2022 Request for Applications: Puget Sound Action Agenda, Tribal Implementation Lead 2.0

Overview

1. **Federal Agency**: U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) – Region 10
2. **Funding Opportunity Title**: Puget Sound Action Agenda – Tribal Implementation Lead 2.0
3. **Announcement Type**: Request for Applications (RFA)
4. **Funding Opportunity Number**: EPA-I-R10-PS-2022-001
5. **Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance Number**: 66.121
6. **Statutory Authority:** The statutory authority for the assistance agreement to be funded under this announcement is Section 320(g) of the Clean Water Act (Public Law 33.U.S.C.1251-1387).
7. **Dates:** The closing date and time for receipt of proposal submissions is **March 11, 2022, on or before 11:59 p.m. Eastern Standard Time (ET)** in order to be considered for funding. Proposal packages must be submitted electronically to EPA through Grants.gov (**http://www.grants.gov/web/grants/home.html**) no later than the closing date and time. Below is a detailed anticipated schedule for this Funding Opportunity:

   January 21, 2022: Applicants should have a current registration or have applied for registration in the System for Award Management (SAM) as well as having or applied for a Dun and Bradstreet (D&B) Data Universal Number System (DUNS) registration. The process for obtaining both could take a month or more and both are required for applying to this funding opportunity. Applicants must be registered with www.grants.gov.

   February 2, 2022: EPA Region 10 hosts a webinar to address questions about the RFA.

   March 11, 2022: Applications must be submitted through Grants.gov by March 11, 2022 by 11:59 PM (EST). See section IV of this RFA for more details.

   April 8, 2022 Anticipated date that selected successful applicants will be notified and requested to develop and submit a complete application for assistance and negotiate a final work plan and budget for the proposal

   May 20, 2022: Anticipated date to submit revised grant application, work plan, and budget completed and submitted to EPA.

   July 1, 2022: Anticipated award date, subject to Federal FY2022 appropriation.

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I. Funding Opportunity Description

This RFA solicits proposals from eligible applicants to act, in coordination with Puget Sound federally-recognized tribes, the Puget Sound Partnership ("Partnership" or PSP) and Management Conference, EPA, and other relevant parties, as the Tribal Implementation Lead (TIL) for the 2018-2022 Puget Sound Action Agenda, and subsequent updates of the Action Agenda.

Section I.A. below provides background on the institutional setting and frameworks within which the TIL will function as a collaborative and engaged principal. The TIL will be expected to develop and sustain mechanisms to integrate and represent its program within this context.

A. Programmatic Background

1. Puget Sound NEP overview

EPA, Washington State, Tribes, local governments, nonprofit organizations, and academia have partnered for over 30 years to protect and restore Puget Sound through the Clean Water Act (CWA) Section 320 National Estuary Program (NEP). CWA Section 320 requires each NEP to establish a "Management Conference" to include representatives of each State and foreign nation located in part or whole in the estuarine zone of the estuary for which the conference is convened, Tribes, regional agencies, appropriate federal agencies, local governments, affected industries, academic institutions, and the public.

Section 320 also requires the Management Conference to develop a "Comprehensive Conservation and Management Plan" (CCMP) and to develop plans for its coordinated implementation. Management Conferences use a collaborative, consensus-building approach to implement CCMPs. Moreover, each MC ensures that the CCMP is uniquely tailored to the local environmental conditions and is based on local input, thereby supporting local priorities.

The Puget Sound Partnership has been designated by the EPA and Washington State as the lead State agency for the Management Conference for the Puget Sound NEP under CWA Section 320. The Puget Sound Partnership is defined in State legislation to include the Leadership Council, Ecosystem Coordination Board, Science Panel and Executive Director with staff.

2. Puget Sound Action Agenda

The Puget Sound NEP's approved CCMP is the Puget Sound Action Agenda. In 2008, the Puget Sound Partnership published the first Puget Sound Action Agenda, a strategy to clean up, restore, and protect Puget Sound. EPA requests that each NEP review and update its CCMP every three to five years to keep the CCMP current and relevant. Accordingly, there have been multiple updates to the Puget Sound Action Agenda since 2008, including in 2012, 2014, 2016, and 2018. The current (2018-2022) Action Agenda, and previous versions of the Action Agenda, can be viewed at http://www.psp.wa.gov/action_agenda_center.php.

The Puget Sound Partnership is currently developing the next update to the Action Agenda – the 2022-2026 Action Agenda. The purpose of the 2022-2026 Action Agenda is to concentrate efforts, energy, and investment on key transformational changes that will enable collective progress toward the statutory goals and system of progress measures, known as Vital Signs, that guide Puget Sound recovery. Desired outcomes and strategies to advance progress toward those desired outcomes have been defined for the 2022-2026 Action Agenda. The 2022-2026 Action Agenda will also include "actions," where "actions"

describe the activities that will be a shared focus for implementing each strategy from 2022-2026. For example, this could include restoration and acquisition; program development, improvement, or implementation; education; outreach; research; legislative or policy improvements; or other types of activities. For more information on the 2022-2026 Action Agenda development process, see the Puget Sound Partnership Action Agenda update website and 2022-2026 Action Agenda development fact sheets, such as the fact sheet on "Identifying Actions for Puget Sound Recovery."

The 2022-2026 Action Agenda "actions" are intended to guide partner implementation and innovation and will inform the focus of public and private funding and implementation support by the boards and regional partners. Subawards made under the TIL 2.0 program must implement tribal priorities within the Action Agenda.

3. 2021 EPA/NEP Puget Sound Funding Model

Figure 1 shows a conceptual diagram of EPA's current intended allocation of its Puget Sound appropriation toward implementation of the Puget Sound Action Agenda ("2021 Funding Model" or "Funding Model")[1].

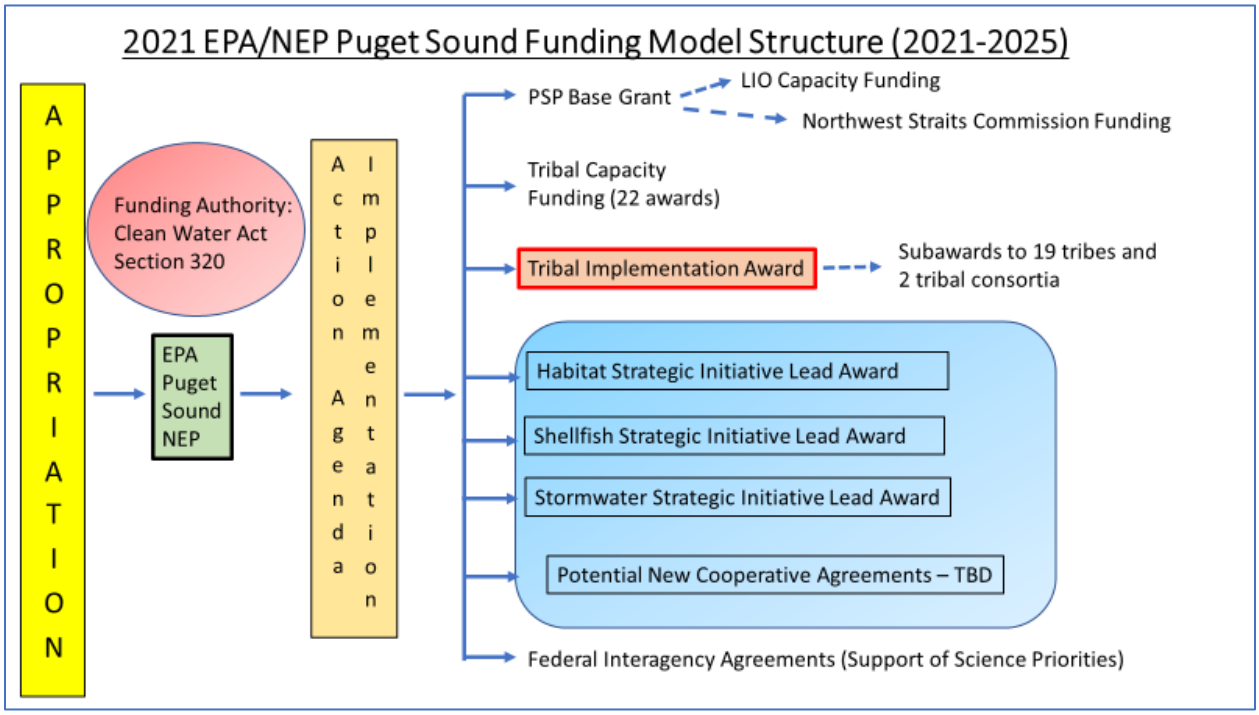


Figure 1. 2021 EPA/NEP Puget Sound Funding Model Structure. Source: 2-25-20 EPA Region 10 Geographic Programs Section Puget Sound Management Conference webinar.

Figure 1 shows that in the 2021 Funding Model, a major component of EPA's allocation is for a Tribal Implementation Lead program ("Tribal Implementation Award" in Figure 1). Other major components of the allocation are for a Habitat Strategic Initiative Lead (SIL) Award, a Shellfish SIL, a Stormwater SIL, Puget Sound Partnership base program funding, and funding for Implementation Strategies and Science. Another key component of the Funding Model is the Puget Sound Tribal Capacity Program. EPA intends that these major entities responsible for implementing the Action Agenda under the Funding Model

[1] The 2021 Funding Model was preceded by a 2016 Funding Model, which reflected a largely similar allocation scheme.

work together to maintain a high degree of awareness, communication, and coordination with each other. This will help to maximize synergies, leveraging, efficiencies, and shared best practices in implementing the Action Agenda.

As demonstrated in EPA's Funding Models for Puget Sound, significant, dedicated support for Tribal implementation of Tribal priorities in the Action Agenda, and Tribal capacity to engage and lead in the collaborative Puget Sound Management Conference, has been a cornerstone of EPA's Puget Sound allocation since 2010. This dedicated funding reflects EPA's ongoing commitment to the 1984 EPA Indian Policy and federal trust and treaty responsibilities to Tribal Nations; recognition of Tribal stewardship and knowledge of the Puget Sound ecosystem since time immemorial; and Puget Sound Tribes' status as co-managers of resources in Washington State.

This Tribal Implementation Lead (TIL) 2.0 RFA continues this commitment to supporting implementation of tribal priorities within the Action Agenda. We designated it as "TIL 2.0" to differentiate it from the previous generations of this program (the first generation or cycle of this program, funded with FY10-15 funds, was known as the Tribal Lead Organization (Tribal LO) program, and the second cycle, funded with FY16-21 funds, was known as the Tribal Implementation Lead (TIL) program); the Tribal Implementation Lead 2.0 program is intended to build off these two predecessors.

EPA's implementation of our funding models, and other aspects of our Puget Sound program, are described in the 2021 report, "EPA Geographic Program Funding at Work on Puget Sound Recovery," (EPA-910-K-21-001, February 2021).

4. Climate Resilience and Environmental Justice

EPA has long recognized broad national environmental priorities including the importance of integrating resilience to changing climate conditions into projects and planning, as well as addressing issues of environmental justice (EJ). In coordination with EPA under this cooperative agreement, the TIL 2.0 should develop practices and mechanisms to advance progress in these priority areas through its programs.

Climate change poses risks to human health, the environment, cultural resources, the economy and quality of life. These changes are expected to create further challenges to protecting human health and welfare and the environment. Projects supported under this program, in implementing tribal priorities within the Action Agenda, could contribute to helping communities and ecosystems become more sustainable and resilient to the effects of climate change; could be designed to ensure that project outcomes are met even as climate changes; and could increase decision makers' ability to anticipate, prepare for, respond to, and recover from the impacts of a changing climate. For example, EPA has long recognized the important role of green infrastructure in ecosystem restoration and in fostering climate resilient communities. More recently, Executive Order 14052, dated November 15, 2021, "Implementation of the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act," (Act) establishes as a priority "building infrastructure that is resilient and that helps combat the crisis of climate change." Protecting natural infrastructure and pursuing green infrastructure will be a core element in achieving such resilience and is an emphasis of the Puget Sound NEP. Information and resources on climate resilience and green infrastructure can be found here: https://www.epa.gov/green-infrastructure.

Regarding environmental justice, EPA has long had a focus on this topic, both in a general sense, as well as its specific relationship to EPA's relationships with sovereign Tribal governments. For example, in

2014, EPA developed an "EPA Policy on Environmental Justice for Working with Federally-Recognized Tribes and Indigenous Peoples."

B. Program Goals and Objectives

This Request for Applications (RFA) implements the Tribal Implementation Award component of EPA's 2021 Funding Model. The program developed by the selected recipient will be part of the structure reflected in Figure 1 and will be expected to operate in a collaborative manner with other entities in the Funding Model structure.

The overall goal of the TIL 2.0 program is to support implementation of tribal priorities in the Puget Sound Action Agenda, and to coordinate and integrate this program with Funding Model and Management Conference partners who also support Action Agenda implementation. The TIL 2.0 is expected to establish and implement processes and mechanisms that promote communication, coordination, and integration of the activities funded under the TIL program with other Action Agenda implementation efforts, particularly those led by PSP and the Strategic Initiative Leads. In developing its program, the TIL 2.0 must also consider and address climate resilience and environmental justice considerations identified in Section I.A.4. above.

EPA anticipates that the following three objectives are needed to achieve the TIL 2.0 program goals:

- Make and Manage Subawards. Develop and carry out a system for making subawards to federally-recognized Tribes in the Puget Sound basin and authorized consortia of these Tribes;
- Management Conference Participation and Partner Engagement. Develop and implement mechanisms for engaging with Management Conference and Funding Model partners; and
- Manage the Cooperative Agreement. Adaptively manage the TIL 2.0 cooperative agreement with EPA.

Specific activities supportive of these objectives are described in the following sections. Applicants should describe how they will address these objectives in their applications and are encouraged to be innovative and build from the factors and considerations described below.

1. Make and Manage Subawards

Under the TIL 2.0 program, as with previous cycles of this program, only Federally recognized Tribes in the greater Puget Sound basin, and authorized consortia of these Tribes, are eligible for subawards. Subaward projects funded under the TIL 2.0 program must implement actions in the approved Action Agenda and must be demonstrated to be of high tribal priority.

Within these broad parameters, the applicant's program to make and manage subawards should address the following factors and considerations:

- How solicitations for tribal and tribal consortia subaward proposals will be developed and managed, what criteria and review processes will be used to process proposals and make decisions on whether to fund them or not, and how this subaward cycle will be documented and managed.
- How collaborative, supportive relationships with the subaward population will be established, maintained, and demonstrated. This also includes comprehensive working understanding of tribes' highest priority environmental concerns and how these are represented in the Puget Sound Action Agenda. What existing knowledge, relationships, and mechanisms the applicant

organization has for working with the federally recognized tribes of the greater Puget Sound basin and their authorized consortia.

- How subaward performance will be monitored, and what systems will ensure that subawards are made expeditiously and performed effectively, and that subaward funds are drawn down timely such that unliquidated obligations are minimized. Monitoring subaward performance is intended to ensure that the subawards are achieving the objectives of the program, expected outputs and outcomes, and other subaward requirements (e.g., see Section VIII of this RFA).
- How detailed working knowledge of the Action Agenda and its implementation and other programmatic background provided with this RFA will be developed and maintained; and how this knowledge will be used to support the subrecipients under this program. Support to subrecipients could take a variety of forms, including email and other written materials, webinars, workshops, trainings, or other types of information sessions, or links to support provided by PSP, SILs, or other Management Conference partners.
- How technical and administrative support during subaward conduct will be provided to subawardees. This includes technical capacity to review and ensure subaward workplans are feasible and appropriate to meet outputs and outcomes, and to be a resource to subrecipients who may seek technical support throughout the conduct of their projects. This also includes support for compliance with EPA grant requirements that pass through to subrecipients (e.g., relating to quality assurance, peer review, and other program requirements such as those mentioned in Sections VI and VIII of this RFA). Again, support could take a variety of forms, including email and other written materials, webinars, workshops, trainings, or other types of information sessions, or links to support provided by PSP, SILs, or other Management Conference partners.
- How subaward work products and reports will be made available and/or proactively shared for the benefit of both the TIL subrecipient and broader recovery community. This may include program-wide analyses and syntheses of work products along specific themes or lines (e.g., analyses/syntheses of TIL contributions to habitat restoration); highlighting individual subrecipient work products, etc. This may also include convening conferences, workshops, or other venues for sharing lessons learned, best practices, or other focus areas among subrecipients and other practitioners. Finally, this may also entail supporting and encouraging subrecipients to share their work products and activities through conferences, workshops, professional associations, journal publications, and other venues.
- How climate resilience and environmental justice will be reflected and, as appropriate, integrated into the subaward program. This may include activities to study, evaluate, model, plan, and prepare for the impacts of climate change on Puget Sound ecosystem protection and restoration activities, and other considerations noted in Section I.A.4. of this solicitation. This may also include applying TIL 2.0 technical expertise to helping sub-awardees integrate climate change adaptation and resilience into project design and implementation.

2. Management Conference Participation and Partner Engagement

As explained in Section I.A.1 above, all National Estuary Programs such as the Puget Sound NEP are guided by a Management Conference[2].

[2] EPA states that NEP Management Conferences, in general, are "made up of diverse stakeholders including citizens, local, state, and Federal agencies, as well as with non-profit and private sector entities. Using a consensus-

As further indicated in the 2021 EPA/NEP Funding Model (Figure 1), the TIL 2.0 program will be administering this program within the context of other implementation entities, within the larger Management Conference framework. We expect the TIL 2.0 program entity to establish mechanisms and practices through which it will engage within and integrate its activities. The applicant's program to engage and participate with Management Conference partners should address the following factors and considerations:

- The applicant organization's overall institutional commitment to being an active and collaborative partner in the Puget Sound Management Conference and in Action Agenda implementation, and the specific formal and informal activities and roles through which that commitment is communicated and represented within Management Conference forums
- How the TIL 2.0 role would fit into that overall institutional commitment, and what specific formal and informal mechanisms and activities would be used to coordinate the institution's Management Conference activities. For example, if different departments at the applicant organization have Management Conference roles, then how will those departments coordinate, communicate, and collaborate.
- How the TIL 2.0 would work with the Puget Sound Partnership (PSP), the SILs, and other Management Conference recovery partners in the implementation of the Action Agenda. This should include specific staffing plans for engaging with SIL 2.0 teams, in coordinating forums such as the Awards Coordination Group, the Award Managers Group, the Action Agenda Coordination Group, the Strategic Initiative Advisory Teams (SIATs), the Implementation Strategy interdisciplinary teams (IDTs), Local Integrating Organizations (LIOs), and other appropriate forums.
- How TIL 2.0 program activities would be reported into established Management Conference accountability mechanisms, such as the Puget Sound Info platform, and other platforms or processes led by the Puget Sound Partnership. This should also include how TIL 2.0 subaward products and activities would be tagged or mapped onto Action Agenda activities and onto the adaptive management framework that supports Action Agenda implementation, known as the Progress Measures Framework, and which includes the Puget Sound Vital Signs, Indicators, and Targets. This is so connections between the TIL 2.0 portfolio of activities and the Action Agenda and its supporting adaptive management framework can be clearly and readily articulated, summarized, and communicated.
- How the TIL 2.0 program would, in an ongoing basis, interface, communicate, coordinate, and be accountable to the federally-recognized Puget Sound Tribes whose Action Agenda priorities the TIL 2.0 program supports. Potential important forums in this regard include existing relationships between the applicant and each Tribal government; the Tribal Management Conference forum, the Partnership-Tribal Coordination Council (PTCC), the Treaty Rights at Risk Initiative, and other structures and forums.

3. Manage the Cooperative Agreement

The TIL will be expected to comply with all terms and conditions, policies, and requirements relating to managing federal assistance agreements. The TIL will also need to ensure and support their subrecipient

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building approach and collaborative decision-making process, each MC works closely together to implement the CCMP. The MC ensures that the CCMP is uniquely tailored to the local environmental conditions, is based on local input, and supports local priorities" http://water.epa.gov/type/oceb/nep/. For Puget Sound specifically, the Management Conference is described on p. 2, Appendix A, of the 2018-2022 Puget Sound Action Agenda (**Error! Hyperlink reference not valid.**https://psp.wa.gov/action_agenda_center.php).

community in complying with all terms and conditions, policies, and requirements relating to federal assistance that flow down to them from the TIL 2.0 award. In addition, the selected applicant is expected to adaptively manage the TIL 2.0 program by periodically developing and applying insights and lessons learned from past experiences with Action Agenda implementation programs to ongoing conduct of the program. The applicant's program to manage the cooperative agreement arising from this RFA should address the following factors and considerations:

- Working with the EPA Project Officer to establish, staff, and sustain regular and robust mechanisms for communicating on the TIL 2.0 cooperative agreement. This may include regular (e.g., weekly or biweekly) check-ins with the EPA Project Officer; dedicated conversations to support semiannual progress reporting requirements; and other mechanisms.
- Mechanisms and systems to proactively manage and track grant and subaward funds to ensure compliance with targets that EPA may specify regarding unliquidated obligations.
- Mechanisms and systems to manage and track compliance of all aspects of the grant and subaward conduct to ensure compliance with all EPA Terms and Conditions. This includes required semiannual progress reporting (both from subawardees to TIL, and from TIL to EPA); completing all required closeout processes (both from subawardees to TIL, and from TIL to EPA).
- Update workplans annually with incremental funding awards, develop communications about the program, represent the program at conferences and events, and cover close-out, synthesis, and presentation activities.
- Mechanisms and processes to periodically affirm that the organization's senior leadership is kept informed and supports the direction and conduct of this program, and that the direction and conduct of this program is well integrated into and coordinated with the organization's strategic goals as well as with the organization's commitment to collaborative engagement in the Puget Sound Management Conference and Action Agenda implementation.
- Processes to periodically compile and address feedback on the program and adjusting if needed to strengthen achievement of program objectives. This may include obtaining or compiling feedback and communication from subrecipients on any aspect of program administration and support; reviewing the history of Tribal LO and TIL 1.0 program outputs and synthesizing themes, lessons learned, and recommendations for ongoing management of the program. This may also include obtaining or compiling feedback from key recovery, Funding Model, and Management Conference partners, relating to TIL 2.0 program goals, objectives, progress, and the degree to which these are known and communicated.

C. EPA's Strategic Plan Linkages, Environmental Results, and Logic Models

Pursuant to paragraph 6.a. of EPA Order 5700.7A1, "Environmental Results under EPA Assistance Agreements," EPA must link proposed assistance agreements to EPA's strategic goals (see EPA Order 5700.7A1, Environmental Results under EPA Assistance Agreements, https://www.epa.gov/grants/epa-order-57007a1-epas-policy-environmental-results-under-epa-assistance-agreements). EPA also requires that applicants and recipients adequately describe environmental outputs, environmental outcomes, and performance measurements to be achieved under assistance agreements. These linkages, outputs, outcomes, and performance measures are described below.

1. Linkage to EPA Strategic Plan

The activities to be funded under this solicitation support EPA's Draft FY 2022-2026 Strategic Plan (https://www.epa.gov/planandbudget/strategicplan). Awards made under this solicitation will support Goal 5 – Ensure Clean and Safe Water for All Communities, Objective 5.2 – Protect and Restore Waterbodies and Watersheds of the Draft Plan (https://www.epa.gov/planandbudget/strategicplan).

2. Environmental Results: Outputs, Outcomes, and Performance Measures

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

Examples of expected outputs from the activities and project(s) conducted by Tribal Implementation Lead selected under this solicitation may include, but are not limited to, the following examples:

- Draft and final plans for a subaward cycle that includes a solicitation phase, a proposal review process and phase, a subaward contracting phase, a subrecipient monitoring and support phase, and a closeout phase.
- Draft and final plans for coordinating with PSP, SIL, and other Management Conference recovery partners
- Draft and final plans for supporting subaward applicants in identifying connections between their Tribal priorities and the activities, strategies, and other content of the Puget Sound Action Agenda
- Documentation of subaward monitoring activities
- Memos, presentations, reports, or other documentation of activities to synthesize the TIL program, its products, successes, challenges, opportunities that can inform adaptive management of the TIL program
- Documentation of compliance with award terms and conditions, as appropriate (e.g., documentation of applicant quality assurance and quality management systems; a record of submitted progress reports; etc.)

Examples of outputs that could be generated by subawards awarded by the Tribal Implementation Lead selected under this solicitation may include, but are not limited to, the following examples:

- Products associated with routine subrecipient reporting, such as semi-annual progress and final reports
- Publications, presentations, reports, or other products produced under the subawards
- Programs or projects to target riparian protection and restoration
- Incentive programs to achieve net reduction in shoreline armoring
- Coordinated investment strategies developed/ implemented to maximize cross agency effectiveness for habitat restoration and protection
- Invasive species control programs to preserve / restore native vegetation in important habitat areas
- Number of volunteer stewards who are trained in oil spill response. The number of volunteers would be reported as a quantifiable output.
- Public outreach and education activities conducted to help reduce unregulated pathogen pollution
- Inspection and/or enforcement activities for pathogen pollution control

- Climate change adaptation and resiliency planning or project construction to address stormwater impacts
- Toxics reduction programs to reduce pollutant loading of stormwater runoff
- Low impact development, LID, project design and construction.

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

The term "outcome" means the result, effect or consequence that will occur from carrying out an environmental program or activity that is related to an environmental or programmatic goal or objective. Outcomes may be qualitative and environmental, behavioral, health-related, or programmatic in nature, but must also be quantitative. They may not necessarily be entirely achievable within an assistance agreement funding period. Activities and projects to be funded under this announcement are expected to produce programmatic and /or environmental outcomes including but not limited to:

- Action Agenda projects implemented by Tribes are recognized, reported and highlighted within Action Agenda implementation tracking systems
- The Puget Sound Management Conference has a substantive understanding and appreciation of the body of Action Agenda implementation efforts led by Tribes, and Tribes' role in implementing the Action Agenda
- Measurable progress toward targets established for Vital Signs and Indicators of greatest importance to Tribes (e.g., chinook salmon) is reported in State of the Sound reports, and Tribes' role in this progress is identified and understood. The following are examples of potentially relevant indicators, but the exact indicators would need to be determined on a case by case basis:
    - Reduction in the number of water bodies on Washington's Impaired Waters list
    - Stormwater management programs established and functioning in majority of priority Puget Sound watersheds
    - Measurable reduction of stormwater pollutants in marine water quality monitoring
    - Measurable reduction of toxicity levels in marine species
    - Net increase in acres of native riparian vegetation
    - Increased forested upland acreage in conservation status
    - Improved ecosystem function observed in priority habitat areas
    - Net increases of harvestable shellfish bed acreage
    - Pollution Identification and Correction programs functioning in all Puget Sound counties, enabling better response to new pollution source detection
    - Fewer conditional closures of shellfish beds impacted by pathogen or nutrient runoff
    - Existing commercial, tribal, and recreational shellfish harvest areas are protected and preserved, resulting in improved public health

The applicant should also develop performance measures they expect to achieve through the proposed activities and describe them in their proposal. These performance measures will help gather insights and will be the mechanism to track progress concerning successful process and output and outcome strategies and will provide the basis for developing lessons to inform future recipients. It is expected that the description of performance measures will include defined benchmark or change in status, either in programmatic function or environmental condition, and that the performance measures be time constrained and/or quantifiable such as the following:

- Performance Measure Example 1 (for Tribal Implementation Lead): Subaward recipients complete projects within the stated timeframe and unliquidated obligations are minimized.
- Performance Measure Example 2 (for subawards managed by TIL): Number of feet of shoreline armoring removed.

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

- What measurable short term and longer-term results will the project achieve?
- How will progress in achieving the expected results (including outputs and outcomes) be measured, and how will the planned approach use resources effectively and efficiently?

To ensure your application supports implementation of both the Puget Sound Action Agenda and EPA's national strategic plan objectives, you should carefully consider the underlying logic of your proposed tasks, outputs, and outcomes, and how they support the objectives of this solicitation. You may include a more formal graphical logic model with your application. A logic model summarizes the major elements of your project, and connects strategic objectives to your proposed resources, activities, outputs, and outcomes. You may also describe the underlying logic of your proposed program of work in narrative form.

See Appendix A for information on environmental results and logic models.

II. Award Information

A. Number and Amount of Awards

EPA anticipates awarding one cooperative agreement from this RFA, subject to the availability of funds, the quality of proposals received, and other applicable considerations. Funding for the award is expected to be provided incrementally over a five-year period with an initial amount of approximately $7,000,000 to $10,000,000 for the first year and subsequent incremental funding through year five. Incremental funding after the initial award is subject to future appropriations, satisfactory performance of work, and other applicable considerations. The total estimated funding for this competitive opportunity is up to approximately $50,000,000 for the five-year period.

B. Start Date and Length of Project Period

The successful applicant should plan for projects to begin on or after **July 1, 2022**. EPA will accept proposals for a five-year funding period. The proposal must clearly demonstrate how the project will be sustained for the time frame proposed.

C. Funding Type

The successful applicant will be issued a cooperative agreement. A cooperative agreement is an assistance agreement that is used when there is substantial federal involvement with the recipient during the performance of an activity or project. EPA will negotiate the precise terms and conditions of "substantial involvement" as part of the award process. Federal involvement may include close monitoring of the recipient's performance; collaboration during the performance of the scope of work; in accordance with 2 C.F.R. 200.317 and 2 C.F.R. 200.318, as appropriate, review of proposed procurements; reviewing qualifications of key personnel; and/or review and comment on the content of printed or electronic publications prepared. EPA does not have the authority to select employees or

contractors employed by the recipient. The final decision on the content of reports rests with the recipient.

In addition, under the award to be made under this RFA, EPA involvement may include: (1) negotiating the initial Scope of Work for the cooperative agreement and also annual amendments when incremental funding is applied for. EPA may re-negotiate annual work plans and budgets so long as the revised workplans and budget are consistent with the scope of work of the agreement and the solicitation and EPA's annual federal budget; (2) monitor the project management and execution throughout the assistance agreement's project and budget period; (3) provide technical assistance and coordination as requested or needed by the recipient; and (4) review and approve technical deliverables.

D. Other Award Provisions

EPA reserves the right to reject all proposals and make no award under this announcement or to a make a smaller award than expected. In addition, EPA reserves the right to make additional awards under this announcement, consistent with Agency policy and guidance, if additional funding becomes available after the original selections are made. Any additional selections for awards will be made no later than 6 months after the original selection decisions.

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

III.Eligibility Information

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

A. Eligible Applicants – See CFDA 66.121

All federally recognized Indian Tribes located within the greater Puget Sound basin and any consortium of these eligible Tribes are eligible to apply. The greater Puget Sound basin is defined as all watersheds draining to the U.S. waters of Puget Sound, southern Georgia Basin, and the Strait of Juan de Fuca.

An eligible Intertribal consortium is one that demonstrates that: 1) a majority of its members meet the eligibility requirements for this program; 2) all members that meet the eligibility requirements authorize the consortium to apply for and receive the grant; and 3) only members that meet the eligibility requirements will benefit directly from the grant project and the consortium agrees to a grant condition to that effect.

An Intertribal consortium must have adequate documentation of the existence of the partnership and the authorization of the member Tribes to apply for and receive assistance. Documentation that demonstrates the existence of the partnership of Indian Tribal governments may consist of Tribal Council resolutions, Intertribal consortia resolutions in conjunction with a Tribal Council resolution from each member Tribe, or other written certification from a duly authorized representative of each Tribal government that clearly demonstrates that a partnership of Indian Tribal governments exists. An Intertribal consortium resolution is not adequate documentation of the member Tribes' authorization of the consortium unless it includes a written certification from a duly authorized representative of each Tribal government.

B. Non-Federal Match Requirement

The Clean Water Act, at §320(g)(3)(a)(II), provides that the Federal share of a grant under this program for a fiscal year shall not exceed 50% of the aggregate costs of implementing the project. For this RFA, this means that applicants must be able to show in their proposals that they will be able to provide and/or coordinate match for this project such that they or other members of the Management Conference will spend an equal amount of nonfederal funds on implementing these projects during the budget period. Applicants should identify how they plan to coordinate match, and/or the source(s) of the anticipated non-federal match together with the nature of the projects funded with the non-federal match. If applicable, proposals must show that the projects providing the nonfederal match are "committed" and that they have not been used to provide nonfederal match for any other federal financial assistance. The match can come from expenditures to implement the Action Agenda/CCMP in the aggregate.

Forms of Match: The match requirement may be met in the form of cash or in-kind contributions. In-kind contributions include volunteer or donated time, equipment, expertise, salaries, other verifiable costs, etc. and are subject to the regulations governing matching fund requirements at 2 C.F.R. Part 200. The match must be for allowable project costs. Matching funds are considered assistance agreement funds and are included in the total award amount and should be used for the reasonable and necessary expenses of carrying out the work plan. All assistance agreement funds are subject to federal audit. Any restrictions on the use of assistance agreement funds (examples of restrictions are outlined in Section III.D of this announcement) also apply to the use of matching funds. Other Federal assistance agreements may not be used as match without specific statutory authority. If matching requirements for incremental funding awarded under this RFA change as a result of future legislation on restoration of Puget Sound or otherwise, EPA will make appropriate adjustments to match requirements in the terms and conditions of the cooperative agreements.

C. Threshold Eligibility Criteria

Proposals must meet the threshold eligibility criteria listed below by the time of a proposal's submission or they will be eliminated from consideration for funding. Only proposals meeting all of the criteria will be evaluated against the ranking factors in Section V.A. Applicants whose proposals are deemed ineligible as a result of the threshold review will be notified within 15 calendar days of the ineligibility determination.

1. Proposals must substantially comply with the proposal submission instructions and requirements set forth in Section IV of this announcement or else they will be rejected. However, where a page limit is expressed in Section IV with respect to the narrative proposal, pages in excess of the page limitation will not be reviewed.
2. Proposals must demonstrate that subaward projects will implement actions that are in the approved Action Agenda and that are demonstrated to be of high tribal priority.
3. Initial proposals must be submitted through Grants.gov as stated in Section IV of this announcement (except in the limited circumstances where another mode of submission is specifically allowed for as explained in Section IV) on or before the proposal submission deadline published in Section IV of this announcement. Applicants are responsible for following the submission instructions in Section IV of this announcement to ensure that their proposal is timely submitted.
4. Proposals submitted after the submission deadline will be considered late and deemed ineligible without further consideration unless the applicant can clearly demonstrate that it was late due

to EPA mishandling or because of technical problems associated with Grants.gov or relevant SAM.gov issues. An applicant's failure to timely submit their proposal through Grants.gov because they did not timely or properly register in SAM.gov or Grants.gov will not be considered an acceptable reason to consider a late submission. Applicants should confirm receipt of their proposal with the EPA Puget Sound Program contact, Melissa Whitaker, at Whitaker.Melissa@epa.gov as soon as possible after the submission deadline. Failure to do so may result in your proposal not being reviewed.

5. Applicants must meet the eligibility requirements as described in Section III. A above.
6. Applicants must demonstrate how they will meet the match requirements as described in Section III.B above.
7. Proposals with international work plan elements must demonstrate that they directly and primarily benefit U.S. waters, resources, or policy interests to restore and protect the greater Puget Sound ecosystem.
8. Applicants must demonstrate that their subaward program will provide the opportunity for all 19 Federally recognized Indian Tribes located within the greater Puget Sound basin, and any authorized consortium of these eligible Tribes, to obtain funding.

D. Funding Restrictions

Actions required under NPDES Phase l and ll stormwater permits existing at the time of this announcement will generally not be funded. Applicants proposing stormwater-related activities in Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4) areas must include a statement certifying that the work proposed for funding is either not required under a current stormwater discharge permit or it strategically supports Puget Sound targets and environmental outcomes that would otherwise not accrue. EPA may re-evaluate this restriction as future permit changes are made.

Award funds may not be used for matching funds for other federal assistance agreements, lobbying or intervention in federal regulatory or adjudicatory proceedings. Award funding must be authorized by the statutory authority (e.g. Section 320(g) of the Clean Water Act) and may not be used to sue the federal government or any other government entity. In accordance with applicable law, regulation, and policy, any recipient of funding must agree to comply with restrictions on using assistance funds for unauthorized lobbying, fund-raising, or political activities (i.e., lobbying members of Congress or lobbying for other federal grants, cooperative agreements, or contracts). EPA reserves the right to make final decisions regarding actions or costs incurred that are contrary or damaging to the intent and purposes of the Puget Sound National Estuary program (NEP), the Puget Sound Action Agenda and Management Conference, for which award funds may not be used.

All costs incurred under this program must be allowable under 2 C.F.R. 200, Subpart E.

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

IV. Application and Submission Information

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

A. Submission and Limited Exception Procedures

Applicants must apply electronically through Grants.gov under this funding opportunity based on the grants.gov instructions in this announcement. If your organization has no access to the internet or access is very limited, you may request an exception for the remainder of this calendar year by following the procedures outlined here. Please note that your request must be received at least 15 calendar days before the application due date to allow enough time to negotiate alternative submission methods. Issues with submissions with respect to this opportunity only are addressed in section IV.A.2. *Technical Issues with Submission* below.

1. Submission Instructions and Deadline

The electronic submission of your application must be made by an official representative of your institution who is registered with Grants.gov and is authorized to sign applications for Federal assistance. For more information on the registration requirements that must be completed in order to submit an application through grants.gov, go to Grants.gov and click on "Applicants" on the top of the page and then go to the "Get Registered" link on the page. If your organization is not currently registered with Grants.gov, please encourage your office to designate an Authorized Organization Representative (AOR) and ask that individual to begin the registration process as soon as possible. Please note that the registration process also requires that your organization have a DUNS number and a current registration with the System for Award Management (SAM) and the process of obtaining both could take a month or more. Applicants must ensure that all registration requirements are met in order to apply for this opportunity through grants.gov and should ensure that all such requirements have been met well in advance of the submission deadline. Registration on Grants.gov, SAM.gov, and DUNS number assignment is FREE. Please see RAIN-2021-G01 for information about EPA's implementation of the upcoming Government-wide transition from DUNS to Unique Entity Identifier (UEI).

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

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

You may also be able to access the application package for this announcement by searching for the opportunity on Grants.gov. Go to Grants.gov and then click on “Search Grants” at the top of the page and enter the Funding Opportunity Number, EPA-I-R10-PS-2022-001, or the CFDA number that applies to the announcement (CFDA 66.121), in the appropriate field and click the Search button.

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

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

Applications submitted through Grants.gov will be time and date stamped electronically. If you have not received a confirmation of receipt from EPA (not from the Grants.gov website*)* within 30 days of the application deadline, please contact Melissa Whitaker (whitaker.melissa@epa.gov). Failure to do so may result in your application not being reviewed.

2. Technical Issues with Submission

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

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

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

Transmission Difficulties. If transmission difficulties that result in a late transmission, no transmission, or rejection of the transmitted application are experienced, and following the above instructions does not resolve the problem so that the application is submitted to Grants.gov by the deadline date and time, follow the guidance below. The Agency will make a decision concerning acceptance of each late submission on a case-by-case basis. All emails, as described below, are to be sent to Whitaker.melissa@epa.gov with the FON (EPA-I-R10-PS-2022-001) in the subject line. Be aware that EPA will only consider accepting applications that were unable to transmit due to Grants.gov or relevant https://www.sam.gov/SAM/ system issues or for unforeseen exigent circumstances, such as extreme weather interfering with internet access. Failure of an applicant to submit timely because they did not properly or timely register in SAM.gov or Grants.gov is not an acceptable reason to justify acceptance of a late submittal.

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

as extreme weather interfering with internet access, email Whitaker.melissa@epa.gov as soon as internet access is available and explain the circumstances.

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

Grants.gov rejection of the application package. If a notification is received from Grants.gov stating that the application has been rejected for reasons other than late submittal and it is too late to reapply, promptly send an email to Whitaker.melissa@epa.gov with the Funding Opportunity Number (EPA-I-R10-PS-2022-001) in the subject line within one business day of the closing date of this solicitation. The email should include any materials provided by Grants.gov and an attachment of the entire application in PDF format.

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

B. Content and Form of Application Submission

1. Overview of Required Application Package Materials

The application package must include all of the following materials:

1. Standard Form (SF)-424, Application for Federal Assistance. Please note that the organizational DUNS number must be included on the SF-424.
2. Standard Form (SF)-424A, Budget Information.
3. EPA Key Contacts Form (EPA Form 5700-54)
4. EPA Form 4700-4 – Pre-award Compliance Review Report.
5. Application Narrative (including the summary information page and workplan as described below in Section IV.B.2.) cannot exceed a maximum of 20 single-spaced, typed pages and should use no less than 12-point font. Supporting materials such as resumes and letters of support can be submitted as attachments and are not included in the above noted 20 page limit. Ensure that your narrative addresses all of the evaluation criteria in Section V and any appropriate threshold eligibility criteria from Section III.C.

2. Detailed Contents of Application Narrative

The Application Narrative must include a Summary Information Page, recommended not to exceed one page in length. The Summary Information Page must include the following information:

1. Application Title.
2. Applicant Information – Include applicant (organization) name, address, contact person, phone number, fax and e-mail address.
3. Project Period - Provide proposed beginning date and ending date.
4. Funding Requested – Specify the amount you are requesting from EPA for the proposed work period. See Summary Information on Page 1 of this RFA for information on total estimated funding.

5. Total Project Cost – Specify total cost of the project. Identify amount of funding from other sources for required non-federal match.
6. Abstract: Provide a proposal abstract of no longer than 150 words. Include a statement of the proposed objective, the proposed approach affirming capacity to work with the Puget Sound NEP Management Conference, federally-recognized tribes in the greater Puget Sound basin and authorized consortia of these tribes, and the anticipated outputs and outcomes.
7. DUNS number.

The Application Narrative must also include a workplan. The workplan should explicitly describe how the applicant proposes to meet the objectives in Section I of this RFA. In the work plan the applicant should demonstrate that the applicant meets all elements of the threshold criteria in Section III.C including the non-federal match.

EPA is soliciting proposals for a subaward program to be implemented over a five-year funding period. It is important for proposals to describe levels of effort and workplans that are sustainable over the full five-year period. Because future funding levels are not guaranteed, applicants should present a proposed scope of work with well thought out sequencing and objectives described in the near term as well as objectives over the longer term expected for the assistance agreement. By noting tasks or components that are severable (fairly independent of other actions) or that could be funded at variable levels, applicants can submit proposals that provide flexibility to incrementally award funds in later years of the project period.

The workplan must address the following information:

1. Statement of organizational interest. Briefly explain why your organization is applying to lead this program. Explain how the objectives of this program, stated in Section I of this RFA, align with your organization's interests and responsibilities. Describe your organization's commitment to being a collaborative and engaged member of the Puget Sound Management Conference and to implementing the Puget Sound Action Agenda. Describe internal mechanisms you will use to coordinate your organization's Puget Sound recovery activities, including your organization's other Management Conference activities.
2. Proposed tasks, outputs, and outcomes to "Make and Manage Subawards" (described in Section I.B.1.). For each task, identify the level of effort, performance measurements, timeline milestones, or other means that will be used to track and measure progress towards achieving the expected outcomes and outputs. See Section I.C.2. for a description of environmental results, including performance measures, outputs, and outcomes. Applicants acquiring professional or commercial goods or services must comply with the competitive procurement standards in 2 C.F.R. 200.317 - 200.326 and cannot use a subaward/subgrant as the funding mechanism. See Section IV.D. of this RFA.
3. Proposed tasks, outputs, and outcomes needed for "Management Conference Participation and Partner Engagement" (described in Section I.B.2.). For each task, identify the level of effort, performance measurements, timeline milestones, or other means that will be used to track and measure progress towards achieving the expected outcomes and outputs. See Section I.C.2. for a description of environmental results, including performance measures, outputs, and outcomes.
4. Proposed tasks, outputs, and outcomes needed to "Manage the Cooperative Agreement" (described in Section I.B.3.). For each task, identify the level of effort, performance measurements, timeline milestones, or other means that will be used to track and measure

progress towards achieving the expected outcomes and outputs. See Section I.C.2. for a description of environmental results, including performance measures, outputs, and outcomes.

5. Other required elements. Briefly describe your organization's approach to the following items. For each of the following items, identify the performance measurements, timeline milestones, or other means that will be used to track and measure progress towards achieving the expected outcomes and outputs.
    a. Non-federal match: Discuss how you will provide or coordinate the required match as described in Section III.B. This discussion should include how the applicant's organization will collaborate with the PSP and other state and local entities to identify and secure sources of non-federal match for subaward projects as well as the applicant's own use of award funds for direct costs requiring non-federal match. Also note that all matching funds are subject to the regulations governing matching fund requirements at 2 C.F.R. Part 200.
    b. Climate Change Resilience and Environmental Justice: Discuss how the proposed work plan addresses the impacts of climate change and builds ecosystem resilience (see Section I.A.4). Applicants are encouraged include in their work plan policies and procedures to work proactively with their subawardees to build climate change adaptation and resilience into subaward project design and implementation. Also describe how considerations of environmental justice will inform your program.
    c. Programmatic Capability and Past Performance: Submit a list of federally funded assistance agreements (assistance agreements include Federal grants and cooperative agreements but not Federal contracts) that your organization performed within the last three years (no more than 5 agreements, and preferably EPA agreements) and describe: (i) whether, and how, you were able to successfully complete and manage those agreements; and (ii) your history of meeting the reporting requirements under those agreements including whether you adequately and timely reported on your progress towards achieving the expected outputs and outcomes of those agreements (and if not, explain why not) and whether you submitted acceptable final technical reports under the agreements; and (iii) your organizational experience and plan for timely and successfully achieving the objectives of the proposed project, and your staff expertise/qualifications, staff knowledge, and resources or the ability to obtain them, to successfully achieve the goals of the proposed project. In evaluating applicants under these factors in Section V, EPA will consider the information provided by the applicant and may also consider relevant information from other sources, including information from EPA files and from current/prior grantors (e.g., to verify and/or supplement the information provided by the applicant). If you do not have any relevant or available past performance or past reporting information, please indicate this in the application and you will receive a neutral score for these factors (a neutral score is half of the total points available in a subset of possible points). If you do not provide any response for these items, you may receive a score of 0 for these factors. The applicant may describe prior experience it has had in making and managing subawards and the degree to which that history has been successful. If the applicant proposes to rely on a subrecipient or collaborating agency to make and manage subawards, that other organization's formal documented system must be described in the workplan. The discussion of the subaward management system should also describe the internal controls that the organization has in place to ensure that the procedures in the subaward management system are being

properly implemented. Alternatively, if there currently is no formal documented system, the proposal narrative must describe your organization's plan and schedule for developing such a system in compliance with applicable State law.

6. Detailed Budget and Budget Narrative. The detailed budget and budget narrative should provide a detailed breakout of the approximate funding used for each major activity presented and be supported by a thorough internal financial management system. The detailed budget and budget narrative must include:
    a. A description of the budget and estimated funding amounts for each work component/task.
    b. A description of the applicant's approach, procedures, and controls for ensuring that awarded grant funds will be expended in a timely and efficient manner.
    c. Itemized costs related to personnel, fringe benefits, contractual costs, travel, equipment, supplies, other direct costs, indirect costs, and total costs. For those selected for awards, applicants will need to submit a copy of their current indirect cost rate that has been negotiated with a federal cognizant agency prior to award. This is not a necessary document for application but is necessary for the selected applicants to provide prior to award.

Please note that EPA has developed guidance that can greatly assist applicants in preparing a budget and correctly characterizing costs for applications. Please see EPA's grant website for this guidance. The document called "Interim General Budget Development Guidance for Applicants and Recipients of EPA Financial Assistance" is particularly helpful. EPA encourages applicants to use this important resource when preparing the detailed budget and budget narrative for this solicitation.

C. Submission Dates and Times

The closing date and time for submission of proposals is **March 11, 2022, 11:59 PM Eastern Standard Time (EST). Proposals submitted after the closing date and time will not be considered for funding**.

D. Coalition Coverage

Groups of two or more eligible applicants may choose to form a coalition and submit a single application under this RFA; however, one entity must be responsible for the grant. Coalitions must identify which eligible organization will be the recipient of the grant and which eligible organization(s) will be subrecipients of the recipient (the "pass-through entity"). Subawards must be consistent with the definition of that term in 2 CFR 200.1 and comply with EPA's Subaward Policy. The pass-through entity that administers the grant and subawards will be accountable to EPA for proper expenditure of the funds and reporting and will be the point of contact for the coalition. As provided in 2 CFR 200.332, subrecipients are accountable to the pass-through entity for proper use of EPA funding. For-profit organizations are not eligible for subawards under this grant program but may receive procurement contracts. Any contracts for services or products funded with EPA financial assistance must be awarded under the competitive procurement procedures of 2 CFR Part 200 and/or 2 CFR Part 1500, as applicable. The regulations at 2 CFR 1500.10 contain limitations on the extent to which EPA funds may be used to compensate individual consultants. Refer to the Best Practice Guide for Procuring Services, Supplies, and Equipment Under EPA Assistance Agreements for guidance on competitive procurement requirements and consultant compensation. Do not name a procurement contractor (including a consultant) as a "partner" or otherwise in your application unless the contractor has been selected in compliance with competitive procurement requirements.

E. Webinar on this Solicitation

EPA is hosting a webinar on February 2, 2022 for interested applicants for this solicitation. The purpose of the webinar will be to answer any questions interested applicants may have about this RFA. We plan to record the webinar and make the recording publicly available for interested applicants and or other interested parties who are not able to participate in the scheduled webinar.

We will post information about, and recordings from, this webinar on the following website. Please monitor this website for further detail on this webinar, including any date changes or additional dates that may be necessary.

http://www2.epa.gov/puget-sound/funding-and-grants-puget-sound

If you are interested in attending this webinar, please notify Melissa Whitaker at: Whitaker.Melissa@epa.gov so that we can gauge the level of interest and possible need for more than one webinar.

V. Application Review Information

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

A. Application Review Criteria

Only applications from eligible entities that meet the threshold criteria in Section III of this announcement will be reviewed according to the evaluation criterion below. Applicants should explicitly address these criteria as part of their application. Each application will be rated under a points system. A total of 100 points is possible. Eligible applications will be reviewed and ranked based on the criteria listed in Table 1.

Table 1. Criteria upon which eligible applications will be reviewed and ranked

Criterion	Description	Points
Overall quality of application	The clarity with which the application describes a coherent program responsive to this solicitation and demonstrates that the proposed activities, inputs/resources, tasks, and outputs will achieve desired outcomes, objectives and goals.	15
Organizational interest and alignment	The extent and quality to which the application shows that the organization supports and prioritizes the successful conduct of this program, and identifies mechanisms and structures to promote internal alignment regarding its Management Conference roles.	5
Technical merit and feasibility of the proposed approach to:	(1) Make and manage subawards under the TIL 2.0 award: The extent and quality to which the application addresses the "Make and Manage Subawards" objective described in I.B.1, - especially the extent and quality to which the subaward process will ensure that funded projects will advance tribal priorities within the Action Agenda – and the factors and considerations listed there; and how the proposed tasks and outputs will result in desired outcomes.	15
Technical merit and feasibility of the proposed approach to:	(2) Management Conference Participation and Partner Engagement: The extent and quality to which the application addresses the "Management Conference Participation and Partner Engagement" objective described in I.B.2., and the factors and considerations listed there; and how the proposed tasks and outputs will result in desired outcomes.	15
Technical merit and feasibility of the proposed approach to:	(3) Managing the Cooperative Agreement: The extent and quality to which the application addresses the "Manage the Cooperative Agreement" objective described in I.B.3., the factors and considerations listed there; and how the proposed tasks and outputs will result in desired outcomes.	15

Criterion	Description	Points
Financial integrity, budget, and non-federal match	Proposals will be evaluated based on the: (1) Adequacy of the budget information and whether it is reasonable to accomplish the proposed objectives, activities and meet project timelines (4 points). (2) Extent and quality to which the proposal provides complete budget information such that amounts indicated for task areas described in the narrative proposal are clearly identifiable and sufficient and reasonable to complete the proposed work and provides justification and/or explanations sufficient to support the costs included in different budget categories (4 points). (3) Extent and quality to which the proposal describes in the budget narrative how required non-federal match will accounted for (4 points). (4) Extent and quality to which the narrative proposal describes the systems, policies, and procedures by which the applicant will track expenditures funded by the EPA assistance agreement and how they will fiscally manage the proposed subaward program including procedures for working with subaward recipients to minimize the extent of unliquidated obligations (4 points).	16
Past performance and programmatic capability	Under this criterion, applicants will be evaluated based on their ability to successfully complete and manage the proposed project taking into account their 1. Past performance in successfully completing and managing the assistance agreements identified in response to Section IV.C. of the announcement 2. History of Meeting the Reporting Requirements under the assistance agreements identified in response to Section IV.C of the announcement, including whether the applicant submitted acceptable final technical reports under those agreements and the extent to which the applicant adequately and timely reported on their progress towards achieving the expected outputs and outcomes under those agreements and if such progress was not being made, whether the applicant adequately report why not 3. Organizational Experience and plan for timely and successfully achieving the objectives of the proposed project 4. Staff Expertise/Qualifications, staff knowledge, and resources or the ability to obtain them, to successfully achieve the goals of the proposed project Note: In evaluating applicants under items 1 and 2 of this criterion, the Agency will consider the information provided by the applicant and may also consider relevant information from other sources including agency files and prior/current grantors (e.g., to verify and/or supplement the information supplied by the applicant). If you do not have any relevant or available past performance or past reporting information, please indicate this in the proposal and you will receive a neutral score for these sub-factors (items 1 and 2) above; a neutral score is half of the total points available in a subset of possible points. If you do not provide any response for these items, you may receive a score of 0 for these factors.	14
Climate resilience and environmental justice	The extent and quality to which applications explain how climate resilience and environmental justice considerations are reflected in the elements of their work plans. This should include addressing how projects supported under this program will achieve expected outcomes even as climate changes, will help protect human health and the environment and help communities and ecosystems become more sustainable and resilient to the effects of climate change, and increase decision makers' ability to anticipate, prepare for, respond to, and recover from the impacts of a changing climate.	5

B. Review and Selection Process

Proposals will first be evaluated by EPA staff against the threshold factors listed in Section III. Only those proposals which meet all of the threshold factors will be evaluated by an EPA staff evaluation team using the evaluation criteria listed. Each eligible proposal will be given a numerical score and will be rank-ordered according to the numerical score. The staff evaluation team will make a recommendation to the EPA Region 10 selection official based on the rank-ordering.

In addition to the staff evaluation team recommendation, the selection official may consider other factors in making funding decisions. These other factors may include program balance, funding availability, similarity of the project to other projects being funded by EPA, and programmatic priorities.

VI. Award Administration Information

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

A. Award Notification

Following the evaluation-of proposals all applicants will be notified regarding their status. EPA anticipates notification to successful applicants will be made via e-mail. The notification will be sent to the original signer of the proposal or the project contact listed in the proposal. This notification, which informs the applicant that its proposal has been selected and is being recommended for award, is not an authorization to begin work. The official notification of an award will be made by the Regional Grants Management Official.

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

EPA anticipates notification to unsuccessful applicant(s) will be made via email. The notification will be made to the original signer of the Standard Form (SF) 424, Application for Federal Assistance.

B. Administrative and National Policy Requirement

A listing and description of general EPA Regulations applicable to the award of assistance agreements may be viewed at: http://www2.epa.gov/grants.

C. Reporting Requirement

Semiannual reports and a detailed final report will be required. Semiannual reports summarizing progress, planned activities or changes to approved workplan for the reporting period and a summary of expenditures are required. The final report shall be completed within 120 calendar days of the completion of the period of performance. The final report should include: summary of the project or activity, advances achieved, and costs of the project or activity. In addition, the final report should discuss the problems, successes, and lessons learned from the project or activity that could help overcome structural, organizational or technical obstacles to implementing a similar project elsewhere. The schedule for submission of semiannual reports will be established by EPA, as a term and condition of the award.

D. Disputes

Assistance agreement competition-related disputes will be resolved in accordance with the dispute resolution procedures published in 70 FR (Federal Register) 3629, 3630 (January 26, 2005) which can be found at http://www2.epa.gov/grants/dispute-resolution-procedures.

Copies of these procedures may also be requested by contacting Melissa Whittaker, EPA Region 10 Puget Sound program at: Whitaker.melissa@epa.gov.

VII. Agency Contacts

For further information, contact:

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
ATTN: Melissa Whitaker
Region 10, Puget Sound Program
1200 6th Avenue, Suite 900
Seattle, Washington 98101
E-mail address: Whitaker.Melissa@epa.gov

All questions or comments must be communicated in writing via postal mail or email to the contact person listed above. Questions and answers will be posted until the closing date of this announcement at http://www2.epa.gov/puget-sound/funding-and-grants-puget-sound.

VIII. Other Information

The following Terms and Conditions are important considerations for applicants applying to this funding opportunity. However, this list does not represent the entire suite of terms and conditions applicable to federal assistance agreements. See EPA Grant Terms and Conditions at: http://www2.epa.gov/grants/grant-terms-and-conditions.

A. Riparian Buffers

EPA Region 10 anticipates that all new awards made under this solicitation will have a programmatic condition relating to riparian buffer projects. EPA Region 10 established the condition to ensure that Puget Sound Program funded buffer projects adhere to standards developed by NOAA to achieve water quality and salmon and tribal treaty resource recovery goals. In 2013 Puget Sound Lead Organizations agreed to use the condition, then in 2014 the programmatic condition was formally added to those awards.

The programmatic condition establishes that riparian buffer restoration projects in agricultural areas shall be consistent with the interim riparian buffer recommendations provided to EPA and the Natural Resource Conservation Service by National Marine Fisheries Service letters of February 4, 2013 and April 9, 2013, or the October 28, 2013 guidance. Grantees shall confirm in writing projects' consistency with the recommendations referenced above. When developing project proposals, grantees also should consider the extent to which proposals include appropriate riparian buffers or otherwise address pollution sources on other water courses on the properties in the project area to support water quality and salmon recovery. Deviations can only be obtained through an exception approved by EPA. In order for EPA to evaluate a request for an exception, the grantee must submit the scientific rationale demonstrating adequacy of buffers for supporting water quality and salmon recovery. The request must summarize tribal input on the scientific rationale or other relevant issues. The scientific rationale could be developed from sources such as site-specific assessment data, salmon recovery plans, Total Maximum Daily Loads (TMDLs) and the state nonpoint plan. EPA will confer with the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) and the Washington Department of Ecology and provide the opportunity for affected tribes to consult with EPA before making a final decision on a deviation request.

B. Quality Assurance

Acceptable Quality Assurance documentation must be submitted to the EPA Project Officer within 30 days of the acceptance of this agreement or another date as negotiated with the EPA Project Officer. No work involving direct measurements or data generation, environmental modeling, compilation of data from literature or electronic media, and data supporting the design, construction, and operation of environmental technology shall be initiated under this project until the EPA Project Officer, in concert with the EPA Quality Assurance Manager, has approved the quality assurance document. Additional information on these requirements can be found at the EPA Office of Grants and Debarment website: http://www.epa.gov/ogd/grants/assurance.htm.

Grantees must submit the quality assurance project plan (QAPP) to his/her EPA Project Officer and the EPA Project Officer forwards the new/revised QAPP to "R10 QA Support" via internal email group. The Region 10 Quality Assurance Team Contact is Donald M. Brown at (206) 553-0717 or email: brown.donaldM@epa.gov.

C. Peer Review

EPA Region 10 will, as appropriate, include a "peer review" or other appropriate technical review term and condition (T&C) in the final awards for this program. A peer review T&C would apply to all work performed under the award, including subaward and subcontract work, when the results of that work may affect management decisions relating to Puget Sound. Prior to finalizing any significant technical products the Principal Investigator (PI) of the work in question must solicit advice, review and feedback from a technical review or advisory group consisting of relevant subject matter specialists. A record of comments and a brief description of how respective comments are addressed by the PI will be provided to the Project Monitor prior to releasing any final reports or products resulting from the funded study.

D. Data Access and Information Release

In response to a Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request for research data relating to published research findings produced under a Federal award that were used by the Federal Government in developing an agency action that has the force and effect of law, the Federal awarding agency must request, and the non-Federal entity must provide, within a reasonable time, the research data so that they can be made available to the public through the procedures established under the FOIA. If the Federal awarding agency obtains the research data solely in response to a FOIA request, the Federal awarding agency may charge the requester a reasonable fee equaling the full incremental cost of obtaining the research data. This fee should reflect costs incurred by the Federal agency and the non-Federal entity. This fee is in addition to any fees the Federal awarding agency may assess under the FOIA (5 U.S.C. 552(a)(4)(A)).

E. Annual Grantee Conference

The recipient may attend one or more appropriate conferences each year, which may be within the Puget Sound region. The specific conferences will be determined in consultation with the EPA Project Officer. The purpose of this requirement is to provide recipients with opportunities to learn about and benefit from other relevant initiatives and programs that relate to the funded work; to exchange information about their funded work with organizations that may benefit from their experience; and generally to raise awareness within the Puget Sound, Salish Sea, and large aquatic ecosystem protection and restoration communities of the funded work Example of potentially relevant conferences include, but are not limited to, the biennial Salish Sea Ecosystem Conference and local or regional meetings of

Tribal, professional, scientific, or other relevant associations. Specific conferences will depend on the nature of the work proposed. Recipient will be allowed to use award funds to pay for travel and lodging. Recipient should include anticipated costs for attending conferences in their proposed budget.

F. WQX Requirement

Recipients are required to institute standardized reporting requirements into their work plans and include such costs in their budgets. All water quality data generated in accordance with an EPA approved Quality Assurance Project Plan as a result of this assistance agreement, either directly or by subaward, will be required to be transmitted into the Water Quality Portal (WQP) using either WQX or WQX web. Water quality data appropriate for the Water Quality Portal (WQP) include physical, chemical, and biological sample results for water, sediment, and fish tissue. The data include toxicity data, microbiological data, and the metrics and indices generated from biological and habitat data. The Water Quality Exchange (WQX) is the water data schema associated with the EPA, State and Tribal Exchange Network. Using the WQX schema partners map their database structure to the Water Quality Portal structure. WQX web is a web-based tool to convert data into the WQX format for smaller data generators that are not direct partners on the Exchange Network. More information about WQX, WQX web, and the Water Quality Portal, including tutorials, can be found at https://www.epa.gov/waterdata/water-quality-data-wqx. If activities submitted as match for this federal assistance agreement involve the generation of water quality data, the resulting information must be publicly accessible (in the Water Quality Portal or some other database). Recipients are encouraged to develop a cross walk between any non-WQX database utilized for the storage of water quality data associated with match activities and EPA's Water Quality Exchange (WQX).

Appendix A. Measuring Environmental Results: Logic Models, Outputs, and Outcomes

Beginning in early 2005, EPA required that all assistance agreement recipients document outputs and "to the extent practicable" outcomes. Outputs and outcomes differ both in their nature, and in how they are measured.

OUTPUTS: Outputs are the activities or deliverables that are to be accomplished as a result of an assistance agreement grant. Outputs are generally described as deliverables or milestones in a work plan or timeline. EPA Project Officers track the completion of outputs to monitor the progress of an assistance agreement. Outputs include items like the number of workshops held, number of volunteers trained, field work completed, studies completed, watershed management plan completed, etc.

OUTCOMES: Outcomes are the measurable impacts or results of the work of the assistance agreement. While outputs are accomplished during the life of the assistance agreement, outcomes generally occur after the completion of the assistance agreement. It is useful to categorize outcomes as short, medium, and long-term. Measuring environmental outcomes can be challenging, especially for small assistance agreements.

Tracking medium and long-term outcomes can be costly, especially if monitoring, sampling and analysis are involved. In addition, it can take many years for the long-term impact of an assistance agreement to have a measurable effect on the environment. For small assistance agreements, we tend to focus on short and medium-term outcomes, however, the recipient should still attempt to state long term goals and objectives from the assistance agreement.

- Short-term outcomes may include changes such as increased knowledge or an active stewardship program.
- Medium-term outcomes may include documented widespread adoption of best management practices, documented reduction of pesticide use (E.g. 3 pounds of pesticides per acre no longer being used on 2000 acres).
- Long-term outcomes may include documented reduction of nutrients in a lake, documented reduction in number of children with asthma, documented improvement of indoor air quality, or meeting river water quality standards.

The following hypothetical examples include brief discussions of outputs and outcomes:

Example 1: For a project aimed at protecting a salmon run, expected outputs may include an ecosystem services valuation; a formal public review process for the valuation; and a systematic, multifaceted outreach effort to educate decision-makers on the results of the valuation and its recommendations. Other outputs of the proposed work could include implementation and completion of specific habitat restoration projects previously identified in an established salmon recovery plan or other local implementation plan, leading to a specific number of acres of habitat restored, fish passage barriers removed, or the like. All of these products, or outputs, would be clearly identified as assistance agreement products and would be expected to be completed as part of the proposed work. The expected outcomes would include anticipated acres of key habitat protected or restored as a result of the valuation. Other outcomes would include supporting a healthy salmon run, maintaining water quality standards, delisting a water-body segment listed as impaired under CWA §303(d), or attaining a milestone under a Total Maximum Daily Load.

Example 2: A proposed project may be focused on protecting marine water quality and shellfish harvest areas. The anticipated outputs may be a local assessment program that systematically lists areas of known water quality and shellfish habitat problems, and systematically identifies appropriate/innovative technologies, development patterns, best management practices (BMPs), and other tools relevant to addressing these issues. The outputs would also include a report presenting the specific findings of the assessment. For example, such an assessment program could identify innovative household-scale septic systems as a tool for addressing nitrogen inputs to impaired estuarine waters; or innovative procedures to connect decisions regarding the location and use of septic systems to land use decisions and water quality requirements in sensitive areas. The proposed work may also include a plan for obtaining and documenting a formal technical review of the assessment by regionally recognized experts; for presenting and publicizing the assessment and its results; for taking public comment and revising the assessment; and for formally presenting it to key decision-making bodies. All of the previous outputs would be delivered during the project's period. Outcomes of this work would include reduced pollutants in surface waters and an upgrade in shellfish harvest areas.

LOGIC MODELS: Logic models are intended to help identify the range and sequence of actions necessary to attain a particular project result or outcome. They help line up and organize sequences of actions to achieve results. This is particularly relevant today as projects and implementation programs become more complex and multi-faceted and yet need to be communicated to and understood by many people. Logic models also help both project implementers and evaluators to view the whole system of actions and eventually to assess if the system is working as expected, or if not, why. In these ways logic tracks and result chains can help design, communicate, evaluate, track and adapt work programs.

Logic models and results chains are tools to be used to build better projects and programs. Accordingly, logic models come in many forms and shapes, from simple storylines that link various actions into strategies and work programs to more complex system diagrams. For a straight forward implementation project, perhaps the logic model is as simple as clearly documenting the history and basis for a particular project in a particular place to achieve a particular result. For a project with many tasks, work processes, timelines and partners, a more detailed approach may be more helpful.

With whatever logic model format you choose, please explain how the proposed work addresses the largest uncertainties or tests key hypotheses identified or embedded in the logic models. We also encourage the identification of ecosystem endpoints or indicators that would be affected or supported by the products and information from the proposed investigation.

An example logic model, from an application for federal assistance for a Puget Sound Geographic Program solicitation submitted by the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife, signed November 3, 2020, is provided in Figure A-1 on the following page.

Figure A-1. Example Logic Model, from an application for federal assistance for a Puget Sound Geographic Program solicitation, submitted by WDFW, signed November 3, 2020.

B. Environmental Results – Outcomes, Outputs, and Performance Measures

We describe in the logic model below the key outputs and activities, outcomes, and performance measures which will track the success of the integrated subaward and Implementation Strategy program. The short- and medium-term outcomes address the most immediate significant challenges for HSIL processes. The long-term outcomes support pressure source reductions, and other intermediate progress measures, that will ultimately lead to improving all Habitat Vital Sign indicators, as well as species and human wellbeing indicators.

Inputs		
	• EPA funding • WDFW and DNR HSIL staffing • State agency match • SIAT member time, approximately 15 individuals	• WDFW/DNR and external Subject Matter Expert time • Any subawardee match provided for projects • Results and experience of MNLO and HSIL work, leveraged knowledge from other LO/SIL work and Implementation Strategy Science Award

Outputs / Activities	Short-term outcomes	Medium-term outcomes	Long-term outcomes	Performance measures
HSIL – Subaward Process: Facilitating SIAT, RFP development, Proposal Evaluation				
SIAT charter and workplan	SIAT has clear directive and objectives for their work, leading to a productive process	SIAT-developed products and recommendations developed are well-vetted and transparent, representing the leading experts' views on advancing the Implementation Strategies using available resources to make progress on Vital Sign targets; Lessons learned inform adaptive management of RFP process	Progress toward Vital Sign targets leads to a healthier and more resilient Puget Sound socio-ecological system, including climate change and environmental justice issues	SIAT charter and workplan completed, and members endorse it, by May 2020
Meeting materials such as agendas, facilitation plans, and discussion draft	Productive and effectively facilitated meetings help the SIAT meet their objectives and timeline			Goal: 100% of SIAT members satisfied about process effectiveness and value.
Annual RFP solicitation	Predictable opportunity to develop proposals to implement priority areas for the Habitat recovery			HSIL consistently receives more proposals than funding available to evaluate
Annual proposal ranked list and funding recommendation	Rigorous proposal evaluation produces a strategic investment portfolio			Subawards span diverse geographies and eligible organization types
HSIL – Managing Subawards				
Subaward agreements finalized and under contract for workplan projects	Subaward sponsors to begin work on priority Implementation Strategy topics	Projects are successfully implemented, and issues addressed through contract monitoring	Progress toward Vital Sign targets leads to a healthier and more resilient Puget Sound socio-ecological system, including climate change and environmental justice issues	Goal: 100% of selected subawards contracted within 5 months of final funding recommendation.
Subawards produce valuable finalized deliverables	Projects are successfully implemented and subawardee organizations incorporate products into their best practices	Products are used to update Implementation Strategies and to inform the management system		By end of each project, 100% of planned deliverables are complete
Periodic and final progress reports such as FEATS	EPA has a clear understanding of subaward project progress	EPA and others in the region use project results to inform Puget Sound recovery	Well informed decisions lead to more robust recovery effort	100% of periodic and final progress reports completed by deadlines; Relevant progress measures are tracked

Outputs / Activities	Short-term outcomes	Medium-term outcomes	Long-term outcomes	Performance measures
HSIL – Operationalizing and Updating Implementation Strategies				
Annual evaluation and updates of Implementation Strategy products and tools as needed	As strategies are implemented results are incorporated into the strategy	Implementation Strategies have a robust adaptive management process that continues to improve recovery approaches	Progress toward Vital Sign targets leads to a healthier and more resilient Puget Sound socio-ecological system, including climate change and environmental justice issues	HSIL produces an annual assessment of each Implementation Strategy and updated products / complementary plans (e.g. Orca Task Force recommendations) as needed
HSIL annual work plan identifies focus areas for operationalizing the strategies	HSIL strategically engages with partners to advance Implementation Strategy priorities	Implementation Strategies are living documents valued by the recovery community to guide work		HSIL produces an annual plan to operationalize each Habitat SI and evaluates plan outcomes with EPA Project Officer
HSIL – Engaging with the Management Conference, Tribes, local partners				
Communication with LIOs and Management Conference (MC) Boards	MC is informed about progress of the HSIL, and HSIL priorities are informed by MC dialogue	geographically diverse participation in the process	Regional support for the work of the HSIL	Engage MC Boards at least twice annually, and LIO Coordinators at least quarterly
Communication with Tribal Management Conference (TMC) and TIL	TMC and TIL are informed about the progress of the HSIL, and HSIL priorities are informed by TMC dialogue	HSIL investments in habitat protection and restoration help ensure tribal treaty rights are fulfilled	Strengthened relationships between Tribes and HSIL accelerate progress	Engage Tribal Management Conference at least twice annually, and monthly engagement with the TIL
Maintained and updated website documenting subaward outcomes and SIL activities	Interested entities have access to up-to-date project information and results	Shared understanding of project results leads to better informed processes and decisions	Recovery investments are leveraged across the Puget Sound	Blog posts at regular intervals. Subaward outcomes available within a month of closeout
HSIL – Coordination and Integration on topics (Land use, marine water quality) and award management				
Materials and briefing updates for recovery coordination groups	Shared project results inform updates to Implementation Strategies and the Action Agenda	Puget Sound Action Agenda is a robust and effective path towards Puget Sound recovery	Progress toward Vital Sign targets leads to a healthier and more resilient Puget Sound socio-ecological system, including climate change and environmental justice issues	HSIL regularly attends all coordination forums as an active participant
Cross-SIL products that streamline subawards and administrative efforts	EPA funds are efficiently and effectively distributed to priority projects and coordinated opportunities leveraged	Highest priority projects are completed, focused on multi-benefits in advancing Puget Sound recovery		SILs develop a pre-RFP and pre-subaward coordination plan and identify specific cross-SIL products
Agreed upon software used to coordinate and update as appropriate (e.g. MiradiShare)	Shared project results inform updates to Implementation Strategies and the Action Agenda overall	Updated Implementation Strategies guide strategic and synergistic decisions	Puget Sound Action Agenda is a robust and effective path towards Puget Sound recovery	Updates provided at agreed upon intervals