

**U.S. EPA, Office of Prevention, Pesticides and Toxic Substances
Targeted Grants to Reduce Childhood Lead Poisoning
Request for Proposals for FY 2009**

Overview Information

Federal Agency: Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), Office of Prevention, Pesticides and Toxic Substances (OPPTS)

Funding Opportunity Title: 2009 for Targeted Grants to Reduce Childhood Lead Poisoning

Announcement Type: Request for Proposals (RFP) - Initial Announcement

Funding Opportunity Number: EPA-HQ-OPPT-2009-06

Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance (CFDA): CFDA Number 66.716 Surveys, Studies, Investigations, Training, Demonstration & Education Outreach

SUBMISSION DATES:

The closing date for receipt of proposals is Friday, August 14, 2009 at 4:30pm. All hard copies of proposal packages must be received by the appropriate EPA regional contact by Friday, August 14, 2009, 4:30 pm in order to be considered for funding. Electronic submission of proposal packages through e-mail must be received by the appropriate EPA regional contact by Friday, August 14, 2009, 4:30pm. Applications received after the closing date and time will not be considered for funding. See Section IV for EPA regional contacts and further submission information.

Project Overview:

EPA is soliciting proposals from eligible entities to conduct activities to reduce incidences of childhood lead poisoning in vulnerable populations. Projects will address the following goals: (1) reduce lead poisoning in areas with high incidences of elevated blood-lead levels through outreach and education; (2) identify and reduce lead poisoning in under-studied areas with high potential for undocumented elevated blood-lead levels through data gathering and monitoring; and (3) develop tools to address unique and challenging issues in lead poisoning prevention, especially tools that are replicable and scalable for other areas. Activities eligible for funding include outreach and public education, data gathering, monitoring, training, inspections and assessments, and demonstrations of new and innovative approaches for identifying or reducing lead poisoning. Following EPA's evaluation of proposals, final applications will be requested from those eligible entities whose proposal has been successfully evaluated and preliminarily recommended for award. EPA will award assistance agreements which will total approximately \$1,000,000. The Agency anticipates awarding approximately 10 to 20 individual assistance agreements ranging in value from approximately \$25,000 to \$100,000.

FULL TEXT ANNOUNCEMENT

I. FUNDING OPPORTUNITY DESCRIPTION

A. Project Description

EPA is soliciting proposals from eligible entities to conduct activities to reduce incidences of childhood lead poisoning in vulnerable populations, projects will address the following goals: (1) reduce lead poisoning in areas with high incidences of elevated blood-lead levels through outreach and education; (2) identify and reduce lead poisoning in under-studied areas with high potential for undocumented elevated blood-lead levels through data gathering and monitoring; and (3) develop tools to address unique and challenging issues in lead poisoning prevention, especially tools that are replicable and scalable for other areas.

Goal and objectives:

EPA will award assistance agreements to eligible entities who meet the criteria described in this announcement with proposals that accomplish one or more of the following goals:

- i. Reducing lead poisoning in areas with high incidences of elevated blood-lead levels through outreach and education.
- ii. Identifying and reducing lead poisoning in under-studied areas with high potential for undocumented elevated blood-lead levels through data gathering and monitoring; and
- iii. Developing tools to address unique and challenging issues in lead poisoning prevention (including but not limited to special situations affecting inner cities, rural areas, Indian Country, and Federal facilities). The Agency encourages applications that focus on populations at particular risk such as those that live in inner cities, rural areas, Federal facilities, and Indian Country; and immigrant populations, particularly projects affecting low-income populations.

Activities to be funded:

EPA will provide financial assistance in the form of assistance agreements to conduct any or all of the following activities:

- i. Outreach (educational) activities, including but not limited to development and conduct of organized outreach efforts to educate families and medical professionals about the dangers to children from exposure to lead-based paint hazards, distribution of educational information, and encouragement of families to have their children screened for lead poisoning and have their homes tested for lead hazards. Activities may also include training medical professionals, developing culturally-specific lead outreach materials, distributing pamphlets, establishing an in-home education program to visit the homes of young children, promoting lead-safe work practices, and outreach to stakeholders (renovators, landlords, code enforcement officials, etc.)

on the requirements of the EPA's Lead Renovation, Repair, and Painting rule and pre-renovation education requirements in high-risk areas.

Grantees may develop their own outreach materials; however, the use and reproduction of pre-existing products is strongly encouraged and preferred. In order for specific costs to be allowed under the assistance agreement, grantees must secure prior written approval from the EPA project officer before authorizing use of funds under the assistance agreement to develop and print new outreach materials. EPA and other federal agencies have developed, and currently provide, a wide range of outreach materials available at www.epa.gov/lead. 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)) lead hazard awareness and poisoning prevention programs (<http://www.epa.gov/lead/>, <http://www.hud.gov/offices/lead/>, and <http://www.cdc.gov/nceh/lead/lead.htm/>) and receive approval from the appropriate EPA Regional Lead Contact listed in Section VII.

ii.a. Data gathering, including but not limited to assessments such as blood-lead screening and other activities described below, particularly for areas without well-documented rates of lead poisoning. These activities will meet criteria ii listed above to identify and reduce lead poisoning in under studied areas. This includes conducting blood-lead screening of children age 6 years and under, preferably of children between the ages of 12–36 months (blood-lead levels tend to be highest in this age group).

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 =10µg/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/>.

EPA also encourages the development of new assessment 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 and to gauge the success of activities funded under this program and other activities designed to combat childhood lead poisoning.

ii.b. Monitoring, including, Inspections and risk assessments of pre-1978 housing and/or

child-occupied facilities for lead-based paint hazards. This includes collection and analysis of paint, dust, and soil samples for hazardous lead levels. Inspections and risk assessments may only be conducted by individuals appropriately certified by US EPA and/or under a State or tribal program currently approved by US EPA, and must be conducted according to the work practice standards found in 40 CFR 745.227 or those of the authorized state or tribal program. Analysis of paint, dust, and soil samples must be conducted by a National Lead Laboratory Accreditation Program (NLLAP) recognized laboratory. A current list of NLLAP-recognized laboratories can be obtained at <http://www.epa.gov/lead/pubs/nllap.htm>.

iii. Training. This includes training of individuals, parents, community members, and other critical stakeholders. Worker training includes training to perform abatements, lead inspections, and risk assessments, including initial, refresher, or any other training required to obtain EPA-approved certification to perform lead-based paint inspections and risk assessments. Grant funds cannot be used to pay for any administrative or testing fees for certification to conduct lead inspections and/or risk assessments. Training would also include training of other contractors in lead-safe work practices. Funds can also be used for training of parents and other community members to do outreach and other efforts which do not require certification.

B. Statutory Authority

Section 10 of the Toxic Substances Control Act (TSCA), as supplemented by Public Law 106-74, 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 TSCA. The statutory authority relates to this project because the project includes outreach and public education, data gathering, monitoring, training, inspections and assessments, and demonstrations of new and innovative approaches for identifying or reducing lead poisoning.

C. Alignment with EPA's Strategic Plan

The outputs and outcomes for awards made under this announcement are expected to support environmental results associated with the following goals and objectives in EPA Strategic Plan: Goal 4 of EPA's 2006-2011 Strategic Plan, Healthy Communities and Ecosystems; Sub-Objective 4.1.1: Reduce Chemical Risks (http://www.epa.gov/ocfo/plan/2006/goal_4.pdf), which states in part,

By 2010, eliminate childhood lead poisoning as a public health concern by reducing to 0 the number of cases of children (aged 1-5 years) with elevated blood lead levels (>10ug/dl). (The 1999-2002 baseline is 310,000 cases.)

By 2010, reduce to 28 percent the percent difference in the geometric mean blood lead level in low-income children 1-5 years old as compared to the geometric mean for non-low-income children 1-5 years old. (The 1991-1994 baseline is 37 percent.)

D. Measuring Environmental Results

Measuring Environmental Results: Outputs and Outcomes

Pursuant to EPA Order 5700.7, “Environmental Results under EPA Assistance Agreements,” EPA requires that all grant **applicants and** recipients adequately address environmental outputs and outcomes **to be achieved under assistance agreements**. (see EPA Order 5700.7, Environmental Results Under Assistance Agreements <http://www.epa.gov/ogd/grants/award/5700.7.pdf>). Outputs and outcomes differ both in their nature and in how they are measured. Applicants must discuss environmental outputs and outcomes in their proposed workplan.

- 1. Outputs:** The term “output” means an environmental activity, effort, and/or associated work products related to an environmental goal or 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.

Outputs from projects funded under this announcement may include but are not limited to: number of children screened for elevated blood lead levels, number and type of information vehicles distributed, number of persons trained (and certified, if applicable), amount of equipment distributed, number of homes reached by education and outreach, extent of risks addressed (number of homes, types of risks), number of homes assessed for lead risks.

- 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 projects to be funded under this announcement may include: increased public knowledge and understanding of how to prevent childhood lead poisoning, behavior changes, improvements in housing maintenance, increased numbers of children in lead-safe housing, decreases in elevated blood lead levels for target population, reduction in the number of children with elevated blood lead levels.

II. AWARD INFORMATION

A. Amount of Funding Available

The total estimated funding expected to be available for award under this RFP is approximately \$1,000,000. This amount is subject to the availability of funds, satisfactory performance, and the quality of proposals received.

B. Number of Awards

EPA anticipates awarding approximately 10 to 20 assistance agreements under this announcement ranging in value from approximately \$25,000 to \$100,000 (in the past two rounds of this competition, over 200 applications were received in each round). Proposals requesting more than \$100,000 in total funding from EPA will not be reviewed.

C. Funding Type

The funding for selected projects under this RFP will be in the form of grants or cooperative agreements. EPA will award cooperative agreements for those projects in which it expects to have substantial technical interaction with the recipient throughout the performance of the project. For such projects, EPA may review and advise on project phases, and in accordance with 40 CFR 31.36(g) review of proposed procurement. EPA may also collaborate with the recipient on the scope of work and mode of operation of the project; closely monitor the recipient's performance; approve any proposed changes to work plan; approve qualifications of key personnel (EPA will not select employees or contractors employed by the award recipient); review and comment on reports prepared under the assistance agreement. (The final decision on the content of reports rests with the recipient).

D. Project Period

Start dates of individual projects will be dependent upon when each EPA Regional office makes the award. Projects may be one to two years in length.

E. Partial Funding

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

F. Additional Awards

EPA reserves the right to make additional awards under this announcement, consistent with Agency policy and guidance, if additional funding becomes available after the original selections are made. Any additional selections for awards will be made no later than 4 months after the original selection decisions.

EPA reserves the right to reject all proposals and make no awards under this announcement.

III. ELIGIBILITY INFORMATION

A. Eligible Applicants

Assistance under this program is generally available to States, U.S. territories or possessions, federally recognized Indian tribal governments and Native American Organizations, public and private universities and colleges, hospitals, laboratories, other public or private nonprofit institutions, local governments and individuals and international entities. For profits are not eligible. Non-profit organizations described in Section 501 (c)(4) of the Internal Revenue Code that engage in lobbying activities as defined in Section 3 of the Lobbying Disclosure Act of 1995 are not eligible to apply.

Note: Eligible non-profit organizations must be able to demonstrate their non-profit status with appropriate documentation by the time of award.

B. Cost Sharing or Matching

There are no requirements for cost sharing or matching funding under this grant program. However, applicants will be evaluated on how successful they have been in leveraging resources (see **Section V.A, Criterion 2, “Project Effectiveness and Applicant Overview”**).

C. Threshold Criteria

Proposals must meet the following requirements by the time of submission or they will be eliminated from consideration for funding. Only proposals that meet all of these criteria will be evaluated against the ranking factors in Section V of this announcement. Applicants deemed ineligible for funding consideration as a result of the threshold eligibility review will be notified within 15 calendar days.

1. Proposals must be from eligible entities as identified above in Section III.A.
2. Proposals requesting more than \$100,000 in total funding from EPA will not be reviewed. Proposals with a project period that exceeds two years will not be reviewed.
3. Proposals must substantially comply with the proposal submission instructions and requirements set forth in Section IV of this announcement or else they will be rejected. However, if a proposal contains pages in excess of the page limitation expressed in Section IV, the proposal will be considered but the additional pages will not be reviewed.
4. Proposals must be received by EPA on or before the proposal submission deadline published in Section IV of this announcement. Applicants are responsible for ensuring that their proposal reaches the designated person specified in Section IV of the announcement by the submission deadline.
5. Proposals received after the submission deadline will be considered late and returned to the sender without further consideration unless the applicant can clearly demonstrate that it was

late due to EPA mishandling. For hard copy submissions, where Section IV requires proposal receipt by a specific person by the submission deadline, receipt by an agency mailroom is not sufficient. Applicants should confirm receipt of their proposal with the appropriate EPA Regional Lead Contact listed in Section IV as soon as possible after the submission deadline; failure to do so may result in your proposal not being reviewed.

IV. APPLICATION AND SUBMISSION INFORMATION

A. How to Obtain Proposal Package.

Applicants may download individual grant proposal forms from EPA's Office of Grants and Debarment website at: http://www.epa.gov/ogd/grants/how_to_apply.htm. To obtain a hard copy of materials, please send an email or written request to the Agency contact listed in Section VII of this announcement.

B. Mode of Proposal Submission

Assistance agreements funded under this announcement will be awarded and managed by each of EPA's ten regional offices. Applicants must submit their applications to the EPA regional office which covers the project location. Each regional office will only accept applications for projects that take place solely within that EPA region. Applicants are allowed to submit multiple proposals under this RFP so long as each proposal is for a separate project, is separately submitted, and takes place within only one EPA region. If an applicant is selected to receive funding for multiple projects and/or from multiple EPA regions, EPA will coordinate and streamline the funding of multiple projects through one award, as appropriate.

Applicants have the following options to submit their proposals: 1) Hard copy by express delivery service or the United States Postal Service (USPS) to the specified EPA regional contact below, or 2) electronically through e-mail to the specified regional contact below. Proposals will not be accepted via fax. All proposals must be prepared and include the information as described in Section IV. C "Content of Application" regardless of the mode of submission.

1. **Hard Copy Submission:** Hard Copy submissions must be sent either via USPS or express delivery, such as FEDEX, UPS etc., to the appropriate EPA regional contact mailing address listed below. Please provide one original of the application package (including signed and completed SF 424, SF424-A and SF424-B), with no binders or spiral binding.

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; All hard copies of proposal packages must be received by James M. Bryson by **Friday, August 14, 2009 at 4:30 pm EDT**.

Region 2 (New Jersey, New York, Puerto Rico, and the Virgin Islands): Regional Contact: Aarti Reddy, USEPA Region 2 (MS 225), 2890 Woodbridge Ave., Edison, NJ 08837; telephone number: (732) 321-6671; All hard copies of proposal packages must be received by Aarti Reddy by **Friday, August 14, 2009 at 4:30 pm EDT**.

Region 3 (Delaware, Maryland, Pennsylvania, Virginia, West Virginia, District of Columbia): Regional Contact: Demian Ellis, USEPA Region 3 (3WC33), 1650 Arch St., Philadelphia, PA 19103-2029; telephone number: (215) 814-2088; All hard copies of proposal packages must be received by Demian Ellis by **Friday, August 14, 2009 at 4:30 pm EDT**.

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; All hard copies of proposal packages must be received by Liz Wilde by **Friday, August 14, 2009 at 4:30 pm EDT**.

Region 5 (Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, Minnesota, Ohio, and Wisconsin): Regional Contact: David Turpin, USEPA Region 5 (LC-8J), 77 W. Jackson Blvd., Chicago, IL 60604; telephone number: (312) 886-7836; All hard copies of proposal packages must be received by David Turpin by **Friday, August 14, 2009 at 4:30 pm CDT**.

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; All hard copies of proposal packages must be received by Estella Sugawara-Adams by **Friday, August 14, 2009 at 4:30 pm CDT**.

Region 7 (Iowa, Kansas, Missouri, and Nebraska): Regional Contact: Crystal McIntyre, USEPA Region 7, 901 North 5th, Kansas City, KS 66101; telephone number: (913) 551-7261; All hard copies of proposal packages must be received by Crystal McIntyre by **Friday, August 14, 2009 at 4:30 pm CDT**.

Region 8 (Colorado, Montana, North Dakota, South Dakota, Utah, and Wyoming): Regional Contact: Michelle Reichmuth, USEPA Region 8, 1595 Wynkoop Street, Denver, CO 80202-1129; telephone number: (303)-312-6966 ; All hard copies of proposal packages must be received by Michelle Reichmuth by **Friday, August 14, 2009 at 4:30 pm MDT**.

Region 9 (Arizona, California, Hawaii, Nevada, American Samoa, Northern Mariana Islands, and Guam): Regional Contact: David Tomsovic, USEPA Region 9 (CMD 4), 75 Hawthorne St., San Francisco, CA 94105, telephone number: (415) 972-3858; All hard copies of proposal packages must be received by David Tomsovic by **Friday, August 14, 2009 at 4:30 pm PDT**.

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; All hard copies of proposal packages must be received by Barbara Ross by **Friday, August 14, 2009 at 4:30 pm PDT**.

2. Email submissions: Please send an email containing Adobe pdf files of all required proposal package material including signed and completed forms. E-mails must be submitted to the appropriate EPA regional contact identified below and include, “Target Grants to Reduce Childhood Lead Poisoning” in the subject line, and be received by the submission deadline stated below in this announcement. All required documents listed in Section IV.C of the announcement must be attached to the e-mail as separate Adobe PDF files. Please note that if you choose to submit your materials via e-mail, you are accepting all risks attendant to e-mail submission including server delays and transmission difficulties. E-mail submissions exceeding 15MB will experience transmission delays which will affect when they are received by the Agency. For these size submissions, applicants should submit their application materials via hardcopy because if they are sent via e-mail they may be received late and not considered for funding. Applicants submitting their application materials through e-mail should confirm receipt of the materials with the appropriate EPA regional contact below as soon as possible after submission.

All email submissions of proposal packages must be received by the appropriate EPA regional contact by **Friday, August 14, 2009 , 4:30pm**.

Region 1: James Bryson at bryson.jamesm@epa.gov.

All email submissions of proposal packages must be received by **Friday, August 14, 2009, 4:30pm EDT**.

Region 2: Aarit Reddy at reddy.aarti@epa.gov

All email submissions of proposal packages must be received by **Friday, August 14, 2009, 4:30pm EDT**.

Region 3: Demian Ellis at ellis.demian@epa.gov

All email submissions of proposal packages must be received by **Friday, August 14, 2009, 4:30pm EDT**.

Region 4: Liz Wilde at wilde.liz@epa.gov

All email submissions of proposal packages must be received by **Friday, August 14, 2009, 4:30pm EDT**.

Region 5: David Turpin at turpin.david@epa.gov.

All email submissions of proposal packages must be received by **Friday, August 14, 2009, 4:30pm CDT**.

Region 6: Estella Sugawara-Adams at sugawara-adams.estella@epa.gov

All email submissions of proposal packages must be received by **Friday, August 14, 2009, 4:30pm CDT**.

Region 7: Crystal McIntyre at mcintyre.crystal@epa.gov

All email submissions of proposal packages must be received by **Friday, August 14, 2009,**

4:30pm CDT.

Region 8: Michelle Reichmuth at reichmuth.michelle@epa.gov

All email submissions of proposal packages must be received by **Friday, August 14, 2009, 4:30 pm MDT.**

Region 9: David Tomsovic at tomsovic.david@epa.gov

All email submissions of proposal packages must be received by **Friday, August 14, 2009, 4:30pm PDT.**

Region 10: Barbara Ross at ross.barbara@epa.gov

All email submissions of proposal packages must be received by **Friday, August 14, 2009, 4:30pm PDT.**

C. Content of Proposal Submission

1. Grant Application Forms: Please be sure to include the Applicant organization fax number and email address in block 5 of the SF424. The forms are available at <http://www.epa.gov/ogd/AppKit/application.htm>.
 - a. Application for Federal Assistance (SF-424)
 - b. Budget Information for Non Construction Programs (SF-424A)
 - c. Assurance, Non-Construction Programs (SF-424B)

2. Proposal Narrative

- a. **Cover Page:** The cover page must include the following information:
 - i. Project title
 - ii. Applicant Information. Include applicant (organization) name, address contact person, phone number, fax and email address, and DUNS number
 - iii. Funding Requested. Specify the amount you are requesting from EPA
 - iv. Project Period.
 - v. Multiple projects. Provide name of project, EPA regional office submitted to, and EPA funding requested for any other applications submitted under this RFP
 - vi. Statement as to whether this project addresses (may choose more than one):
 - (1) Reducing lead poisoning in areas with high incidences of elevated blood-lead levels through outreach and education;
 - (2) Identifying and reducing lead poisoning in under-studied areas with high potential for undocumented elevated blood-lead levels through data gathering and monitoring; and
 - (3) Developing tools to address unique and challenging issues in lead poisoning prevention, especially tools that are replicable and scalable for

other areas.

b. **Workplan** – the workplan must consist of no more than five pages (excluding attachments such as letters of commitment and draft budget forms), with page numbers. One page is one side of a single spaced typed letter size page. Proposals must be legible, easily readable, and in English. Fonts should be no smaller than Times Roman 11 point or equivalent. Page should have margins that are at least 1 inch. Illegible or unreasonably difficult to read applications may not be reviewed.

The workplan must address each evaluation criterion separately and in the order shown in Section V. Applicants must describe how this project will meet each criterion.

If the applicant has conducted, or is currently working on a related project(s), a brief description of those projects, funding sources, primary commitments, and an indication as to whether those commitments were met must be included in the grant proposal. The description must also indicate how the proposed project is different from other work conducted by the applicant(s). EPA is interested in knowing the extent to which these grants build upon or support previous or other on-going projects, particularly those funded by EPA or other Federal Agency grant programs.

c. **Programmatic Capability and Past Performance**

Submit a list of federally funded assistance agreements (assistance agreements include Federal grants and cooperative agreements but not Federal contracts) similar in size, scope and relevance to the proposed project that your organization performed within the last three years (no more than 5 agreements, and preferably EPA agreements) and describe (i) whether, and how, you were able to successfully complete and manage those agreements and (ii) your history of meeting the reporting requirements under those agreements including whether you adequately and timely reported on your progress towards achieving the expected outputs and outcomes of those agreements (and if not, explain why not) and whether you submitted acceptable final technical reports under the agreements. In evaluating applicants under these factors in Section V, EPA will consider the information provided by the applicant and may also consider relevant information from other sources, including information from EPA files and from current/prior grantors (e.g., to verify and/or supplement the information provided by the applicant). If you do not have any relevant or available past performance or past reporting information, please indicate this in the proposal and you will receive a neutral score for these factors (a neutral score is half of the total points available in a subset of possible points). If you do not provide any response for these items, you may receive a score of 0 for these factors.

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.

D. Submission Dates and Time

The closing date and time for receipt of proposals is Friday, August 14, 2009, 4:30pm. All hard copies and emailed submissions of proposals packages must be received by the appropriate EPA regional contact defined in Section IV.B of the RFP by Friday, August 14, 2009, 4:30pm in order to be considered for funding.

E. 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>.

F. Confidential Business Information

By submitting an application or proposal in response to this solicitation, the applicant grants the EPA permission to make limited disclosures of the application or proposal to technical reviewers both within and outside the Agency for the express purpose of assisting the Agency with evaluating the application or proposal. Information from a pending or unsuccessful application or proposal will be kept confidential to the fullest extent allowed under law; information from a successful application may be publicly disclosed to the extent permitted by law.

In accordance with 40 CFR 2.203, applicants may claim all or a portion of their application/proposal package as confidential business information. EPA will evaluate confidentiality claims in accordance with 40 CFR Part 2. Applicants must clearly mark applications/proposals or portions thereof that 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. However, competitive proposals/applications are considered confidential and protected from disclosure prior to the completion of the competitive selection process.

F. Pre-proposal/Application Communications and Assistance

In accordance with EPA's Assistance Agreement Competition Policy (EPA Order 5700.5A1), EPA staff will not meet with individual applicants to discuss draft proposals, provide informal comments on draft proposals, or provide advice to applicants on how to respond to ranking criteria. Applicants are responsible for the contents of their proposals. However, consistent with the provisions in the announcement, EPA will respond to questions from individual applicants regarding threshold eligibility criteria, administrative issues related to the submission of the proposal, and requests for clarification about the announcement. Questions and answers will be accessible from the <http://epa.gov/lead/> page in the "highlights" box on the right side of the page.

G. Management Fees

When formulating budgets for proposals, applicants must not include management fees or similar charges in excess of the direct costs and indirect costs at the rate approved by the applicant's cognizant audit agency, or at the rate provided for by the terms of the agreement negotiated with EPA. The term "management fees or similar charges" refers to expenses added to the direct costs in order to accumulate and reserve funds for ongoing business expenses, unforeseen liabilities, or for other similar costs that are not allowable under EPA assistance agreements. Management fees or similar charges may not be used to improve or expand the project funded under this agreement, except to the extent authorized as a direct cost of carrying out the scope of work.

H. Contracts, Subawards and Partnerships

a. Can funding be used for the applicant to make subawards, acquire contract services, or fund partnerships?

EPA awards funds to one eligible applicant as the recipient even if other eligible applicants are named as partners or co-applicants or members of a coalition or consortium. The recipient is accountable to EPA for the proper expenditure of funds.

Funding may be used to provide subgrants or subawards of financial assistance, which includes using subawards or subgrants to fund partnerships, provided the recipient complies with applicable requirements for subawards or subgrants including those contained in 40 CFR Parts 30 or 31, as appropriate. Applicants must compete contracts for services and products, including consultant contracts, and conduct cost and price analyses, to the extent required by the procurement provisions of the regulations at 40 CFR Parts 30 or 31, as appropriate. The regulations also contain limitations on consultant compensation. Applicants are not required to identify subawardees/subgrantees and/or contractors (including consultants) in their proposal/application. However, if they do, the fact that an applicant selected for award has named a specific subawardee/subgrantee, contractor, or consultant in the proposal/application EPA selects for funding does not relieve the applicant of its obligations to comply with subaward/subgrant and/or competitive procurement requirements as appropriate. Please note that applicants may not award sole source contracts to consulting, engineering or other firms assisting applicants with the proposal solely based on the firm's role in preparing the proposal/application.

Successful applicants cannot use subgrants or subawards to avoid requirements in EPA grant regulations for competitive procurement by using these instruments to acquire commercial services or products from for-profit organizations to carry out its assistance agreement. The nature of the transaction between the recipient and the subawardee or subgrantee must be consistent with the standards for distinguishing between vendor transactions and subrecipient assistance under Subpart B Section .210 of OMB Circular A-133, and the definitions of subaward at 40 CFR 30.2(ff) or subgrant at 40 CFR 31.3, as applicable. EPA will not be a party

to these transactions. Applicants acquiring commercial goods or services must comply with the competitive procurement standards in 40 CFR Part 30 or 40 CFR Part 31.36 and cannot use a subaward/subgrant as the funding mechanism.

b. How will an applicant's proposed subawardees/subgrantees and contractors be considered during the evaluation process described in Section V of the announcement?

Section V of the announcement describes the evaluation criteria and evaluation process that will be used by EPA to make selections under this announcement. During this evaluation, except for those criteria that relate to the applicant's own qualifications, past performance, and reporting history, the review panel will consider, as appropriate and relevant, the qualifications, expertise, and experience of:

- (i) an applicant's named subawardees/subgrantees identified in the proposal/application if the applicant demonstrates in the proposal/application that if it receives an award that the subaward/subgrant will be properly awarded consistent with the applicable regulations in 40 CFR Parts 30 or 31. For example, applicants must not use subawards/subgrants to obtain commercial services or products from for profit firms or individual consultants.
- (ii) an applicant's named contractor(s), including consultants, identified in the proposal/application if the applicant demonstrates in its proposal/application that the contractor(s) was selected in compliance with the competitive Procurement Standards in 40 CFR Part 30 or 40 CFR 31.36 as appropriate. For example, an applicant must demonstrate that it selected the contractor(s) competitively or that a proper non-competitive sole-source award consistent with the regulations will be made to the contractor(s), that efforts were made to provide small and disadvantaged businesses with opportunities to compete, and that some form of cost or price analysis was conducted. EPA may not accept sole source justifications for contracts for services or products that are otherwise readily available in the commercial marketplace.

EPA will not consider the qualifications, experience, and expertise of named subawardees/subgrantees and/or named contractor(s) during the proposal/application evaluation process unless the applicant complies with these requirements.

V. APPLICATION REVIEW INFORMATION

Only those proposals that meet the threshold criteria in Section III will be evaluated according to the criteria below. Applicants should directly and explicitly address these criteria as part of their proposal submittal. EPA will review all proposals for quality, strength, and completeness. All proposals will be judged against the first six criteria listed below. In addition, Regions 1, 5, 8, and 9 have identified a seventh criterion which is applicable only to proposals submitted in those Regions. Applicants should directly and explicitly address these criteria as part of their proposal.

A. Evaluation Criteria

Criterion 1: Severity of Risk and Need for Project (20 points)

Proposals must address areas and/or populations with high documented levels of childhood lead poisoning, or identify and address areas where there is great potential for elevated blood lead levels to exist. Applicants will be evaluated based on the quality and extent to which the proposal documents the seriousness, extent, and urgency of documented or suspected childhood lead poisoning in the target area or population, and how the proposed project will fill a critical need to reduce this incidence or suspected incidence.

For projects which address a community, population or area with a documented significantly higher than average incidence rate of childhood lead poisoning, please address the following (each item is worth 5 points):

- Include statistics illustrating that the target community, population or area has significantly higher than average incidence of childhood lead poisoning. Please include relevant blood-lead monitoring data.
- Include discussion of other characteristics of the target areas/populations which indicate that the need is critical. Please include demographic information for the target community and other critical indicators including poverty rate, unemployment rate, special community characteristics (e.g., population density, size, cultural/linguistic realities, or any other relevant characteristics), or other factors that support the need for this project (e.g., low-income population, concentration of children, communities disproportionately impacted by environmental factors). Identify the sources of information used to illustrate current conditions.
- Discussion of critical needs currently unfilled, resulting in increased incidence of childhood lead poisoning in the target community/area.
- How the proposed project fit those needs and will lower the incidence and severity of elevated blood-lead levels in children.

For projects that address a community, population or area with a high probability, but insufficient documentation, of higher than average incidence rates of childhood lead poisoning, please address the following (each item is worth 5 points):

- Discussion of indications that this target area has a high probability of higher than average incidence of childhood lead poisoning. Please share all information that you have available to understand the conditions in the target area (e.g., housing age and quality, low-income population, concentration of children, cultural/linguistic realities, communities disproportionately impacted by environmental factors).
- Discussion of the importance of better identifying the remaining vulnerable populations at risk in this target community, population or area, rather than focus on methods to prevent lead poisoning.
- Discussion of the critical needs currently unfilled, resulting in lack of data and likely increased incidence of childhood lead poisoning in the target community/area.
- How the project will fit those needs and better identify the extent and location of childhood lead poisoning (and lower the incidence and severity of elevated blood-lead

levels, if your project includes this step).

Criterion 2: Project Effectiveness and Applicant Overview (20 points)

Under this criterion, applicants will be evaluated based on their ability to successfully complete and manage the proposed project taking into account the applicant's: (i) past performance in successfully completing and managing the assistance agreements described in Section IV(c)(3) of the announcement, (ii) history of meeting the reporting requirements under the assistance agreements described in Section IV(c)(3) of the announcement including whether the applicant submitted acceptable final technical reports under those agreements and the extent to which the applicant adequately and timely reported on their progress towards achieving the expected outputs and outcomes under those agreements and if such progress was not being made whether the applicant adequately reported why not, (iii) organizational experience and plan for timely and successfully achieving the objectives of the proposed project, and (iv) staff expertise/qualifications, staff knowledge, and resources or the ability to obtain them, to successfully achieve the goals of the proposed project. Note: In evaluating applicants under this criterion, the Agency will consider the information provided by the applicant and may also consider relevant information from other sources including agency files and prior/current grantors (e.g., to verify and/or supplement the information supplied by the applicant). If you do not have any relevant or available past performance or past reporting information, please indicate this in the proposal and you will receive a neutral score for these subfactors (items i and ii above—a neutral score is half of the total points available in a subset of possible points). If you do not provide any response for these items, you may receive a score of 0 for these factors.

Criterion 3: Measurable Results and Evaluation (20 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 the following specific project deliverables (each item is worth 4 points):

- The specific and measurable short term outcomes and results that will be achieved. Please describe specific measures that are based on outputs (e.g., number of brochures/surveys distributed), behavior changes (e.g., increase in number of children screened for elevated blood lead levels, implementing lead-safe techniques), and/or environmental and human health results (e.g., decrease in elevated blood lead levels, decrease in dust lead levels, identification of actual elevated blood lead levels in target area).
- How the results will be measured and evaluated, both during the project and after the project is completed.
- How needed changes to the project will be identified and incorporated on an ongoing

basis.

- How the project will demonstrate if your project goals were met and how you will identify lessons learned.
- How the project will ensure that the data and information collected are useable, accessible to the public, and are shared with appropriate stakeholders.

Criterion 4: Effective Partnerships and Leveraging Resources (20 points)

Under this criteria, applicants will be evaluated based on the extent that they demonstrate effective partnerships and leveraging resources leveraged funding or other resources need not be for eligible and allowable project costs under the EPA assistance agreement unless the Applicant proposes to provide a voluntary cost share or match. If EPA accepts an offer for a voluntary cost share/match/participation, applicants must meet their matching/sharing/ participation commitment as a condition of receiving EPA funding. Applicants may use their own funds or other resources for voluntary match/cost share/participation 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 voluntary matches/cost shares/participation. Other Federal grants may not be used as voluntary matches or cost shares without specific statutory authority (e.g. HUD's Community Development Block Grants).

All project proposals must answer the following (each item worth 4 points):

- How the project will coordinate the use of EPA funding with other Federal and/or non Federal sources of funds to leverage additional resources to carry out the proposed project(s) and/or
- How EPA funding will complement activities relevant to the proposed project(s) carried out by the applicant with other sources of funds or resources.
- Discussion of how project partners represent those in the target community/area who have an interest in, have knowledge or experience with, or will be affected by the project.
- Discussion of what funding and other resources are already in place to implement the goals of the proposed project.
- The additional resources (e.g., specific funding, staff time, in-kind resources) that will be leveraged for this project, either via specific in-place commitments from partners or via other means.

Criterion 5: Community Involvement (10 points)

Proposals will be evaluated based on the quality and extent to which it demonstrates that the applicant will include appropriate and effective community involvement which enhances the prospects for overall project success. Please describe the extent to which the target community (e.g., area, neighborhood, and population) will be involved in the project. Please describe any specific opportunities to empower the area/population to address the project goals and objectives. All project proposals should address the following:

- The key sectors the community has or will be engaged in planning and implementing this project (worth 3 points).
- Discussion of how the participants represent those in the target community/area who have an interest in or will be affected by the project (worth 4 points).

- The methods which will be used for community involvement to ensure that all affected by the project will have the opportunity to participate (worth 3 points).

Criterion 6: Sustainability & Replicability (10 points)

Proposals will be evaluated based on the quality and extent to which they demonstrate that the projects can be sustained after the project period, and can be replicated in other areas. Proposals must demonstrate the efforts that will be made to continue project work beyond the length of the grant period. All project proposals must answer the following (each item is worth 2 points):

- Whether any of the work will continue after funds from EPA are exhausted, or whether any part of the work will continue. What will be done to increase the possibility of further work in the proposed target community/area.
- The types of areas or populations across the country could benefit from the proposed approach.
- How this project can, in whole or in part, be replicated or serve as a model in other communities.
- How outputs from this project could serve to reduce development, start-up, and/or research costs for other areas or populations.
- The plan to share methodology, tools, and other information with appropriate stakeholders.

Criterion 7: Regional Priorities (Applies only to applicants submitting proposals to EPA Regions 1, 5, 8, and 9. Maximum additional award of 15 points in first-round review only.)

Several EPA Regions have particular priority areas. While these priority areas are usually aspects of the lead program that have national relevance as well, they may be particularly responsive to circumstances in a particular Region. Proposals will be evaluated on the quality and extent to which it responds to the following Regional priority areas. Please address only the priority area that corresponds to the Region in which you will be applying. **If there is no priority area identified, do not address this criterion. Your proposal will not be penalized if there is no Regional priority identified; these criteria will be used only to rank proposals at the Regional level but not across Regions.**

Region 1: Because of the prevalence of childhood lead poisoning in Region 1, proposals will be awarded points based on the how well the project involves, benefits, and provides direct service to actual or suspected geographic hot spots for childhood lead poisoning in New England communities including environmental justice areas of potential concern. For the purposes of this criteria “hot spots” means a defined geographic area(s) which contain a high concentration of lead poisoned children and/or vulnerable populations at risk for childhood lead poisoning. For the purposes of this criterion, “environmental justice areas of potential concern” mean communities, neighborhoods, and/or tribes that face a disproportionate and/or concentrated amount of environmental and/or public burdens in a defined geographic area. This includes, but is not limited to, the lowest income, most diverse populations in New England. **Region 1 will award up to 10 bonus points for applications that clearly address actual or suspected**

geographic “hot spots” and up to 5 bonus points for applications that clearly involve and benefit an environmental justice area of potential concern.

Region 5: Because of the severity of documented childhood lead poisoning in Region 5, proposals will be awarded points based on how well it addresses specific areas of high risk. Region 5 priority areas are therefore (A) targeting cities with the greatest numbers of lead-poisoned children, (B) developing and/or strengthening sustainable local partnerships which build capacity to address childhood lead poisoning, (C) promoting the use of lead-safe work practices among homeowners and renovation workers to prevent childhood lead poisoning, and (D) demonstrating past experience and programmatic capability in dealing with lead poisoning or partnering with an organization with such experience. Points will first be awarded to any project that targets any city that is included on the CDC’s (2003 CBLS) listing of the top 25 cities for confirmed EBLs in each of its six states (IL, IN, MI, MN, OH, WI) (Note: this list is available from U.S. EPA Region 5, contact the Regional Lead Contact as listed in Section VII.). **Up to 5 bonus points will be awarded as follows; rank #1-5 on the CDC list for that state = 5 points, rank #6-10 = 4 points, rank #11-15 = 3 points, rank #16-20 = 2 points, and rank #21-25 = 1 point.** If this targeted project will then also establish or strengthen sustainable partnerships in this city to address the problem of childhood lead poisoning, it will be awarded up to an additional 5 points, depending upon the degree to which this is demonstrated. Furthermore, if the targeted project will promote a greater use of lead-safe work practices among homeowners and/or renovation workers in this city, it will then be awarded up to an additional 5 points, depending upon the degree to which this is demonstrated. In this manner, by allocating a range of 1 – 15 bonus points, Region 5 hopes to encourage project proposals that will specifically address its priority needs and concerns.

Region 8: Rural areas. Because of the relative lack of progress in addressing childhood lead poisoning in rural areas in Region 8, proposals will be awarded up to 15 points based on how well the project demonstrates a focus on rural areas, and results in increased knowledge, infrastructure, and resources in rural areas.

The U.S. Census Bureau's classification of "rural" consists of all territory, population, and housing units located outside of urbanized areas (UAs) and urban clusters (UC). An urbanized Area (UA) has an urban nucleus of 50,000 or more people. Individual cities with a population of 50,000 may or may not be contained in these UAs. Urbanized Areas have a core (one or more contiguous census block groups or BGs) with a total land area less than two square miles and a population density of 1,000 persons per square mile. They may contain adjoining territory with at minimum 500 persons per square mile and encompass a population of at least 50,000 people. An urban cluster (UC) also has a core as identified above with a total land area of less than two square miles and a population density of 1,000 persons per square mile. They may contain adjoining territory with at minimum 500 persons per square mile and encompass a population of at least 2,500 but less than 50,000 persons.

Region 9: Sustainability at the local level. Because of the breadth of the Region and the local nature of the childhood lead poisoning problem in Region 9, proposals will be awarded up to 15

points based on how well the project will be institutionalized, particularly at the local level, so that the activities will continue after the current grant expires.

B. Review and Selection Process

Reviews will be done by EPA Regional Offices, against the criteria listed above. This review will include consideration of the Regional priorities, if any, identified under Criterion 7. Each proposal will be given a numerical score, with a total of 100 points possible except for Regions which have identified priorities listed under Criterion 7 (these Regions will have a total of 115 points possible), and rank ordered according to this numerical score.

Each Regional Office will submit their highest ranking proposal to EPA Headquarters, Office of Pollution Prevention and Toxics (OPPT-HQ). The selection committee will develop funding recommendations based on the criteria ranking scores as discussed in section V.A. Following EPA's evaluation of proposals, all applicants will be notified regarding their status. Final applications will be requested from those eligible entities whose proposal has been successfully evaluated and preliminarily recommended for award. Upon this notice of preliminary recommendation, successful applicants will be given 1 month to submit an official grant application as part of the award process prior to receipt of funds. Materials needed for the official grant application, as well as further information on individual applications, may be obtained through the appropriate EPA Regional Lead Contact listed in Section VII.

The request for final applications will be based on the five-page package and required attached budget and letters of commitment if applicable. Once selection is made selectees will be required to submit a full application.

VI. Award Administration Information

A. Award Notices

Once proposals have been reviewed and evaluated, the contact person for the applicant (as identified in the proposal) will receive notification from EPA regarding the outcome of the competition. If proposals are selected, additional forms for grant application (such as Standard Form SF 424, Application for Federal Assistance) will be required to be submitted to EPA. The specific information will be provided by EPA. 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 should not be submitted with the proposals.

Note: 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 tentatively been selected and is being recommended for award, is not an authorization to begin performance. The

award notice is the authorizing document.

B. Administration 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 Section VII.

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

C. Reporting Requirements

The grantee must provide EPA with written progress reports within 30 days after the end of each quarter and a report within 90 days after the end of the project period. The recipient must follow all programmatic guidelines specified in the agreement as well as all requirements listed in 40 CFR Part 30 including:

- (1) A comparison of actual accomplishments with the goals and objectives established for the period, the findings of the investigator, or both, whenever appropriate, and the output of programs or projects that can be readily quantified, such quantitative data should be related to cost data for computation of unit costs.
- (2) Reasons why established goals were not met, if appropriate.
- (3) Other pertinent information including, when appropriate, analysis and explanation of cost overruns or high unit costs.
- (4) Recipients shall not be required to submit more than the original and two copies of performance reports.
- (5) Recipients shall immediately notify EPA of developments that have a significant impact on the award-supported activities. Also, notification shall be given in the case of problems, delays, or adverse conditions which materially impair the ability to meet the objectives of the award. This notification shall include a statement of the action taken or contemplated, and any assistance needed to resolve the situation.
- (6) EPA may make site visits, as needed.

D. Disputes

Assistance agreement competition-related disputes will be resolved in accordance with the dispute resolution procedures published in 70 FR (Federal Register) 3629, 3630 (January 26, 2005) which can be found at <http://www.epa.gov/ogd/competition/resolution.htm>. Copies of these procedures may also be requested by contacting the Regional Lead Contact listed in Section VII.

E. Nonprofit Administrative Capability Clause

Non-profit applicants that are recommended for funding under this announcement are subject to pre-award administrative capability reviews consistent with Section 8b, 8c and 9d of EPA Order 5700.8 - Policy on Assessing Capabilities of Non-Profit Applicants for Managing Assistance Awards (http://www.epa.gov/ogd/grants/award/5700_8.pdf). In addition, non-profit applicants that qualify for funding may, depending on the size of the award, be required to fill out and submit to the Grants Management Office the Administrative Capabilities Form with supporting documents contained in Appendix A of EPA Order 5700.8.

F. Human Subjects

Human Subjects: EPA has determined that childhood blood lead screening activities do not constitute human subject research as defined by 40 CFR 26.102(d) therefore applicants do not need to address human subject research requirements unless they propose activities in addition to those listed in this announcement.

A grant applicant who proposes human subject research activities must agree to meet all EPA requirements for studies using human subjects prior to implementing any work with these subjects. These requirements are given in 40 CFR § 26. Studies involving intentional exposure of human subjects who are children or pregnant or nursing women are prohibited by Subpart B of 40 CFR § 26. For observational studies involving children or pregnant women and fetuses please refer to Subparts C & D of 40 CFR § 26. U.S. Department of Health and Human Services regulations at 45 CFR § 46.101(e) have long required "... compliance with pertinent Federal laws or regulations which provide additional protection for human subjects." EPA's regulation 40 CFR § 26 is such a pertinent Federal regulation. Therefore, the applicant's Institutional Review Board (IRB) approval must state that the applicant's study meets the EPA's regulations at 40 CFR § 26. No work involving human subjects, including recruiting, may be initiated before the EPA has received a copy of the applicant's IRB approval of the project and the EPA has also provided approval. Where human subjects are involved in the research, the recipient must provide evidence of subsequent IRB reviews, including amendments or minor changes of protocol, as part of annual reports.

G. Data Access and Information Release

The Office of Management and Budget (OMB) Circular A-110 has been revised to provide public access to research data through the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) under some circumstances. Data that are (1) first produced in a project that is supported in whole or in part with Federal funds and (2) cited publicly and officially by a Federal agency in support of an action that has the force and effect of law (i.e., a regulation) may be accessed through FOIA. If such data are requested by the public, the EPA must ask for it, and the grantee must submit it, in accordance with A-110 and EPA regulations at 40 C.F.R. 30.36.

H. Funding Restrictions and Requirements

For each kind of recipient, there is a set of Federal principles for determining allowable costs. Allowability of costs shall be determined in accordance with the cost principles applicable to the entity incurring the costs. Thus, allowability of costs incurred by State, local or federally-recognized Indian tribal governments is determined in accordance with the provisions of OMB Circular A-87, "Cost Principles for State and Local Governments", relocated to 2 CFR Part 225. The allowability of costs incurred by nonprofit organizations is determined in accordance with the provisions of OMB Circular A-122, "Cost Principles for Non-Profit Organizations", relocated to 2 CFR Part 230. The allowability of costs incurred by institutions of higher education is determined in accordance with the provisions of OMB Circular A-21, "Cost Principles for Educational Institutions", relocated to 2 CFR Part 220. The allowability of costs incurred by hospitals is determined in accordance with the provisions of appendix E of 45 CFR part 74, "Principles for Determining Costs Applicable to Research and Development Under Grants and Contracts with Hospitals." The allowability of costs incurred by commercial organizations and those non-profit organizations listed in Attachment C to Circular A-122 is determined in accordance with the provisions of the Federal Acquisition Regulation (FAR) at 48 CFR part 31. In addition, EPA's annual Appropriations Acts may contain restrictions on the use of assistance funds. For example, the Acts may prohibit the use of funds to support intervention in Federal regulatory or adjudicatory proceedings.

EPA will limit its participation in the salary rate (excluding overhead) paid to individual consultants retained by recipients or by a recipient's contractors or subcontractors to the maximum daily rate for level 4 of the Executive Schedule unless a greater amount is authorized by law. (Recipient's may, however, pay consultants more than this amount.) This limitation applies to consultation services of designated individuals with specialized skills who are paid at a daily or hourly rate. This rate does not include transportation and subsistence costs for travel performed; recipients will pay these in accordance with their normal travel reimbursement practices. Contracts with firms for services which are awarded using the procurement requirements in this part are not affected by this limitation.

Federal assistance funds may not be used for (1) lobbying or influencing legislation before Congress or state legislatures; (2) partisan or political advocacy purposes; (3) an activity whose objective could affect or influence the outcome of an EPA regulatory proceeding; or (4) solicitation of private funds. Even though a proposal may involve an eligible applicant, eligible activity, and eligible purpose, grant funds cannot necessarily pay for all of the costs which the recipient might incur in the course of carrying out the project. Generally, costs that are allowable include salaries, equipment, supplies, travel to meetings, training and rental of office space, as long as these are "necessary and reasonable." Entertainment is an example of a generally unallowable cost.

Applicants 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.

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. Contractor support in excess of 25% of the amount of the grant award, 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.
6. Duplication of funding for any lead-related activities which are being funded or have been previously funded by other EPA or other Federal Government sources. Applicants must include, as an attachment, information on any grants funded in the 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).
7. 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 µg/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 purposes set forth in the grant or cooperative 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.

I Miscellaneous

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.

VII. AGENCY CONTACTS

For specific information regarding your geographic area or application, contact the appropriate EPA Regional Lead Contact. Grant proposals must be submitted by mail, fax or email to the appropriate EPA Regional Lead Contact. 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; e-mail address: bryson.jamesm@epa.gov.

Region 2 (New Jersey, New York, Puerto Rico, and the Virgin Islands): Regional Contact: Aarti Reddy, USEPA Region 2 (MS 225), 2890 Woodbridge Ave., Edison, NJ 08837; telephone number: (732) 321-6671; e-mail address: reddy.aarti@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; e-mail address: 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; e-mail address: wilde.liz@epa.gov.

Region 5 (Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, Minnesota, Ohio, and Wisconsin): Regional Contact: David Turpin, USEPA Region 5 (LC-8J), 77 W. Jackson Blvd., Chicago, IL 60604; telephone number: (312) 886-7836; e-mail address: 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; e-mail address: sugawara-adams.estella@epa.gov.

Region 7 (Iowa, Kansas, Missouri, and Nebraska): Regional Contact: Crystal McIntyre, USEPA Region 7, 901 North 5th, Kansas City, KS 66101; telephone number: (913) 551-7261; e-mail address: mcintyre.crystal@epa.gov.

Region 8 (Colorado, Montana, North Dakota, South Dakota, Utah, and Wyoming): Regional Contact: Teri Bahrych, USEPA Region 8, 1595 Wynkoop Street, Denver, CO 80202-1129; telephone number: (303)-312-6966; e-mail address: reichmuth.michelle@epa.gov.

Region 9 (Arizona, California, Hawaii, Nevada, American Samoa, Northern Mariana Islands,

and Guam): Regional Contact: David Tomsovic, USEPA Region 9 (CMD 4), 75 Hawthorne St., San Francisco, CA 94105, telephone number: (415) 972-3858; e-mail address: *tomsovic.david@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; e-mail address: *ross.barbara@epa.gov*.

VIII. Other Information

A. Docket

EPA has established an official public docket for this action under docket identification (ID) number EPA-HQ-OPPT-2009-06. The official public docket is the collection of materials that is available for public viewing at the EPA Docket Center, Rm. B-102 Reading Room, EPA West, 1301 Constitution Ave., NW., Washington, DC. The EPA Docket Center is open from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday, excluding legal Federal holidays. The EPA Docket Center Reading Room telephone number is (202) 566-1744, and the telephone number for the OPPT Docket, which is located in EPA Docket Center, is (202) 566-0280.