

## National Priorities: De Facto Water Reuse Funding Opportunity

### Informational Webinar Questions and Answers

July 11, 2024

#### Questions

1. **What certifications are needed for the current and pending support forms?**

Answer: Senior/key persons are required to certify that the information provided in their current and pending support form is current, accurate, and complete. Senior/key persons are individuals identified by the applicant who will contribute in a substantive, meaningful way to the proposed research. These are typically, but not limited to, the principal investigators (PIs), co-PIs, and other collaborators listed as investigators. Each senior/key persons should add the certification as an additional page to their current and pending support form. The following statement signed by the senior/key person is an example of such certification:

*In accordance with Section 223(a)(1) of the William M. (Mac) Thornberry National Defense Authorization Act of Fiscal Year 2021 (42 USC 6605(a)(1)), I certify that the information provided in the current and pending support form is current, accurate, and complete. False representations may be subject to prosecution and liability pursuant to, but not limited to, 18 U.S.C. §§ 287, 1001, 1031 and 31 U.S.C. §§ 3729-3733 and 3802.*

The applicant's Authorized Organization Representative (AOR) is required to provide a certification that each individual employed by the organization and identified on the application as a senior/key person has been made aware of the certification requirements. The following statement signed by the AOR is an example of such certification:

*I certify that each individual employed by the organization and identified on the proposal as an investigator has been made aware of the certification requirements identified in the William M. (Mac) Thornberry National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2021, Section 223(a)(1) (42 USC 6605(a)(1)). False representations may be subject to prosecution and liability pursuant to, but not limited to, 18 U.S.C. §§ 287, 1001, 1031 and 31 U.S.C. §§ 3729-3733 and 3802.*

2. **Can applications respond to more than one research area, such as picking chemical or microbial contaminants or both?**

Answer: There are three distinct research areas. Applications must respond to at least one research area in-depth and should clearly identify which research area(s) the application is addressing throughout the proposal. Applications can also address more than one research area if desired. Applications that do not address at least one of the research areas may not be rated as highly under the evaluation process described in Section V. Applications that address more than one research area will not necessarily be rated more highly than those that address one research area. Please carefully read Section E of the funding opportunity for greater detail of the three research areas.

3. **Is this a one-off funding opportunity or does EPA expect to have another similar funding call in the future?**

Answer: This is a topic of ongoing interest for EPA, however, there is currently no timeline for

another funding opportunity on this topic. To be notified of future grant opportunities, please sign up for our [listserv](#). To see a list of upcoming funding opportunities, check out the Notice of Intent section of the [Research Funding Opportunities page](#). You can also search for other funding opportunities at [grants.gov](#).

**4. How are drinking water sources defined regarding de facto water reuse?**

Answer: Section E states, "The proposed research may consider any relevant drinking water sources impacted by de facto reuse." The funding opportunity defines de facto water reuse as "when a drinking water supply contains a significant fraction of wastewater effluent, typically from upstream wastewater discharges." Therefore, a variety of sources, such as wastewater effluent and stormwater, can be considered as upstream wastewater discharges. Anything involving drinking water as an end use is adequate to consider a source of drinking water.

**5. How will EPA assess applications across such a broad array of topics?**

Answer: Eligible grant applications are subject to external peer review to evaluate scientific merit. Applications receiving peer review scores of Excellent or Very Good will then undergo an internal relevancy review to evaluate relevance. Final funding decisions are made by the EPA selection official based on the results of the two reviews, past-performance history review, the evaluation of the Scientific Data Management Plan, the evaluation of the Quality Assurance Plan, and where applicable, the assessment of the applicant's human subjects research. In addition, in making the final funding decisions, the selection official may also consider program balance, potential scientific and/or commitment duplication/overlap, disclosure of support, and available funds. Please see Section V of the funding opportunity for more information on the application review process.

**6. Can indirect costs be included in cost-share?**

Answer: Yes, the funding total includes both direct and indirect costs. Under this funding opportunity, the maximum federally funded amount per award is \$2,375,000. In addition, a 25% non-federal cost share/match is required. Please be sure to account for cost share under each relevant section in the Budget Justification.

**7. Does this funding opportunity focus specifically on rural or small community water systems?**

Answer: This is a National Priorities program funding opportunity, therefore the proposed research should be national in scope. Focusing on small and large utilities can help to address that national scope.