applicable considerations.

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I. FUNDING OPPORTUNITY DESCRIPTION

A. Background

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

While the NATTS program is intended to gather and assess priority Hazardous Air Pollutant (HAP) data on a national scale, a primary objective of this solicitation is to identify and more accurately define the extent of local scale HAP impacts. To meet this objective, consideration of the National Air Toxics Assessment (NATA) in planning and executing the prospective projects is appropriate. NATA (https://www.epa.gov/national-air-toxics-assessment) is a valuable tool for identifying those air toxics which are of greatest potential concern, in terms of contribution to population risk. The assessment includes compiling a national emissions inventory of air toxics emissions from outdoor sources, estimating population exposures across the contiguous United States, and characterizing potential public health risk due to inhalation of air toxics including both cancer and non-cancer effects. On national and regional scales, NATA found ambient levels for several pollutants at or above inhalation health levels of concern to significant portions of the population. NATA results also indicate significant local risk levels at many communities nationwide. EPA is particularly interested in receiving air toxics monitoring related proposals from areas in those communities with the highest air toxics risk. Note, however, that for mobile sources NATA is best suited for use as an initial screen and, as feasible, could be supplemented by specific local indicators such as traffic intensity (e.g., motor vehicles per day, aircraft landings and takeoffs per year, etc.), proximity of receptors (e.g., residential areas, schools, etc.) to sources (e.g., major roads, airports, rail yards, etc.), and other similar relevant factors. Much of this type of information may be available through your state Department of Transportation. Effective January 2014, a number of near-road monitoring stations have been established to collect air pollution data in support of the NO2 National Ambient Air Quality Standard. These stations could potentially be leveraged with a project to collect air toxics data under this RFP.

B. Scope of Work

EPA is soliciting proposals for projects designed to assist state, local and tribal communities in identifying and profiling air toxics sources, characterizing the degree and extent of local-scale air toxics problems, tracking progress of air toxics reduction activities, and assessing emerging measurement methods. Tribal monitoring agencies are strongly encouraged to apply under this solicitation. These objectives are consistent with the EPA Administrator's stated priorities, found at http://www2.epa.gov/aboutepa/epas-themes-meeting-challenge-ahead .

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

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

a. Delineating local scale HAP concentration gradients that are driven by factors such as proximity to, and influence by, sources and other factors unique to particular communities. While gradient delineation is not a purpose unto itself, it may be an integral part of a larger purpose such as conducting an exposure assessment, source characterization, or assessing the degree to which environmental justice may be a relevant issue in the affected community.

b. Characterizing near-source concentrations from specific sources, such as transportation facilities, refineries, oil and gas facilities, small facilities, or other industry sectors. In particular, obtain information regarding substantially elevated ambient concentrations of toxics relevant to the source being investigated, including data on the pollutant profiles or source signatures. Such measurements assist regulators in their efforts to assess the impact of emission reduction measures (i.e., accountability) and to characterize risk and its causes for the most highly impacted populations.

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

d. Developing a baseline reference frame of air quality concentrations that support estimates of community exposure and provide the basis for the longer term measuring of progress of a planned emissions strategy program (e.g., characterization of base

concentration levels which will inform the Residual Risk assessment process (https://www.epa.gov/technical-air-pollution-resources) and provide a basis for measuring improvement for promulgated Residual Risk standards) or evaluation of potentially increased exposure to air toxics from a new facility, expanded facility capacity or other increase or change in local-scale toxics emissions.

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

2. Monitoring in the Near-road Environment. This category is intended to assist state, local and tribal agencies in assessing the degree and extent to which air toxics problems impact their respective communities in the near-road environment. As a result of the NO_2 NAAQS, a number of near-road monitoring stations began operations in January 2014. These stations could potentially be leveraged by a community-scale project under this RFP. Successful proposals will demonstrate a clear and compelling need or justification, similar to Category 1, but projects are required to be conducted in the near-road environment. Some examples may include, but are not limited to:

a. Delineating local scale HAP concentration gradients that are driven by factors such as proximity to roadways and influence by sources and other factors unique to particular communities. While gradient delineation is not a purpose unto itself, it may be an integral part of a larger purpose such as conducting an exposure assessment, source characterization, or assessing the degree to which environmental justice impacts may be a relevant issue in the affected community.

b. Characterizing near-road concentrations from mobile sources. Such measurements assist regulators in their efforts to assess the pollutant levels, their behavior and interaction in the Near-road environment, impact of emission reduction measures (e.g., accountability), and to characterize risk and its causes for highly impacted populations.

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

d. Developing a baseline reference frame of air quality concentrations that support estimates of near-road exposure and provide the basis for the longer term measuring of progress of a planned emissions strategy program or evaluation of potentially increased exposure to air toxics from the near-road environment or other increase or change in local-scale toxics emissions.

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

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

a. Assess new methods for sampling and analysis of select priority HAPs (i.e., those that emerged as national or regional drivers as a result of the 2011 National Air Toxics Assessment). HAPs for which methods work is most critical and are those which 1) account for a significant contribution to the National risk, and 2) often have either a) an existing method detection limit higher than the concentrations established for one in a million cancer risk or non-cancer hazard quotient of 0.1, b) uncertainties exceeding commonly accepted data quality limits, or c) onerous and/or unduly expensive sampling or analysis methodologies. Examples of pollutants which may meet some of these criteria include formaldehyde, acrolein, other polar compounds such as 1,3-butadiene, and naphthalene.

b. Evaluate available advanced HAP monitoring technologies that can potentially operate on a routine basis. The target result of such projects is to ascertain the cost-effectiveness and accuracy (i.e., practical value) of existing innovative monitors, samplers, or analytical methods. This also can include next generation air monitoring equipment such as low cost sensors and real time continuous monitoring equipment.

4. Analysis of Existing Data and Implementation/Development of Tools. This category is aimed at state, local and tribal agencies which have already collected a significant amount of air toxics monitoring data and need support to analyze and interpret their results via existing tools or developing new tools. The objectives of a data analysis project should be consistent with those listed under Community-Scale Monitoring: supporting health assessments, evaluating air quality models, or characterizing community exposures. For this category, applicants should also address the following topics described below so that the relevance and potential utility of the data analysis with existing tools or the development of new data analysis tools can be assessed. Data analysis tools developed under this program shall be made available for other agencies to use for their data analysis needs.

a. Description of the original and current project objectives – trends study, risk screening or assessment, source characterization, etc.; identify any differences and associated rationale.

b. Details regarding the HAP data to include but not limited to:

1) Target analytes (what HAPs were measured) and why (sources of concern, etc.).

2) Associated sampling and analysis methodologies employed; note any issues observed with either or both the sampling and/or analysis equipment.

3) Sample frequency and duration; for the latter, both per sample (i.e., two-minute grab samples versus 24-hour integrated samples), as well as monitoring record dates and length (e.g., one month, six months, one year, three years, etc.).

4) Number of samples collected, data quality issues (i.e., flagged or voided), etc.

5) Associated detection limits and data reporting practices (e.g., whether or not zeros or some fraction of the Method Detection Limit (MDL) were substituted for values below the MDL).

c. Indication of whether a Quality Assurance Project Plan was developed and approved for the collection of these data.

d. Explanation as to why the data were not analyzed prior to now.

e. Discussion on how results will be used now to address original monitoring study goals.

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

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

Air toxics data analysis guidance, to include suggestions and examples of various methodologies, is available at https://www3.epa.gov/ttn/amtic/local.html.

Additionally, areas with significant air toxics impacts that are also Environmental Justice communities are of particular interest and should be incorporated into an applicant's proposed project. Further information on EPA's Environmental Justice Program is available at

https://www.epa.gov/environmentaljustice. In particular, EPA's Office of Environmental Justice has developed "EJ Screen" (https://www.epa.gov/ejscreen) which serves to 1) provide a conceptual and substantive framework for understanding the Agency's environmental justice program, and 2) present a systematic approach with reference tools that can be used and adapted to assess and respond to potential allegations of environmental injustice. Also available for use in identifying potential environmental justice areas is a mapping tool which allows users to create maps and generate detailed reports based on the geographic areas and data sets they choose. EJ Screen includes data from multiple factors that may affect public and environmental health within a community or region, including demographic, health, environmental, and facility-level data.

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

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

Pursuant to Section 6a of EPA Order 5700.7, "Environmental Results under EPA Assistance Agreements," EPA must link proposed assistance agreements to the Agency's Strategic Plan. EPA also requires that grant applicants and recipients adequately describe environmental outputs and outcomes to be achieved under assistance agreements (see EPA Order 5700.7, Environmental Results under Assistance Agreements, http://www.epa.gov/sites/production/files/2015-03/documents/epa_order_5700_7a1.pdf)

1. Linkage to EPA Strategic Plan

All proposals must support progress towards EPA's 2014-2018 Strategic Plan Goal 1 "Addressing Climate Change and Improving Air Quality"; Objective 1.2: "Improve Air Quality", which states "achieve and maintain health- and welfare-based air pollution standards and reduce risk from toxic air pollutants and indoor air contaminants." Specifically, the proposed activities will support studies which advance the understanding of air toxics science, impacts, and mitigation approaches. Such studies will provide insights for developing strategies to reduce air toxics emissions and hazardous air pollutants that will have substantial environmental and human health benefits. These benefits may include reductions in ambient concentrations of air toxic pollutants thus reducing the potential for associated adverse health impacts.

Please read EPA's FY 2014-2018 Strategic Plan for more information.

2. Outputs

The term "output" means an environmental activity, effort, and/or associated work product related to an environmental goal and objective that will be produced or provided over a period of time or by a specified date. Outputs may be quantitative or qualitative but must be measurable

during an assistance agreement funding period.

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

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

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

3. Outcomes

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

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

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

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

> NOTE: each assistance agreement arising from this competition will be required to submit an interim final report and a final report, the latter to be submitted 6-9 months after the former. The interim final report will be provided by the grant recipient at the

conclusion of the project output phase and will include documentation regarding the degree to which the project output goals and objectives were met as well as a description of / prognosis for achieving the short- and mid-term project outcomes. The final report will include the material from the interim final and include documentation regarding the degree to which the short- and mid-term project outcomes were achieved as well as a description of / prognosis for achieving the mid- and long-term outcomes.

4. Performance Measures

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

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

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

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

D. Supplementary Information.

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

II. AWARD INFORMATION

A. What is the amount of funding available?

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

B. Partial Funding.

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

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

EPA anticipates award of approximately 10-15 assistance agreements under this announcement ranging in value from not less than $50,000 to not more than $750,000 (subject to the availability of funds, quality of evaluated proposals, and other applicable considerations). In addition, EPA reserves the right to make additional awards under this announcement, consistent with Agency policy, if additional funding becomes available after the original selections. Any additional selections for awards will be made no later than six months from the date of the original selections.

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

The estimated project period for awards resulting from this solicitation will begin in the summer/fall of 2017. Proposed project periods may be up to 3 years.

E. Funding Type

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

- Close monitoring of the successful applicant's performance to verify the results proposed by the applicant;
- Collaboration during performance of the scope of work;
- In accordance with 2 CFR 200.317 and 2 CFR 200.318, review of proposed procurement;
- Approving qualifications of key personnel (EPA will not select employees or contractors employed by the award recipient);
- Reviewing and commenting on reports prepared under the cooperative agreement (the final decision on the content of reports rests with the recipient).

III. ELIGIBILITY INFORMATION

A. Eligible Entities

Consistent with the Applicant Eligibility Section of CFDA 66.034, "Surveys, Studies, Research, Investigations, Demonstrations, and Special Purpose Activities Relating to the Clean Air Act" and the EPA's Assistance Agreement Competition Policy (EPA Order 5700.5A1), competition under this announcement is being limited to a subset of eligible applicants. Specifically, as projects resulting from this competition will be awarded exclusively with State and Tribal Assistance Grant (STAG) funds, the only entities eligible to submit applications under this announcement are air pollution control agencies, as defined by Section 302(b) of the Clean Air Act (CAA), that are also eligible to receive grants under section 105 of the Clean Air Act, and/or federally recognized tribes.

B. Cost Sharing or Matching

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

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

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

- A voluntary cost share is subject to the match provisions in the grant regulations 2 CFR Part 200, as applicable.
- A voluntary cost share may only be met with eligible and allowable costs.
- The recipient may not use other sources of federal funds to meet a voluntary cost share unless the statute authorizing the other federal funding provides that the federal funds may be used to meet a cost share requirement on a federal grant.
- The recipient is legally obligated to meet any proposed voluntary cost share that is included in the approved project budget. If the proposed voluntary cost share does not materialize during grant performance, then EPA may reconsider the legitimacy of the award and take other appropriate action as authorized by 2 CFR Part 200 as applicable.

Other leveraged funding/resources that are not identified as a voluntary cost share is another form of leveraging that may be met by funding from another federal grant, from an applicant's own resources, or resources from other third party sources. This form of leveraging should not be included in the budget and the costs need not be eligible and allowable project costs under the EPA assistance agreement. While this form of leveraging should not be included in the budget, the grant work-plan should include a statement indicating that the applicant is expected to produce the proposed leveraging consistent with the terms of the announcement and the applicant's proposal. If applicants propose to provide this form of leveraging, EPA expects them to make the effort to secure the leveraged resources described in their proposals. If the proposed leveraging does not materialize during grant performance, then EPA may reconsider the legitimacy of the award and take other appropriate action as authorized by 2 CFR Part 200 as applicable.

C. Threshold Eligibility Criteria

These are requirements that if not met by the time of proposal submission will result in elimination of the proposal from consideration for funding. Only proposals from eligible entities (see above) that meet all of these criteria will be evaluated against the ranking factors in Section V of this announcement.

Applicants deemed ineligible for funding consideration as a result of the threshold eligibility review will be notified within 15 calendar days of the ineligibility determination.

1. **Proposal Content and Submission**
   a. Proposals must substantially comply with the proposal submission instructions and content requirements set forth in Section IV and Appendix A of this RFP or else they will not be reviewed.
   b. Where a page limit is expressed in Section IV of this RFP with respect to the Project Narrative, pages in excess of the page limitation will not be reviewed.
   c. In addition, initial proposals must be submitted through www.grants.gov as stated in Section IV of this announcement (except in the limited circumstances where another mode of submission is specifically allowed for as explained in Section IV) on or before the proposal submission deadline published in Section IV of this announcement. Applicants are responsible for following the submission instructions in Section IV of this announcement to ensure that their proposal is timely submitted.
   d. Proposals submitted after the submission deadline will be considered late and deemed ineligible without further consideration unless the applicant can clearly demonstrate that it was late due to EPA mishandling or because of technical problems associated with Grants.gov or relevant SAM.gov system issues. An applicant's failure to timely submit their proposal through Grants.gov because they did not timely or properly register in SAM.gov or Grants.gov will not be considered an acceptable reason to consider a late submission. Applicants should confirm receipt of their proposal with Laurie Trinca as soon as possible after the submission deadline—failure to do so may result in your proposal not being reviewed.
2. All proposals must support EPA's Strategic Plan Goal 1, Addressing Climate Change and Improving Air Quality' (see Section I.C.1).

3. The minimum and maximum award values for assistance agreements arising from this competition will be $50,000 and $750,000, respectively. Proposals requesting funding below the minimum or above the maximum will not be considered for funding.

4. Applicants must address **only** one of the four categories listed in Section I.B.

5. Only eligible entities as described in section III. Part A are eligible to apply for funding under this RFP.

6. If a proposal is submitted which includes ineligible tasks or activities, that portion of the proposal will be ineligible for funding, and depending on the extent to which it affects the proposal, may render the entire proposal ineligible for funding.

IV. PROPOSAL AND SUBMISSION INFORMATION

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

Applicants, except as noted below, must apply electronically through Grants.gov under this funding opportunity based on the grants.gov instructions in this announcement and Appendix A. If an applicant does not have the technical capability to apply electronically through grants.gov because of limited or no internet access which prevents them from being able to upload the required proposal materials to Grants.gov, the applicant must contact OGDWaivers@epa.gov or the address listed below in writing (e.g., by hard copy, email) *at least 15 calendar days prior to the submission deadline under this announcement* to request approval to submit their proposal materials through an alternate method.

Mailing Address:
OGD Waivers
c/o Barbara Perkins
USEPA Headquarters
William Jefferson Clinton Building
1200 Pennsylvania Ave., N. W.
Mail Code: 3903R
Washington, DC 20460

Courier Address:
OGD Waivers
c/o Barbara Perkins
Ronald Reagan Building
1300 Pennsylvania Ave., N.W.
Rm # 51267
Washington, DC 20004

In the request, the applicant must include the following information:

- Funding Opportunity Number (FON)
- Organization Name and DUNS
- Organization's Contact Information (email address and phone number)
- Explanation of how they lack the technical capability to apply electronically through Grants.gov because of 1) limited internet access or 2) no internet access which prevents them from being able to upload the required application materials through www.Grants.gov.

EPA will only consider alternate submission exception requests based on the two reasons stated above and will timely respond to the request -- all other requests will be denied. If an alternate submission method is approved, the applicant will receive documentation of this approval and further instructions on how to apply under this announcement. Applicants will be required to submit the documentation of approval with any initial application submitted under the alternative method. In addition, any submittal through an alternative method must comply with all applicable requirements and deadlines in the announcement including the submission deadline and requirements regarding proposal content and page

limits (although the documentation of approval of an alternate submission method will not count against any page limits).

If an exception is granted, it is valid for submissions to EPA for the remainder of the entire calendar year in which the exception was approved and can be used to justify alternative submission methods for proposal submissions made through December 31 of the calendar year in which the exception was approved (e.g., if the exception was approved on March 1, 2015, it is valid for any competitive or non-competitive proposal submission to EPA through December 31, 2015). Applicants need only request an exception once in a calendar year and all exceptions will expire on December 31 of that calendar year. Applicants must request a new exception from required electronic submission through Grants.gov for submissions for any succeeding calendar year. For example, if there is a competitive opportunity issued on December 1, 2015 with a submission deadline of January 15, 2016, the applicant would need a new exception to submit through alternative methods beginning January 1, 2016.

Please note that the process described in this section is only for requesting alternate submission methods. All other inquiries about this announcement must be directed to the Agency Contact listed in Section VII of the announcement. Queries or requests submitted to the email address identified above for any reason other than to request an alternate submission method will not be acknowledged or answered.

B. Grants.gov Application Submission Instructions (see Appendix A.)

Your organization's authorized official representative (AOR) must submit your complete proposal electronically to EPA through Grants.gov (http://www.grants.gov) no later than **March 22, 2017, 11:59 pm Eastern Daylight Time**.

C. Content of Proposal Submission

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

- **Standard Form (SF) 424, Application for Federal Assistance**
  Complete the form.

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

- **Standard Form (SF) 424A, Budget Information**
  Complete the form.

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

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

a. Project Title
b. Applicant Information. Include applicant (organization) name, address, contact person, phone number, fax and e-mail address.
c. Funding Requested. Specify the amount you are requesting from EPA.
d. Total Project Cost. Specify total cost of the project. Identify funding from other sources, including cost share or in-kind resources.
e. Project period. Provide beginning and ending dates. (Projects are anticipated to begin by the fall of 2017 and end no later than fall 2020.)
f. DUNS number - See Section VI.C.

2. Narrative Proposal Work-Plan

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

a. Basis and Rationale

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

Provide a clear and compelling rationale / justification for the proposed project (e.g., 2011 NATA results for the affected location, discussion of local HAP sources, previous local-area ambient air monitoring data and/or studies, risk assessments, etc.). Make a case for your project in terms of local impacts, and discuss how your particular local situation / scenario and project could have relevance to locales / areas beyond your own.

b. Technical Approach

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

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

c. Data Analysis

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

d. Environmental Justice Impacts

Demonstrate how the proposed project will address the needs and concerns, in particular how it will help to reduce exposure and adverse impacts of toxic air pollutants for the EJ community under consideration, of (1) local communities, including any communities or populations that have faced or are facing environmental justice concerns (as defined in Section I) and/or (2) other interested parties, groups, or populations that are, or have been, affected by the environmental and/or other issues that the project is intended to address. Demonstrate how you will engage and work with community-based organizations (as defined in Section I of this announcement) and other appropriate parties to enhance project effectiveness and/or efficiency including your plans for making subawards, as necessary and appropriate, to community-based organizations and others to enhance project effectiveness and/or efficiency. Applicants, not EPA, select their subawardees and the Applicant must demonstrate in its proposal that the community-based organization(s) or other groups are willing to accept the subaward and have the capacity to effectively administer and perform the agreement. Selected applicants who propose to make subawards, including those to community-based groups, must follow proper procedures in making subawards and will be expected to make the subawards consistent with their application. The award will include a term and condition requiring the applicant to make the subawards consistent with their application.

e. Community Collaboration / Outreach

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

f. Environmental Results: Outcomes, Outputs, Performance Measures

Identify the expected quantitative and qualitative outcomes and outputs of the project (see Section I.C), including what performance measurements or other

means will be used to track and measure your progress towards achieving the expected outcomes and outputs, and how the results of the project will be evaluated.

g. Programmatic Capability and Past Performance

Submit a list of federally funded assistance agreements (assistance agreements include Federal grants and cooperative agreements but not Federal contracts) similar in size, scope and relevance to the proposed project that your organization performed within the last three years (no more than five agreements, and preferably EPA agreements) and describe (i) whether, and how, you were able to successfully complete and manage those agreements and (ii) your history of meeting the reporting requirements under those agreements including whether you adequately and timely reported on your progress towards achieving the expected outputs and outcomes of those agreements (and if not, explain why not) and whether you submitted acceptable final technical reports under the agreements. In evaluating applicants under these factors in Section V, EPA will consider the information provided by the applicant and may also consider relevant information from other sources, including information from EPA files and from current/prior grantors (e.g., to verify and/or supplement the information provided by the applicant). If you do not have any relevant or available past performance or reporting information, please indicate this in the proposal and you will receive a neutral score for these factors (a neutral score is half of the total points available in a subset of possible points). If you do not provide any response for these items, you may receive a score of 0 for these factors.

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

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

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

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

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

j. Expenditure of Awarded Grant Funds

Demonstrate your approach, procedures, and controls for ensuring that awarded grant funds will be expended in a timely and efficient manner.

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

a. Biographical Sketch. Provide resumes or curriculum vitae for all principal investigators and any other key personnel.
b. Negotiated Indirect Cost Rate Agreement.
c. Quality Assurance Narrative Statement.
d. Support Letters-These should indicate how the supporting organization will assist in the project.

D. Submission Dates and Times

The closing date and time for receipt of proposal submissions is **March 22, 2017 by 11:59 p.m. Eastern Daylight Time (EDT)**. Proposals received or submitted electronically after the closing date and time will not be considered for funding.

E. Additional Provisions For Applicants Incorporated Into The Solicitation

Additional provisions that apply to this solicitation and/or awards made under this solicitation, including but not limited to those related to confidential business information, contracts and subawards under grants, and proposal assistance and communications, can be found at http://www2.epa.gov/grants/epa-solicitation-clauses . These, and the other provisions that can be found at the website link, are important, and applicants must review them when preparing proposals for this solicitation. If you are unable to

access these provisions electronically at the website above, please communicate with the EPA contact listed in this solicitation to obtain the provisions.

V. APPLICATION REVIEW INFORMATION

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

A. Evaluation Criteria

Criteria	Points
1. <u>Basis and Rationale</u>: Under this criterion, the Agency will evaluate the quality and extent to which the applicant **(7 pts)** describes the particular situation the proposed project is intended to address, and the degree to which it relates to the relevant scenario(s) identified in Section I, Part B, and **(8 pts)** provides a clear and compelling rationale / justification for the proposed project (e.g., 2011 NATA results for the affected location, discussion of local HAP sources, previous local ambient air monitoring data and/or studies, risk assessments, etc.).	**15**
2. <u>Technical Approach</u>: Under this criterion, the Agency will evaluate the quality and extent to which the applicant describes **(7 pts)** the project objectives and explains how those objectives will address the specific scenario, and this factor is hard to distinguish w/ the above one (1a) **(8 pts)** the proposed project plan / design, and how that project plan will enable achieving the stated project objectives.	**15**
3. <u>Data Analysis</u>: Under this criterion, applicants will be evaluated based on how well they describe their data analysis plan, including information on how the project design will support the data analysis objective(s), and how the data analysis will be used. Potential data analysis includes source apportionment / source signature identification, exposure assessment / risk characterization, evaluation of new or emerging monitoring method utility and practical value, model evaluation and improvement, risk mitigation efforts, tool implementation or development, etc.	**10**
4. <u>Environmental Justice Impacts</u>: Under this criterion, proposals will be evaluated based on the extent to which the project will result in outcomes and results that benefit communities affected by the project, including improvements to human health and the	**10**

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

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

B. Review and Selection Process

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

Official based on this ranking.

C. Other Factors

Final funding decisions will be made by the Approving Official based on the rankings and preliminary recommendations of the EPA evaluation team. In making the final funding decisions, the Approving Official may also consider programmatic priorities and geographic diversity of funds. Once final decisions have been made, a funding recommendation will be developed and forwarded to the EPA Award Official.

D. Additional Provisions For Applicants Incorporated Into the Solicitation

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

VI. AWARD ADMINISTRATION INFORMATION

A. Award Notices

Following evaluation of proposals, all applicants will be notified regarding their status. EPA anticipates notification to successful applicants will be made via telephone, email or postal mail approximately 60 – 75 days after the announcement has closed. The notification will be sent to the original signer of the Standard Form (SF) 424, Proposal for Federal Assistance. Such notifications will advise the applicant that its proposed project has been successfully evaluated and *recommended* for award, but does *not authorize* the applicant to begin performance.

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

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

B. Administrative and National Policy Requirement

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

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

C. Reporting Requirement

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

D. Disputes

Assistance agreement competition-related disputes will be resolved in accordance with the dispute resolution procedures published in 70 FR (Federal Register) 3629, 3630 (January 26, 2005) which can be found at http://www2.epa.gov/grants/dispute-resolution-procedures. Copies of these procedures may also be requested by contacting the person listed in Section VII of the announcement.

E. Additional Provisions For Applicants Incorporated Into The Solicitation

Additional provisions that apply to this solicitation and/or awards made under this solicitation, including but not limited to those related to DUNS, SAM, copyrights, disputes, and administrative capability, can be found at http://www2.epa.gov/grants/epa-solicitation-clauses.These, and the other provisions that can be found at the website link, are important, and applicants must review them when preparing proposals for this solicitation. If you are unable to access these provisions electronically at the website above, please communicate with the EPA contact listed in this solicitation to obtain the provisions.

VII. AGENCY CONTACTS

For further information, contact:

Attn : Laurie Trinca
US EPA (Mail Code: C304-06)
AQAD/AAMG
Research Triangle Park NC 27711

Phone: (919) 541-0520
Trinca.laurie@epa.gov

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

VIII. Other Information (Appendices)

Appendix A. Grants.gov Submission Instructions

Grants.gov Proposal/Application Instructions

The electronic submission of your application must be made by an official representative of your institution who is registered with Grants.gov and is authorized to sign applications for Federal assistance. For more information on the registration requirements that must be completed in order to submit an application through grants.gov, go to http://www.grants.gov and click on "Applicants" on the top of the page and then go to the "Get Registered" link on the page. If your organization is not currently registered with Grants.gov, please encourage your office to designate an Authorized Organization Representative (AOR) and ask that individual to begin the registration process as soon as possible. Please note that the registration process also requires that your organization have a DUNS number and a current registration with the System for Award Management (SAM) and the process of obtaining both could take a month or more. Applicants must ensure that all registration requirements are met in order to apply for this opportunity through grants.gov and should ensure that all such requirements have been met well in advance of the submission deadline. Registration on grants.gov, SAM.gov, and DUNS number assignment is FREE.

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

To begin the application process under this grant announcement, go to http://www.grants.gov and click on "Applicants" on the top of the page and then "Apply for Grants" from the dropdown menu and then follow the instructions accordingly. Please note: To apply through grants.gov, you must use Adobe

Reader software and download the compatible Adobe Reader version. For more information about Adobe Reader, to verify compatibility, or to download the free software, please visit http://www.grants.gov/web/grants/support/technical-support/software/adobe-reader-compatibility.html.

You may also be able to access the application package for this announcement by searching for the opportunity on http://www.grants.gov. Go to http://www.grants.gov and then click on "Search Grants" at the top of the page and enter the Funding Opportunity Number, EPA-OAR-OAQPS-17-02, or CFDA 66.034, in the appropriate field and click the Search button. Alternatively, you may be able to access the application package by clicking on the "Package" button at the top right of the synopsis page for the announcement on http://www.grants.gov. To find the synopsis page, go tohttp://www.grants.gov and click "Browse Agencies" in the middle of the page and then go to "Environmental Protection Agency" to find the EPA funding opportunities.

Please note that Grants.gov is strongly encouraging users to sign up for and use their "Workspace" feature when applying for opportunities. Grants.gov will be phasing out the "legacy" application process, so EPA recommends that all applicants begin using Workspace as soon as possible so they are prepared when the "legacy" application process is no longer available.

Application Submission Deadline: Your organization's AOR must submit your complete application package electronically to EPA through Grants.gov (http://www.grants.gov) no later than March 22, 2017. Please allow for enough time to successfully submit your application process and allow for unexpected errors that may require you to resubmit.

Please submit all of the application materials described below using the grants.gov application package that you downloaded using the instructions above. For additional instructions on completing and submitting the electronic application package, click on the "Show Instructions" tab that is accessible within the application package itself.

Proposal/Application Materials

The following forms and documents are required under this announcement:

Mandatory Documents:

1. Application for Federal Assistance (SF-424)
2. Budget Information for Non-Construction Programs (SF-424A)
3. Narrative Proposal (Project Narrative Attachment Form) prepared as described in Section IV.C of the announcement

Optional Documents:

4. Other Attachment form - Biographical Sketch. Provide resumes or curriculum vitae for all principal investigators and any other key personnel.
5. Other Attachments form - Negotiated Indirect Cost Rate Agreement.
6. Other Attachments form - Quality Assurance Narrative Statement.

7. Other Attachments form - Support Letters - These should indicate how the supporting organization will assist in the project.

Applications submitted through grants.gov will be time and date stamped electronically.

If you have not received a confirmation of receipt from EPA (not from grants.gov) within 30 days of the application deadline, please contact Laurie Trinca, at (919) 541-0520. Failure to do so may result in your application not being reviewed.

Technical Issues With Submission

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

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

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

3. Transmission Difficulties. If transmission difficulties that result in a late transmission, no transmission, or rejection of the transmitted application are experienced, and following the above instructions do not resolve the problem so that the application is submitted to www.Grants.Gov by the deadline date and time, follow the guidance below. The Agency will make a decision concerning acceptance of each late submission on a case-by-case basis. All emails, as described below, are to be sent to Laurie Trinca with the FON in the subject line. If you are unable to email, contact Laurie Trinca at (919) 541-0520. Be aware that EPA will only consider accepting applications that were unable to transmit due to www.Grants.gov or relevant www.Sam.gov system issues or for unforeseen exigent circumstances, such as extreme weather interfering with internet access. Failure of an applicant to submit timely because they did not properly or timely register in SAM.gov or Grants.gov is not an acceptable reason to justify acceptance of a late submittal.

a. If you are experiencing problems resulting in an inability to upload the application to Grants.gov, it is essential to call www.Grants.gov for assistance at 1-800-518-4726 before the application deadline.

Applicants who are outside the U.S. at the time of submittal and are not able to access the toll-free number may reach a Grants.gov representative by calling 606-545-5035. Be sure to obtain a case number from Grants.gov. If the problems stem from unforeseen exigent circumstances unrelated to Grants.gov, such as extreme weather interfering with internet access, contact Laurie Trinca at (919) 541-0520.

b. Unsuccessful transfer of the application package: If a successful transfer of the application cannot be accomplished even with assistance from Grants.gov due to electronic submission system issues or unforeseen exigent circumstances, send an email message to trinca.laurie@epa.gov prior to the application deadline. The email message must document the problem and include the Grants.gov case number as well as the entire application in PDF format as an attachment.

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

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

Proposal Submission Deadline: Your organization's AOR must submit your complete proposal package electronically to EPA through Grants.gov (http://www.grants.gov) no later than March 22, 2017.

Appendix B. Budget Sample

Budget Detail

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

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

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

- **Personnel - List all staff positions by title. Give annual salary, percentage of time assigned to the project, and total cost for the budget period.** This category includes only direct costs for the salaries of those individuals who will perform work directly for the project (generally, paid employees of the applicant organization). If the applicant organization is including staff time (in-kind services) as a cost share, this should be included as Personnel costs. Personnel costs do not include: (1) costs for services of consultants, contractors, consortia members, or other partner organizations, which are included in the "Contractual" category; (2) costs for employees of subrecipients under subawards, which are included in the "Other" category; or (3) effort that is nor directly in support of the proposed project, which may be covered by the organization's negotiated indirect cost rate. The budget detail must identify the personnel category type by Full Time Equivalent (FTE), including percentage of FTE for part-time employees, number of personnel proposed for each category, and the estimated funding amounts.

- **Fringe Benefits - Identify the percentage used, the basis for its computation, and the types of benefits included**. Fringe benefits are allowances and services provided by employers to their employees as compensation in addition to regular salaries and wages. Fringe benefits include, but are not limited to the cost of leave, employee insurance, pensions and unemployment benefit plans.

- **Travel - Specify the mileage, per diem, estimated number of trips in-State and out-of-State, number of travelers, and other costs for each type of travel.** Travel may be integral to the purpose of the proposed project (e.g. inspections) or related to proposed project activities (e.g. attendance at meetings). Travel costs do not include: (1) costs for travel of consultants, contractors, consortia members, or other partner organizations, which are included in the "Contractual" category; (2) travel costs for employees of subrecipients under subawards, which are included in the "Other" category.

- **Equipment - Identify each item to be purchased which has an estimated acquisition cost of $5,000 or more per unit and a useful life of more than one year.** Equipment also includes accessories necessary to make the equipment operational. Equipment does not include: (1) equipment planned to be leased/rented, including lease/purchase agreement; or (2) equipment service or maintenance contracts. These types of proposed costs should be included in the "Other" category. Items with a unit cost of less than $5,000 should be categorized as supplies, pursuant to 2 CFR Part 200. The budget detail must include an itemized listing of all equipment proposed under the project.

- **Supplies - "Supplies" means all tangible personal property other than "equipment".** The budget detail should identify categories of supplies to be procured (e.g., laboratory supplies or office supplies). Non-tangible goods and services associated with supplies, such as printing service, photocopy services, and rental costs should be included in the "Other" category.

- **Contractual - Identify each proposed contract and specify its purpose and estimated cost.** Contractual/consultant services are those services to be carried out by an individual or organization, other than the applicant, in the form of a procurement relationship. Leased or rented goods (equipment or supplies) should be included in the "Other" category. The applicant should list the proposed contract activities along with a brief description of the scope of work or services to be

provided, proposed duration, and proposed procurement method (competitive or non-competitive), if known.

- **Other - List each item in sufficient detail for EPA to determine the reasonableness and allowability of its cost.** This category should include only those types of direct costs that do not fit in any of the other budget categories. Examples of costs that may be in this category are: insurance, rental/lease of equipment or supplies, equipment service or maintenance contracts, printing or photocopying, rebates, and subaward costs. Subawards (e.g., subgrants) are a distinct type of cost under this category. The term "subaward" means an award of financial assistance (money or property) by any legal agreement made by the recipient to an eligible subrecipient. This term does not include procurement purchases, technical assistance in the form of services instead of money, or other assistance in the form of revenue sharing, loans, loan guarantees, interest subsidies, insurance, or direct appropriations. Subcontracts are not subawards and belong in the contractual category. Applicants must provide the aggregate amount they propose to issue as subaward work and a description of the types of activities to be supported.

- **Indirect Charges - If indirect charges are budgeted, indicate the approved rate and base.** Indirect costs are those incurred by the grantee for a common or joint purpose that benefit more than one cost objective or project, and are not readily assignable to specific cost objectives or projects as a direct cost. In order for indirect costs to be allowable, the applicant must have a federal or state negotiated indirect cost rate (e.g., fixed, predetermined, final or provisional), or must have submitted a proposal to the cognizant Federal or State agency. Examples of Indirect Cost Rate calculations are shown below:
    - Personnel (Indirect Rate x Personnel = Indirect Costs)
    - Personnel and Fringe (Indirect Rate x Personnel & Fringe = Indirect Costs)
    - Total Direct Costs (Indirect Rate x Total direct costs = Indirect Costs)
    - Direct Costs minus distorting or other factors such as contracts and equipment (Indirect Rate x (total direct cost – distorting factors) = Indirect Costs)

Example Budget Table

	EPA Funding	**Cost-Share
Personnel		
(1) Project Manager @ $40/hr x 10 hrs/week x 52 wks		$20,800
(3) Project Staff @ $25/hr x 40 hrs/week x 40 wks	$120,000	
TOTAL PERSONNEL	$120,000	$20,800
Fringe Benefits		
20% of Salary and Wages	20%(120,000)	20%(20,800)
- Retirement, Health Benefits, FICA, SUI	$24,000	$4,160
TOTAL FRINGE BENEFITS	$24,000	$4,160
Travel		

Travel for Project Manager and staff: 500 mi/mo @ $0.55/mi x 12 mos.	$3,300	
TOTAL TRAVEL	$3,300	
Equipment		
TOTAL EQUIPMENT	0	
Supplies		
Office and related supplies to support training	$10,000	
TOTAL SUPPLIES	$10,000	
Contractual		
Support Services Contract	$20,000	
TOTAL CONTRACTUAL	$20,000	
Other		
TOTAL OTHER	$0	
Indirect Charges		
Federal Negotiated Indirect Cost Rate = 10% (Indirect Rate x Personnel = Indirect Costs)	$12,000	
TOTAL INDIRECT	$12,000	
TOTAL FUNDING	(fed) $189,300	(non-fed)$24,960
TOTAL PROJECT COST (federal and non-federal)	**$214,260**	

** Cost-Share funds, while not required under this RFP, must also be included on the SF-424A as detailed in Section III.B of this RFA.

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