USDA APHIS American Rescue Plan: SARS-CoV-2 in Animals Tribal Funding Opportunity

Fiscal Year 2023 Funding Opportunity Announcement

Funding Opportunity Number: USDA-APHIS-10025-OA000000-23-0003

Publication Date: November 1, 2022

Application Due Date: February 3, 2023, at 11:59 PM Eastern Standard Time

Funding Opportunity: USDA APHIS American Rescue Plan: SARS-CoV-2 in Animals Tribal Funding Opportunity

The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) is announcing the availability of up to $5,000,000 in cooperative funding to carry out the animal health provision as described in Section 1001 of the American Rescue Plan Act during the November 1, 2022-February 3, 2023, open period. Through this provision, APHIS will provide funds to Tribes, Tribal Organizations, and organizations working on their behalf to address gaps in surveillance of SARS-CoV-2 in animals, determine susceptibility of target species to SARS-CoV-2, understand transmission mechanisms in different animals, develop and optimize SARS-CoV-2 diagnostics and surveillance strategies for multiple species, and develop prevention and intervention strategies.

Additional details about this funding opportunity, including additional information for applicants, are available on the APHIS One Health Funding Opportunity web page: https://www.aphis.usda.gov/aphis/ourfocus/onehealth/funding-opportunities.

SYNOPSIS

Funding Opportunity Title: USDA APHIS American Rescue Plan: SARS-CoV-2 in Animals Tribal Funding Opportunity

Funding Opportunity Number: USDA-APHIS-10025-OA000000-23-0003

Funding Type: Cooperative Agreements

Assistance Listing Number and Title: 10.025, Plant and Animal Disease, Pest Control and Animal Care

Application Due Date: Applications must be received by February 3, 2023, at 11:59 PM Eastern Standard Time. Applications received after this deadline will not be considered for funding. Please note that submissions through Grants.gov or other platforms not approved within this publication will not be accepted.

Funding Opportunity Description: The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), Animal Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) is announcing the availability of up to $5,000,000 in funds provided by the American Rescue Plan to Tribes, Tribal Nations, and organizations working on their behalf to support projects in the priority areas below.

1. **Address gaps in surveillance and investigation activities for SARS-CoV-2 in animals, including farmed animals, captive wildlife, free-ranging wildlife, and companion animals.**
2. **Expand knowledge of species susceptibility to SARS-CoV-2 to improve understanding of potential roles or routes of transmission.**
3. **Develop surveillance tools and strategies for the rapid detection and characterization of new variants of SARS-CoV-2 to support an early warning system to prevent or limit future SARS-CoV-2 outbreaks.**
4. **Identify effective interventions, and other measures to prevent transmission of SARS-CoV-2 at the human-animal interface and/or impacts to the food supply.**

Eligible Applicants: The following entities are eligible for funding through this opportunity:

or organizations working on behalf of Tribes or Tribal organizations including: academic institutions, non-profit organizations, or individuals.

Cost Sharing: Allowed, not required.

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A. PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

Awarding Agency Name: United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS)

Funding Opportunity Title: USDA APHIS American Rescue Plan: SARS-CoV-2 in Animals Tribal Funding Opportunity

Announcement Type: Initial Announcement

Funding Opportunity Number: USDA-APHIS-10025-OA000000-23-0003

Assistance Listing Number: 10.025

Key Dates: Proposals **must be** received through ezFedGrants by February 3, 2023, at 11:59 PM Eastern Standard Time. Proposals received after this deadline will not be reviewed or considered for funding. Other forms of submission will not be accepted or considered.

The agreement performance period is estimated to begin on or before March 30, 2023, and should end no later than twenty-four months after the start date.

Applicants can find information about the funding opportunity on ezFedGrants or Grants.gov by searching the Assistance Listing number **10.025,** or the Funding Opportunity Number **USDA-APHIS-10025-OA000000-23-0003**. Information is also available on the APHIS One Health Funding Opportunity web page: https://www.aphis.usda.gov/aphis/ourfocus/onehealth/funding-opportunities.

A.1 FUNDING OPPORTUNITY DESCRIPTION

This funding opportunity is provided to carry out the animal health provision as described in Section 1001 of the American Rescue Plan Act (ARP). Through this provision, APHIS will provide funds to Tribes, Tribal Nations, and organizations working on their behalf to address gaps in surveillance of SARS-CoV-2 in animals, determine susceptibility of target species to SARS-CoV-2, understand transmission mechanisms in different animals, develop and optimize SARS-CoV-2 diagnostics and surveillance

strategies for multiple species, and develop prevention and intervention strategies. Additional details about this funding opportunity, including additional information for applicants, are available on the APHIS One Health Funding Opportunity web page:
https://www.aphis.usda.gov/aphis/ourfocus/onehealth/funding-opportunities

APHIS will make available up to $5,000,000 in funds to support SARS-CoV-2 in Animals Tribal Funding Opportunity projects in 2023. In this funding opportunity, APHIS is seeking proposals for projects that address the funding priority topics described in Section A.2. Funds will be awarded to eligible entities described in Section C.

An eligible applicant may submit multiple proposals for this funding opportunity, requesting up to $1,000,000 per proposal for SARS-CoV-2 in Animals Tribal Funding Opportunity activities. Applicants who wish to submit multiple proposals must submit each proposal as a separate proposal package.

Eligible applicants can also apply for funding under the competitive Funding Opportunity Announcement below; however, approved projects may only receive funding from a single funding opportunity.

Funding Opportunity Number: USDA-APHIS-10025-OA000000-23-0001

Funding Opportunity Title: *USDA APHIS American Rescue Plan: SARS-CoV-2 in Animals*

A.2 FUNDING PRIORITIES

APHIS will consider project proposals that clearly and directly support one of the animal health topics described below.

SARS-CoV-2 in Animals Tribal Funding Opportunity Priority Topics:

1. **Address gaps in surveillance and investigation activities for SARS-CoV-2 in animals, including farmed animals, captive wildlife, free-ranging wildlife, and companion animals.**

Rationale: Detection of SARS-CoV-2 in animals through proactive surveillance and case investigations is crucial to understanding which animal species are being infected with the virus, have the potential for becoming reservoirs, and could potentially generate new strains that could be transmitted back to humans. Although there are several SARS-CoV-2 surveillance activities currently being conducted, opportunities exist to build on these by targeting species groups that have received little to no attention.

Surveillance activities should focus on SARS-CoV-2 presence and absence, apparent prevalence, and the presence of variants. These data will be used to develop a targeted surveillance strategy for future efforts. The scale and scope of any surveillance efforts are limited to the United States of America.

Definitions:

1. Farmed animals: animals that are commonly raised or kept in an agricultural or commercial enterprise for purposes of breeding, animal by-products, or work. Examples include but are not limited to farmed cervids, cattle, and backyard livestock.
2. Captive wildlife: wild animals kept in zoological, sanctuary, rehabilitation facilities, or similar settings.

3. Free-ranging wildlife: For the purposes of this funding opportunity, free-ranging native, introduced, or domesticated animal species, that are not under human confinement or husbandry.
4. Companion animals: Any animal that has commonly been kept as a pet in family households in the United States. Examples include guinea pigs, rabbits, hamsters, domestic dogs, domestic cats, other mustelids, and rodents.

Examples of proposals that will be considered under this priority include, but are not limited to projects that:

- Develop, expand, improve, or implement sample collection methodologies and training approaches, including safe handling, processing, and release, for animals potentially or known to be infected with SARS-CoV-2.
- Work to support or enhance standardized case definitions for zoonotic animal diseases or a national animal disease reporting database.
- Develop decision support tools, including new models or software based on existing data, for the design and prioritization of animal health surveillance that increases quality, reporting, and transparency.
- Develop, expand, improve, or implement effective survey methodologies for detection of SARS-CoV-2 in known susceptible animal populations or ecologically adjacent species, such as native felids, mustelids, rodents, and bats.
- Use surveillance or epidemiologic approaches to investigate novel outbreaks of known SARS-CoV-2 infections among susceptible species. Examples include: free-ranging wildlife such as Mustelidae and Cervidae, or wildlife that inhabit human houses and structures such as Chiroptera.

2. Expand knowledge of species susceptibility to SARS-CoV-2 to improve understanding of potential roles or routes of transmission.

Rationale: Investigating which species are susceptible to SARS-CoV-2 infection, identifying transmission pathways of SARS-CoV-2 within and between species, and characterizing infection dynamics within individuals are important for risk assessment, surveillance design, interpretation of surveillance data, and planning response.

Examples of proposals that will be considered in this area include but are not limited to:

- Experimental infection studies to quantify susceptibility, infectious dose, and/or shedding of SARS-CoV-2 variants in animal hosts by different transmission routes.
- Identifying and quantifying the risk of different transmission pathways within and among species, including free-roaming, captive, companion animal, or livestock settings, or at the human-animal interface.
- Inferring susceptibility of different North American animal host species to SARS-CoV-2 variants through computational or empirical receptor (ACE2 or other receptors) binding studies.
- Deep mutational scanning and phenotypic evaluation of potential SARS-CoV-2 variants, or other techniques that evaluate the mutational fitness landscape of currently circulating SARS-CoV-2 diversity to assess risk of new emergence events in animals.

- Identifying molecular markers for susceptibility of different animal species to variants of SARS-CoV-2 and/or species-specific or virulence markers, including those found in animals that could affect humans.
- Determining the risk of SARS-CoV-2 infection in exotic companion animals (pets) such as ferrets, hedgehogs, rodents, certain birds, or other species that have not been well investigated.

3. Develop surveillance tools and strategies for the rapid detection and characterization of new variants of SARS-CoV-2 to support an early warning system to prevent or limit future SARS-CoV-2 outbreaks.

Rationale: The ability to rapidly detect and characterize variants of SARS-CoV-2 in animals is needed to support surveillance programs that can provide early warning of potential SARS-CoV-2 outbreaks. Surveillance tools and strategies to survey under-sampled animal populations for SARS-CoV-2 will be important for inclusion into early warning systems.

Examples of proposals that will be considered in this area include, but are not limited to projects that:

- Design, develop, and validate novel diagnostic tools that fill substantial gaps in current diagnostics, not limited to molecular or immunological assays, to detect and identify emerging and re-emerging SARS-CoV-2 variants in target animal species. (Note: projects that develop assays without a validation framework will not be considered).
- Implement next generation sequencing technologies for sequencing and characterization of SARS-CoV-2.
- Develop, curate, and create accessibility to a genomic database that includes sequences of existing and potentially emerging SARS-CoV-2 variants.
- Develop predictive models for rapidly assessing whether newly detected SARS-CoV-2 variants could infect animals and circulate in animal populations.
- Integrate SARS-CoV-2 detection and diagnostic tools in surveillance of animal disease outbreaks to detect both current and previous SARS-CoV-2 infections.
- Evaluate cost-efficient and alternative diagnostic methods (e.g., detector dogs) for detection of SARS-CoV-2 at the human-animal interface (including but not limited to points of travel, venues, zoos, fairs, wildlife facilities, ranches, and slaughterhouses).
- Develop, improve, or expand existing early warning systems and/or tools.

Note: Proposals that include development of new PCR primers or antibody tests purely to increase the diversity of assays as the main objective will not be considered.

4. Identify effective interventions, and other measures to prevent transmission of SARS-CoV-2 at the human-animal interface and/or impacts to the food supply.

Rationale: Identifying effective interventions based on knowledge of SARS-CoV-2 transmission pathways to and from humans, animal species, and the environment is important for protecting human and animal health and preventing impacts to the food supply. Implementing effective intervention measures will mitigate the impact of SARS-CoV-2 by preventing virus spread at the human-animal interface in various locations in the food supply chain.

Examples of proposals that will be considered in this area include, but are not limited to projects that:

- Incorporate field testing of management intervention strategies to reduce contact rates between humans and wildlife.
- Identify optimal management strategies of SARS-CoV-2 transmission at the wildlife-livestock or human-animal interfaces using modeling or empirical approaches.
- Investigate behavioral science/social science aspects of risk, interventions, and prevention measures.
- Develop predictive models for managing and mitigating the spread of SARS-CoV-2 in susceptible animal populations.
- Identify methods to prevent transmission of SARS-CoV-2 from humans to animals and animals to humans that may impact the food supply. This includes but is not limited to projects that identify risks and/or interventions that prevent SARS-CoV-2 transmission between animals and between animals and humans in food processing facilities.
- Develop effective barriers to transmission in captive wildlife facilities (such as cervid ranches), animal rehabilitation facilities, auctions, exhibitions, or in other facilities with susceptible species.
- Identify SARS-CoV-2 geographic hotspots and animal management practices within hotspots.
- Identify movement and contact tracing at the human-animal interface.
- Evaluate preventative measures and treatment options for SARS-CoV-2.
- Evaluate vaccines and methods to evaluate cross-protection of vaccines against variants.

A.3 OTHER FUNDING CONSIDERATIONS

Each proposal should describe how the project will leverage existing resources through partnerships with local, State, and/or Federal government agencies, Native American tribal governments and Native American tribal organizations representing Native American tribal governments, industry organizations, professional associations, producer groups, and/or non-profit organizations with direct and significant interest in the control or prevention of SARS-CoV-2 in animals. Successful projects will meet the evaluation criteria described in Section E.1.

Applicants should describe the anticipated involvement by APHIS personnel needed to complete the proposed activities in the Work Plan and Financial Plan (excluding personnel to administer or oversee the cooperative agreement). APHIS intends to collaborate with recipients when requested to successfully complete activities funded via this opportunity; however, due to the limited availability of personnel, APHIS encourages proposals that are not contingent on APHIS participation where possible, unless that participation was agreed upon during the development of the proposal.

A.4 ALIGNMENT WITH USDA & APHIS GOALS AND THE STRATEGIC FRAMEWORK

The mission of USDA is to protect and promote food, agriculture, natural resources, and related issues. This funding opportunity supports the overall mission of USDA and specifically supports the following USDA Strategic Goals:

USDA Strategic Goal 2: Ensure America's Agricultural System is Equitable, Resilient, and Prosperous

Objective 2.1: Protect Plant and Animal Health by Minimizing Major Diseases, Pests, and Wildlife Conflicts

Tactic: Develop a science-based policy framework for how to best identify and address zoonotic disease challenges in livestock and other farmed animals, through pilot projects for surveillance of SARS-CoV-2 in farmed wildlife and evaluation of policy alternatives

The mission of APHIS is to protect the health and value of American agriculture and natural resources. APHIS works in a variety of ways to protect and improve the health and quality of our nation's animals by taking steps to prevent, control, and eliminate those diseases and conditions facing animals today.

This funding opportunity supports the overall mission of APHIS and specifically supports the following USDA APHIS Strategic Goals:

USDA APHIS Strategic Goal 2: Safeguard American agriculture.

Objective 2.2: Manage plant and animal pests and diseases once established in the United States to promote plant and animal health.

Tactic: Collaborate with State and Federal agencies, Tribal nations, universities, nongovernmental organizations, and private entities to develop approaches that take advantage of best management and husbandry practices to minimize the damage and spread of plant and animal diseases.

Objective 2.6: Provide and coordinate timely diagnostic laboratory support and services.

Tactic: Provide leadership and coordinate with other partners on diagnostic techniques, assays, and new technologies including scientific computing to support greater use of genomics and bioinformatics.

This funding opportunity supports funding Congress provided to USDA under the American Rescue Act Plan of 2021 to conduct monitoring and surveillance of susceptible animal species for incidence of SARS-CoV-2 and APHIS' Strategic Framework to guide surveillance of SARS-CoV-2 and other emerging and zoonotic diseases in susceptible animals and build an early warning system to alert public health partners to potential threats so they can take steps sooner to prevent or limit the next global pandemic. Specifically, the funding opportunity supports the following strategies within APHIS' Strategic Framework:

APHIS' Strategic Framework Goal: Conduct thorough surveillance of SARS-CoV-2 in susceptible animals by building an early warning system to alert public health partners to take steps sooner to potentially prevent or limit the next zoonotic disease outbreak or the next global pandemic.

Strategy 1.1. Improve our understanding of susceptibility, transmission, and disease processes to plan effective prevention, surveillance, and response activities

Strategy 2.1: Strengthen measures for preventing emerging and zoonotic diseases at the human-animal environment interfaces.

A.5 LEGISLATIVE AUTHORITY

Under the American Rescue Act Plan of 2021 (ARP) (7 USC §§ 7501 et. seq.), the Secretary of Agriculture is authorized to conduct monitoring and surveillance of susceptible animals for incidence of SARS-CoV-2.

Pursuant to 7 USC § 2279 (g) and, notwithstanding Chapter 63 of Title 31, APHIS is authorized to use cooperative agreements to reflect a relationship with a state or other recipient to carry out programs to

protect the nation's animal and plant resources or to carry out educational programs or special studies to improve the safety of the nation's food supply.

Under the Animal Health Protection Act (AHPA), as amended, (7 USC § 8301 et seq.), the Secretary of Agriculture is authorized to issue regulations and orders and to carry out operations and measures to prevent, detect, control, and eradicate diseases and pests of livestock and to cooperate with other Federal agencies, States or political subdivisions of States, national governments of foreign countries, local governments of foreign countries, domestic or international organizations, domestic or international associations, Indian Tribes, and other persons to carry out the purposes of the AHPA.

Under the Animal Damage Control Act of March 2, 1931, (46 Stat. 1468-69; 7 USC §§ 8351-8352, as amended), and the Act of December 22, 1987 (Public Law No. 100-202, §101(k), 101 Stat. 1329-331, 7 USC § 8353), the Secretary of Agriculture may conduct a program of wildlife services with respect to injurious animal species and take any action the Secretary considers necessary in conducting the program. Additionally, the Secretary of Agriculture, except for urban rodent control, is authorized to conduct activities to control nuisance mammals and birds and those mammal and bird species that are reservoirs for zoonotic diseases. In carrying out a program of wildlife services involving injurious and/or nuisance animal species or involving mammal and bird species that are reservoirs for zoonotic diseases, the Secretary is authorized to cooperate with States, local jurisdictions, individuals, public and private agencies, organizations, and institutions.

Under the Animal Welfare Act (AWA) (7 USC §§ 2131 et. seq.), the Secretary is authorized to assure humane treatment and care for animals intended for use as pets, research, and exhibition and to cooperate with the officials of the various states or political subdivisions thereof in carrying out the purposes of this Act and of any State, local or municipal legislation or ordinance on the same subject.

B. FEDERAL AWARD INFORMATION

Total Amount to be Awarded: APHIS anticipates awarding up to $5,000,000 in funds to support projects that address the funding priorities described in Section A.2. There is no commitment by USDA to fund any application or to make any Federal award as a result of this announcement.

Type of Assistance Instrument: Awards will be funded via cooperative agreements. Cooperative agreements include substantial involvement by APHIS to assist in the completion of the goals and objectives of the work and the cooperator will work closely with an APHIS subject matter expert.

Anticipated Awards: APHIS anticipates awarding around ten cooperative agreements and the amount awarded will be up to $1,000,000 each.

Anticipated Award Start Date: APHIS anticipates that work covered under these agreements will start by March 30, 2023, but flexibility may be allowed to accommodate specific project needs.

Period of Performance: Projects must be completed within twenty-four months. Funding will not be allowed, nor activities approved to occur, either before or after the period of performance.

Competitive Process: This is a competitive funding opportunity. Proposals will be evaluated by a team of reviewers who will recommend proposals for funding based on the merits of the proposal as outlined in Section E.2. Recipients are not pre-determined. Final funding decisions are at the discretion of APHIS.

Based on reviewer recommendations, APHIS may award less than the requested amount of funds for a project. In these cases, applicants may accept or decline the award that is offered. If applicants accept a reduced funding level, applicants will submit a revised application package that addresses reviewer concerns and aligns with the award amount. APHIS will work with the applicant to develop final work and financial plans based on the actual funding level.

Cost Sharing: Allowed, but not required.

Unawarded Funds: If APHIS does not award all available funding through this opportunity, APHIS may consider leveraging remaining funds to identify and address barriers for Tribes and Tribal Organizations and provide additional training and outreach to assist applicants with any future funding opportunities that may arise.

B.1 COST GUIDANCE

Each applicant must submit a detailed Financial Plan that provides sufficient information to determine the costs for each of the proposed activities and objectives.

All APHIS awards are subject to the terms and conditions, cost principles, allowable and unallowable costs, direct and indirect costs, cost share and matching, and other considerations as described and defined in: 2 CFR Subpart E, Cost Principles – General Provisions for Selected Items of Cost.

Allowable costs must be reasonable, allocable, and necessary to the project. Office of Management and Budget cost principles (2 CFR Subpart E) must be used to determine whether a cost can be charged to the project and, if so, the extent to which it can be charged.

Allowable uses of cooperative agreement funds include, but are not limited to, activities, equipment, supplies, and services needed to complete approved program activities that support the funding priorities and considerations described in Section A.2. This may include:

- *Equipment.* The Federal definition of equipment is tangible personal property (including information technology systems) having a useful life of more than one year and a per unit value of $5,000 or more unless the applicant's definition of equipment is more restrictive.
- *Information technology systems.* Work Plans that include a cumulative request for Information Technology of $25,000 or more require additional USDA IT review. Information Technology is any equipment, interconnected system(s), or subsystem(s) of equipment that is used in the automatic acquisition, storage, manipulation, management, movement, control, display, switching, interchange, transmission, or reception of data or information by an Agency. The term "information technology" includes, but is not limited to, computers, network and ancillary equipment, software, firmware, and similar procedures, services (including support services), and related resources. Refer to 2 CFR Part 200.1for additional information.
- *Outreach materials.* Whenever possible, existing publications or audiovisuals, referred to as outreach materials, should be used. Awarded funds may be used for outreach materials, as needed to complete approved projects that support the program priorities. This may include developing, distributing, and delivering educational materials or content such as videos, website, pamphlets, fliers, fact sheets, publications, and other print and media. A draft of any publications or audiovisuals produced with Cooperative Agreement funds for public use must be reviewed and approved by APHIS and the Office of Legislative and Public Affairs. A determination will be made if the USDA logo may be used and if APHIS' participation in the project may be acknowledged. Please allow a minimum of four weeks for review and approval

of materials (brochures, pamphlets, flyers, posters, etc.). **NOTE:** Approval must be obtained prior to printing. Refer to page 12 of the General Terms and Conditions for APHIS Cooperative Agreements and Grants, Publication and Audiovisuals article for more information.

- *Personnel.* APHIS will allow costs for salaries and wages provided the total compensation to individual employees is reasonable for the work performed, conforms to the established policy of the organization, and is consistently applied to Government and nongovernmental activities.
- *Travel.* Funds may be requested for field work, and other travel costs associated with the proposed work. Funds may be requested for trainings, and attendance at meetings and conferences located within the United States and its Territories. Recipients should follow their organization's written travel policies when calculating travel costs.

Project funds must be obligated by the recipient during the performance period identified in the Award Face Sheet. Reimbursement of costs outside of the performance period identified in the Award Face Sheet will not be reimbursed.

Funds **may NOT be used** for the following:

- Costs incurred prior to the effective date of the agreement.
- Construction of a new building or facility, or the acquisition or expansion of an existing building or facility, including site grading, improvement, and architect fees.
- Land acquisition.
- Promotional or thank-you materials, incentives to participate, or similar costs unallowable by OMB cost principles (2 CFR Subpart E – Cost Principles General Provisions for Selected Items of Cost). This includes giveaway items such as calendars, rulers, pens, pencils, squishy balls, cups, refreshments, etc.
- Entertainment costs, regardless of their apparent relationship to project objectives.
- Bonuses or commissions.
- Management fees and profit.
- Fundraising.
- Meeting, conference, symposia, or workshop honoraria, which is payment to individuals or guests other than for documented professional services.
- Vehicle purchases or leases.
- Positions (salaries and benefits) fully or partially funded by other Federal cooperative agreements or grants cannot cumulatively exceed 100%
- International travel for conferences, symposia, or trainings.
- Projects or activities associated with APHIS-State-Industry cooperative program activities already funded via USDA APHIS annual cooperative agreements.
- Compensation for Federal employees. Salary payments, consulting fees, or other renumeration of full-time Federal employees are unallowable costs.
- Travel for Federal Employees.
- Federal subawards.

Nothing in this section prevents an eligible applicant from using funds received to enter into sub-agreements with another eligible applicant, University, or nonprofit entity or to reimburse a state or local agency for services rendered, such as testing.

In accordance with the Office of Management and Budget's guidance located at 2 CFR part 200, all applicable Federal laws, and relevant Executive guidance, the Federal awarding agency will review and consider applications for funding pursuant to this notice of funding opportunity in accordance with the:

- Guidance for Grants and Agreements in Title 2 of the Code of Federal Regulations (2 CFR), as updated in the Federal Register's 85 FR 49506 on August 13, 2020, particularly on:
    - Selecting recipients most likely to be successful in delivering results based on the program objectives through an objective process of evaluating Federal award applications (2 CFR part 200.205),
    - Prohibiting the purchase of certain telecommunication and video surveillance services or equipment in alignment with Section 889 of the National Defense Authorization Act of 2019 (Pub. L. No. 115—232) (2 CFR part 200.216),
    - Promoting the freedom of speech and religious liberty in alignment with *Promoting Free Speech and Religious Liberty* (E.O. 13798) and *Improving Free Inquiry, Transparency, and Accountability at Colleges and Universities* (E.O. 13864) (§§ 200.300, 200.303, 200.339, and 200.341),
    - Providing a preference, to the extent permitted by law, to maximize use of goods, products, and materials produced in the United States (2 CFR part 200.322), and
    - Terminating agreements in whole or in part to the greatest extent authorized by law if an award no longer effectuates the program goals or agency priorities (2 CFR part 200.340).

C. ELIGIBILITY INFORMATION

C.1 ELIGIBLE APPLICANTS

The following entities are eligible for funding through this opportunity:

Cooperators within U.S. States and territories, including:

- Native American tribal governments (Federally recognized)
- Native American tribal organizations (other than Federally recognized tribal governments)
- Individuals – working on behalf of a Tribe or Tribal Organization.
- Nonprofits having a 501 (c) (3) status with the IRS, other than institutions of higher education – working on behalf of a Tribe or Tribal Organization.
- Nonprofits that do not have a 501 (c) (3) status with IRS, other than institutions of higher education– working on behalf of a Tribe or Tribal Organization.
- Private institutions of higher education – working on behalf of a Tribe or Tribal Organization.
- Public and State controlled institutions of higher education – working on behalf of a Tribe or Tribal Organization.
- University – working on behalf of a Tribe or Tribal Organization

C.2 COST SHARING OR MATCHING

Cost sharing and matching is defined in 2 CFR Part 200.1 as a "portion of the project costs not paid by Federal funds or contributions (unless otherwise authorized by Federal statute)." For additional information on cost share please reference 2 CFR Part 200.306.

Cost sharing or matching is not required but is allowed for this funding opportunity. The ability to provide cost sharing or matching will not impact evaluation and ranking of proposals.

If applicable, applicants should describe cost-share or in-kind funding for the project. Once the cooperative agreement is accepted and finalized, the cost share becomes legally binding, and the recipient will be required to meet the cost share ratio. If an applicant includes contributions as part of a cost share in their budget proposal and it is accepted by APHIS, the commitment of funds becomes legally binding, must be reported on the SF-425, and is subject to audit.

C.3 OTHER CRITERIA FOR ELIGIBILITY

All applicant organizations must have at least two users registered in ezFedGrants, a Grants Administrative Officer and a Signatory Official, in order to successfully submit a proposal package. This system will be used for all stages of the funding opportunity process, including submitting the proposal package, signing the cooperative agreement, and submitting reports.

Applicants will be checked against the System for Award Management (SAM) to ensure they have not been disbarred or suspended, proposed for debarment, declared ineligible, or voluntarily excluded from covered transactions by any Federal department or agency. See Section D.3.

C.4 ADMINISTRATIVE ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

Proposal packages must meet these initial screening criteria to be considered for further review. Proposals that do not meet these criteria may not be considered. Applicants should refer to Appendix 1: SARS-CoV-2 in Animals Criteria for a full list of both the Administrative Eligibility Criteria and the Evaluation Criteria for this opportunity.

1. Proposals must be received by the deadline. Proposals received after the established deadline will not be reviewed or considered.
2. Proposals must be submitted by eligible entities.
3. Proposals should address at least one of the funding priorities described in Section A.2.
4. All required documents and forms listed in Section D.2 must (a) be included in the proposal package and (b) comply with the submission instructions described in Section D. Any proposal package with missing or significantly incomplete documents or forms will not be considered for review, resulting in a rejected proposal.
5. Proposals must be consistent with allowable use of funds guidance. Proposals that do not align with the cost guidance described in Section B.1 of this announcement will not be considered for review, resulting in a rejected proposal.

D. PROPOSAL AND SUBMISSION INFORMATION

An eligible applicant may submit multiple proposals for this funding opportunity, requesting up to $1,000,000 per proposal. Applicants who submit more than one proposal must submit each proposal as a separate proposal package.

Multiple proposals from a single eligible applicant may be selected for funding with the applicant receiving a total award greater than $1,000,000, provided the additional awarded proposal(s) is significantly superior in reviewer scoring when ranked against other proposal packages.

Applicants should refer to Appendix 2: SARS-CoV-2 in Animals Tribal Funding Opportunity Proposal Checklist and Tips for initial steps to take when developing a proposal.

D.1 OBTAINING A PROPOSAL PACKAGE

Applicants can find all application materials on the ezFedGrants website or the Grants.gov website by searching Assistance Listing number **10.025**, or Funding Opportunity Number **USDA-APHIS-10025-OA000000-23-0003**. Information is also available on the APHIS One Health Funding Opportunity web page: https://www.aphis.usda.gov/aphis/ourfocus/onehealth/funding-opportunities

If assistance is needed with locating application materials, please reach out to APHIS.ARP.Agreements@usda.gov at least 72 hours prior to the application deadline.

D.2 CONTENT AND FORM OF THE PROPOSAL PACKAGE

The proposal package must include the following:

- ☐ SARS-CoV-2 Proposal Work Plan (see Appendix 3: SARS-CoV-2 Tribal)
- ☐ SARS-CoV-2 Proposal Financial Plan (see Appendix 4: SARS-CoV-2 Tribal Opportunity Proposal Financial Plan Template)
- ☐ SF-424, "Application for Federal Assistance" – Completed when applying to the Opportunity in ezFedGrants
- ☐ SF-424A, "Budget Information – Non-Construction Programs" that matches the submitted Financial Plan – Completed when applying to the Opportunity in ezFedGrants
- ☐ Certification Regarding Lobbying (for Federal Assistance greater than $100,000)
- ☐ SF-LLL, "Disclosure of Lobbying Activities" (for Federal Assistance greater than $100,000 when there are activities to disclose)
- ☐ A signed copy of the current Negotiated Indirect Cost Rate Agreement (NICRA must be attached to the Application in ezFedGrants if indirect costs are assessed).
- ☐ If applicable, States that are required to comply with Executive Order 12372, Intergovernmental Review of Federal Programs will need to include a waiver or approval response letter from the State's Single Point of Contact (SPOC). Check the State SPOC List for the most current list of required States.

Applicants should refer to Appendix 2: SARS-CoV-2 Tribal Funding Opportunity Proposal Checklist and Tips when preparing a proposal package for submission. Any proposal package with missing or significantly incomplete documents or forms will not be considered for review, resulting in a rejected proposal.

Letters of support may be helpful for some types of projects for the applicant to demonstrate their ability to achieve the proposal objectives, but are not required. Letters of support will be considered in the review process.

Project Proposal Work Plan

Applicants must submit a project proposal Work Plan and include all of the information outlined in the SARS-CoV-2 Proposal Work Plan Template available in Appendix 3: SARS-CoV-2 Tribal Funding Opportunity Proposal Work Plan Template. Applicants are strongly encouraged, but not required, to use the SARS-CoV-2 Tribal Funding Opportunity Proposal Work Plan Template. Work Plans using this template may not exceed twenty pages in 12-point font. Work Plans that do not use the template may not exceed ten pages in 12-point font and must include all of the information requested in the template in their Work Plan. The use of diagrams, visuals, and reference sheets, as well as any letters of collaboration from contributors, will not count toward these limitations.

Work Plans should address at least one of the funding priorities described in Section A.2. Applicants are encouraged to submit separate proposals for each funding priority provided the objectives or activities are not dependent on all proposals being selected for funding. Submitting separate projects in a single proposal may result in an activity that would have scored high enough to be funded individually not scoring well due to another activity in the proposal scoring poorly or being unacceptable. If multiple funding priorities are addressed within a single Work Plan, applicants should specify which funding priority is addressed for each objective.

Project Proposal Financial Plan

Applicants must submit a project proposal Financial Plan that clearly identifies the costs associated with the proposed activities for each objective listed in the Work Plan and include all of the information outlined in the SARS-CoV-2 Proposal Financial Plan Template available in Appendix 4: SARS-CoV-2 Tribal Funding Opportunity Proposal Financial Plan Template. Applicants are encouraged, but not required, to use the SARS-CoV-2 Tribal Funding Opportunity Proposal Financial Plan Template. Financial Plans must match and provide additional details on the information provided in the required SF-424A submitted through ezFedGrants.

When preparing a Financial Plan, applicants must comply with the cost guidance and funding restrictions described in Section B.1.

D.3 UNIQUE ENTITY IDENTIFIER AND SYSTEM FOR AWARD MANAGEMENT (SAM)

All applicants are required to register in the System for Award Management (SAM) prior to submitting an application and continue to maintain an active SAM registration with current information at all times during the application process and throughout the award period of performance (2 CFR Part 200.206).[1] To register, go to the SAM website. Please allow two weeks to complete the SAM registration. It is recommended to register as soon as possible to prevent delays in the application process. Registration is free. Frequently Asked Questions, User Guides, Demonstration Videos, and other resources can be found on the SAM website, under the "Help" tab.

[1] Unless the applicant is an individual or Federal awarding agency that is excepted from those requirements under 2 CFR 25.110(b) or (c), or has an exception approved by the Federal awarding agency under 2 CFR 25.110(d).

During the SAM registration process, be sure to complete the Marketing Partner ID (MPIN) and Electronic Business Primary Point of Contact fields during the registration process. These are mandatory fields that are required when submitting grant applications. During the SAM registration process, it is mandatory to complete the Financial Assistance Certification Report to receive Federal financial assistance.

When creating a SAM account, it may take up to two weeks before the account appears in Federal systems. Applicants who are not already registered in SAM are encouraged to complete this task as soon as possible. Additional instructions are available in Appendix 2: SARS-CoV-2 Tribal Funding Opportunity Proposal Checklist and Tips.

During the application package review process, APHIS will conduct a risk assessment. All applicants will be verified in SAM to ensure they have not been disbarred or suspended, proposed for debarment, declared ineligible, or voluntarily excluded from covered transactions by any Federal department or agency. APHIS may not make a Federal award to an applicant until the applicant has complied with all applicable unique entity identifier and SAM requirements. If an applicant has not fully complied with the requirements, APHIS may determine that the applicant is not qualified to receive a Federal award and use that determination as a basis for making a Federal award to another applicant.

When the anticipated total Federal share exceeds the simplified acquisition threshold, APHIS is required to review and consider any information about the applicant that is in the designated integrity and performance system accessible through SAM before issuing the award. An applicant, if desired, may review and comment on any information about their organization that a Federal awarding agency previously entered and is currently in the designated integrity and performance systems accessible through SAM. APHIS will consider any comments provided by the applicant, in addition to the other information in the designated integrity and performance system, in making a judgment about the applicant's integrity, business ethics, and record of performance under Federal awards when completing the risk assessment.

D.4 SUBMISSION DATES AND TIMES

The closing date and time for receipt of proposal submissions is **February 3, 2023, 11:59 PM Eastern Standard Time.** Proposals received after the submission deadline will not be considered.

Applicants must submit all application materials electronically using ezFedGrants. We urge applicants to submit their application early.

- To submit an application in ezFedGrants, applicants must have a USDA eAuthentication Account and an ezFedGrants Account. Applicants who do not already have these are encouraged to create the accounts as soon as possible. Additional instructions on these activities are available on the APHIS One Health Funding Opportunity web page: https://www.aphis.usda.gov/aphis/ourfocus/onehealth/funding-opportunities.
- ezFedGrants will not permit applicants to submit an application package after the deadline of **February 3, 2023, 11:59 PM Eastern Standard Time**. Late application packages cannot be accepted or considered.
- Non-Federal entities must submit applications electronically through the ezFedGrants system only. No emailed or hard copy application packages will be accepted from non-Federal entities.

- Applicants who encounter problems with the ezFedGrants application process may contact APHIS.ARP.Agreements@usda.gov at least 72 hours before the deadline for additional assistance with submitting an application package.

All applications must be complete and submitted by the deadline without exception.

We understand unanticipated issues can arise; therefore, we urge applicants to submit their application package early to allow time to address any complications. If you are experiencing technical difficulties, please reach out to APHIS.ARP.Agreements@usda.gov at least 72 hours prior to the deadline for assistance. Any proposal package with missing or significantly incomplete documents or forms will not be considered for review, resulting in a rejected proposal.

Applicants should refer to Appendix 2: SARS-CoV-2 Tribal Funding Opportunity Proposal Checklist and Tips to ensure that all documents are included prior to submission of the proposal package.

D.5 INTERGOVERNMENTAL REVIEW

The Intergovernmental Review Process (CFDA 10.025) is subject to Executive Order 12372, "Intergovernmental Review of Federal Programs" in the States or Territories of: American Samoa, Arkansas, California, Delaware, District of Columbia, Iowa (State Agencies only), Kentucky, Maryland, Missouri, Nevada (private and non-profits only), New Hampshire, Puerto Rico, Utah (State Agencies only), Virgin Islands, and West Virginia. Awards will not be made until this process has been completed in the applicable states. Names and addresses of States' Single Point of Contact (SPOC) are listed at: https://www.aphis.usda.gov/mrpbs/fmd/downloads/spoc_list.pdf . For those applicants that have this process in their state, submit your application to the SPOC simultaneously to submitting to APHIS. Failure to meet this requirement will result in a rejection of your application. A copy of the SPOC waiver or approval letter will be required at the time the award is made.

D.6 FUNDING RESTRICTIONS

Project funds are only available during the period of performance and must be obligated by the recipient within twenty-four months from the date the funds are made available by APHIS (the beginning date of the period of performance on the Award Face Sheet) unless otherwise stated in the Award Face Sheet. Any expenses prior to the beginning date or after the end date of the period of performance will not be reimbursed. Construction is not authorized.

APHIS will not support activities under this opportunity that are already funded by a Federal award.

Applicants may not use resources provided by the USDA APHIS National Veterinary Stockpile to complete their projects.

Please refer to the cost guidance in Section B.1 for additional information on funding restrictions and limitations.

Indirect Costs

Indirect costs are negotiated by the recipient and their cognizant agency (2 CFR Part 200.19). The cognizant agency is the Federal agency that provides the most Federal funds to the recipient. The result of this negotiation is a Negotiated Indirect Cost Rate Agreement (NICRA). A signed NICRA must be attached to the Application in ezFedGrants if indirect costs are assessed.

Indirect costs for any sub-award must be disclosed.

Non-profit recipients that do not have a current NICRA may elect to charge a de minimis rate of 10% of modified total direct costs pursuant to 2 CFR Part 200.414 (f). No documentation is required to justify this rate. A statement must be included in the work and financial plan if the recipient decides to charge less than the NICRA or elect the de minimis rate.

For profit recipients must follow the allowable cost and payment regulations in Federal Acquisition Regulation, C.F.R. Title 48, Part 52.216-7

D.7 OTHER SUBMISSION REQUIREMENTS

Only electronic submissions of proposals through ezFedGrants will be accepted. Other forms of submission will not be accepted or considered. Hard copy proposals and submissions through Grants.gov will not be accepted. APHIS complies with Section 508 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973.

Applicants experiencing technical difficulties should reach out to APHIS.ARP.Agreements@usda.gov at least 72 hours prior to the application deadline of February 3, 2023, 11:59 PM Eastern Standard Time for assistance. Proposals received after the deadline will not be reviewed or considered.

Applicants must describe support needed from APHIS personnel to accomplish their project. This includes participation by APHIS personnel in events associated with the project or services to be provided by APHIS subject matter experts to complete the project; it does not include APHIS' support to manage and advise on the project.

Letters of support are helpful for some types of projects and may be included in the application package, but are not required. Applicants should not request letters of support from APHIS employees; APHIS will solicit input from internal experts during the review process. If included, letters of support should be uploaded separately from the Work Plan as attachments in the ezFedGrants system or as a separate attachment in Federal entity email submission.

E. APPLICATION REVIEW INFORMATION

APHIS is responsible for approving ARP funded projects. This is a competitive funding opportunity. Applications that meet the threshold eligibility criteria in Section C will compete for available funds with all other eligible applications submitted in response to this funding opportunity announcement.

E.1 EVALUATION CRITERIA

APHIS will use the following criteria to evaluate proposals during the review process. Applicants should consider these criteria when preparing the proposal package. Applicants should refer to Appendix 1: SARS-CoV-2 Tribal Funding Opportunity Criteria for a full list of both the Administrative Eligibility Criteria and the Evaluation Criteria for this opportunity. **NOTE:** Proposed activities must align with current Federal, State, and Tribal regulations.

Evaluation Criteria

1. **Addresses the priorities and requirements in the announcement.** This criterion assesses the extent to which the proposal strongly supports and clearly addresses one or more of the priority areas described in Section A.
    a. **Strong and direct support for at least one of the funding priorities.** This criterion assesses the extent to which the proposed activities directly address a concern identified in at least one of the funding priorities, as well as the extent to which the expected outcomes and deliverables will strongly support the funding priority area of concern.
2. **Feasibility of success.** This criterion assesses the extent to which the proposal is likely to successfully produce the expected outcomes and deliverables based on key factors, such as a well-organized and sound approach, a reasonable schedule, appropriate partnerships and collaborations, and the applicant's skills, knowledge, and experiences.
    a. **Plan of action.** This criterion assesses the extent to which the Work Plan and Financial Plan lay out a plan of action that is logical, well organized, complete, and likely to successfully produce the expected outcomes and deliverables. The approach must be explained in sufficient detail for the reader to understand what activities will be performed, how they will be conducted, and what will be produced.
    b. **Proposed work and methods.** This criterion assesses the extent to which the proposed work is technically sound. The proposed methods should be supported by current scientific knowledge and, in the case of management proposals, relevant experience supporting the proposed activities. References, including unpublished data from previous actions, should be included to support the proposed methods or approach.
    c. **Adequate budget.** This criterion assesses the extent to which the budget is realistic, adequate, and sufficient to successfully produce the outcomes and deliverables described in the proposal.
    d. **Reasonable schedule.** This criterion assesses whether the project schedule allows an appropriate amount of time for completing all proposed activities in a 24-month performance period, including but not limited to considering a reasonable amount of time to complete each activity, the competing time commitments of stakeholders who are critical to project completion, and other risks that may cause schedule delays.
    e. **Partnerships and collaboration.** This criterion assesses the extent to which the proposal identifies and describes the partnerships and collaborations necessary to successfully produce the expected outcomes and deliverables. It also considers the likelihood the project will develop and strengthen relationships that are likely to foster progress in the funding priority area or related areas.

f. **Skills, knowledge, and experience**. This criterion considers the extent to which the key persons who will carry out the project have the qualifications, skills, abilities, experiences, and infrastructure (facilities and equipment) to successfully conduct the proposed activities and produce successful outcomes and deliverables.

3. **Impact and value of outcomes.** This criterion assesses the extent to which the expected outcomes and deliverables are likely to have measurable and significant impact and value in the funding priority area, and how well the project implements equity considerations.

    a. **Scope of impact.** This criterion assesses whether the project will create an impact at:
        i. State, regional, national, or other geographic levels; or,
        ii. For one stakeholder interest group or many.

    b. **Value of outcomes.** This criterion assesses the likelihood the project will produce outcomes and deliverables that are high value with respect to positively impacting the funding priority area.

    c. **Knowledge transfer.** This criterion assesses the extent to which the outcomes and deliverables are likely to be used by other groups and stakeholders, either by replicating the activity in other regions or by using the information to support policies and decisions. Proposals should indicate how the applicant will share the project outcomes and deliverables so other entities can make use of them.

    d. **Considering equity**. This criterion considers the extent to which the proposal defines and operationalizes equity in implementation to ensure engagement and involvement with underserved communities**Error! Bookmark not defined.** as defined in Section A.3.

4. **Cost Effectiveness.** This criterion assesses the extent to which the proposal identifies a cost-effective approach to produce the desired outcomes and deliverables as compared to alternatives.

    a. **All costs are reasonable and necessary.** This criterion assesses the extent to which the Financial Plan is clear, logical, and includes only reasonable and necessary costs to produce the expected outcomes and deliverables. It also assesses the extent to which the Financial Plan provides sufficient detail for reviewers to fully understand how each budget item specifically supports the activities outlined in the Work Plan, without including budget items that are not allowed or appear superfluous or tangential to producing the outcomes and deliverables.

    b. **Use of existing resources.** This criterion assesses the extent to which the proposal includes cost-saving measures by leveraging existing resources or partnerships where possible. For example, the proposal describes practical use of existing personnel, vehicles, computers, venues, supplies, and other items to complete the project.

E.2 REVIEW AND SELECTION PROCESS

Eligible proposals will be evaluated by a team of subject matter experts selected by APHIS. To avoid potential conflicts of interest, reviewers may have no association with projects they are reviewing. In the event of a real or perceived conflict of interest, a reviewer shall recuse themselves as appropriate. The review team may seek counsel from additional subject-matter experts as appropriate. APHIS will consider the review team's recommendations in making final funding determinations. APHIS has final authority in

determining which projects are funded for this initiative. A project may be selected for partial funding of specific objectives or activities within a proposed Work Plan, based on reviewer recommendations.

Proposals that meet the eligibility criteria in Section C will be subject to an administrative review by an APHIS Grants Specialist and evaluated by reviewers based on the merit of the proposal. APHIS is responsible for reviewing proposals against the evaluation criteria found in Section E.1 and the review panel will consist of internal and external subject-matter experts from various departments and agencies, and academia and industry as appropriate. High quality proposals are those that strongly support the funding priorities and address the needs, considerations, and evaluation criteria described in this funding opportunity.

During the application review process, APHIS will conduct a risk assessment for applicants. Applicants will be verified in the System for Award Management (SAM) to ensure they have not been disbarred or suspended, proposed for debarment, declared ineligible, or voluntarily excluded from covered transactions by any Federal department or agency. APHIS may not issue a Federal award to an applicant until the applicant has complied with all applicable unique entity identifiers and SAM requirements. If an applicant has not fully complied with the requirements, APHIS may determine that the applicant is not eligible to receive a Federal award.

When anticipated total Federal share exceeds the simplified acquisition threshold, APHIS is required to review and consider information about the applicant included in the designated integrity and performance system accessible through SAM. An applicant, if desired, may review and comment on any information about their organization previously entered and currently in the system. When completing the risk assessment, APHIS will consider applicant comments in addition to other information in the designated integrity and performance system to assess applicant's integrity, business ethics, and record of performance under Federal awards.

E.3 ANTICIPATED ANNOUNCEMENT AND FEDERAL AWARD DATES

There is a single application deadline followed by the simultaneous review of all applications. APHIS will review proposals within 75 days of the application deadline. All applicants will be notified by email of award status.

F. FEDERAL AWARD ADMINISTRATION INFORMATION

APHIS will administer the agreements and collaborate with project recipients to provide advice, receive, and review project documents, offer comments and suggestions, track project performance, and communicate with recipients as necessary to ensure progress in accomplishing the project, identifying obstacles, and resolving concerns.

Recipients will track performance and expenditures, provide progress reports and project deliverables in accordance with the project Work Plan, and communicate with APHIS staff to assess and evaluate progress.

NOTE: Recipients may be asked to provide a brief presentation outlining their work and anticipated outcomes with SARS-CoV-2 and One Health stakeholders during an APHIS SARS-CoV-2 Stakeholder meeting.

F.1 FEDERAL AWARD NOTICES

Applicants who have been selected for funding will receive an Award Document via ezFedGrants. The Award Face Sheet will provide pertinent instructions and information including but not limited to the information described in 2 CFR Part 200.211 and reference to the Terms and Conditions for APHIS awards. The Signatory Official must provide an E-Signature in ezFedGrants for the Award Face Sheet unless an alternate Federal award signature process is provided to the applicant by APHIS. Either the APHIS Grants Specialist or the Program Manager may informally contact the applicant with application/Federal Award status details. The Award Face Sheet must be fully signed by the applicant's Signatory Official and the APHIS Authorized Departmental Officer before the project is authorized to begin.

F.2 ADMINISTRATIVE AND NATIONAL POLICY REQUIREMENTS

Successful applicants must comply with the requirements contained in the "Uniform Administrative Requirements, Cost Principles, and Audit Requirements for Federal Awards," 2 CFR Part 200; "Nonprocurement Debarment and Suspension," 2 CFR Part 417; "Requirements for Drug-Free Workplace," 2 CFR Part 421; "New Restrictions on Lobbying," 2 CFR Part 418; and, Office of Management and Budget regulations governing "Controlling Paperwork Burdens on the Public," 5 CFR Part 1320.

In accordance with the Office of Management and Budget's guidance located at 2 CFR Part 200, all applicable Federal laws, and relevant Executive guidance, the Federal awarding agency will review and consider applications for funding pursuant to this notice of funding opportunity in accordance with the Guidance for Grants and Agreements in Title 2 of the Code of Federal Regulations (2 CFR), as updated in the Federal Register's 85 FR 49506 on August 13, 2020. Particularly on: selecting recipients most likely to be successful in delivering results based on the program objectives through an objective process of evaluating Federal award applications (2 CFR Part 200.205); prohibiting the purchase of certain telecommunication and video surveillance services or equipment in alignment with Section 889 of the National Defense Authorization Act of 2019 (Pub. L. No. 115—232) (2 CFR Part 200.216); promoting the freedom of speech and religious liberty in alignment with Promoting Free Speech and Religious Liberty (Executive Order 13798) and Improving Free Inquiry, Transparency, and Accountability at Colleges and Universities (Executive Order 13864) (2 CFR Parts 200.300, 200.303, 200.339, and 200.341); providing a preference, to the extent permitted by law, to maximize use of goods, products, and materials produced in the United States (2 CFR Part 200.322); and, terminating agreements in whole or in part to the greatest extent authorized by law, if an award no longer effectuates the program goals or agency priorities (2 CFR part 200.340).

Successful applicants must also comply with the general Terms and Conditions for APHIS awards, approved project Work Plan, approved project Financial Plan, and applicable authorization used to issue the Federal Award.

F.3 REPORTING

Financial Reports

The Project Administrator will provide to the APHIS authorized representative a properly certified quarterly and final Federal Financial Report, SF-425, as specified in the cooperative agreement document. Any requests for an extension of time to submit the SF-425 must be made in writing to APHIS' authorized representative. Extensions of time to submit the SF-425 are subject to the discretion of APHIS' authorized representative and, if allowed, shall be provided by the authorized representative in writing.

If the Federal share of the award exceeds $500,000 during the period of performance, please be aware of the post award reporting requirements reflected in 2 CFR Part 200 Appendix XII.

Performance Reports

The Project Administrator will provide to the APHIS authorized representative quarterly and final performance reports on program activities outlined in this application. Performance reports must contain a comparison of actual accomplishments with the established goals and objectives of the award; a description of reasons why established goals was not met, if appropriate; and any other pertinent information relevant to the project results. The reports will be used by APHIS to verify compliance with provisions of this Agreement. These reports will be due as specified in the cooperative agreement document.

Conflict of Interest Disclosures

Recipients must notify the program immediately in writing of any conflict of interest that arises during the life of their Federal award, including those reported to them by any subrecipient under the award. Recipients must notify the program in writing if any employees, including subrecipient and contractor personnel, are related to, married to, or have a close personal relationship with any Federal employee in the Federal funding program or who otherwise may have been involved in the review and selection of the award. The term employee means any individual engaged in the performance of work pursuant to the Federal award.

Recipients may not have a former Federal employee as a key project official, or in any other substantial role related to their award, whose participation puts them out of compliance with the legal authorities addressing post-Government employment restrictions. See the U.S. Office of Government Ethics website for more information on these restrictions. The Agency will examine each conflict-of-interest disclosure based on its particular facts and the nature of the project and will determine if a significant potential conflict exists. If it does, the Agency will work with the recipient to determine an appropriate resolution. Failure to disclose and resolve conflicts of interest in a manner that satisfies the Agency may result in any of the remedies for noncompliance described in 2 CFR §200.339, including termination of the award.

Reporting Matters Related to Recipient Integrity and Performance

If the total value of your currently active grants, cooperative agreements, and procurement

contracts from all Federal awarding agencies exceeds $10,000,000 for any period of time during the period of performance of this Federal award, then you as the recipient during that period of time must maintain the currency of information reported to the System for Award Management that is made available in the designated integrity and performance system (currently the Federal Awardee Performance and Integrity Information System) about civil, criminal, or administrative proceedings in accordance with Appendix XII to 2 CFR 200.

F.4 PROJECT EVALUATION

The Recipient's performance will be evaluated, through the review of performance and financial reports, based on the following criteria to determine if the Recipient met the project standards and if the proposed results and benefits were achieved:

1. Adherence to project objectives;
2. Adherence to project schedule;
3. Adherence to project budget;
4. Delivery of results that meet the cooperative agreement performance standards and achieve the stated outcomes; and,
5. Periodic discussion of project progress with APHIS.

G. FEDERAL AWARDING AGENCY CONTACTS

For questions pertaining to this funding opportunity, required documents, or the ezFedGrants application process, please contact Abby Stilwell (abby.r.stilwell@usda.gov), Sarah Allely (sarah.t.allely@usda.gov), or APHIS.ARP.Agreements@usda.gov.

For questions regarding APHIS' American Rescue Plan program, please contact the APHIS American Rescue Plan Program Management Office staff: APHIS.ARP.PMO@usda.gov.

H. OTHER INFORMATION

This is a new program area of work that APHIS has not previously provided competitive opportunities for funding in cooperative agreements. USDA is not obligated to make any award as a result of this announcement nor to make any changes to future announcements. Only the APHIS Authorized Departmental Officer can bind the Government to an expenditure of funds and this obligation of funds shall only occur in writing by authorized officials and under the approved USDA APHIS cooperative agreement format.

USDA APHIS is announcing a separate funding opportunity for SARS-CoV-2 in Animals under the title "*American Rescue Plan: SARS-CoV-2 in Animals*." Applicants can find information about this funding opportunity on ezFedGrants or Grants.gov by searching this title, the Assistance Listing Number **10.025**, or the Funding Opportunity Number **USDA-APHIS-10025-OA000000-23-0003**.

APPENDIX 1: SARS-COV-2 TRIBAL FUNDING OPPORTUNITY CRITERIA

American Rescue Plan: SARS-CoV-2 in Animals Tribal Funding Opportunity Eligibility and Evaluation Criteria

Administrative Eligibility Criteria

Proposal packages must meet these initial screening criteria to be considered for further review. Proposals that do not meet these criteria may not be considered.

1. Proposals must be received by the deadline. Proposals received after the established deadline will not be reviewed or considered.
2. Proposals must be submitted by an eligible entity.
3. Proposals must address at least one of the funding priorities or fall under the scope of activities described in Section A.2.
4. All required documents and forms listed in Section D.2 must be included in the proposal package and comply with the submission instructions described in Section D. Any proposal package with missing or incomplete documents or forms will not be considered for review, resulting in a rejected proposal.
5. Proposals must be consistent with allowed use of funds guidance. Proposals that do not align with the cost guidance described in Section B.1 of this announcement will not be considered for review, resulting in a rejected proposal.

Evaluation Criteria

APHIS will use the following criteria to evaluate proposals during the review process. Applicants should consider the criteria when preparing the proposal package. **NOTE:** Proposed activities must align with current Federal, State, Territorial, and Tribal regulations.

Evaluation Criteria

1. **Addresses the priorities and requirements in the announcement.** This criterion assesses the extent to which the proposal strongly supports and clearly addresses one or more of the priority areas described in Section A.
    a. **Strong and direct support for at least one of the funding priorities.** This criterion assesses the extent to which the proposed activities directly address a concern identified in at least one of the funding priorities, as well as the extent to which the expected outcomes and deliverables will strongly support the funding priority area of concern.
2. **Feasibility of success.** This criterion assesses the extent to which the proposal is likely to successfully produce the expected outcomes and deliverables based on key factors, such as a well-organized and sound approach, a reasonable schedule, appropriate partnerships and collaborations, and the applicant's skills, knowledge, and experiences.
    a. **Plan of action.** This criterion assesses the extent to which the Work Plan and Financial Plan lay out a plan of action that is logical, well organized, complete, and likely to successfully produce the expected outcomes and deliverables. The approach must be explained in

sufficient detail for the reader to understand what activities will be performed, how they will be conducted, and what will be produced.

b. **Proposed work and methods.** This criterion assesses the extent to which the proposed work is technically sound. The proposed methods should be supported by current scientific knowledge and, in the case of management proposals, relevant experience supporting the proposed activities. References, including unpublished data from previous actions, should be included to support the proposed methods or approach.

c. **Adequate budget.** This criterion assesses the extent to which the budget is realistic, adequate, and sufficient to successfully produce the outcomes and deliverables described in the proposal.

d. **Reasonable schedule.** This criterion assesses whether the project schedule allows an appropriate amount of time for completing all proposed activities in a two-year performance period, including but not limited to considering a reasonable amount of time to complete each activity, the competing time commitments of stakeholders who are critical to project completion, and other risks that may cause schedule delays.

e. **Partnerships and collaboration.** This criterion assesses the extent to which the proposal identifies and describes the partnerships and collaborations necessary to successfully produce the expected outcomes and deliverables. It also considers the likelihood the project will develop and strengthen relationships that are likely to foster progress in the funding priority area or related areas.

f. **Skills, knowledge, and experience**. This criterion considers the extent to which the key persons who will carry out the project have the qualifications, skills, abilities, experiences, and infrastructure (facilities and equipment) to successfully conduct the proposed activities and produce successful outcomes and deliverables.

3. **Impact and value of outcomes.** This criterion assesses the extent to which the expected outcomes and deliverables are likely to have measurable and significant impact and value in the funding priority area.

    a. **Scope of impact.** This criterion assesses whether the project will create an impact at:
        i. State, regional, national, or other geographic levels; or,
        ii. For one stakeholder interest group or many.

    b. **Value of outcomes.** This criterion assesses the likelihood the project will produce outcomes and deliverables that are high value with respect to positively impacting the funding priority area.

    c. **Knowledge transfer.** This criterion assesses the extent to which the outcomes and deliverables are likely to be used by other groups and stakeholders, either by replicating the activity in other regions or by using the information to support policies and decisions. Proposals should indicate how the applicant will share the project outcomes and deliverables so other entities can make use of them.

4. **Cost Effectiveness.** This criterion assesses the extent to which the proposal identifies a cost-effective approach to produce the desired outcomes and deliverables as compared to alternatives.

        a. **All costs are reasonable and necessary.** This criterion assesses the extent to which the Financial Plan is clear, logical, and includes only reasonable and necessary costs to

produce the expected outcomes and deliverables. It also assesses the extent to which the Financial Plan provides sufficient detail for reviewers to fully understand how each budget item specifically supports the activities outlined in the Work Plan, without including budget items that are not allowed or appear superfluous or tangential to producing the outcomes and deliverables.

b. **Use of existing resources.** This criterion assesses the extent to which the proposal includes cost-saving measures by leveraging existing resources or partnerships where possible. For example, the proposal describes practical use of existing personnel, vehicles, computers, venues, supplies, and other items to complete the project. Cost share will be evaluated in this criterion.

APPENDIX 2: SARS-COV-2 TRIBAL FUNDING OPPORTUNITY PROPOSAL CHECKLIST AND TIPS

American Rescue Plan: SARS-CoV-2 in Animals Tribal Funding Opportunity Proposal Checklist and Tips

Proposal Checklist

The proposal package must include the following:

- ☐ SARS-CoV-2 in Animals Tribal Funding Opportunity Proposal Work Plan (See SARS-CoV-2 in Animals Tribal Funding Opportunity Proposal Work Plan Template)
- ☐ SARS-CoV-2 in Animals Tribal Funding Opportunity Proposal Financial Plan (See Appendix 4: SARS-CoV-2 in Animals Tribal Funding Opportunity Proposal Financial Plan Template)
- ☐ SF-424, "Application for Federal Assistance" – Completed when applying to the funding opportunity in ezFedGrants
- ☐ SF-424A, "Budget Information – Non-Construction Programs" that matches the submitted Financial Plan – Completed when applying to the funding opportunity in ezFedGrants
- ☐ Certification Regarding Lobbying (for Federal Assistance greater than $100,000)
- ☐ SF-LLL, "Disclosure of Lobbying Activities" (for Federal Assistance greater than $100,000 when there are activities to disclose)
- ☐ A signed copy of the current Negotiated Indirect Cost Rate Agreement (NICRA must be attached to the Application in ezFedGrants if indirect costs are assessed).
- ☐ If applicable, States that are required to comply with Executive Order 12372, Intergovernmental Review of Federal Programs will need to include a waiver or approval response letter from the State's Single Point of Contact (SPOC). Check the State SPOC List for the most current list of required States.

Tips for Applicants

Best Practices

- Get started early. Do not wait until the day of the application deadline.
- Complete the following registrations as soon as possible to avoid delays in submitting your application to ezFedGrants: (1) Register and maintain an active System for Awards Management (SAM) account, (2) create a USDA eAuthentication Account, and (3) establish an ezFedGrants account. Instructions are available in New Applicant information found below.
- Read and follow all application instructions in this Funding Opportunity Announcement.
- Align your proposal with the priorities in this Funding Opportunity Announcement.
- If you wish to submit proposals for more than one project, submit each proposal in a separate application package. This makes it easier for reviewers to score and rank proposals and improves the likelihood of funding.
- Remember that the reviewer's job is to ensure Government funds are well spent. Make sure that each item in the Budget and Financial Plan is reasonable and justifiable.

- Clearly and concisely define the need or problem that this proposal is addressing. Be **SMART: S**pecific, **M**easurable, **A**ttainable, **R**ealistic, and **T**ime bound.
- Do not include why it is important to control SARS-CoV-2 or general SARS-CoV-2 information.
- Include all APHIS resources your proposal will need to successfully complete the work.
- Ask questions. We want to help you put forth the best proposal possible.
- Check that the total requested and budget details in the Work Plan, Financial Plan, SF-424, and SF-424A are aligned. Verify that the total amount of funding requested is the same in all of these documents.

ezFedGrants Tips

- When uploading attachments in ezFedGrants, click the "Add Attachments" button.
- Attachment titles must be 8 characters or less in ezFedGrants.
- Accept all tracked changes in documents before adding an attachment in ezFedGrants.
- Avoid special characters in attachment file names ($, %, &, *, Spanish "ñ", etc.).
- Do not password-protect attached documents.

Work Plan Tips

- Make sure your project Work Plan includes all information requested in the Work Plan template.
- Work plans within the template cannot exceed 20 pages and Work Plans not within the template cannot exceed 10 pages. The use of diagrams, visuals, and reference sheets, as well as any letters of collaboration from contributors will not count toward the 10- or 20-page limitation.
- Verify that the proposal directly and clearly supports one or more of the funding priority topics listed in this Funding Opportunity Announcement.
- Ensure that the document is in final format with no tracked changes or passwords.
- Ensure that the point of contact information is correct. We may not be able to reach you if your information is incorrect.
- A proposal that is well written and easy to follow will be well received by the review panel. Take some time to think out the proposal's objectives, the deliverables and outcomes that will be produced from each objective, and the activities and methods that will be conducted to achieve each objective. Check that the project's objectives are measurable, lead to specific results, and are attainable and realistic. Provide sufficient detail for a reviewer to be convinced that you have thought out the process well and understand the resources needed to complete the proposed tasks.
- Do not exceed the 500-word limit for the executive summary; only the first 500 words of the executive summary will be shared with reviewers.
- Check your proposal against the review criteria described in Section E.
- Describe in the Work Plan how the project results, findings, and deliverables will be shared with stakeholders.

SF-424 Tips

- Check the SF-424, Box 16 to ensure the congressional district for the Applicant and Project are listed.
- If your organization has a SPOC requirement, indicate the status on the SF-424, Box 19. For those applicants that have this process in their state, submit your application to the SPOC simultaneously to submitting to APHIS. Failure to meet with this requirement will result in a rejection of your application. A copy of the SPOC waiver or approval letter will be required at the time the award is made.
- Ensure that point of contact information is correct. APHIS may not be able to reach you if your information is incorrect.

Financial Plan Tips

- Make sure the Financial Plan total budget is the same as the budget information in the SF-424, SF-424A, and the Work Plan.
- Clearly link items in the Financial Plan to the Work Plan objectives.
- Refer to the Guidelines for Use of Funds for calculating indirect costs accurately.
- If there are cost sharing/Recipient contributions, remember to list those values in the Financial Plan.
- Use only whole dollar amounts where feasible for all entries into the Financial Plan.
- Submit the Financial Plan in Excel file format, not PDF.

New Applicant Information

Applicants must complete and maintain the following registrations to be eligible to apply for or receive a SARS-CoV-2 in Animals Tribal Funding Opportunity award. These registrations must all be completed prior to the application being submitted. Registration can take six weeks or more, so applicants should begin the registration process as soon as possible. Failure to complete registrations in advance of a due date is not a valid reason for a late submission. Take these steps before submitting your application in ezFedGrants.

1. **Register with System for Award Management (SAM):** Organizations who wish to apply for SARS-CoV-2 in Animals Tribal Funding Opportunity funding are required to be registered with SAM. Instructions for registering with SAM are available here: Register With SAM. Please allow at least 10 business days after you submit your registration for it to become active in SAM plus at least an additional 24 hours for your registration to become available in other government systems. You can register in SAM any time, and entities interested in applying for the SARS-CoV-2 in Animals Tribal Funding Opportunity should register now to avoid any future delays associated with mandatory SAM registration.
2. **Create a USDA eAuthentication Account**: All applicants must have a Level 2 USDA eAuthentication Account to submit proposals for SARS-CoV-2 in Animals Tribal Funding Opportunities. USDA eAuthentication is the system used by USDA agencies to enable customers to obtain accounts for accessing USDA Web applications and services via the Internet. Please note that USDA will only accept eAuthentication Accounts from individuals.
    a. Visit https://www.eauth.usda.gov/eauth/b/usda/home to create an account.
    b. For help with **existing** eAuthentication accounts or passwords, you can visit the USDA eAuthentication Website. Additional information is also available here: eAuthentication Frequently Asked Questions

3. **Establish an ezFedGrants Account**: Applicants must have an active account in the USDA ezFedGrants system to submit their application for SARS-CoV-2 in Animals Tribal Funding Opportunity. The ezFedGrants system requires each applicant to have a minimum of at least one Grants Administrative Officer (GAO) and one Signatory Official (SO). We recommend identifying these individuals prior to submitting proposals to help speed up the application process. For help with the USDA ezFedGrants system, applicants may contact the ezFedGrants help desk at ezFedGrants@cfo.usda.gov.

APPENDIX 3: SARS-COV-2 PROPOSAL WORK PLAN TEMPLATE

American Rescue Plan: SARS-CoV-2 in Animals Tribal Funding Opportunity
Proposal Work Plan Template
Instructions

The information requested in this template is required in all proposal Work Plans.
Applicants are encouraged but not required to use this template, but all components listed below must be included in the work plan. Applicants may submit more than one project proposal. Applicants who submit more than one proposal must submit each proposal as a separate proposal package that includes a separate Work Plan.

A proposal Work Plan must address at least one of the funding priorities described in the American Rescue Plan: SARS-CoV-2 in Animals Tribal Funding Opportunity. A description of the evaluation criteria that will be used to assess your proposal is described in Section E.1 of the Funding Opportunity Announcement on the USDA APHIS One Health website.

Please provide detailed information about the proposed project in the topic areas below. Write in narrative format where indicated and paste or type the appropriate information into each box. Expand boxes or add rows as needed. For those boxes where a word limit has been set, applicants can verify the number of words by selecting the box and referencing the word count in the lower left corner.

Work Plans using this template may not exceed 20 pages in 12-point font. Applicants may delete the italicized instructions to gain more space for their text. The use of diagrams, visuals, and reference sheets, as well as any letters of collaboration from contributors will not count toward the 20-page limitation.

Work Plans not using this template may not exceed 10 pages in 12-point font with 1-inch margins. The use of diagrams, visuals, and reference sheets, as well as any letters of collaboration from contributors will not count toward the 10-page limitation.

Template

I. General Information

Project Title

Name of Organization Submitting the Proposal

Type of applicant
Select the type of applicant that most closely represent the organization submitting the proposal: Choose an item.

For Federally recognized Native American Tribal governments or Native American Tribal organizations representing Federally recognized Native American Tribal Governments, list the name(s) of the Indian Tribal entities as they appear on the Bureau of Indian Affairs, Interior; Indian Tribal Entities Within the Contiguous 48 States Recognized by and Eligible to Receive Services from the United States Bureau of Indian Affairs website.

Total Funding Amount Requested

$ *Amount listed here should match the Financial Plan, SF-424, and SF-424A. Use whole dollar amounts.*

Regulatory Compliance Statement
Select one statement from the following:

- ☐The activities described in this proposed Work Plan are compliant with current Federal and State regulations where the activities will occur.
- ☐The activities described in this proposed Work Plan are not compliant with current Federal and State regulations where the activities will occur, but a waiver from the regulatory authorities is included in the proposal's supporting documentation.
- ☐The activities described in this proposed Work Plan are not compliant with current Federal and State regulations where the activities will occur.

Funding Priority Area
Select the **one** 2022-23 funding priority that your proposal most strongly supports:

- ☐Address gaps in surveillance and investigation activities for SARS-CoV-2 in animals, including farmed animals, captive wildlife, free-ranging wildlife, and companion animals;
- ☐Expand knowledge of species susceptibility to SARS-CoV-2 to improve understanding of potential roles or routes of transmission;
- ☐Develop surveillance tools and strategies for the rapid detection and characterization of new variants of SARS-CoV-2 to support an early warning system to prevent or limit future outbreaks of SARS-CoV-2;
- ☐Identify effective interventions, and other measures to prevent SARS-CoV-2 transmission at the human-animal interface and/or impacts to the food supply.

Period of Performance

Enter proposed project start and end dates (not to exceed 24 months). A project start date between March 15 and May 15, 2023, is recommended, but flexibility may be considered

Proposed Project Start Date	Proposed Project End Date

Geographic Location

List the state(s) or region(s) of the country where the proposed activities will take place. List nationwide if applicable.

Geographic Location(s) of Proposed Activities

Animal Species

List all animal species that will be included in your study.

Target Audience

Describe in 100 words or less the specific audience or population (end user) that will directly benefit from and/or use the project outcome(s) or deliverable(s).

Submitting Organization's Principal Investigator/Program Manager

Primary point of contact for administration of the cooperative/interagency agreement.

Name	
Title	
Address	
Phone	
Email	

Submitting Organization's Administrative/Financial Point of Contact

Primary point of contact for financial administration of the cooperative/interagency agreement.

Name	
Title	
Phone	
Email	

Co-investigators

Name, type, title, organization, phone number, and email of co-applicants. Add rows as needed.

Name	Title	Organization	Phone	Email

Senior Personnel/Collaborators

Name, type, title, organization, phone number, and email of other collaborators that will play a key role in project implementation. Add rows as needed.

Name	Title	Organization	Phone	Email

Other Proposals Submitted to These Opportunities

If submitting multiple proposals to either this or the USDA APHIS American Rescue Plan: SARS-CoV-2 in Animals Tribal Funding Opportunity, list all other submissions in the table below.

Funding Opportunity	Application Number	Project Title

Submissions to Other Opportunities

If this proposal has been submitted to Federal funding opportunities other than those listed above, describe those opportunities below (e.g., funding opportunity title, amount requested).

Funding Opportunity Title	Amount Requested

Projects Currently Funded

If you have any currently funded projects related to the four priorities listed in this opportunity, describe those projects below (e.g., project title, summary of project, amount received).

Project Title	Brief Summary	Amount Received

II. Executive Summary

A concise executive summary of no more than 500 words is required for all projects. **If the executive summary exceeds 500 words, only the first 500 words will be used.** *Provide a brief overview of the project, including the specific problem that the project solves, what will be delivered and/or accomplished, and the target audience that will directly benefit from the project's outcomes. Please do not include any general information about SARS-CoV-2 or why the control of SARS-CoV-2 is important.*

III. Project Goals, Objectives, and Need for Assistance

Objectives

List each specific objective the proposed project will accomplish, the funding priority addressed, and the expected results or benefits to be derived from this work and effort. The objectives described in this section are intermediate steps taken to achieve the overall purpose of the project activity. Objectives should be measurable and lead to specific results. No more than 3-5 objectives are recommended per proposal.

Objectives	Description
Objective 1	
Objective 2	
Objective 3	
Objective 4	
Objective 5	

Critical Relevant Need or Problem Requiring Solution

Describe in 200 words or less the critical need that this project will address or what problem the project will solve. Include how the need or problem aligns with the priority area(s) described in the Funding Opportunity Announcement.

Background and Significance

Provide supporting information for justifying why the proposed work needs to be done. Describe and reference any documents (e.g., articles, reports, testimonies, preliminary data from other ongoing or planned studies, letters of collaboration) from end users of the deliverables (other than the applicant) that support the need for the project. Describe prior or preliminary work demonstrating feasibility of the proposed project. If attachments are needed, list them and upload them separately from the Work Plan.

Alignment to the four funding priorities listed in Section A.2.

Describe in 100 words or less how the identified need or problem aligns with one or more of the priorities described in the Funding Opportunity Announcement.

Expected Impact and Value *Describe in 100 words or less the anticipated impact and value that this project will provide in the selected priority area(s) from the Funding Opportunity Announcement.*

IV. Approach

Outcomes and Deliverables

For each objective listed in Section II, describe the individual outcomes that will demonstrate successful completion of the objective, including the deliverables for each. Identify in which quarter of the project each activity is expected to begin and end. Add rows as needed.

Objectives	Outcomes and Deliverables	Start	End
Objective 1			
1.1			
1.2			
Objective 2			
2.1			
2.2			
Objective 3			
3.1			
3.2			
Objective 4			
4.1			
4.2			
Objective 5			
5.1			
5.2			

Activities and Methods

For each outcome listed above, provide a detailed description of the proposed activities and methods that will be used. Include any applicable protocols, including biosafety practices, use of human subjects, use of vertebrate animals, standards that will be met, or other supporting information.

Activities or Methods for Each Outcome or Deliverable	
Objective 1	
1.1	

1.2	
Objective 2	
2.1	
2.2	
Objective 3	
3.1	
3.2	
Objective 4	
4.1	
4.2	
Objective 5	
5.1	
5.2	

Additional Partners

List organizations, cooperators, consultants, or other key individuals, in addition to those listed in Section I, who will contribute to the project. This may include, but is not limited to, land grant or other universities; State or national livestock, wildlife, sportsmen, or conservation organizations with direct and significant interest in the control of SARS-CoV-2; or a Federal agency. A letter of collaboration from each partner should be uploaded separately from the Work Plan as attachments.

Name, Title, Organization	Role or Contribution

Need for APHIS Assistance

Describe any support needed from APHIS to accomplish the project objectives, such as help from APHIS subject matter experts or diagnostic support. Include a description of the quantity or duration of the need for assistance. Add rows as needed.

Type of Assistance Requested	Describe the Need for APHIS Assistance

Qualifications and Relevant Experience of the Principal Investigator/Program Manager and Lead Technical Experts

Present the qualifications of the lead technical experts and other key personnel indicating their ability to successfully complete the project. Applicants may attach this information in separate documents instead of listing it here. Add additional rows as needed.

Name and Title	
Organization	

Role in this project	
Qualifications and Relevant Experience	

Timelines

Attach a chart of timelines for project milestones and describe anticipated challenges with accomplishing these timelines if relevant.

Potential Problems and Anticipated Solutions

Describe any factors that may negatively impact the project (potential problems) and how these factors might be mitigated to reduce risks (anticipated solutions). Be sure to address any situations that may cause a delay in the project schedule, resulting in activities not being completed in the proposed period of performance.

Potential Problems	Anticipated Solutions

Best Practices, Innovations, or Unusual Features

In 100 words or less, describe any of these that may apply: (1) How the proposed approach aligns with best practices, standards, or guidelines that will assure high quality results; (2) How the proposed approach is novel or innovative; and/or, (3) Any unusual features of the project, such as design or technological innovations, reductions in cost or time, or extraordinary social and community involvements.

Equity

Describe how this proposal supports equity, diversity, environmental justice, and/or accessibility of services. Describe how this proposal supports or involves underserved communities[4] listed in Section A.3..

V. Performance Methods and Criteria

Quantitative and Qualitative Project Evaluation Methods and Criteria for Success

Describe the methods and the criteria that the Recipient will use to evaluate the project's results, outcomes, and deliverables, including how the Recipient will determine the success of each objective and the overall project.

Objectives	Quantitative (Measurable) and Qualitative Evaluation Methods and the Criteria Used to Measure Success
Objective 1	
Objective 2	
Objective 3	
Objective 4	
Objective 5	
Overall Project	

Information and Data Management

Discuss the management of information or data that is developed and/or collected during the project, including a description of how this information or data will be shared and maintained.

Knowledge and Technology Transfer

Describe how the knowledge and/or technology gained and/or results achieved through the completion of the project will be shared with others to control or prevent SARS-CoV-2 in susceptible animals.

Existing Patents, Code, Data Rights

Describe any pre-existing patents, code, and/or data rights that will be associated with this project.

VI. Budget Justification

All costs must be reasonable and necessary to complete the project and budget requests should reflect a good use of existing resources. Information provided in this section must align with the cost guidance outlined in Section B.1 and support the information provided in the project's Financial Plan. **Specific and detailed justification for each budget category is required.**

Funding Requested

For each of the objectives listed in Section II, provide the total amount of funding requested.

Objectives	Amount of Funding Requested
Objective 1	
Objective 2	
Objective 3	
Objective 4	
Objective 5	
Total	

Personnel Funded by the Project

Describe all personnel who will be paid by the project for each objective, including the number of people and the number of hours for each position. Include a short description of the title or type of personnel needed and what they will do (purpose or role). If the personnel name is not yet known, list as Technician 1, Trainer 2, or similar. Add rows as needed.

Personnel	Role and Justification for Each Position/Person
Objective 1	
Objective 2	
Objective 3	
Objective 4	
Objective 5	

Fringe Benefits

Provide the fringe benefit rate and a description of what the rate includes for each of the personnel listed in the table above. Fringe benefits may include health/life insurance, leave, unemployment insurance, workers' compensation, retirement, social security, pensions, etc.

Personnel	Rate	Fringe Benefit Description
Objective 1		
Objective 2		
Objective 3		
Objective 4		
Objective 5		

Travel

Describe local, out of state and international travel needed to accomplish each objective, including details for each traveler. Identify the objective(s) where the travel is needed and number of trips to achieve the objective(s). If a traveler's name is not yet known, list as Person 1, Trainer 2, or similar. For local travel (no overnight stay), indicate "0" for number of nights of lodging. For means of travel, describe transportation type (air, GOV for government owned vehicle, etc.). Add rows as needed.

Traveler Name, Title	Trip Purpose, Justification, and Objectives Where Travel Is Needed	# Trips	# Nights Lodging (per trip)	Starting Location and Destination	Means

Equipment

Describe the type, purpose, and quantity of equipment having a per unit value greater than $5,000 needed to accomplish the project. Identify the objective(s) where the equipment will be used. Recipient procurements must be in accordance with 2 CFR Part 200.317 or 2 CFR Part 200.318, as applicable. Add rows as needed.

Type of Equipment to be Purchased	Purpose, Justification, and Objectives Where Equipment Will Be Used	Quantity and Value

Describe how each type of equipment will be disposed of or utilized after the period of performance.

Supplies

Describe the type, purpose, and quantity of consumable supplies needed to accomplish the project. Identify the objective(s) where the supplies will be used. Recipient procurements must be in accordance with 2 CFR Part 200.317 or 2 CFR Part 200.318, as applicable. Describe how any unused supplies totaling more than $5,000 will be disposed at the end of the project. Add rows as needed.

Type of Supplies to be Purchased	Purpose, Justification, and Objectives Where Supplies Will Be Used	Quantity and Value

Describe how unused supplies totaling more than $5,000 would be disposed of or utilized after the period of performance.

Contracts/Sub-Agreements

Describe contracts and/or sub-agreements to be awarded by the recipient to accomplish the project, including specific details about what the contract or sub-agreement will provide to the project. Include the objective(s) where the contract and/or sub-agreement is needed. Add rows as needed.

Name of Contractor/Contributor	Purpose, Justification, and Objective(s) Where the Contract or Sub-Agreement Will Contribute

Other Costs

Describe and provide justification for all other costs listed in the Financial Plan. Add rows as needed.

Type of Other Cost	Purpose, Justification, and Objective(s) Where the Other Costs Apply

In-Kind Contributions to the Project

Describe in-kind contributions that the submitting organization will provide to each objective. Type of contribution may include personnel, facilities, equipment, event space, travel, and other items that will assist in completing the project outcomes or deliverables. Add rows as needed.

Contributor Name	Type of Contribution	Description of the Contribution and Applicable Objectives	Quantity

VII. Supplemental Information

References

Provide references to support the proposed method/approach using either current scientific knowledge or relevant experience, as applicable.

Supporting Documents

List any supporting documents (e.g., articles, reports, testimonies from concerned interests other than the applicant, preliminary data from other ongoing or planned studies, letters of collaboration) supporting the need for the project. When referring to specific documents from this list in the proposal Work Plan, applicants may refer to documents from this list using a numbered format. Upload these documents separately from the proposal Work Plan.

List of Supporting Documents

APPENDIX 4: SARS-COV-2 TRIBAL FUNDING OPPORTUNITY PROPOSAL FINANCIAL PLAN TEMPLATE

USDA APHIS American Rescue Plan: SARS-CoV-2 in Animals Tribal Funding Opportunity Proposal Financial Plan Template

Instructions

The information requested in this template is required in all proposal Financial Plans.

Applicants must submit a detailed Financial Plan that clearly identifies the costs associated with the proposed activities for each objective listed in the Work Plan and include all of the information outlined in the SARS-CoV-2 Proposal Financial Plan Template. Financial Plans must match and provide additional details on the information provided in the required SF-424A submitted through ezFedGrants.

Applicants must separate allowable costs by the year in which they will be charged.

Allowable uses of cooperative agreement funds include, but are not limited to, activities, equipment, supplies, and services needed to complete approved program activities that support the funding priorities and considerations as described in Section B.1.

Allowable costs must be reasonable, allocable, and necessary to the project. Office of Management and Budget cost principles (2 CFR Subpart E) must be used to determine whether a cost can be charged to the project and, if so, the extent to which it can be charged.

When identifying the resources needed, the applicant must be compliant with Federal and State policy, the cost guidance in Section B.1, and should include the following details:

1. *Personnel:* APHIS will allow costs for salary and wages for personnel who are essential to complete the activities in the Work Plan. The total compensation per individual employee must be reasonable for the work performed, conform to the established policy of the organization, and be consistently applied to Government and nongovernmental activities. Applicants must:
    - List personnel needs to accomplish the project and include their titles, number of hours, hourly rate (or percentage of effort), and the total number needed for each employee classification.
    - Identify if employees are full-time, temporary, or part-time workers.
    - Explain how the employee compensation was calculated.
    - Identify any compensation increases projected during the award period.

2. *Fringe Benefits*: List the fringe benefit rate and a description of what the rate includes. Fringe benefits may include health and life insurance, unemployment insurance, workers' compensation, leave, retirement, social security, pensions, etc.

3. *Travel:* Funds may be requested for local and out of state field work, training, attendance at meetings and conferences, and other travel costs associated with the proposed work. Funds may be requested for international field work and other travel costs associated with the proposed work but may not be requested for international training, attendance at meetings or conferences. Recipients should follow their organization's written travel policies when calculating travel costs. Federal per diem rates can be found on the General Services Administration website. Reference 2 CFR Part 200.475.
   - Local travel: Identify any local travel to daily work sites as outlined in your proposed activities. Indicate by position type who will be traveling, total projected mileage, and rate per mile. Indicate the number of trips per day/week/month, as appropriate.
   - Domestic travel: Provide the number of travelers, cost of transportation, lodging, subsistence and related items, number of days, rate per day, and the total related to out of state travel. If out of state travel is necessary to attend a meeting/training, include the event title and destination. Registration fees should be included in the "Other" cost category.
   - International travel: Not authorized for conferences, symposia, or trainings for this Funding Opportunity Announcement. Provide the number of travelers, cost of transportation, lodging, subsistence and related items, number of days, rate per day, and the total related to international travel other than for conferences, symposia, or trainings.

4. *Equipment:* The Federal definition of equipment is tangible personal property (including information technology systems) having a useful life of more than one year and a per unit value of $5,000 or more, unless the applicant's definition of equipment is more restrictive. Provide a description of the equipment to be purchased or leased, including unit cost, and total purchase or leasing costs. Ensure the purpose of each equipment item and how it will benefit or be used for the project has been provided in the proposed activities.

5. *Supplies:* Provide a general description of the supplies required to perform the proposed activities. Identify quantities required and per unit costs.

6. *Contractual:* Describe any contract that the applicant may enter into to complete the proposed activities, identifying what goods or services are being purchased for which activity and from where.

Provide the contractor or sub-awardee cost breakdown of amounts in a separate budget for all applicable cost categories and totals, if available. However, the contractor or sub-awardee breakdown is not to be used to develop the applicant's breakdown; the contractor or sub-awardee total costs will be classified as contractual in the applicant's budget. Any application with a proposed subaward over $10,000 should complete an individual Financial Plan as a part of the proposal package.
If testing is done as a subcontract, identify which approved laboratories will be conducting diagnostic testing, detail the type of test, number of tests, and cost per test/sample. All billing for laboratory costs shall be done on a cost-per-test basis (e.g., 500 samples at $10.00 equals $5,000). Do not include any costs which are covered by other laboratory funding sources such as National Animal Health Laboratory Network (NAHLN) or National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA) funding.

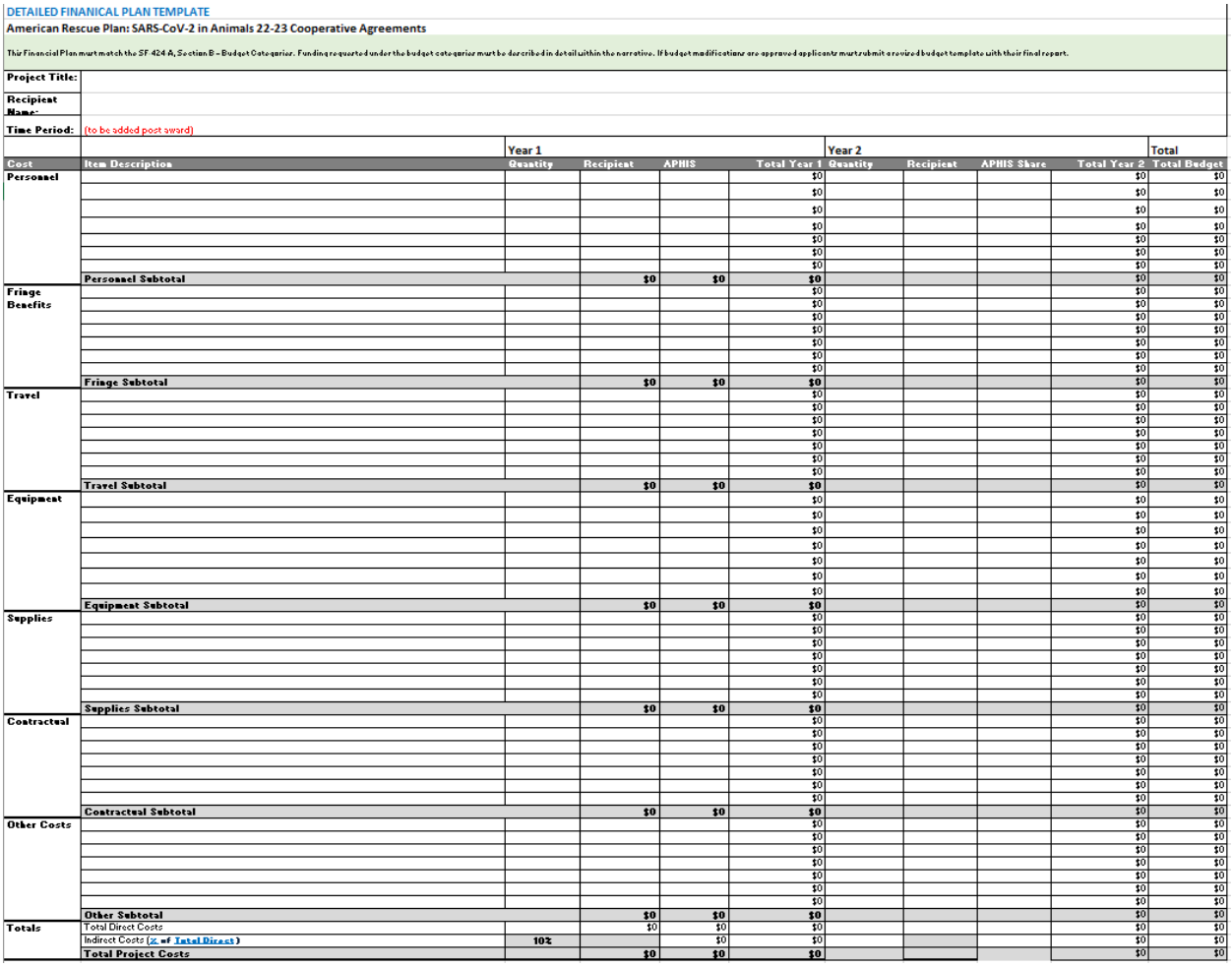
7. *Other:* Identify any direct costs which were not itemized elsewhere, such as conference registration fees, communications, printing, publication charges, computer time or usage, applicant laboratory testing, etc.
   If testing is done in an applicant's laboratory, detail the type of test, number of tests, and cost per test/sample. All billing for laboratory costs shall be done on a cost-per-test basis (e.g., 500 samples at $10.00 equals $5,000). Do not include any costs which are covered by other laboratory funding sources such as NAHLN or NIFA funding.

8. *Indirect Costs:* Include the Indirect Cost rate and the applicable base, as necessary. Refer to the Indirect Cost Guidance within Section D.6 for details.

9. *Cooperator Cost Share:* List the APHIS share and recipient share by cost category at the bottom line in the Financial Plan, as applicable.

Image of Template

Template is available on the APHIS One Health Funding Opportunity web page: https://www.aphis.usda.gov/aphis/ourfocus/onehealth/funding-opportunities



DETAILED FINANICAL PLAN TEMPLATE

American Rescue Plan: SARS-CoV-2 in Animals 22-23 Cooperative Agreements

This Financial Plan must match the SF 424 A, Section B – Budget Categories. Funding requested under the budget categories must be described in detail within the narrative. If budget modifications are approved applicants must submit a revised budget template with their final report.

Project Title:	
Recipient Name:	
Time Period:	(to be added post award)

		Year 1				Year 2				Total
Cost	Item Description	Quantity	Recipient	APHIS	Total Year 1	Quantity	Recipient	APHIS Share	Total Year 2	Total Budget
Personnel					$0				$0	$0
					$0				$0	$0
					$0				$0	$0
					$0				$0	$0
					$0				$0	$0
					$0				$0	$0
					$0				$0	$0
	Personnel Subtotal		$0	$0	$0				$0	$0
Fringe Benefits					$0				$0	$0
					$0				$0	$0
					$0				$0	$0
					$0				$0	$0
					$0				$0	$0
					$0				$0	$0
					$0				$0	$0
	Fringe Subtotal		$0	$0	$0				$0	$0
Travel					$0				$0	$0
					$0				$0	$0
					$0				$0	$0
					$0				$0	$0
					$0				$0	$0
					$0				$0	$0
					$0				$0	$0
	Travel Subtotal		$0	$0	$0				$0	$0
Equipment					$0				$0	$0
					$0				$0	$0
					$0				$0	$0
					$0				$0	$0
					$0				$0	$0
					$0				$0	$0
					$0				$0	$0
	Equipment Subtotal		$0	$0	$0				$0	$0
Supplies					$0				$0	$0
					$0				$0	$0
					$0				$0	$0
					$0				$0	$0
					$0				$0	$0
					$0				$0	$0
					$0				$0	$0
	Supplies Subtotal		$0	$0	$0				$0	$0
Contractual					$0				$0	$0
					$0				$0	$0
					$0				$0	$0
					$0				$0	$0
					$0				$0	$0
					$0				$0	$0
					$0				$0	$0
	Contractual Subtotal		$0	$0	$0				$0	$0
Other Costs					$0				$0	$0
					$0				$0	$0
					$0				$0	$0
					$0				$0	$0
					$0				$0	$0
					$0				$0	$0
					$0				$0	$0
	Other Subtotal		$0	$0	$0				$0	$0
Totals	Total Direct Costs		$0	$0	$0				$0	$0
	Indirect Costs (% of Total Direct)	10%		$0	$0				$0	$0
	Total Project Costs		$0	$0	$0				$0	$0