

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY (EPA)

Healthy Homes Funding Panel

Alaska Forum on the Environment

February 6, 2011

Erin Mader, EPA Region 10 Tribal Air Program

Background

- Indoor air quality (and thus a healthy home) is both a national and regional priority for EPA
- EPA's primary responsibilities are for outdoor air and larger scale pollution sources under the Clean Air Act
- Despite this focus, EPA aims to support the public's need for healthy homes through outreach and education

EPA Priorities Related to Healthy Homes

- Strategic Plan Goal 1: *Taking Action on Climate Change and Improving Indoor Air Quality*
- Cross-Cutting Fundamental Strategy: *Working on environmental justice and building strong state and tribal partnerships*
- EPA Indoor Environments Program Indoor Air Quality priorities:
 - **Homes** – Reduce exposure to indoor air pollutants in homes, including multi-family residences and affordable housing stock
 - **Schools and Early Learning/Childcare Settings** – Reduce exposure to indoor air pollutants in schools, including K-12, Early Learning, and Childcare settings

<http://www.epa.gov/planandbudget/strategicplan.html>

EPA Indoor Air Quality Grants

- **Regional Indoor Environments: Reducing Public Exposure to Indoor Pollutants**
- CFDA NO: 66.034 – Check www.grants.gov or sign up today to receive a notice
- Regional competition
 - 2-3 grants will be awarded per region
 - 2 year grant period
 - Total of \$80,000 available
 - RFA to be released in February 2012, with applications due in March
- Focus Areas
 - Integrated Approaches for Reducing Exposures and Risks in Homes
 - Integrated Approaches to Promoting Healthy Indoor Environments in Schools and Early Learning Environments
- Davis Zhen (zhen.davis@epa.gov) = R10 Contact

EPA Radon Grants

- **Regional Grants for Radon Education and Outreach, and possibly Testing**
- Tribes are eligible
- Matching requirement
- Small regional budget as radon risk is comparatively lower in the Pacific NW and Alaska
- Contact Davis Zhen at zhen.davis@epa.gov

Indian General Assistance Program (I-GAP)

- Primary purpose of GAP → To support the development of a core Tribal environmental protection program; capacity building is central
- Tribal governments and Inter-Tribal Consortia are eligible
- Amount funded per award is approximately \$110,000

I-GAP & Healthy Homes Work

- **Grantees can work with their Tribal Coordinators to include healthy homes components in their GAP work plans**
 - Training on healthy homes, indoor air, household hazardous waste, etc.
 - Baseline assessments of indoor air quality, hazards in home environments
 - Collaboration with housing and health partners
 - Education and outreach to the community on wood smoke and other healthy homes issues
- Sample work plans being developed, and tribes can connect with others who have done similar work

Other EPA Grants

- Clean Air Act Grants
 - Clean Air Act Section 103 Grants for projects to study or investigate the causes and prevention of air pollution
 - Contact Erin Mader, Region 10 – mader.erin@epa.gov
- Children's Health Grants
 - Contact Margo Young, Region 10 – young.margo@epa.gov
- Environmental Justice Small Grants
 - <http://www.epa.gov/compliance/environmentaljustice/grants/ej-smgrants.html>
 - Contact Running Grass grass.running@epa.gov
- Pollution Prevention - Energy Efficiency and Weatherization Grants
 - <http://www.epa.gov/p2/pubs/grants/>

Eligibility for EPA Grants

- All federally recognized tribes, villages, and consortia are typically eligible for EPA Grants
 - *Note: Always check funding announcements for specifics*
- NOFAs released at different times throughout the year – depends on the grant.
- Region 10 created a *Grants and Resources Matrix* – contact Erin Mader for a copy (mader.erin@epa.gov).

EPA Grants Webinar – Register now!

- **February 23, 2012 at 10 am Alaska Time**
- **Register at**
https://epa.connectsolutions.com/grantswebinar/event/event_info.html
- EPA's Office of Grants and Debarment is hosting a webinar for the EPA grants community.
- Grants management topics will be covered: how to find and apply for grant opportunities, reporting requirements, and how to prepare a proper budget detail. Q&A will follow.
- Contact ogdweb.gad@epa.gov

Tips for Applying for EPA Grants

- Talk with prior grantees
 - Contact prior EPA indoor air quality grantees.
 - Talk with other tribes who have worked on similar areas; EPA can help connect you to identify others who have done similar projects.
- Read the request for proposals closely, and write your application to the proposal.
- Find a balance – make sure your goals are reasonable and attainable, and that results can be measured.

Getting Started

- First, read the RFP and determine if you are eligible.
- Second, read the evaluation section. This information will guide you throughout the application process.
- Note: In all Federal RFPs there will be an evaluation explanation and scoring system (e.g. a narrative with a point system where 100 is the goal).

Key Questions

- Have you clearly explained the problem that you plan to address?
- Have you expressed how you will engage and help the public?
- How well connected is your budget with your narrative?
- Would a complete stranger be able to read your application and know exactly what you are proposing to do?
- Have you re-read your materials? Have you asked someone else to review them?

More Key Questions

- Have you coordinated with others in the community who may be important partners on the project?
- Have you included any letters of support showing how you will collaborate with others to make the project more successful?
- What training is needed to carry out the project?
- Can you show that the organization or the tribe is ready to take on the project based on past successes or existing expertise?

Grant Review Reminders

- When you are applying for a federal grant, remember that you are on a level playing field with others.
- The federal process may feel intimidating – don't hesitate to call the contact listed on the NOFA.
- The agency has funded a range of grantees, from the least to the most experienced.
- You don't have to make your application perfect; you just have to do your best!

More Grant Tips

- Show us through your words and visuals what you will deliver; demonstrate your passion, creativity, connectedness, and skills.
- Show us how you will make the best use of public funds.
- Choose your grants carefully.
- Be organized.
- Address a pressing need in your community.
- Write to the requirements of the Request for Proposals (RFP).

Contact Information

- Erin Mader, Region 10 Tribal Air Program
mader.erin@epa.gov
206.553.1254