

Columbia River Basin Funding Assistance

Science and Monitoring Request for Applications

<https://www.epa.gov/columbiariver/2024-science-and-monitoring-grants-columbia-river-basin>



Agenda

Welcome and Teams Overview

Background on the Program

Overview of this Funding Opportunity

How to Apply for an EPA Grant

Tips and Resources

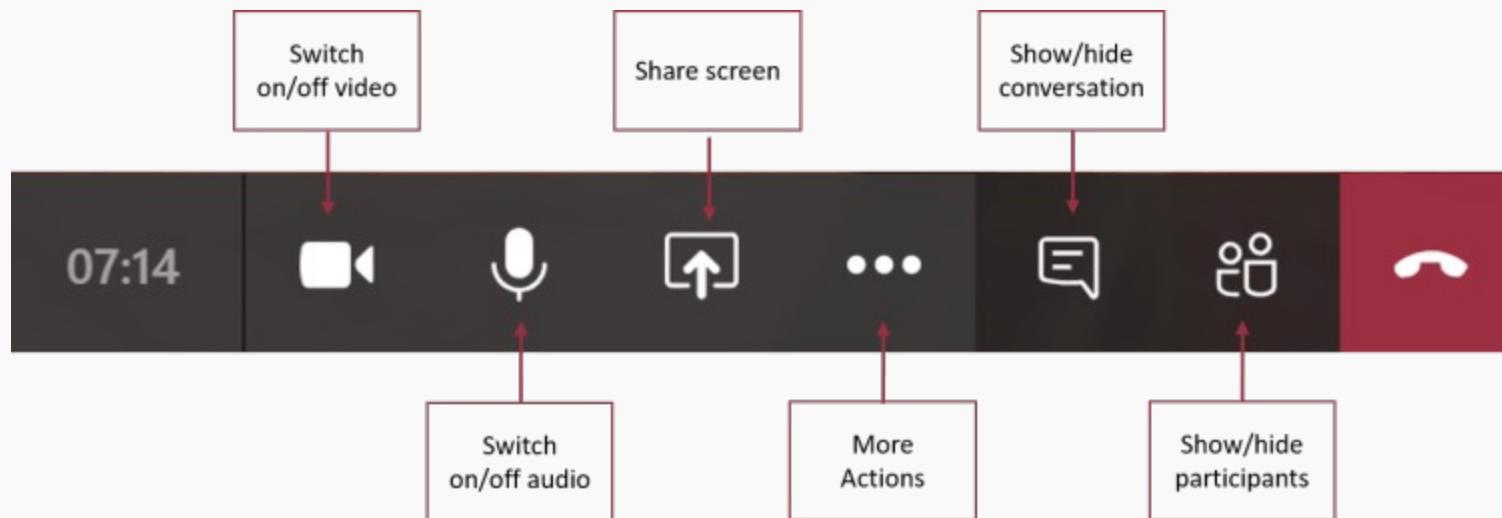
Questions



INTRODUCTION TO MICROSOFT TEAMS



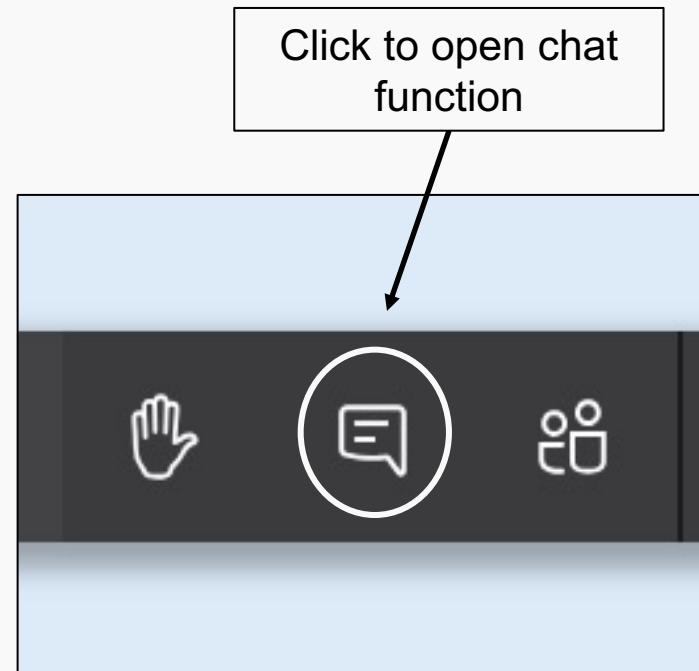
Using Microsoft Teams





How to Participate

- Please keep your microphone on mute unless you are speaking.
- After the presentations, we will have time for questions.
 - Submit questions via the chat.
 - We will address questions in the order they are received.

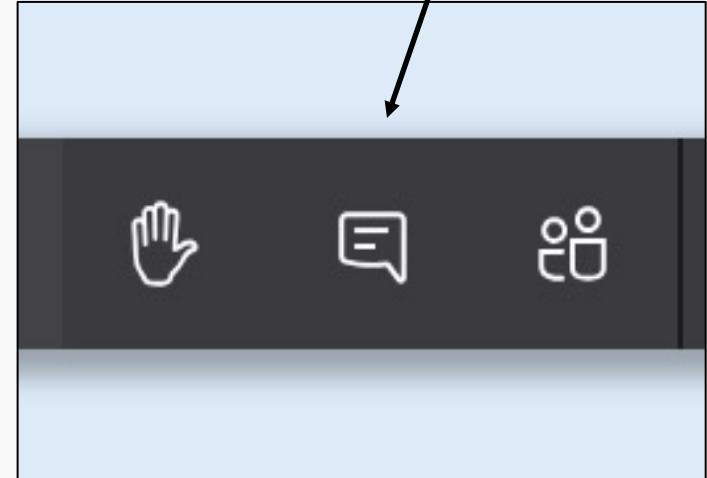




Introductions

- Please use the chat to tell us...
 - **your name** and
 - **who you are representing** on today's webinar
 - **Include your email** for future announcements

Click to open chat function





BACKGROUND COLUMBIA RIVER BASIN RESTORATION PROGRAM

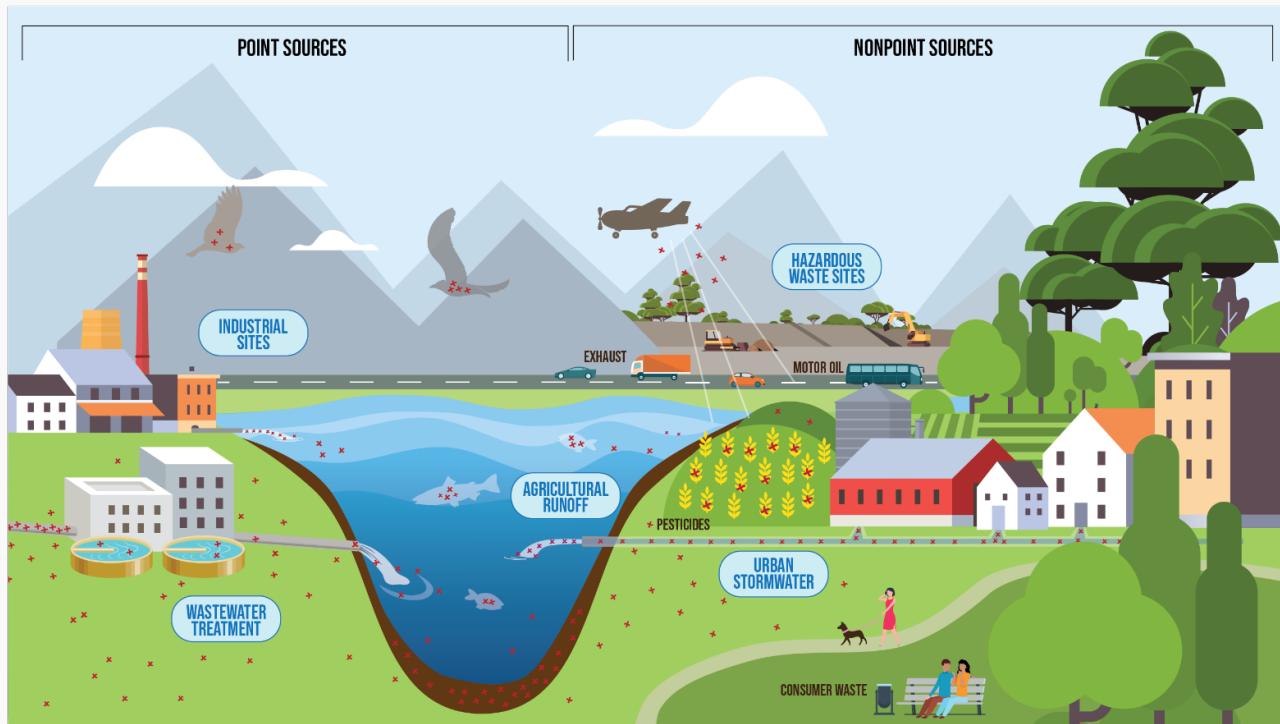


Background on Columbia River Basin

- One of North America's largest watersheds
 - approximately 260,000 square miles
- Includes parts of seven states including significant portions of Idaho, Montana, Oregon, and Washington
- Provides vital environmental, economic, cultural, and social benefits to millions

TOXIC CONTAMINANTS IN THE BASIN

- Toxics are widely distributed in the Basin
- Past research and monitoring show toxics are present across the Basin
- Toxics harm fish, wildlife, and human health





TOXICS REDUCTION IS CRITICAL TO A HEALTHY COLUMBIA RIVER BASIN ECOSYSTEM



Columbia River Basin Tribal people have lived here for more than 14,000 years

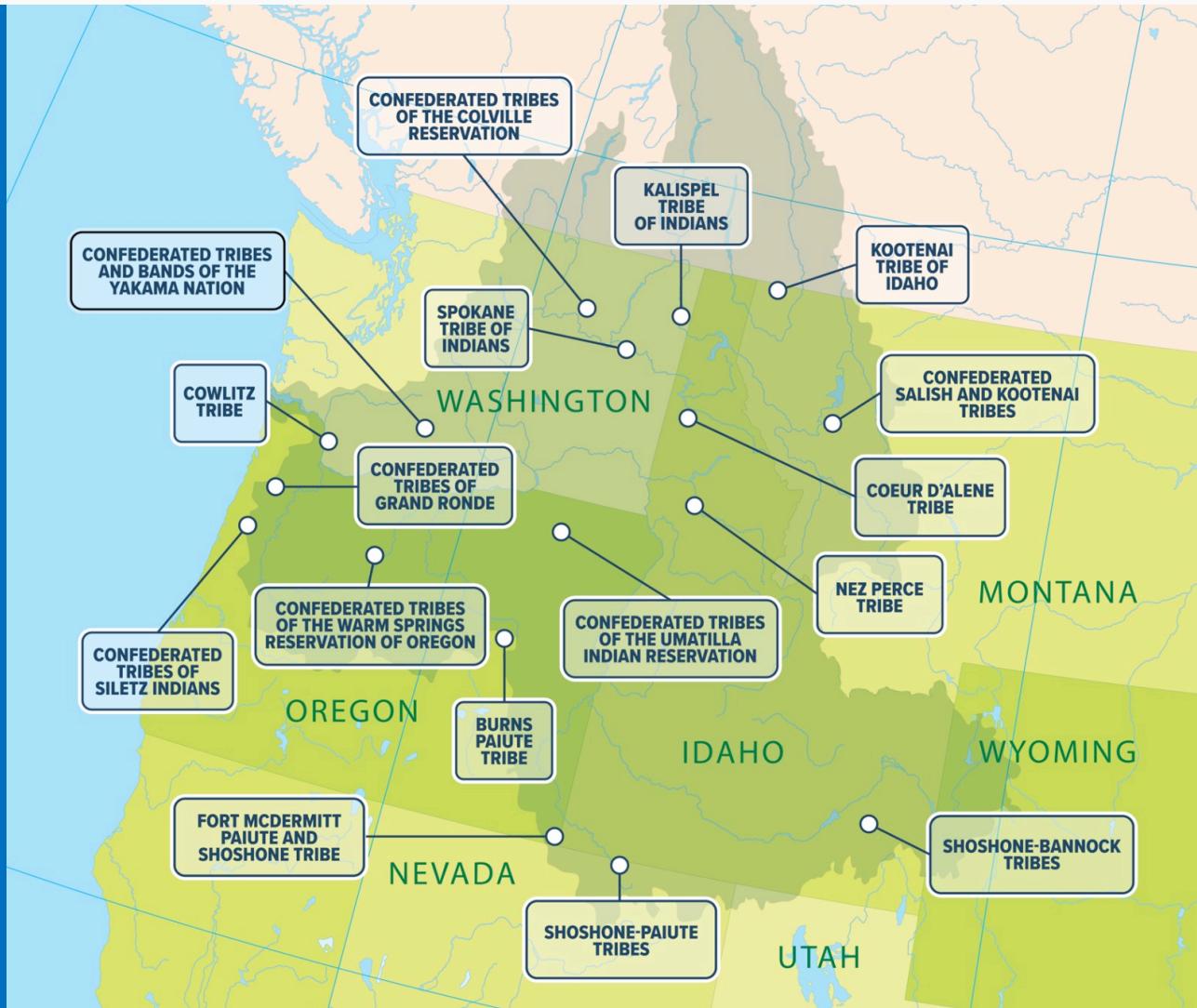
Tribal people eat far more fish than most other residents

Toxics in fish pose unacceptable health risks to Tribal people and other high fish consuming populations



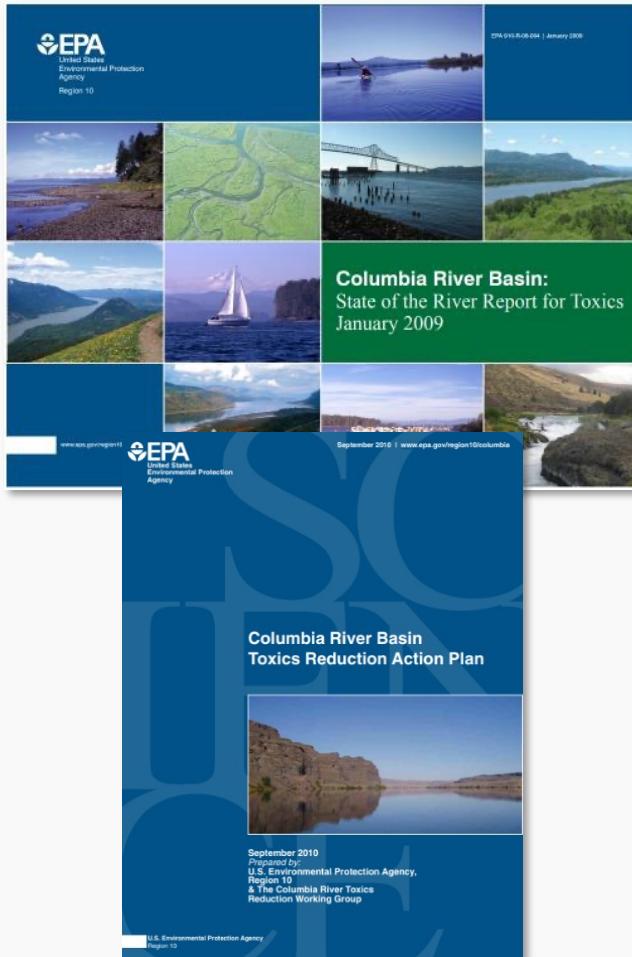


Columbia River Basin Tribes





EPA'S FOUNDATIONAL WORK TO REDUCE TOXICS IN THE COLUMBIA RIVER BASIN



- Collaborative Watershed Effort to Reduce Toxics – many diverse partners throughout the Basin
- **2009 State of River Report** – “tell toxics story”
- **2010 Columbia River Basin Action Plan** – 61 actions
- Columbia River Basin legislation introduced in Congress in 2010, 2014 – toxics focus
- Other related work efforts included OR/WA/ID Human Health Criteria



2016 COLUMBIA RIVER BASIN RESTORATION ACT

Congress passed the **Columbia River Basin Restoration Act** in 2016, which amended the Clean Water Act by creating **Section 123** and directed EPA to:

1. establish a **Columbia River Basin Restoration Grant Program** to support voluntary actions to reduce and assess toxics throughout the Basin; and
2. establish a **Working Group** representative of states, tribal governments, and other entities in the Basin.

Builds on existing work in the Basin

– <https://www.epa.gov/columbiariver>





AVAILABLE EPA RESOURCES

- [Columbia River Basin Contaminants of Concern Framework](#)
- [Toxic-Impaired Waterbodies on 303d Lists in the Columbia River Basin](#)
- [Columbia River Basin Toxic Contaminants Reference List](#)
- [2022 Columbia River Basin Toxics Reduction Status Update](#)
- [Story Map: Polycyclic Aromatic Hydrocarbons - Locations in the Columbia River Basin Where the Toxics Could Be Affecting Fish and Wildlife - exit EPA WEBSITE](#)
- [Chemicals of Emerging Concern in the Columbia River](#)
- [Columbia River Toxics Reduction Action Plan](#)
- [State of the River Report for Toxics](#)



AVAILABLE EPA RESOURCES Outside of the Basin

- [Restoration of Chesapeake Bay](#)
- [Great Lakes National Program](#)
- [Great Lakes Area of Concern](#)
- [Puget Sound National Estuary](#)



THE SCIENCE AND MONITORING FUNDING OPPORTUNITY

Key Facts



Funding Opportunity Number: [EPA-R10-OW-CRBRP-2024-01](#)

Assistance Listing Number: 66.962

Total Available Funds: \$15,000,000

Minimum Application Amount: \$300,000

Maximum Application Amount: \$3,000,000

Project Length: up to 5 years

Number of Awards Anticipated: 5 – 10

Dates:

March 19, 2024 – opportunity opens on grants.gov

May 17, 2024 – opportunity closes at 11:59 PM Eastern Time

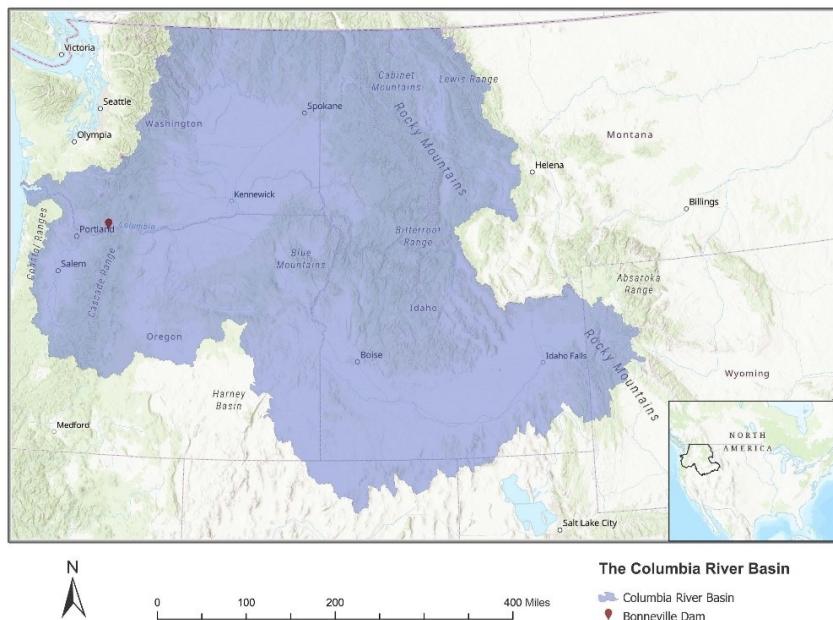
July 2024 – anticipated notification of selection

September 2024 – anticipated award

Eligibility



U.S. Portion of the Columbia River Basin



The Columbia River Basin is defined as the Columbia River from the Pacific Ocean, including tidally influenced portions of tributaries of the Columbia River, mainstem of the Columbia River from the Bonneville Dam up to the Canadian Border including tributaries of the Columbia River in that region.



Eligible Entities

Eligible applicants include state governments, Tribal governments, regional water pollution control agencies and entities, local government entities, nongovernmental entities, soil and water conservation districts, public or nonprofit institutions of higher education, as well as hospitals operated by state, Tribal, or local governments or that meet the definition of nonprofit at 2 C.F.R. § 200.1.

One application per applicant. There is no limit to partnering.



Match Requirement

- The grantee will be responsible for a 25% non-federal cost share/match.
- Tribal applicants can cost share/match with either non-federal and/or federal funds.
- Tribal applicants can ask EPA to fully waive this match requirement.



Must address at least one of the Program Categories as listed in the RFA

1. Monitoring to evaluate trends.

~ and/or ~

2. Promoting citizen engagement or knowledge by increasing engagement and communication with individual community members (such as local, state and Tribal environmental managers, and/or NGOs).



Characterization and spatiotemporal trend analysis

Pathway identification

Novel methods and approaches (aka expanding the toolbox)

Evaluation scores will not depend on the number of priorities addressed but rather on the quality with which the priorities are addressed.

Other EPA Interests



EPA is interested in proposals that:

- 1) mitigate for past environmental justice impacts and improve community health, resilience and/or sustainability; and
- 2) foster resilience and adaptation to changing climate and environmental conditions.

For example, activities may:

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



Evaluation

We will use the evaluation criteria in the RFA to evaluate applications.

<u>Criteria</u>	<u>Points</u>
Total Possible Points	100
1. Program Approach and Summary of Activities	40
2. Environmental Justice and Underserved Communities	5
3. Longevity	10
4. Environmental Results – Results, Outputs and Outcomes	10
5. Programmatic Capability and Past Performance	20
6. Budget	15



Application requirements: before you apply

Application components

Application tips

HOW TO APPLY



Application requirements: before you apply Grants.gov

- You will apply through [grants.gov](#)
- Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance (CFDA) #
 - 66.962
- Funding Opportunity #
 - [EPA-R10-OW-CRBRP-2024-01](#)
- A Unique Entity Identifier (UEI) Number and SAM registration are required to complete a grant application in grants.gov.
- For 24/7 assistance, excluding federal holidays, with grants.gov: 1-800-518-4726 or support@grants.gov



General Tips in Applying for Grants Application Components

Mandatory Documents:

1. SF 424: Application for Federal Assistance

Application cover sheet, grant project/budget period, federal (and match) funds, appropriate signatures.

2. SF 424A: Budget Information

3. Project Narrative: Cover Page, Workplan, Budget detail

4. EPA Form 4700-4: Preaward Compliance Review Report

Collects information that enables EPA to determine whether applicants are developing projects, programs, and activities on a non-discriminatory basis.

5. EPA Form 5700-54: Key Contacts Form

Collects contact information for individuals responsible for various aspects of the proposed work, including authorized representative, payee, administrative contact, and investigators.



Application Components – continued

Other Documents, as applicable:

- Resumes
- Partnership Letters
- Cost Share Commitment Letters
- Current Negotiated Indirect Cost Agreement
- EPA Form 6600-06: Certification Regarding Lobbying

(Contains certifications about the use of Federal appropriated funds in connection with lobbying. For applications EPA receives that request more than \$100,000 in federal funds.)



Application components: SF 424A

View Burden Statement		BUDGET INFORMATION - Non-Construction Programs					OMB Number: 4040-0006 Expiration Date: 02/28/2022	
SECTION A - BUDGET SUMMARY								
Grant Program Function or Activity (a)	Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance Number (b)	Estimated Unobligated Funds		New or Revised Budget			Total (g)	
		Federal (c)	Non-Federal (d)	Federal (e)	Non-Federal (f)			
1. COLUMBIA RIVER BASIN PROJECT		\$ [REDACTED]	\$ [REDACTED]	\$ 75,000.00	\$ 10,000.00	\$ 85,000.00		
2.								
3.								
4.								
5. Totals		\$ [REDACTED]	\$ [REDACTED]	\$ 75,000.00	\$ 10,000.00	\$ 85,000.00		



Application components: SF 424A

SECTION B - BUDGET CATEGORIES

6. Object Class Categories	GRANT PROGRAM, FUNCTION OR ACTIVITY				Total (5)
	(1) Columbia River Basin Project - federal	(2) Columbia River Basin Project - non- federal	(3)	(4)	
a. Personnel	\$ 38,022.00	\$	\$	\$	\$ 38,022.00
b. Fringe Benefits	11,787.00				11,787.00
c. Travel	100.00	316.00			416.00
d. Equipment					
e. Supplies		476.00			476.00
f. Contractual	7,100.00	2,900.00			10,000.00
g. Construction					
h. Other	683.00	4,000.00			4,683.00
i. Total Direct Charges (sum of 6a-6h)	57,692.00	7,692.00			\$ 65,384.00
j. Indirect Charges	17,308.00	2,308.00			19,616.00
k. TOTALS (sum of 6i and 6j)	\$ 75,000.00	\$ 10,000.00	\$	\$	\$ 85,000.00
7. Program Income	\$	\$	\$	\$	30



Application Components: Budget Detail

- Follow **federal cost principles** of 2 CFR 200 Subpart E. Matching funds must also follow federal cost principles.
- The Budget Detail must **exactly** match the SF 424A across all cost categories (Personnel, Travel, etc.).
- Show your math in the Budget Detail.
 - e.g., Personnel cost = 1 Biologist * \$35.25/hour * 0.3 FTE (626.4 hours/year) = \$22,081.
- All elements of Budget Detail should be reflected in Workplan.
 - e.g., Going to Boise is line item in Travel; this must be in the Workplan.
- Please also reference the [Interim General Budget Development Guidance for Applicants and Recipients of EPA Financial Assistance](#).

Budget Best Practices



- Applicants are required to provide an overall detailed budget table, a budget narrative, and a detailed budget by year.
- Follow the instructions, include details, and show your math.
- Use General Services Administration rates for Travel (lodging, per diem, etc.)
- Make sure the costs are allowable.
- Double and triple check your math.
- Do not use cents. Round to whole numbers.
- Make sure the budget numbers match across all budget tables including SF424A.
- See example budgets and budget narrative provided alongside the RFA.

	EPA Requested Funding	Cost Share (25%)	Total
Personnel			
1 Project Manager 1.0 FTE Full Time @ \$92,501/year (6 years). \$92,501 x 6 = \$555,006	\$277,503	\$277,503	\$555,006
1 Grant Administrator 0.5 FTE 50% Time @ \$80,000/year (6 years). \$80,000 x 6 x 0.5 = \$240,000	\$120,000	\$120,000	\$240,000
3 Scientists 3.0 Full Time FTE @ \$100,033/year (6 years). \$100,033 x 6 x 3 = \$1,800,594	\$900,297	\$900,297	\$1,800,594
2 Engineers 2.0 Full Time FTE @ \$91,832/year (6 years). \$91,832 x 6 x 2 = \$1,101,984	\$550,992	\$550,992	\$1,101,984
Total Personnel	\$1,848,792	\$1,848,792	\$3,697,584

Example of Personnel budget section. For full budget example please see the funding opportunity packet on grants.gov or contact us.



Application Components: Budget Detail Guidance Documents

- EPA Policies and Guidance for Grants: <https://www.epa.gov/grants/epa-policies-and-guidance-grants>
- Best Practice Guide for Procuring Services, Supplies, and Equipment Under EPA Assistance Agreements: <https://www.epa.gov/grants/best-practice-guide-procuring-services-supplies-and-equipment-under-epa-assistance>
- Interim General Budget Development Guidance for Applicants and Recipients of EPA Financial: <https://www.epa.gov/sites/default/files/2019-05/documents/applicant-budget-development-guidance.pdf>
- Subaward Policy Frequent Questions:
https://www.epa.gov/system/files/documents/2023-04/epa_subaward_policy_frequent_questions.pdf



Application Components: Budget Detail Guidance Documents

- Subaward Additional Resources: <https://www.epa.gov/grants/epa-subaward-policy-additional-resources>
- Indirect costs: Organizations must submit federally-negotiated indirect cost rate to include rate in budget. Guidance: <https://www.epa.gov/sites/production/files/2018-08/documents/indirect-cost-policy-guidance-for-recipients-of-epa-assistance-agreements.pdf>
- Object Class Categories: Details on constructing a budget. <https://www.epa.gov/sites/default/files/2019-05/documents/applicant-budget-development-guidance.pdf>
- Contact ColumbiaRiverBasinGrant@epa.gov for a copy of this presentation or other questions.



Terms and Conditions

Take a look, and see if you will be able to comply with these terms and conditions before applying:

- General Administrative Terms and Conditions --
<https://www.epa.gov/grants/grant-terms-and-conditions>
- Example of Programmatic Terms and Conditions

Columbia River Basin Restoration Working Group and Toxics Monitoring Subgroup

<https://www.epa.gov/columbiariver/columbia-river-basin-restoration-working-group>



Required Training for New Grant Applicants/Recipients

RAIN-2024-G01

- EPA Grants Management Training
- How to Develop a Budget



General Tips

- Allow sufficient time to register, input and review application materials, and submit before the deadline
- Ensure the Authorized Organization Representative signs the application
- Review the Uniform Grant Guidance that applies to all federal grants: <https://www.epa.gov/grants/uniform-requirements-managing-grants-apply-all-federal-executive-agencies>

For detailed guidance on how to apply for EPA grants:
<https://www.epa.gov/grants>



QUESTIONS?

May 17, 2024 - RFA closes - applications due

For access to this webinar recording or to ask us a question:
ColumbiaRiverBasinGrant@epa.gov

Search for RFA information:

<https://www.epa.gov/columbiariver/2024-science-and-monitoring-grants-columbia-river-basin> or www.grants.gov

Search for technical resources or other information about EPA's work in the Basin: <https://www.epa.gov/columbiariver>