



CWA SECTION 106 TRIBAL GUIDANCE REVISION PROJECT STATUS #3 CALL FOR TRIBAL PARTICIPANTS

EPA Office of Water

April 2021

Background

EPA is revising the *Final Guidance on Awards of Grants to Indian Tribes under Section 106 of the Clean Water Act* (Section 106 Tribal Guidance). More information about EPA's revision process can be found on the [CWA Section 106 Revision website](#).

We are forming sub-work groups to draft the revised Guidance and we are seeking tribal participation.

How can I participate?

There are a variety of ways you can participate:

- Volunteer to be a sub-work group member
- Take part in listening sessions to share your input

Later in the year, we will request:

- Success stories about Section 106 programs
- Photos related to Section 106 programs

Who can volunteer to participate in the revision process?

We are looking for tribal staff with experience in a Section 106 program and a desire to be involved in the Guidance revision process. You can be from any type of Section 106 program (new, established, large or small).

What would participation on a sub-work group look like?

You would be expected to participate in scheduled calls and provide input throughout the revision process. Depending on the needs of each sub-work group, you will contribute by developing or reviewing drafts. Each sub-work group member will have an equal opportunity for input and participation. You can expect to participate from now until the Guidance is finalized.

What sub-work group opportunities are available?

Each sub-work group will revise one of the following sections of the Guidance according to EPA's internal work group recommendations and the tribal feedback received during the first comment period.

- **Program Development:** Will explain how to initiate and grow a Section 106 program and introduce the foundational activities associated with a Section 106 program.
- **Program Implementation:** Will provide information about monitoring activities and performing assessments.
- **Reporting:** Will identify additional flexibilities for reporting frequencies and the criteria for issuing temporary WQX electronic data submission waivers.
- **Expanding Section 106 Funded Water Quality Programs:** Will describe options for expanding a Section 106 program to apply for and implement water quality standards, Section 401, Listing and TMDLs, and NPDES authorities.
- **Other EPA Programs:** Will explain how to leverage funds and activities across other EPA funding programs (e.g., Section 319, Wetlands, GAP, MPG).

Approximately 25 sub-work group member spaces will be available for tribal staff. You will be invited to join a sub-work group based on your preference and the needs of each sub-work group.

How do I volunteer to be on a sub-work group?

Contact Jennifer Wintersteen. Please briefly describe your Section 106 program, your role, and your sub-work group preference(s). Please contact Jennifer by May 14, 2021.

Wintersteen.Jennifer@epa.gov, (406) 457-5006

For More Information: Visit the [CWA Section 106 Revision website](#) or contact your [Regional Tribal Coordinator](#)

Goals for the Tribal Guidance Revision

- Develop clear, comprehensive, updated, and succinct language that is relevant and applicable to tribes
- Describe the Section 106 program and provide context around the CWA generally
- Describe the benefits of water quality program development and implementation
- Provide practical guidance in program implementation
- Provide consistent messaging on national program requirements to help tribes more effectively negotiate workplans with EPA