

**U.S. EPA, OPPTS**  
**Tribal Educational Outreach on Lead Poisoning and Baseline Assessment of Tribal Children's Existing and Potential Exposure and Risks Associated with Lead**  
**Request for Proposals (RFP) FY 2006**

**FEDERAL AGENCY NAME:** U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Office of Prevention, Pesticides and Toxic Substances

**FUNDING OPPORTUNITY TITLE:** Tribal Educational Outreach on Lead Poisoning and Baseline Assessment of Tribal Children's Existing and Potential Exposure and Risks Associated with Lead: Request for Proposals 2006

**ANNOUNCEMENT TYPE:** New Announcement

**FUNDING OPPORTUNITY NUMBER:** EPA-HQ-OPPT-2006-0647

**CATALOG OF FEDERAL DOMESTIC ASSISTANCE (CFDA) NO:** 66.715– Tribal Educational Outreach on Lead Poisoning and Baseline Assessment of Tribal Children's Existing and Potential Exposure and Risks Associated with Lead.

**DATES:** The closing date for applicants to submit proposals is January 12, 2007. Proposals submitted via electronic mail through grants.gov must be received by the closing date and time (5 pm Eastern) (See Section IV for further information).

**SUMMARY:** The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is accepting proposals from Federally-recognized Indian tribes and tribal consortia to support Tribal educational outreach and to conduct a baseline assessment of Tribal children's existing and potential exposure to lead-based paint and related lead-based paint hazards. Activities eligible for funding include educational outreach, data gathering, inspections, risk assessments, training, and development of new and innovative approaches to identifying or reducing lead poisoning. EPA is awarding grants which will provide approximately \$1 million to Federally-recognized Indian tribes to perform those activities and to encourage Indian tribes to consider continuing such activities in the future. The number of grants EPA will fund as a result of this announcement will be based on the quality of proposals received and the availability of funding. It is anticipated that approximately 15-30 awards will be made.

**FULL TEXT OF THE ANNOUNCEMENT**

**I. FUNDING OPPORTUNITY DESCRIPTION**

**A. Purpose and Goals**

The purpose of these grants is to support Tribal lead educational outreach activities and the efforts of Indian tribes to identify children's risks of lead poisoning by conducting a baseline

assessment of existing and/or potential exposure to lead-based paint and related lead-based paint hazards. The activities may be provided to children, parents, daycare providers, legal custodians, and homeowners on the potential health risks associated with lead exposure.

Activities eligible for funding include educational outreach, blood-lead screening, training, inspections, risk assessments (including collection and analysis of paint, dust, and soil samples), development of partnerships, and development of new and innovative approaches for identifying or reducing lead poisoning.

EPA seeks to award grants to recipients under this program who are best able to undertake activities that will support and accomplish the following goals: to identify and reduce areas with the likelihood of incidences of elevated blood lead levels; to educate Tribal communities of the dangers of lead poisoning; to develop unique and innovative tools that may be used to address childhood lead poisoning in Tribal communities.

## **B. Activities to be Funded**

**1. Educational Outreach Activities.** EPA will provide financial assistance in the form of grants to Indian tribes or Tribal consortia to develop and conduct organized outreach efforts to educate Tribal families about the dangers to children from exposure to lead-based paint hazards. Activities may include, but are not limited to, distributing educational information, encouraging Tribal families to have their children screened for lead poisoning, and having their homes tested for lead hazards, training medical professionals, developing culturally specific lead outreach materials, distributing pamphlets, and establishing an in-home education program.

Tribes may develop their own outreach materials; however, the use and reproduction of pre-existing products is strongly encouraged and preferred. EPA and other Federal agencies have developed, and currently provide, a wide range of outreach materials available from the National Lead Information Center (NLIC) (1-800-424-LEAD). Trained specialists at the Center can help identify specific types of lead awareness materials that already exist and thereby avoid spending the limited resources to recreate these materials. Any new lead awareness materials developed must be consistent with the Federal (EPA, Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), and Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC, formerly the Centers for Disease Control)) lead hazard awareness and poisoning prevention programs (<http://www.epa.gov/lead/>, <http://www.hud.gov/offices/lead/>, and (<http://www.epa.gov/lead/>, <http://www.hud.gov/offices/lead/>, and <http://www.cdc.gov/nceh/lead/lead.htm>).

**2. Baseline Assessment Activities.** EPA will provide financial assistance in the form of grants to Indian tribes or Tribal consortia to conduct blood-lead screening of children age 6 years and under, develop new blood-lead monitoring methods, conduct inspections and risk assessments, provide training, compile data, develop partnerships, and travel. Specifically:

**a. Conduct Blood-lead Screening (Children age 6 years and under).** Blood-lead samples must be collected from tribal children. In order to obtain maximum participation, recruitment outreach may have to be employed. The focus should be on Tribal children between the ages of 12-36 months, because blood-lead levels tend to be highest in this age group. More children in this age group have blood-lead levels above the level of concern, >10 micrograms/deciliter ( $\mu\text{g/dL}$ ). The CDC's recommended blood-lead level of concern, 10  $\mu\text{g/dL}$ ,

encourages follow-up activities with specific actions/interventions recommended at various elevated blood-lead levels.

All blood lead samples collected must be analyzed using a Clinical Laboratory Improvement Amendments (CLIA)-certified facility or laboratory. Portable, hand-held blood lead analyzers may be used, but must be operated by a laboratory or facility that is CLIA certified.

If the facility or laboratory is using the Lead Care II portable blood lead instrument, a CLIA waiver and number must be obtained. Users of the Lead Care II instrument should follow the manufacturer's recommendations regarding venous confirmation by another method for any venous sample blood lead result  $\geq 10\mu\text{g/dL}$ . Additionally, users must comply with state laws and regulations for reporting of blood lead testing data.

If the original Lead Care instrument or other methods (e.g. GFAAS, 3010B (ASV), ICP-MS) are utilized, the CLIA-certified laboratories or facilities must successfully participate in a testing proficiency program that is CLIA approved. CLIA regulations, published in 1992 (42 CFR part 493), are administered by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS).

Information regarding CLIA may be downloaded from the CMS web site at <http://www.cms.gov/clia/>.

**b. Develop New Methods.** EPA encourages the development of new methods, which may be used in lieu of blood-lead monitoring. In particular, EPA encourages applicants to consider developing new tools to better target populations at risk for lead poisoning and to gauge the success of activities funded under this program and other activities designed to combat childhood lead poisoning.

**c. Conduct Inspections and Risk Assessments.** Inspections and risk assessments of pre-1978 Tribal housing and/or child-occupied facilities for lead-based paint hazards must be conducted. (Housing and facilities may be owned or occupied by Tribal members.) This activity will include collection and analysis of paint, dust, and soil samples for hazardous lead levels and recruitment outreach. Inspections and risk assessments may only be conducted by individuals certified by EPA for Indian country in the EPA Region where the Tribe is located or certified by the recipient Tribe if the Tribe has received EPA program authorization. (See work practice standards found in 40 CFR 745.227 or those of the authorized Tribal program.) Analysis of paint, dust, and soil samples must be conducted by a National Lead Laboratory Accreditation Program (NLLAP)-recognized laboratory. EPA has established the NLLAP to recognize laboratories that demonstrate the ability to analyze paint chip, dust, or soil samples for lead. A current list of NLLAP-recognized laboratories can be obtained by calling the National Lead Information Center at 1-800-424-LEAD.

**d. Training.** Grant funds may be used to train tribal workers to perform lead inspections and risk assessments for initial, refresher, or any other training and/or third party testing required to obtain EPA-authorized certification to perform lead-based paint inspections and risk assessments. Grant funds cannot be used to pay for any administrative fees for certification to conduct lead inspections and/or risk assessments.

**e. Compile and Summarize Demographic Data.** Data collected from baseline assessment activities listed in this section must be collected, compiled and well organized. It is strongly recommended that tribes develop or use an existing data management system (manual or automated) to collect and maintain the data collected during the project, including laboratory results and data on follow-up cases for Tribal children with elevated blood-lead levels. An existing Tribal tracking system, Tribal Relational Environmental Numeric Health Database System (TRENHDS), may be viewed or downloaded from <http://www.bluejaydata.com/trenhds>.

It is recommended that the data include: Tribe or Tribal consortium name and location; an identifier that protects the privacy of the child; age of housing in which the child resides; age of the child (in months); gender; sample media (blood, soil, dust, or paint); date of sample collection; method of sample collection (for blood samples indicate whether method was capillary or venous); laboratory analysis method and date; the levels of lead in blood (in micrograms per deciliter ( $\mu\text{g/dL}$ )), soil (in micrograms per gram ( $\mu\text{g/g}$ )), dust (in micrograms per square foot ( $\mu\text{g/ft}^2$ )), and paint (in  $\mu\text{g/g}$  or milligrams per centimeter square ( $\text{mg/cm}^2$ )); the number of homes and/or child-occupied facilities where risk assessments and/or inspections were conducted; the number of paint, dust, and soil samples collected; and possible exposure routes from other sources (such as candy, hobby materials, pottery, parent occupational exposure, special native foods, and/or medications) for each Tribal child screened.

**3. Develop Partnerships.** Tribes may develop cross-tribal coalitions, consortia, and partnerships with other tribes, and public and private entities, which have expertise or experience in training, public health, housing, education, nutrition, public education or public relations, and other fields, which will improve the tribe's ability to eliminate childhood lead poisoning.

**4. Travel.** Grant funds may be used to support travel expenses and attendance of key Tribal lead program personnel at EPA Regional and National Lead meetings and to attend risk assessor and/or inspection training courses, if feasible.

### **C. Statutory Authority**

The statutory authority for this action is Section 10 of the Toxic Substances Control Act (TSCA), as supplemented by Public Law No. 106-74. It provides the authority for this grant program. It authorizes EPA to award grants for the purpose of conducting research, development, monitoring, education, training, demonstrations, and studies necessary to carry out the purposes of the Act.

### **D. Alignment with EPA's Strategic Plan**

The grants under this program must support progress toward EPA's 2008 Strategic Plan, Healthy Communities and Ecosystems; Sub-Objective 4.1.3: Reduce Chemical and Biological Risks, which states, "Through 2008, reduce the number of childhood lead poisoning cases to 90,000 from approximately 400,000 cases in 1999/2000" (<http://www.epa.gov/ocfopage/plan/plan.htm>).

### **E. Measuring Environmental Results: Outputs and Outcomes**

Pursuant to EPA Order 5700.7, “*Environmental Results under EPA Assistance Agreements,*” EPA requires that all grant recipients adequately address environmental outputs and outcomes. Outputs and outcomes differ both in their nature and in how they are measured. Applicants must discuss environmental outputs and outcomes in their proposed work plan.

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

Expected outputs from the projects funded under this announcement may include but are not limited to: training courses, conferences, educational outreach material, the number of tribal children screened for elevated blood-lead levels, the number of homes reached by educational outreach, extent of risks addressed (number of homes, types of risks), number of homes assessed for lead risks, development of a new blood-lead monitoring tool, and other activities that will result in the reduction of lead poisoned tribal children.

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

Examples of environmental outcomes from the projects to be funded under this announcement may include, but are not limited to: an increased number of Tribal communities educated in lead poisoning prevention, a decreased number of Tribal children lead poisoned, behavioral changes, improvements in housing maintenance practices, increased number of Tribal children in lead-safe housing, and an increased number of Tribal children tested for lead poisoning.

## **II. AWARD INFORMATION**

### **A. Amount of Funding Available**

EPA anticipates awarding approximately \$1 million under this announcement. Applicants may receive one grant for up to \$75,000 for educational outreach activities, or \$50,000 for baseline assessment activities, or \$125,000 for a proposal for both educational outreach and baseline assessment activities. In addition, applicants representing a consortium or coalition of two or more federally-recognized tribes may receive one grant for up to \$200,000 for either outreach or baseline assessment activities. Applicants must submit separate budget breakdowns for educational outreach and baseline assessment activities if submitting a proposal for both activities. The number of grants EPA will fund as a result of this announcement will be based on the quality of proposals received and the availability of funding. It is anticipated that approximately 15-30 awards will be made.

### **B. Funding Type and Restrictions**

The funding for selected projects will be in the form of a grant awarded under TSCA Section 10. Grant funding may not be used for the following:

1. **Buying real property**, such as land or buildings.
2. **Lead hazard reduction activities**, such as performing interim controls or abatement (as defined in 40 CFR 745.223).
3. **Construction** activities, such as renovation, remodeling, or building a structure.
4. Lead-based paint **certification fees** for individuals and firms.
5. **Duplication of funding** for any lead-related activities that is being funded or has been previously funded by other EPA or other Federal Government sources. Applicants must include, as an attachment, information on any grants funded in past three years by EPA, HUD, CDC or any Federal department or agency for activities involving lead-based paint. This should include information on federal agency funding source(s), amount of funding, funding period, history of performance reporting on progress and results, and purpose of grant(s).
6. **Case-management** costs, including medical treatment for children with elevated blood-lead levels (e.g., follow up visits by a doctor or chelation therapy). EPA is extremely interested in knowing what actions you plan to follow regarding monitoring, education, and/or treatment for children whose blood-lead levels are determined under this grant program to be elevated ( $> 10 \mu\text{g}/\text{dL}$ ). It is important that the children who are found to have elevated blood-lead levels are treated. Although most case-management costs are not eligible for funding under the grant, a description of specific steps and related information for follow up activities must be included in the work plan section of the grant proposal.

EPA grant funds may be used only for the purpose set forth in the assistance agreement, and must be consistent with the statutory authority for the award. Grant funds may not be used as matching funds for other Federal grants, lobbying or intervention in Federal regulatory or adjudicatory proceedings, and may not be used to sue the Federal government.

### **C. Start Date/Project Duration**

The individual start dates of projects will be dependent upon when each EPA Regional Office makes the award. All project periods may be for up to two years in length.

### **D. Contracts and Sub-Awards**

Tribes may use a portion of the grant funds for contractor support for these activities; however, contractor support may not account for more than 25% of the amount of the grant, except where contract services include blood-lead analysis, training, and/or lead-based paint inspections and risk assessments. This limit does not apply to developing quality assurance documentation. However, while grantees may develop their own quality assurance materials, pre-existing templates for inspection and screening are available and EPA strongly encourages their use.

## **E. Miscellaneous**

Funding for these projects is not guaranteed and is subject to the availability of funds and the evaluation of proposals based on the criteria in this announcement. EPA reserves the right to partially fund proposals/applications by funding discrete activities, portions, or phases of proposed projects. If EPA decides to partially fund a proposal/application, it will do so in a manner that does not prejudice any applicants or affect the basis upon which the proposal/application, or portion thereof, was evaluated and selected for award, and that maintains the integrity of the competition and selection process. Award of funding through this year's competition is not a guarantee of future funding. EPA reserves the right to reject all proposals and make no awards under this announcement.

## **III. ELIGIBILITY INFORMATION**

### **A. Who May Apply?**

EPA is soliciting proposals from Federally Recognized Indian Tribe or Tribal consortium. For the purposes of this announcement, a partnership between two or more Federally Recognized Indian Tribes is considered a consortium. Applicants who received grants under this program in the past may submit a new proposal, but it must be for a different project.

EPA carefully reviews all grant applications selected for award to ensure that grantees who are designated "high risk" by EPA are subject to special conditions in accordance with EPA regulations 40 CFR 30.14 or 40 CFR 31.12. These special conditions include paying the recipient on a reimbursement basis; requiring detailed financial reports from the recipient; imposing additional project monitoring; and/or establishing additional prior approvals as needed. A "high risk" grantee is one that has a documented history of unsatisfactory performance on prior awards; is not financially stable; has not conformed with the terms and conditions of previous awards; or has been designated high risk for other reasons listed in 40 CFR 30.14 or 40 CFR 31.12.

### **B. Cost-Sharing or Matching**

There are no requirements for cost sharing or matching under this grant program.

### **C. Eligibility Screening Requirements: Threshold Criteria**

Proposals must meet the following threshold criteria to be eligible for funding consideration under this announcement. Failure to meet any of the following criteria in the proposal will result in the automatic disqualification of the proposal for funding consideration. Ineligible applicants will be notified within 15 calendar days of the determination that they are ineligible based on the threshold criteria.

1. Proposals must support Goal 4 of EPA's Strategic Plan, Healthy Communities.
2. Proposals must consist of activities authorized under the Toxic Substances Control Act Section 10, as supplemented by P.L. 106-74.
3. Proposals must not be used for the purposes of routine program implementation,

implementation of routine environmental protection or restoration measures, meeting any legal mandate (such as federal, state or local regulations or settlement agreements), land acquisition, purchase of vehicles, or completion of work that should have been completed under a prior grant or cooperative agreement.

4. Proposals must be from a Federally Recognized Indian Tribe or Tribal consortium.

5. Proposals must substantially comply with the submission instructions and requirements set forth in this announcement or else they will be rejected. In addition, where a page limit is expressed in Section IV with respect to the proposal and/or parts of the proposal, pages in excess of the page limitation will not be reviewed. Further, proposals must be received by the EPA or through Grants.Gov on or before the closing date and time published in Section IV of this announcement. Proposals received after the published closing date and time will not be considered.

## **IV. APPLICATION AND SUBMISSION INFORMATION**

### **A. General**

Proposals must be typewritten, unbound, and with page numbers. Proposals must include a work plan(s) as described in this unit. The work plan(s) may be for either educational outreach or baseline assessment activities. If submitting a proposal that includes both outreach and baseline assessment activities, it must contain two separate work plans, one for each activity. However, only one outreach and one baseline assessment work plan will be accepted from each Tribe or Tribal consortia in response to this notice. All work plans will be evaluated separately, even if an applicant submits two, one for outreach and one for baseline assessment. (The funds from the two work plans may be combined by EPA for administrative purposes (award processing) if both proposals are selected.)

Each work plan must be no more than six typed pages in length (or twelve pages if submitting a two work plans, one for outreach and one for baseline assessment, excluding appendices). If a work plan consists of more than six pages (or twelve pages if submitting two work plans.), the additional pages will not be reviewed (excluding the appendices). One page is one side of a single-spaced typed page. Please do not compress the file if submitting electronically. All work plans must be organized and outlined as specified in Section IV, Part B and must address all of the criteria as specified in Section V, Part B. It is recommended that confidential business information not be included in your proposal.

### **B. Proposal Elements**

For applicants submitting their proposals via grants.gov, the application must include the standard forms listed in those instructions, as well as information contained in this section. For applicants submitting proposals via mail, these standard forms are not required. There is no application package for submissions via mail for these grants.

The format for the submission must address all of the elements in the evaluation criteria in Section V, Part B and should be organized and outlined as follows:

1. **Cover Page.** Include the following information:
  - a. **Name of Tribal Applicant(s).**
  - b. **Project Title.**
  - c. **Project Contact.** Include name, phone and fax numbers and email address.
  - d. **Total Project Cost.** Specify the total amount requested from EPA, as well as any resources or funding from any other sources that are contributing support.
  - e. **Summary Statement.** One to two sentences describing the types of activities to be undertaken and how this project will identify and/or reduce elevated blood lead levels the project.

2. **Work Plan Narrative.** Address each of the elements in the evaluation criteria in Section V, Part B. Applicants must describe how this project will meet each criterion. Although grant funds cannot be used for case management under this grant, EPA is extremely interested in knowing what actions Tribes plan to follow regarding monitoring, education, and/or treatment for children whose blood-lead levels are determined to be elevated ( $>10 \mu\text{g/dL}$ ) while screened under baseline assessment activities of this grant. It is important that the children who are found to have elevated blood-lead levels are treated. A description of specific steps and related information for follow-up activities must be included in this section for all proposed baseline assessment work plans.

Submit a list of federally funded assistance agreements that your organization performed within the last three years ( no more than 5, and preferably EPA agreements), and describe how you documented and/or reported on whether you were making progress towards achieving the expected results (e.g., outputs and outcomes) under those agreements. If you were not making progress, please indicate whether, and how, you documented why not. In evaluating applicants under this factor 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 and prior Federal agency grantors (e.g., to verify and/or supplement the information provided by the applicant). If you do not have any relevant or available environmental results past performance information, please indicate this in the proposal and you will receive a neutral score for this factor under Section V.

Submit a plan to track and measure the outputs/outcomes as described in Section I.

In addition, provide information on 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.

3. **Attachments.** The attachments should include resumes of key personnel and if applicable, a letter of support (or a resolution from a Tribal Council or Chairperson) which provides commitment to the project from each Tribe (including those that are part of a tribal partnership). If it is not possible to obtain a letter/resolution from the Tribal Council or Chairperson to submit with your proposal, an interim letter of explanation must be included with

the proposal. The letter/resolution will still be required prior to award of the grant.

### **C. Application Instructions**

You may submit your proposal either in hardcopy or in electronic format through <http://www.grants.gov> (but not both) for this announcement.

**1. Instructions for Submitting Mailed (Hardcopy) Proposals.** Submit an original proposal that is not permanently bound or stapled in any way. The other two (2) required copies of the proposal should be secured with paper or binder clips or secure staples. Because of security concerns, paper proposals cannot be personally delivered. They must be sent through regular mail, overnight/express mail, or a major courier.

The following address must be used for regular mail:

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency  
OPPTS/OPPT/NPCD  
1200 Pennsylvania Ave., NW (7404T)  
Washington, DC 20460  
Attn: Darlene Watford

The following address must be used for overnight/express mail and couriers:

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency  
OPPTS/OPPT/NPCD  
1201 Constitution Ave, NW  
Room 4355UU  
4<sup>th</sup> Floor Connecting Wing, Old Customs Building  
Washington, DC 20460  
Attn: Darlene Watford  
202-566-0516

**2. Instructions for Submitting Proposals through Grants.Gov.** Please be sure to view the additional instructions in Appendix A that is available for download on Grants.gov. If you have technical difficulties applying electronically, please refer to <http://www.Grants.gov/Customersupport> or call the toll free Contact Center at 1-800-518-4726.

If you wish to apply electronically via Grants.gov, the electronic submission of your proposal/application must be made by an official representative of your institution who is registered with Grants.gov and authorized to sign applications for Federal assistance. For more information, go to <http://www.grants.gov> and click on “Get Registered” on the left side of the page. *Note that the registration process may take a week or longer to complete.* If your organization is not currently registered with Grants.gov, please encourage your office to designate an AOR and ask that individual to begin the registration process as soon as possible.

To begin the application process under this grant announcement, go to <http://www.grants.gov> and click on the “Apply for Grants” tab on the left side of the page. Then click on “Apply Step 1: Download a Grant Application Package and Instructions” to download the PureEdge viewer and

obtain the application package and instructions for applying under this announcement using grants.gov. You may retrieve the application package and instructions by entering the Funding Opportunity Number, EPA-0647, or the Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance (CFDA) number, 66.715, in the space provided. Then complete and submit the application package as indicated. You may also be able to access the application package by clicking on the button “How To Apply” at the top right of the synopsis page for this announcement on <http://www.grants.gov> (to find the synopsis page, go to <http://www.grants.gov> and click on the “Find Grant Opportunities” button on the left side of the page and then go to Search Opportunities and use the Browse by Agency feature to go to EPA opportunities).

Application/proposal materials submitted through grants.gov will be time/date stamped electronically.

Please be sure to view Appendix A for additional instructions for applying electronically under this announcement through use of grants.gov that are available for download on Grants.gov.

If you have any technical difficulties while applying electronically, please refer to <http://www.grants.gov/help/help.jsp>.

#### **D. Intergovernmental Review**

Applicants should be aware that formal requests for assistance (i.e., SF-424 and associated documentation) may be subject to intergovernmental review under Executive Order 12372, “Intergovernmental Review of Federal Programs.” Applicants should contact their state's single point of contact (SPOC) for further information. There is a list of these contacts at the following web site: <http://whitehouse.gov/omb/grants/spoc.html>.

#### **E. Confidential Business Information**

In accordance with 40 CFR 2.203, applicants may claim all or a portion of their proposal as confidential business information. EPA will evaluate confidentiality claims in accordance with 40 CFR Part 2. Applicants must clearly mark proposals or portions of proposals they claim as confidential. If no claim of confidentiality is made, EPA is not required to make the inquiry to the applicant otherwise required by 40 CFR 2.204(c) (2) prior to disclosure. Note that under Public Law No. 105-277, data produced under an award is subject to the Freedom of Information Act.

#### **V. APPLICATION REVIEW INFORMATION**

## **A. Review and Selection Process**

There will be a two-tiered review process for proposals. The first tier will be a basic review of the proposals to assure they are eligible for funding consideration. This first tier will include a determination of whether the applicant has satisfied all the threshold criteria listed in Section III, Part C.

Those proposals that pass the first tier will undergo a second tier review. The second tier will involve the actual evaluation of the proposals against the criteria below. Each eligible proposal that met the first tier review requirements will be reviewed by a panel of EPA staff. Each eligible proposal submitted will be evaluated by EPA against the Evaluation Criteria described in Section V, Part B. Each proposal will be given a numerical score, with a total of 100 points possible.

Final funding decisions will be made by an EPA Approving Official, based on the recommendation of the selection committee's second tier review. In making the final funding decisions, EPA may also consider programmatic priorities.

## **B. Evaluation Criteria**

Different criteria exist for evaluating the educational outreach and the baseline assessment proposals. Therefore, each proposal will be evaluated separately, using the appropriate criteria. All work plans will be evaluated separately, even if an applicant submits two, one for outreach and one for baseline assessment. Sub factors within each criterion will be divided equally depending on the total value of the criteria and the number of sub factors. All proposals will be reviewed, evaluated, and ranked by a selected panel of EPA reviewers based on the following criteria and points:

### **1. Criteria for evaluating educational outreach proposals—**

#### **a. Likelihood of Incidences of Childhood Lead Poisoning. (10 points).**

Proposals will be evaluated based on the extent to which it describes if a Tribal community has, or is suspected to have, a high likelihood of incidences of childhood lead poisoning? To what extent does the proposal include all information available to understand the conditions in the community (e.g., housing age and quality, low-income population, concentration of children, communities disproportionately impacted by environmental factors)? To what extent does the proposal identify that the project activities will fill a need to reduce the incidences or suspected incidences of childhood lead poisoning?

**b. Measurable Results and Evaluation. (10 points).** Proposals will be evaluated based on the quality and extent to which it demonstrates that the applicant will be able to clearly track and measure progress toward achieving the expected program goals (including outputs and outcomes) identified in Section I. EPA prefers that progress be shown in real environmental progress rather than solely in amount of work accomplished. Please describe the extent to which the proposal measures both quantitative and qualitative results. All project proposals must

address:

- What are the specific project outputs?
- What are the measurable short-term outcomes and results that will be

achieved?

- Describe the specific measures that are based on the outputs (e.g., number of training courses and conferences provided, number of homes that receive outreach materials), behavior changes (e.g., increased number of Tribal communities educated in lead poisoning prevention, improvements in Tribal housing maintenance practices), and/or environmental and human health results (e.g., decrease number of Tribal children lead poisoned, increased number of Tribal children living in lead-safe housing).

- How will these results be measured and evaluated, both during the project and after the project is completed?

**c. Applicant Overview. (20 points).** All proposals must address the following:

- **Outreach Experience.** To what extent does the proposal indicate what experience or potential experience the Tribe(s) has in conducting outreach activities, including partnering with media affiliates associated with radio, television, and newspapers? Are references available, if requested? To what extent does the proposal detail how much of the activities will be performed by a contractor? To what extent does the proposal discuss the staff expertise/qualifications, and staff knowledge or the ability to obtain them, to successfully achieve the goals of the proposed project? Are resumes attached for key personnel? To what extent does the proposal discuss what, if any, training personnel is required to attend to complete this project?

- **Collaborations or Partnerships.** The grant proposal will be evaluated based on the description of the staff positions, roles and responsibilities, and their qualifications. To what extent does the proposal describe and identify all proposed partnerships, consortia, cross-tribal coalitions and stakeholder groups that will be involved in the project? To what extent does the proposal detail how the partners will interact with the tribal community when conducting this project? To what extent does the proposal describe how this partnership will be used to accomplish the purposes of this grant program? Are letters of commitment included from all partnerships, explicitly stating commitment for the project and what each of the groups' roles will be in project staffing, funding, design and implementation?

- **Environmental Results Past Performance.** Under this criterion, applicants will be evaluated based on the extent and quality to which they adequately documented and/or reported on their progress towards achieving the expected results (e.g., outcomes and outputs) under Federal agency assistance agreements performed within the last three years, and if such progress was not being made whether the applicant adequately documented and/or reported why not. Note: In evaluating applicants under this factor, EPA 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). Applicants with no relevant or available past performance reporting history will receive a neutral score for this factor.

**d. Approach. (40 points).** The grant proposal should fully describe the proposed approach for conducting the educational outreach activities in the Tribal communities. The following elements will be specifically evaluated:

- **Tasks.** To what extent are the outreach tasks and steps fully described in the proposal? To what extent does the proposal indicate the schedule for completing the project? To what extent is a timeline included in the proposal, which describes the tasks/steps and time period for completing each?

- **Message Delivery.** To what extent does the proposal indicate what materials will be used, such as EPA or other federal government written materials? To what extent does the proposal indicate if the applicant will develop new materials for the project (flyers, newspaper or magazines articles, etc.)? To what extent does the proposal describe how the messages will be delivered, e.g., special sessions, classroom lectures fairs, council meetings, one-on-one interviews, lectures, radio, television appearances or other methods, to reach the maximum number of Tribal members in the community? To what extent are the messages in the proposal consistent with EPA/HUD/CDC lead-based paint program policies, guidelines, regulations, and recommendations?

- **Audience.** To what extent does the proposal indicate how many (estimate) Tribal families will receive the lead awareness information? To what extent does the proposal indicate what efforts will be employed to target hard-to-reach Tribal communities (if applicable) to inform them about the project activities?

- **Cultural Suitability.** To what extent does the proposal discuss if the current lead information, available from the federal government, is appropriate (language comprehension and cultural identification) for the tribal members? If not, to what extent does the proposal indicate what measures will be employed to make them suitable?

**e. Budget (20 points).** All proposals must answer the following questions:

- **Reasonable Budget.** To what extent does the proposal present a budget that is reasonable, clear, and consistent with the intended use of the funds? To what extent does the proposal include only budget items that are necessary for completion of the project? Does the proposal indicate if contractor support will be involved? If yes, is it 25% or less than the total project cost (excluding analysis, training, inspections and risk assessments)?

- **Leveraging.** To what extent does the proposal indicate how the applicant will coordinate the use of EPA grant funding with other Federal and/or non Federal resources (including funding, staff time, in-kind resources, etc.) to carry out the proposed project? To what extent does the proposal indicate how the applicant demonstrates that EPA funding will compliment activities relevant to the proposed project(s) carried out by the applicant with other sources of funds or resources? Applicants may use their own funds or other resources for a voluntary match or cost share if the standards at 40 CFR 30.23 or 40 CFR 31.24, as applicable, are met. Only eligible and allowable costs may be used for matches or cost shares. Other Federal

grants may not be used as matches or cost shares without specific statutory authority (e.g., HUD's Community Development Block Grants).

## **2. Criteria for evaluating Baseline Assessment proposals—**

### **a. Likelihood of Incidences of Childhood Lead Poisoning. (10 points).**

Proposals will be evaluated based on the extent to which it describes if a Tribal community has, or is suspected to have, a high likelihood of incidences of childhood lead poisoning? To what extent does the proposal include all information available to understand the conditions in the community (e.g., housing age and quality, low-income population, concentration of children, communities disproportionately impacted by environmental factors)? To what extent does the proposal identify that the project activities will fill a need to reduce the incidences or suspected incidences of childhood lead poisoning?

**b. Measurable Results and Evaluation. (10 points).** Proposals will be evaluated based on the quality and extent to which it demonstrates that the applicant will be able to clearly track and measure progress toward achieving the expected program goals (including outputs and outcomes) identified in Section I. EPA prefers that progress be shown in real environmental progress rather than solely in amount of work accomplished. Please describe the extent to which the proposal measures both quantitative and qualitative results. All project proposals must address:

- What are the specific project outputs?
- What are the measurable short-term outcomes and results that will be achieved?
- Describe the specific measures that are based on the outputs (e.g., number of Tribal homes that are inspected or assessed for lead) and/or environmental and human health results (e.g., decrease number of Tribal children lead poisoned, increased number of Tribal children living in lead-safe housing).
- How will these results be measured and evaluated, both during the project and after the project is completed?

### **c. Applicant Overview. (20 points).** All proposals must address the following:

• **Baseline Assessment Experience.** To what extent does the proposal discuss the staff expertise/qualifications, and staff knowledge or the ability to obtain them, to successfully achieve the goals of the proposed project? To what extent does the proposal indicate what experience or potential experience the Tribe(s) has in collecting blood-lead samples from children and in conducting lead inspections or risk assessments? To what extent does the proposal indicate if a qualified person will conduct inspections, and/or risk assessments To what extent does the proposal describe all training that project personnel will be required to attend to complete this project? Are references available, if requested? Are resumes attached for key personnel? To what extent does the proposal detail how much of the activities will be performed by a contractor?

- **Collaborations or Partnerships.** The grant proposal will be evaluated based

on the description of the staff positions, roles and responsibilities, and their qualifications. To what extent does the proposal describe and identify all proposed partnerships, consortia, cross-tribal coalitions and stakeholder groups that will be involved in the project? To what extent does the proposal detail how the partners will interact with the tribal community when conducting this project? To what extent does the proposal describe how this partnership will be used to accomplish the purposes of this grant program? Are letters of commitment included from all partnerships, explicitly stating commitment for the project and what each of the groups' roles will be in project staffing, funding, design and implementation? To what extent does the proposal indicate if the Tribe(s) has access to properly trained staff and facilities to conduct the project?

- **Environmental Results Past Performance.** Under this criterion, applicants will be evaluated based on the extent and quality to which they adequately documented and/or reported on their progress towards achieving the expected results (e.g., outcomes and outputs) under Federal agency assistance agreements performed within the last three years, and if such progress was not being made whether the applicant adequately documented and/or reported why not. Note: In evaluating applicants under this factor, EPA 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). Applicants with no relevant or available past performance reporting history will receive a neutral score for this factor.

**d. Approach. (40 points).** The proposal must include the tasks and/or steps that the applicant will undertake to solicit maximum participation of the Tribal community for this project? Proposals will be evaluated based on the description of the sampling, collection, handling, and analysis activities. The approach should be consistent with EPA/HUD/CDC lead-based paint program policies, guidelines, regulations, and recommendations. All proposals must answer the following questions:

- **Blood-lead Screenings.** To what extent does the proposal indicate what recruitment method will be used inform families of the blood-screening project? Does the proposal indicate if a CLIA-certified laboratory will be used for analysis of the blood samples? To what extent does the proposal indicate the ages and the number of children to be screened? To what extent does the proposal describe how the recipient will obtain maximum participation of the Tribal community? To what extent does the proposal focus on Tribal children between the ages of 12-36 months?

- **Risk Assessments.** To what extent does the proposal indicate if a qualified person will perform the risk assessments? To what extent does the proposal indicate how many homes will be assessed for lead and a summary of the activities that will be performed? To what extent does the proposal indicate how the results of the risk assessments will be documented and discussed with the tribal family and/or owner? To what extent does the proposal describe the use of NLLAP-recognized laboratory for the analysis of paint, dust, and soil?

- **Inspections.** To what extent does the proposal indicate if a qualified person will perform the inspections? To what extent does the proposal indicate how many homes will be

inspected for lead? To what extent does the proposal include a summary of the activities that will be performed? To what extent does the proposal indicate how the results of the inspections will be documented and discussed with the tribal family and/or owner?

- **Data.** To what extent does the proposal indicate what data collection and tracking system will be used? To what extent does the proposal indicate what efforts will be used to ensure patient confidentiality? To what extent does the proposal indicate how quality control measures will be addressed?

- **Innovation.** To what extent does the project describe how will this project will develop and encourage the use of innovative techniques, tools, or measures, which may be used to identify vulnerable populations at risk and/or measure improvements in environmental and human health (e.g., surrogates for blood lead testing)?

**e. Budget (10 points).** All proposals must address the following:

- **Reasonable Budget.** To what extent does the proposal present a budget that is reasonable, clear, and consistent with the intended use of the funds? To what extent does the proposal include budget items that are necessary for completion of the project? Does the proposal indicate if contractor support will be involved? If yes, is it 25% or less than the total project cost (excluding analysis, training, inspections and risk assessments)?

- **Leveraging.** To what extent does the proposal indicate how the applicant will coordinate the use of EPA grant funding with other Federal and/or non Federal resources (including funding, staff time, in-kind resources, etc.) to carry out the proposed project? To what extent does the proposal indicate how the applicant demonstrates that EPA funding will compliment activities relevant to the proposed project(s) carried out by the applicant with other sources of funds or resources? Applicants may use their own funds or other resources for a voluntary match or cost share if the standards at 40 CFR 30.23 or 40 CFR 31.24, as applicable, are met. Only eligible and allowable costs may be used for matches or cost shares. Other Federal grants may not be used as matches or cost shares without specific statutory authority (e.g., HUD's Community Development Block Grants).

## **VI. Award Administration Information**

### **A. Award Notices**

EPA will notify both successful and unsuccessful applicant(s) in writing or electronic mail. If proposals are selected, additional forms for grant application (such as the Standard Form 424, Application for Federal Assistance) will be required to be submitted to EPA. EPA will provide the specific information to the applicant when appropriate. In addition, successful applicants will be required to certify that they have not been debarred or suspended from participation in Federal assistance awards in accordance with 40 CFR part 32. The application forms are available on line at <http://www.epa.gov/ogd/AppKit/application.htm>. These forms must not be submitted with the work plan proposal.

EPA reserves the right to negotiate appropriate changes in work plans after the selection and before the final award, consistent with EPA's Competition Policy (EPA Order 5700.5A1, Section 11). The notification, which advises that the applicant's proposal has been tentatively selected and is being recommended for award, is not an authorization to begin performance. The recipient will receive a signed grant agreement from the EPA Grants Office, which will be the authorizing document. At a minimum, this process can take up to 60 days from the date of selection.

## **B. Administrative and National Policy Requirements.**

EPA's quality assurance requirements must be complied with before any environmental or health-related measurements or data are initiated under this grant. These requirements are addressed in 40 CFR 30.54 and 31.45 relating to quality assurance/quality control. Information on EPA quality assurance requirements may be downloaded from the EPA Quality System web site at <http://www.epa.gov/quality/>. For further guidance on preparation of the quality documentation, and specific EPA Regional approval requirements, please contact the appropriate EPA Regional Lead Contact listed in Unit VII.

Programmatic Terms and Conditions will be negotiated with the selected recipient.

Presently, these funds are not eligible for use in a Performance Partnership Agreement.

Applicants should be aware that formal requests for assistance (i.e., SF-424 and associated documentation) may be subject to intergovernmental review under Executive Order 12372, "Intergovernmental Review of Federal Programs." Applicants should contact their state's single point of contact (SPOC) for further information. There is a list of these contacts at the following web site: <http://whitehouse.gov/omb/grants/spoc.html>.

## **C. Reporting Requirement.**

Quarterly progress reports and a detailed final report will be required. Quarterly reports summarizing technical progress, planned activities for next quarter and summary of expenditures are required within 30 days of each quarter. Applicants are further required to make a commitment to share all data collected with EPA for assessment on a regional level. The Final report shall be completed within 90 calendar days of the completion of the project period. The final report should encompass a complete overview/summary of all of the activities conducted within the grant project period; including any and all data results as well as a justification for impediments. The schedule for submission of quarterly reports will be established by EPA, after applicant has been approved for an award.

## **D. Dispute Resolution Process**

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://a257.g.akamaitech.net/7/257/2422/01jan20051800/edocket.access.gpo.gov/2005/05-1371.htm>. Copies of these procedures may also be requested by contacting the Agency Contact listed in Section VII.

## VII. AGENCY CONTACT

### FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Darlene Watford  
[watford.darlene@epa.gov](mailto:watford.darlene@epa.gov)  
Phone: 202-566-0516  
Fax: 202-566-0469

For specific information regarding your geographic area, contact the appropriate EPA Regional Lead Contact. Note that grant proposals must be submitted by mail or electronically through [grants.gov](http://grants.gov) to the contact listed in Section IV.C. The EPA Regional Lead Contacts are listed as follows:

Region 1 (Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Rhode Island, and Vermont): Regional Contact: James M. Bryson, USEPA Region 1 (CPT), One Congress St., Suite 1100, Boston, MA 02114-0203; telephone number: (617) 918-1524; fax number: (617) 918-0524; e-mail address: [bryson.jamesm@epa.gov](mailto:bryson.jamesm@epa.gov).

Region 2 (New Jersey, New York, Puerto Rico, and the Virgin Islands): Regional Contact: Lou Bevilacqua, USEPA Region 2 (MS 225), 2890 Woodbridge Ave., Edison, NJ 08837; telephone number: (732) 321-6671; fax number: (732) 321-6757; e-mail address: [bevilaqua.louis@epa.gov](mailto:bevilaqua.louis@epa.gov).

Region 3 (Delaware, Maryland, Pennsylvania, Virginia, West Virginia, the District of Columbia): Regional Contact: Demian Ellis, USEPA Region 3 (3WC33), 1650 Arch St., Philadelphia, PA 19103-2029; telephone number: (215) 814-2088; fax number: (215) 814-3114; e-mail address: [ellis.demian@epa.gov](mailto:ellis.demian@epa.gov).

Region 4 (Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina, and Tennessee): Regional Contact: Liz Wilde, USEPA Region 4, 61 Forsyth St., SW., Atlanta, GA 30303; telephone number: (404) 562-8998; fax numbers: (404) 562-8973 and (404) 562-8972; e-mail address: [wilde.liz@epa.gov](mailto:wilde.liz@epa.gov).

Region 5 (Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, Minnesota, Ohio, and Wisconsin): Regional Contact: David Turpin, USEPA Region 5 (DT 8J), 77 W. Jackson Blvd., Chicago, IL 60604; telephone number: (312) 886-7836; fax number: (312) 353-4788; e-mail address: [turpin.david@epa.gov](mailto:turpin.david@epa.gov).

Region 6 (Arkansas, Louisiana, New Mexico, Oklahoma, and Texas): Regional Contact: Estella Sugawara-Adams, USEPA Region 6, 1445 Ross Ave., 12th Floor (6PD-T), Dallas, TX 75202; telephone number: (214) 665-2704; fax number: (214) 665-6762; e-mail address: [sugawara-adams.estella@epa.gov](mailto:sugawara-adams.estella@epa.gov).

Region 7 (Iowa, Kansas, Missouri, and Nebraska): Regional Contact: Christine Dustin, USEPA Region 7, ARTD/RALI, 901 North 5th, Kansas City, KS 66101; telephone number: (913) 551-7102; e-mail address: [dustin.christine@epa.gov](mailto:dustin.christine@epa.gov).

Region 8 (Colorado, Montana, North Dakota, South Dakota, Utah, and Wyoming):

Regional Contact: Randy Brown, USEPA Region 8, 999 18th St., Suite 300, Denver, CO 80202; telephone number: (303) 312-6021; fax number (303) 312-6044; e-mail address: [brown03.randy@epa.gov](mailto:brown03.randy@epa.gov) .

Region 9 (Arizona, California, Hawaii, Nevada, American Samoa, Northern Mariana Islands, and Guam): Regional Contact: Nancy Oien, USEPA Region 9 (CMD 4), 75 Hawthorne St., San Francisco, CA 94105, telephone number: (415) 972-3780; fax number: (415) 947-3583; e-mail address: [oi.nancy@epa.gov](mailto:oi.nancy@epa.gov).

Region 10 (Alaska, Idaho, Oregon, and Washington): Regional Contact: Barbara Ross, USEPA Region 10, Solid Waste and Toxics Unit (AWT 128), 1200 Sixth Ave., Seattle, WA 98101, telephone number: (206) 553-1985; fax number: (206) 553-8509; e-mail address: [ross.barbara@epa.gov](mailto:ross.barbara@epa.gov).

## **VIII. OTHER INFORMATION**

The EPA Award Official is the only official that can bind the Agency to the expenditure of funds for selected projects resulting from this announcement.