


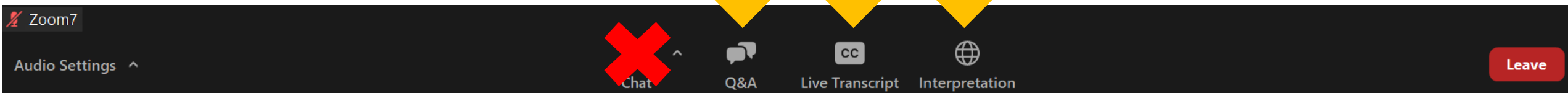
# Welcome!

- Welcome! Please select your preferred language by clicking on the interpretation icon at the bottom of your screen. (English speakers must also select English.)
- ¡Bienvenido! Si necesita interpretación, seleccione el idioma que prefiera haciendo clic en el botón de interpretación situado en la parte inferior de la pantalla. 

Today's session will be recorded and posted on EPA's website.

## Zoom logistics

- Attendee microphones and videos have been turned off to reserve bandwidth.
- Closed captions are available by clicking the "Live Transcript" icon in your control panel.
- Submit questions through the Q&A box on the control panel.
- The chat function has been turned off.
- Email [meetings@erg.com](mailto:meetings@erg.com) with any technical difficulties.





# Bipartisan Infrastructure Law: Request for Applications

Political Subdivision Solid Waste Infrastructure for Recycling Grant

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





# Agenda

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- Introduction
- Funding Opportunity Overview
- Eligible Entities
- Requirements
- Evaluating Applications
- Resources
- Questions and Answers





# Introduction

# Goals of the Webinar

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1

Provide an overview of the Solid Waste Infrastructure for Recycling funding opportunity for **Political Subdivisions of States and Territories**

2

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



# Circular Economy Strategy Series

 **Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL)**

 Solid Waste Infrastructure for Recycling Grants

 Recycling Education and Outreach Grants

 Battery Collection Best Practices and Labeling Guidelines



## Objectives:

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

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



# Solid Waste Infrastructure for Recycling (SWIFR) Grant Program

## SWIFR Grant Program



Grants  
for Political  
Subdivisions

Webinars:  
December 5, 7, 13, 19

Grants for Tribes and  
Intertribal Consortia  
*Coming Soon!*

Grants for States and  
Territories

Webinars:  
December 1, 19 & January 3



# Recycling Education and Outreach (REO) Grant Program

- Grant program for education and outreach projects that:
  - inform the public about recycling programs,
  - provide information about recycled materials and/or,
  - increase collection rates and decrease contamination.
- Total estimated funding for REO in Fiscal Year 2023 is approximately **\$30,000,000**.
- EPA anticipates awarding approximately 25 grants, with at least one grant per EPA region in amounts ranging from **\$250,000-\$2,000,000** per award.





# Webinars for Prospective Grantees

Topic	Purpose	Date and Time (ET)
Recycling Education and Outreach Grants	Overview of RFA, eligible entities, evaluation criteria, application process, answer questions and introduce the recycling toolkit.	November 30, 2022: 2:00pm-3:00pm
		December 6, 2022: 6:00pm-7:00pm
		December 8, 2022: 1:00pm-2:00pm (for tribes)
	Focus on procurement, subawards, and answer questions	December 14, 2022: 2:00pm-3:00pm (for tribes)
		December 15, 2022: 2:00pm-3:30pm
		December 20, 2022: 6:00pm-7:00pm
SWIFR States and Territories	Overview of non-competitive program, notice of intent to participate, and answer questions	November 29, 2022: 2:00pm-3:00pm
		December 1, 2022: 6:00pm-7:00pm
	Program Guidance and Workplans	December 19, 2022: 2:00pm-3:30pm
		January 3, 2023: 6:00pm-7:00pm
SWIFR Political Subdivisions	RFA overview, eligible entities, evaluation criteria, application process, and answer questions	December 5, 2022: 2:00pm-3:30pm
		December 7, 2022: 6:00pm-7:00pm
	Focused on procurement, subawards, and questions	December 13, 2022: 2:00pm-3:30pm
		December 19, 2022: 6:00pm-7:00pm

**Register at**  
[tinyurl.com/  
 recycling-  
 grants](https://tinyurl.com/recycling-grants) or



# Environmental Justice

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The fair treatment and meaningful involvement of all people regardless of race, color, national origin, or income with respect to the development, implementation and enforcement of environmental laws, regulations and policies.

- Fair treatment means no group of people should bear a disproportionate share of the negative environmental consequences resulting from industrial, governmental and commercial operations or policies.
- Meaningful involvement means people have an opportunity to participate in decisions about activities that may affect their environment and/or health; the public's contribution can influence the regulatory agency's decision; community concerns will be considered in the decision-making process; and decision makers will seek out and facilitate the involvement of those potentially affected.

For more information on Environmental Justice at EPA, visit our website:

<https://www.epa.gov/environmentaljustice>





# Funding Opportunity Overview

# Scope of Work

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



# Types of Eligible Projects

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

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



# Prohibition on Use of Funds

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- EPA funds (directly paid by the EPA or from the recipient's cost-share) cannot be used to design nor administer the collection of identical information from 10 or more parties, and EPA personnel may not participate in such activities.
- Reasonable costs for analyzing and publishing the independently collected information are allowable to the extent authorized in the EPA approved budget for this agreement.



# Funding Available

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- Total estimated funding for FY23 is approximately **\$40,000,000**.
- EPA anticipates awarding approximately 25 assistance agreements, with at least one award per EPA region in amounts ranging from **\$500,000 - \$4,000,000** per award.
- No cost matching is required.
- Estimated start date for projects is October 2023.
- All project activities must be completed within the negotiated project performance period of 3 years.
- Funds may not be used for projects that are already complete and paid for.





# Requirements



# Eligible Entities

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## Entities eligible to apply:

- Political subdivisions of states and territories
  - Examples: local government, city, county, township, village, parish, district, etc.
  - State or territorial institutions of higher education, special districts, housing authorities must provide documentation that they are considered a political subdivision of the state.

## Entities not eligible:

- Tribes and Intertribal Consortia
- States
- Individuals
- For-profit and non-profit organizations



# Program Tracks

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As described in the Request for Applications, the Solid Waste Infrastructure for Recycling grant program for political subdivisions will fund projects under two tracks:

- **Track 1:** Projects that benefit disadvantaged communities as defined in the request for applications. EPA anticipates approximately 40% (or \$16,000,000) of the funding will be awarded to projects that benefit **disadvantaged communities**.
- **Track 2:** Projects that benefit all other communities that **do not** meet the definition of **disadvantaged communities**.



# Disadvantaged Communities

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Justice40, a Biden Administration initiative, sets a goal that 40% of program benefits flow to disadvantaged communities. EPA expects to award approximately **40% of funding** to projects that benefit disadvantaged communities, which are defined for this competition as a community that meets at least one of the following:

1. Located in a **U.S. Territory** (Puerto Rico, Virgin Islands, Guam, American Samoa, Commonwealth of Northern Mariana Islands).
2. Meets one or more of the eight **disadvantaged categories** identified in the [Climate and Economic Justice Screening Tool](#) (CEJST) developed by the Council on Environmental Quality.
3. A Census-defined **rural community** that is at or above the 65th percentile for low income AND 80% or more of individuals 15 or older are not enrolled in higher education; or
4. Located in **Indian country**, is a former Indian reservation in Oklahoma (as determined by the Secretary of the Interior), or is an Alaskan Native Villages as defined in Public Law 92-203.





# Evaluating Applications

# Threshold Eligibility

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1. Address at least one of the mandatory objectives described in *Section I.G, Scope of Work*.
2. Eligible entity, as described in *Section III.A: Eligible Applicants*.
3. If an applicant chooses to identify a procurement contractor(s) or subrecipient(s), applicant must demonstrate compliance with the requirements in *Section III.D: Named Contractors and Subrecipients*
4. Federal funds requested must be between \$500,000 and \$4,000,000.
5. Indicate if project qualifies for Track 1 or Track 2 as defined under *Section I.F: Program Tracks* and include information demonstrating that the application qualifies.
6. Projects that support at least one of the goals and objectives from the EPA's FY 2022-2026 Strategic Plan.
7. Substantially comply with the application submission instructions and requirements set forth in *Section IV.B: Submission Instructions*.
8. Submit application through Grants.gov.
9. Applications submitted after the submission deadline will be considered late and deemed ineligible without further consideration unless the applicant can demonstrate it was due to EPA mishandling or because of technical problems associated with Grants.gov or relevant SAM.gov system issues.



# Application Materials

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## **Mandatory**

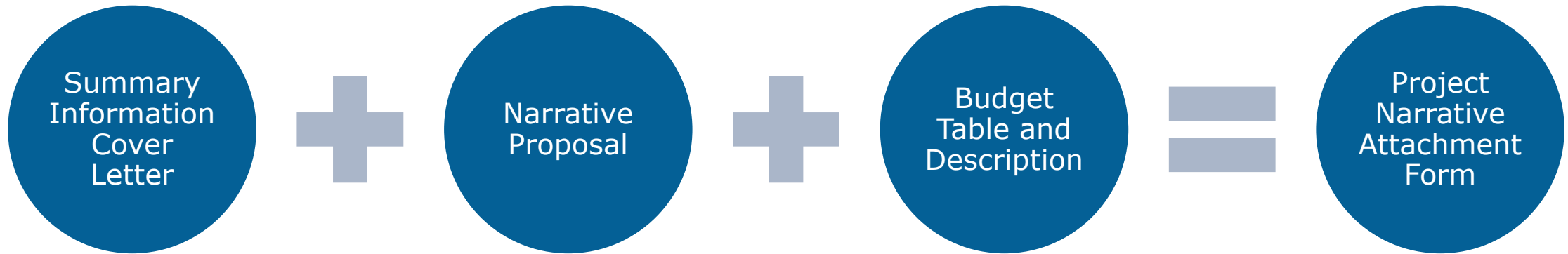
- [Application for Federal Assistance \(Standard Form 424\);](#)
- [Budget Information for Non-Construction Programs \(Standard Form 424A\);](#)
- [EPA Key Contacts Form 5700-54;](#)
- [EPA Form 4700-4 Pre-award Compliance Review Report;](#)
- Project Attachment Form (Summary Information Cover Letter + Narrative Proposal + Budget Table and Description)

## **Optional**

- Other Attachments (milestones, references, letters of support, etc.)



# Project Narrative Attachment Form



- Factual information about your proposed project must be provided. Do not include discussions of broad principles that are not specific to the proposed work or project covered by your application.
- Vague descriptions, redundancy, and failure to address each of the evaluation criteria will result in a lower ranking.
- The Narrative Proposal should be submitted in the format detailed in Appendix B, Template for Narrative Proposal.



# Summary Information Page

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- i. Project Title
- ii. Applicant Name
- iii. Eligible Entity Type
- iv. Qualification for Program Track
- v. UEI Number
- vi. Project Summary
- vii. Contact Information
- viii. Project Location
- ix. Total Project Cost
- x. EPA Funding Requested
- xi. Project Period
- xii. Program Objective Elements
- xiii. Strategic Plan Relevance
- xiv. Cooperative Partners





# Build America, Buy America Act (BABA)

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- Applicants should be aware that if their proposals include using Federal funds for a project that includes the **purchase of goods, products, and materials on any form of construction, alteration, maintenance, or repair of infrastructure** in the United States for identified EPA financial assistance funding programs, they must comply with Buy America Sourcing requirements under the Build America, Buy America provisions of the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act.
- More information:
  - Section VI.F: Build America, Buy America (pages 44-45) of the [SWIFR Request for Applications](#)
  - [EPA Grant Terms and Conditions](#)



# Evaluation Criteria

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- Eligible entities whose applications meet the Eligibility Information in *Section III* of the announcement will be reviewed according to the evaluation criterion set forth in the following slides.
- Each application will be rated under a points system, with a total of **105 points** possible.
- Applicants may, but are not required to, use the Optional Template for the Narrative Attachment Form (*Appendix B*).



# Evaluation Criteria Weighting

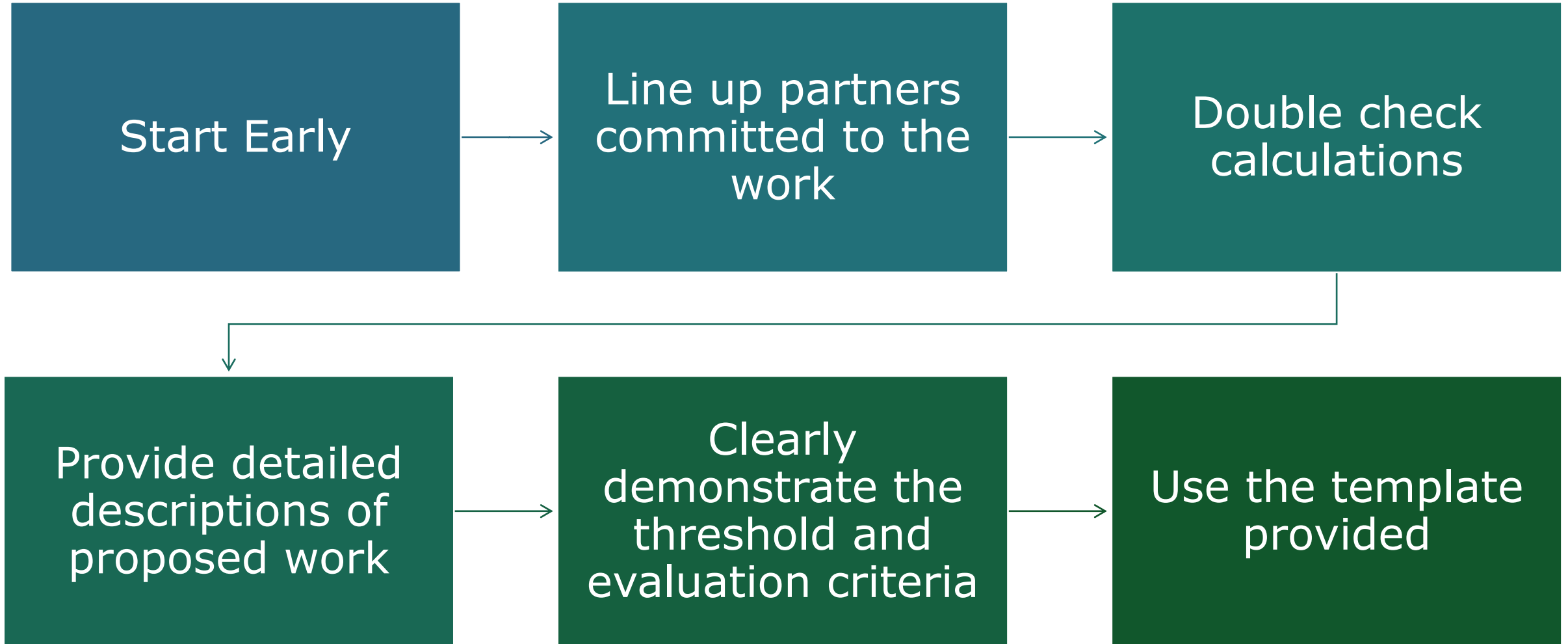
Project Summary & Approach (35 pts)	Environmental Justice (15 pts)	Measuring Environmental Results (10 pts)
Programmatic Capability & Past Performance (10 pts)	Budget & Expenditure (10 pts)	Project Sustainability (10 pts)
Project Replicability (5 pts)	Leveraging (5 pts)	Innovative Approaches and Solutions (5 pts)





# Resources

# Tips for Preparing an Application



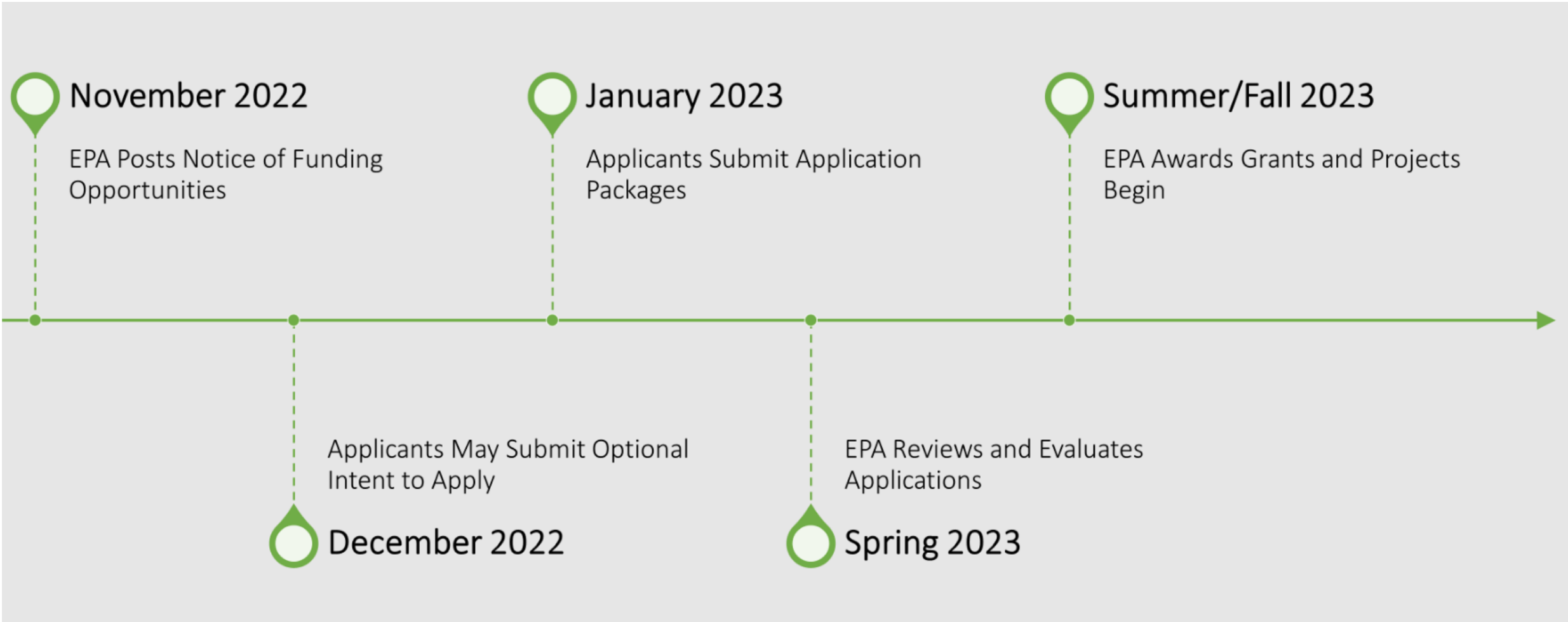
# General EPA Grant Requirements

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- ***Register Now on SAM.gov!*** These registrations are taking a month or more to complete!
- You must have an active SAM registration in [www.SAM.gov](http://www.SAM.gov) to apply for the grant.
- Once your SAM.gov account is active, you must register in [www.Grants.gov](http://www.Grants.gov).



# Estimated Timeline



# Useful Links

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- *The EPA SWIFR Website:* <https://www.epa.gov/rcra/bipartisan-infrastructure-law-transforming-us-recycling-and-waste-management>
- *SWIFR Grants for Political Subdivisions Website:* <https://www.epa.gov/rcra/grants-political-subdivisions>
- *Prepare for a Grant Application Website:* <https://www.epa.gov/rcra/prepare-grant-application>
- *Best Practice Guide for Procuring Services, Supplies, and Equipment Under The EPA Assistance Agreements:* [www.epa.gov/grants/best-practice-guide-procuring-services-supplies-and-equipment-under-epa-assistance-agreements](http://www.epa.gov/grants/best-practice-guide-procuring-services-supplies-and-equipment-under-epa-assistance-agreements)
- *The EPA Subaward Policy with attachments:* [www.epa.gov/grants/grants-policy-issuance-gpi-16-01-epasubaward-policy-epa-assistance-agreement-recipients](http://www.epa.gov/grants/grants-policy-issuance-gpi-16-01-epasubaward-policy-epa-assistance-agreement-recipients)
- *The EPA Interim General Budget Development Guidance for Applicants and Recipients of EPA Financial Assistance:* [www.epa.gov/sites/default/files/2019-05/documents/applicant-budget-development-guidance.pdf](http://www.epa.gov/sites/default/files/2019-05/documents/applicant-budget-development-guidance.pdf)
- *The EPA Solicitation Clauses:* [www.epa.gov/grants/epa-solicitation-clauses](http://www.epa.gov/grants/epa-solicitation-clauses)
- *The EPA Grants Policy Resources:* [www.epa.gov/grants/epa-grants-policy-resources](http://www.epa.gov/grants/epa-grants-policy-resources)
- *The EPA Grants Management Training for Applicants and Recipients:* [www.epa.gov/grants/epa-grants-management-training-applicants-and-recipients](http://www.epa.gov/grants/epa-grants-management-training-applicants-and-recipients)
- *The EPA Information on QAPPs:* [www.epa.gov/sites/default/files/2015-06/documents/g5-final.pdf](http://www.epa.gov/sites/default/files/2015-06/documents/g5-final.pdf) ; [www.epa.gov/sites/default/files/2016-06/documents/r5-final\\_0.pdf](http://www.epa.gov/sites/default/files/2016-06/documents/r5-final_0.pdf) ; [www.epa.gov/measurements-modeling/documents-about-measurement-competency-under-assistance-agreements](http://www.epa.gov/measurements-modeling/documents-about-measurement-competency-under-assistance-agreements)





# Upcoming Webinars for the **SWIFR Grant Program for Political Subdivisions**

- Dates:

- December 13, 2022 from 2:00-3:30 PM EST
- December 19, 2022 from 6:00-7:00 PM EST

- Purpose:

- Provide guidance on procurement and subawards
- Answer additional questions

- Register online!



- Webinar recordings and slides at: <https://www.epa.gov/rcra/grants-political-subdivisions>





# Questions

[SWIFR@epa.gov](mailto:SWIFR@epa.gov)



**THANK YOU!**

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