



# **State and Tribal Assistance Grant (STAG) Solicitation for 2010**

***Pre-Announcement Briefing for  
State, Tribal, and Regional Personnel  
July 2010***

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# STAG Grant Briefing Topics

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# STAG Grant Briefing Objectives

- Educate states and tribes about the upcoming 2010 STAG grant solicitation
- Promote understanding of the scope of the 2010 grants for:
  - Permit Compliance System (PCS) Modernization
  - Integrated Compliance Information System– National Performance Discharge Elimination System (ICIS-NPDES)
- Promote development of good proposals that will lead to award of all available grant money (over \$1.6 million)

# Multi-Media STAG Award History

- FY2004: 10 OECA grants totaling \$1.87 M
- FY2005: 11 OECA grants, totaling \$1.7 M
- FY2006: 7 OECA grants, totaling \$1.25 M
- FY2007: 23 OECA grants, totaling \$3.99M
- FY2008: 1 OECA grant, totaling \$250 K
- FY2009: 2 OECA grants, totaling \$237 K
- FY2010: Solicitation underway for over \$1.6 M available for award

# Scope/Permissible Funding Areas for 2010

- Clean-up and migration of data from legacy PCS to ICIS-NPDES
- Cleanup of migrated data within ICIS-NPDES
- Feasibility studies and/or requirements analyses for what is necessary to fully populate required data in ICIS-NPDES
- Pilot studies or prototypes of state and tribal processes for data collection and entering of required data into ICIS-NPDES, especially for new NPDES program areas such as CAFOs
- Feasibility studies and/or requirements analyses for state and tribal adoption of the NetDMR and/or other electronic reporting tools

Note: A single proposal may cover multiple funding areas

# Examples of Activities Covered

- Solicitation will give examples of activities covered for each of the five areas on the previous slide
- Activities may cover the following:
  - Cleaning up data
  - Migrating data
  - Conducting requirements analyses
  - Conducting feasibility studies
  - Developing pilots or prototypes
  - Revising processes and practices
- **But** they must be within the scope of the five areas

# Who's Eligible for the 2010 STAG

- Non-direct\* user states and tribes
- States and tribes preparing for data migration
- States and tribes that have migrated data that requires cleanup
- States and tribes that are going to collect data in new program areas
- States and tribes that are interested in using electronic reporting tools

\*Non-direct user states have their own systems to manage the NPDES program and will electronically transfer (batch) all of their NPDES data from their state systems via CDX to ICIS–NPDES

# What's Not Funded Under a STAG

- Development of any software or system beyond a pilot or prototype stage
- Operations and maintenance
- Matching or cost sharing for other projects

# What Makes A Good Proposal

- Each solicitation has unique instructions and requirements
- Be sure:
  - Submitting organization meets eligibility criteria (see Section III of the solicitation)
  - Proposal addresses all of the review criteria in the solicitation (see Section V of the solicitation)
  - Proposed activities fall within the scope of the solicitation (see Section I of the solicitation)
  - Proposal is understandable by both environmental and information technology subject matter experts who will review it
  - Proposal is submitted via methods and within deadline specified (see Section IV of the solicitation)

# Lessons Learned

- Many proposals did not result in grants (were unsuccessful) because:
  - Proposals were for software development projects that went beyond the scope of a prototype or pilot study.
  - Proposals did not emphasize a “learning concept” as required by the funding statutes which allow “research, investigations, experiments, training, demonstrations, surveys and studies.”
  - Evaluation criteria were not addressed in a clear and careful manner (these are found in a table in the solicitation guidelines under “Application Review Information in Section V”). Reviewers could not determine if proposals met the criteria.
- Some proposals were never submitted because:
  - Submitters incorrectly believed “in-kind” contributions were required. In-kind is not a requirement and your lack of ability to provide in-kind does not disqualify you.

# OGD Proposal Training

- EPA's Office of Grants and Debarments (OGD) has on-line resources
  - Desk Top Resource home page  
<http://www.epa.gov/ogd/recipient/intro.htm>
  - Tips on writing a grant proposal  
<http://www.epa.gov/ogd/recipient/tips.htm>
- OGD also offers remote, webinar training
  - Additional sessions being set up for STAG submitters
  - Dates will be provided

# Other EPA Grants

- Environmental Information Exchange Network grants

<http://www.epa.gov/exchangenetwork/grants/index.html>

- Water grants

<http://www.epa.gov/compliance/assistance/financing/water/water-grants.html>

# Contacts for Further Information

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