

Bipartisan Infrastructure Law: Three Notices of Funding Opportunity

Recycling Education and Outreach Grant Program &
Solid Waste Infrastructure for Recycling Grant Programs

Resource Conservation and Sustainability Division
U.S. EPA Office of Resource Conservation & Recovery

October 2024



Goals of this Presentation

1

Provide an overview of the Solid Waste Infrastructure for Recycling (SWIFR) and Recycling Education and Outreach (REO) grants for Communities and Tribes

2

Clarify information about the scope, requirements, evaluation criteria and overall grant process



Circular Economy Strategy Series

 **Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL)**

 Solid Waste Infrastructure for Recycling Grants

 Recycling Education and Outreach Grants

 Battery Collection Best Practices and Labeling Guidelines



Objectives:

- A. Improve Markets for Recycling Commodities
- B. Increase Collection and Improve Materials Management Infrastructure
- C. Reduce Contamination in the Recycled Materials Stream
- D. Enhance Policies to Support Recycling
- E. Standardize Measurement and Increase Data Collection

EPA is establishing a 10-year vision that embraces circularity, sustainable materials management, addresses climate change, and environmental justice.



Circular Economy Strategy Series

 **Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL)**

 Solid Waste Infrastructure for Recycling Grants

 Recycling Education and Outreach Grants

 Battery Collection Best Practices and Labeling Guidelines



- Objectives:**
- 2.A. Develop, launch and run a national consumer education and behavior change campaign.
 - 2.C. Partner with the private sector to find upstream solutions to consumer food waste.
 - 3.A. Support the development of additional organics recycling infrastructure through grants and other assistance for all communities, especially those that are underserved.
 - 3.B. Expand the market for products made from recycled organic waste.
 - 3.E. Address contamination in the organic waste recycling stream.



SWIFR Grant Program

Grants
for Political
Subdivisions
(Communities)

Grants for Tribes and
Intertribal Consortia

Grants for States and
Territories



SWIFR 1st Round Success in Louisiana (2023)



\$997,199

- Lease a new building for their recycling center
- Purchase new baler, glass and rubber grinder
- New box truck vehicle
- Salary for 2 part time employees



CITY OF NEW ORLEANS

\$3,982,000

- Purchase 83,000 new recycling carts for residents
- Create a Solid Waste Master Plan for the City
- Education and outreach materials for the new carts



\$565,000

- Build a new recycling center
- Repair a current storage facility
- Purchase a new baler, loader, hoppers



State SWIFR Grant for Louisiana (2023)



\$612,441

- Develop a statewide solid waste management plan to advance post-consumer materials management.
- Develop standardized definitions, measurements, reporting, and provide guidance and technical assistance.
- Provide training, market development, and outreach for the implementation of the solid waste management plan.
- Provide technical training through meetings, workshops, and online seminars. Conducting studies to identify the quantities and types of recoverable materials that are still being disposed of in Louisiana.



New Round of Funding Opportunities

\$117 Million



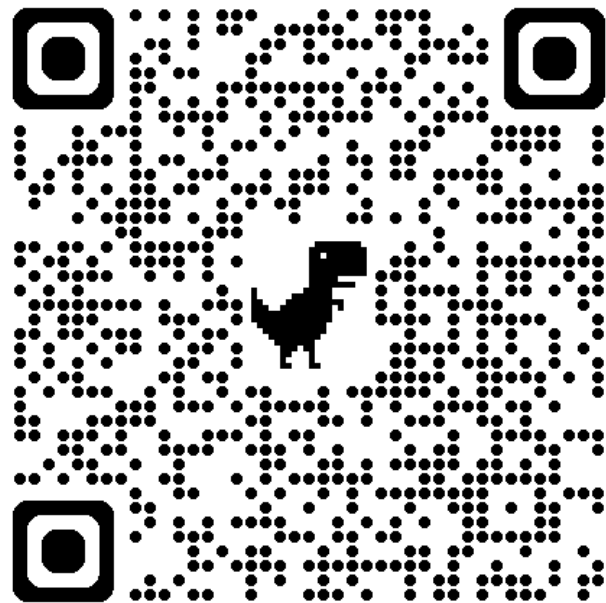
Solid Waste Infrastructure for Recycling (SWIFR) Grant Program – Communities and Tribes



Recycling Education and Outreach (REO) Grant Program



SWIFR for Communities – Overview

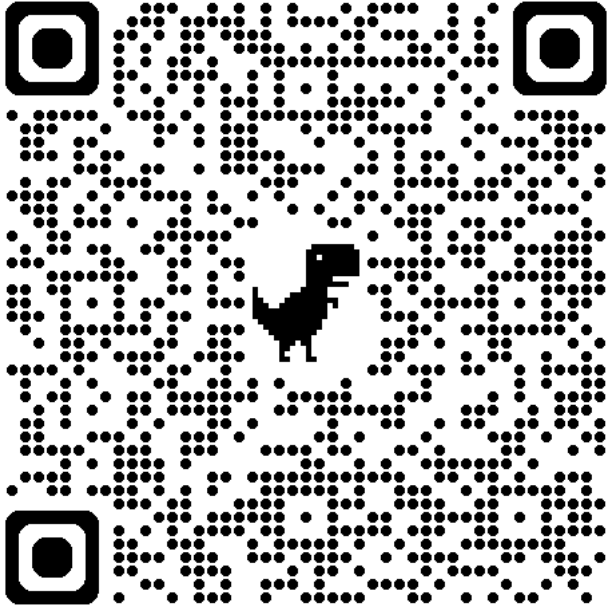


[SWIFR for Communities](#)

- Projects will improve local post-consumer materials management and infrastructure
- **SWIFR for Communities** will provide a total of approximately \$58 million
 - \$500,000 to \$5 million per award
 - Applications are due by **December 20, 2024**
 - *Note:* EPA also refers to this funding opportunity as “SWIFR for Political Subdivisions of States and Territories.”
- Scan the QR code for details on informational webinars and resources for the funding opportunity.



SWIFR for Tribes and Intertribal Consortia – Overview



[SWIFR for Tribes and Intertribal Consortia](#)

- Projects will improve local post-consumer materials management and infrastructure
- **SWIFR for Tribes and Intertribal Consortia** will provide a total of approximately \$20 million
 - \$100,000 to \$1.5 million per award
 - Applications are due by **March 14, 2025**
- Scan the QR code for details on informational webinars and resources for the funding opportunity.



SWIFR for Communities – Overview

**Sections II.B &
III.A of the NOFO**

Eligible Entities:

- Political Subdivisions of States and Territories.
 - “Political subdivisions” include counties, cities, towns, parishes, and similar units of governments. See *Section III.A* of the [NOFO](#) for more information.
 - *Those who were awarded a grant in round 1 are ineligible for funding in round 2.*

Estimated Funding: Approximately **\$58,000,000**

- \$500,000 to \$5,000,000 per award
- Approximately 20-30 assistance agreements, with at least one award per EPA Region (depending on the quantity and quality of applications received)
- At least 40% of funding will go to projects benefiting disadvantaged communities.

Timeline:

- Applications due: **December 20, 2024**
- Anticipated funding selections: July 2025
- Anticipated award: December 2025
- Project period: 3 years



SWIFR for Communities – Objectives

*Section I.F. of
the NOFO*

- Projects **must** achieve one or more of the following objectives:
 - **Establish, increase, expand, or optimize collection** and improve materials management infrastructure;
 - **Fund the creation and construction of tangible infrastructure**, technology, or other improvements to reduce contamination in the recycled materials stream;
 - **Establish, increase, expand, or optimize capacity** for materials management;
 - **Establish, improve, expand, or optimize end-markets** for the use of recycled commodities; or
 - **Demonstrate a significant and measurable increase** in the diversion, recycling rate, and quality of materials collected for municipal solid waste.



Types of Eligible Projects

*Section I.F. of
the NOFO*

Projects **may include (but are not limited to):**

- Programs that provide or increase access to prevention, reuse, and recycling in areas that currently do not have access; including development of and/or upgrades to drop-off and transfer stations (including but not limited to a hub-and-spoke model in rural communities), etc.
- The purchase of recycling equipment, including but not limited to sorting equipment, waste metering, trucks, processing facilities, etc.;
- Upgrades to material recovery facilities (MRFs) such as optical sorters, artificial intelligence, etc.;
- Education and outreach projects as a minor element of larger infrastructure improvements;
- Construction of and/or upgrades to composting facilities or anaerobic digesters to increase capacity for food and organics recycling;
- Development of and/or upgrades to curbside collection programs or drop-off stations for organics;
- Development of and/or upgrades to reuse infrastructure such as online reuse platforms, community repair spaces, technology and equipment to improve materials management reuse options, food donation, and upcycling, staging areas for material reuse/donation, reuse warehouses, and reuse centers, and electronic waste and computer recycling and refurbishing;
- Other activities that the applicant believes will further the objectives of the RFA provided those activities are eligible for funding under statute and the terms of this RFA.



SWIFR for Tribes and Intertribal Consortia – Overview

*Sections II.B &
III.A of the NOFO*

Eligible Entities:

- **Federally Recognized Tribes**, which include Alaskan Native Villages as defined in Public Law 92-203, and former Indian reservations in Oklahoma, as determined by the Secretary of the Interior; and
- **Intertribal consortia**, consistent with the requirements in 40 CR 35.504(a).

Estimated Funding: Approximately **\$20,000,000**

- \$100,000 to \$1,500,000 per award
- Approximately 20 assistance agreements, at least one award per EPA Region (depending on the quantity and quality of applications received)

Timeline:

- Applications due: **March 14, 2025**
- Anticipated funding selections: September 2025
- Anticipated award: March 2026
- Project period: 3 years



SWIFR for Tribes and Intertribal Consortia – Objectives

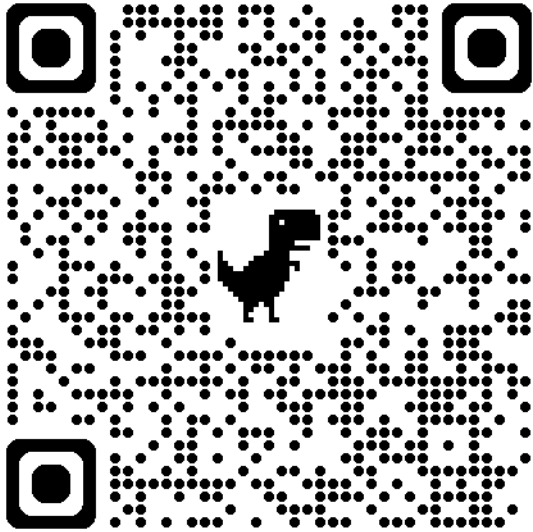
*Section I.E. of
the NOFO*

- Projects **must** achieve one or more of the following objectives:
 - **Develop or update plans** focused on encouraging environmentally sound post-consumer materials management such as source reduction (e.g., repair clinics, reuse centers), collection, storage, transportation, composting, recycling, and/or markets for recyclables;
 - **Develop, strengthen, and/or implement comprehensive data collection efforts** that demonstrate progress towards the National Recycling Goal and Food Loss and Waste Reduction Goal;
 - **Establish, increase, or expand materials management infrastructure**, such as facilities for reuse, recycling, or composting; collection and storage bins for recyclable or organic material, purchasing and maintaining equipment or supplies such as scales, crushers, balers, and sorting equipment, trucks, forklifts, and safety equipment);
 - **Establish or identify end-markets** for the use of recycled materials; or
 - **Demonstrate an increase in the diversion**, recycling rate, and/or quality of materials collected.



REO - Overview

*Section I.F.
of the NOFO*



[REO webpage](#)

- Total estimated funding for REO Round 2 is approximately **\$39,094,000**.
- The project performance period will be 5 years
- Applications are due December 20, 2024
- EPA anticipates awarding only one cooperative agreement that includes three projects:
 1. Develop and Implement a National Consumer Wasted Food Reduction Campaign
 2. Expand the Market and Sales of Compost
 3. Increase Education and Outreach to Households on Composting



REO - Funding Structure

**Section I.F.
of the NOFO**

Project #	Budget Requirements	Are subawards required to implement outreach and education locally?*	How is the 20% set aside required to be met?
Project #1	Not less than \$30,000,000 and not more than \$34,094,000.	Yes, and they must be competitive.	At least 20% of the total budget will be allocated to low income, rural, and Native American communities through subawards to entities that target authorized education and outreach activities to members of those communities.
Project #2	Not less than \$5,000,000 and not more than \$9,094,000 (in total for both Project #2 and Project #3).	Allowed but not required.	
Project #3		Yes, and they must be competitive.	
Total budget	Not less than \$35,000,000 and not more than \$39,094,000	-	-

* Applications that allocate more than 20% of the total amount requested to competitive campaign-implementation subawards are more likely to receive a higher evaluation score.



REO - Eligible Applicants

*Section III.A.
of the NOFO*

- All applications must be coalition applications.
- The lead applicant and members of the coalition eligible to receive a grant under the grant program must be—
 - a U.S. State, including Washington, D.C.;
 - Puerto Rico, U.S. Virgin Islands, Guam, American Samoa, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands;
 - Local governments;
 - Federally recognized Tribal governments;
 - Native Hawaiian organizations, Department of Hawaiian Home Lands, Office of Hawaiian Affairs;
 - Nonprofit organizations; or
 - Public-private partnerships.



Evaluation Criteria

*Section V.A.
of the NOFO*

- Eligible entities whose applications meet the Eligibility Information in Section III.C. of the announcement will be reviewed according to the evaluation criterion set forth in the following slides.
- Each application will be rated under a points system, with a total of **100 points** possible.
- Applicants may, but are not required to, use the Optional Templates for the Summary Information Cover Letter, the Narrative Proposal and the Budget Table & Description.



Evaluation Criteria Weighting

*Section V.A.
of the NOFO*

- Project Summary and Approach (30 pts)
- Impactful Approaches and Solutions (25 pts)
- Environmental Justice (15 pts)
- Measuring Environmental Results (10 pts)
- Budget and Expenditure (10 pts)
- Programmatic Capability and Past Performance (10 pts)



Build America, Buy America Act (BABA)

*Section VI.F.
of the NOFO*

- Applicants should be aware that if their proposals include using Federal funds for a project that includes the **purchase of goods, products, and materials on any form of construction, alteration, maintenance, or repair of infrastructure** in the United States for identified EPA financial assistance funding programs, they must comply with Buy America Sourcing requirements under the Build America, Buy America provisions of the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act.
- More information: [EPA Grant Terms and Conditions](#)



National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA)

*Section VI.H.
of the NOFO*

- The National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) applies as a general matter to federal actions, including actions funded by federal agencies.
- NEPA requires environmental impact statement (EIS) and/or Environmental Assessments (EA) be prepared for actions with potentially significant impacts.
- Grant funds may not be used to conduct an EIS or EA.
- Applicants should be aware that an EIS or EA may be required as a part of the project.
- EPA is exploring a categorical exclusion (CATEX) for NEPA requirements and can provide additional information in the future.



Davis-Bacon Act

*Section VI.G.
of the NOFO*

- EPA must ensure that “. . . all laborers and mechanics employed on projects funded directly, or assisted in whole or in part, by a [SWIFR grant] be paid wages at rates not less than those prevailing on projects of a character similar in the locality as determined by the Secretary of Labor in accordance with [the Davis Bacon Act]”.
- The Davis Bacon Act applies to contractors and subcontractors performing work on federally-funded or assisted construction contracts in excess of \$2,000.
- A term and condition specifying Davis Bacon Act compliance requirements will be included in SWIFR cooperative agreements that fund construction.



Minority Business Enterprises (MBE) / Women Business Enterprises (WBE)

- EPA's Disadvantaged Business Enterprises (DBE) regulations are found at 40 CFR Part 33
- These regulations ensure nondiscrimination in the award of contracts under EPA financial assistance agreements.
- Minority and Women Business Enterprises are included in EPA's DBE program.
- The DBE program helps remove barriers to the participation of DBEs in the award of contracts under EPA financial assistance agreements.
- The DBE program provides appropriate flexibility to recipients of EPA financial assistance in establishing and providing contracting opportunities for DBEs.



Quality Assurance Project Plans (QAPPs)

*Section VI.J.
of the NOFO*

- In accordance with 2 C.F.R. 1500.12, projects that include the generation or use of environmental data are required to submit a QAPP.
- A QAPP describes how environmental information operations are planned, implemented, documented, and assessed during the life cycle of a project.
- EPA Project Officers will work with all selected recipients on quality assurance (QA) requirements. Once the award is made, if a QAPP is required for the project, the applicant will develop the document and submit for EPA's approval.
- Selected applicants cannot begin environmental information operations until EPA approves the QAPP.



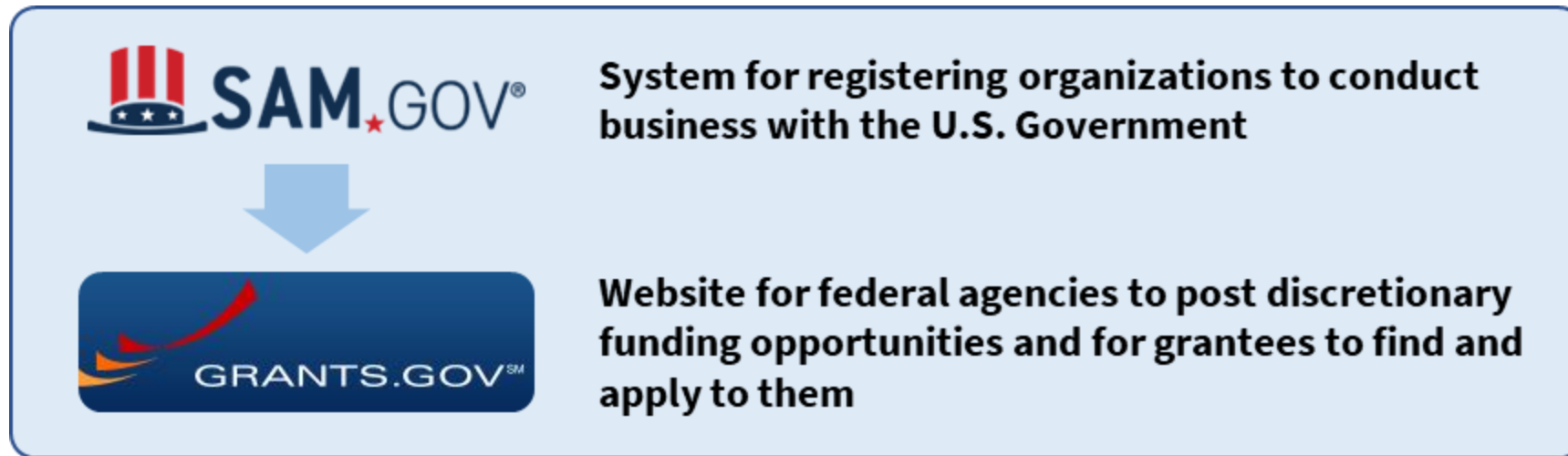
Estimated Timeline

- September 2024 – EPA Posts Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO)
- December 2024 – Applicants for Communities SWIFR and REO grants submit application packages
- June 2025 – Anticipated notification of funding selection
- December 2025 – Anticipated Award



How to Register to Apply for Grants

- Step 1. Register Your Organization in SAM.gov
- Step 2. Create a User Account and Applicant Profile in Grants.gov
- Step 3. Create Individual Grants.gov Accounts for Organization Members
- Step 4. Learn How to Use Workspace in Grants.gov



Resources

- For more information on subawards, procurement, and partnerships please see the recording at the link below:
- Link to webinar recording for Communities:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xq3sa12elsE>
- Link to presentation slides: (Link under Webinar heading)
<https://www.epa.gov/infrastructure/solid-waste-infrastructure-recycling-grants-communities>



Resources and more on our website!

<https://www.epa.gov/infrastructure/solid-waste-infrastructure-recycling-grants-communities>

Recycling
Education and
Outreach Grant
Program

SWIFR for Tribes
and Intertribal
Consortia

SWIFR for
Communities

- Here you can find:
 - Copy of the NOFO
 - Information on How to Apply (with direct links to Grants.gov)
 - Optional Resources that can be used in preparing an application (e.g., checklists, project narrative resources, budget resources)
 - A Quick Reference Guide for Evaluating Progress and Reporting Achievements Over Time (for REO)
 - Running list of Questions and Answers
 - Webinar information coming soon!



If you have questions...

- SWIFR Communities: SWIFR@epa.gov
- SWIFR Tribal: SWIFRTribal@epa.gov
- REO: RecyclingEd@epa.gov



Thank You!

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