

**US ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY**  
**Grant Programs to Address Threats to Coral Reef Resources**

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**Clean Water Act - Section 104(b)(3)**  
**Water Quality Cooperative Agreements Program**

1. Overview/Summary

- a. Agency contact information: name, address, phone, email, website

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- b. Description of Grant Program as it Relates to Coral Ecosystem Conservation

EPA Region 2 provides funds through a competitive process for Water Quality Agreement Grants that are authorized by Section 104(b)(3) of the Clean Water Act. The funds are available for States, Indian Tribes, interstate agencies, and other public or nonprofit organizations. The grants are used to develop, implement, and demonstrate innovative approaches relating to the causes, effects, extent, prevention, reduction, and elimination of water pollution. Awarded grants will have project periods from one to two years.

- c. Eligibility:

- i. Who is/is not eligible?

Assistance under this program is generally available to States, territories, Indian Tribes, and possessions of the U.S. (including the District of Columbia); public and private universities and colleges; hospitals; laboratories; and other public or private nonprofit institutions and individuals.

- ii. What projects are eligible?

Funding priorities include, but are not limited to, water quality improvement, watersheds management, aquatic ecosystem restoration, pollutant trading, fish contamination and consumption, nonpoint source management, wetlands protection, coastal and estuarine management, treatment technologies, and environmental management systems.

- iii. How to determine eligibility?

Documentation of nonprofit status may be required. Applicants may be requested to demonstrate they have appropriate background, academic training, experience in the field, and necessary equipment to carry out projects. EPA may ask applicants or principal investigators to provide curriculum vitae and relevant publications.

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- iv. What is fundable/ what is not fundable?  
Grants and cooperative agreements are available to support recipients' allowable direct costs according to the approved scopes of work plus allowable indirect costs. The funds will support research, investigations, experiments, training, demonstration, surveys, and studies relating to the prevention, reduction, and elimination of water pollution. Funding awarded for research does not include research within the purview of EPA's Office of Research and Development.
- d. Grant Schedules/Cycles  
10/01 – 9/30 (Federal Fiscal Year)
- e. Grants Management
- i. What are the rules?  
Surveys, studies, and investigations grants and cooperative agreements are subject to EPA's General Grant Regulations (40 CFR Part 30 and 40 CFR Part 31).
- f. Matching Fund Requirements. None
- g. Specific Criteria on How Proposals are Scored  
EPA awards the assistance agreements on a competitive basis and evaluate Proposals based on:
- The relationship of the proposed project to the priorities identified in this request for proposal (RFP).
  - How well the project proposes to address a nationally important need, issue, or interest.
  - Communication plan to transfer results of the project to other potentially interested parties.
  - How well the project furthers the goal of the Clean Water Act to prevent, reduce, and eliminate water pollution.
  - Applicants demonstration technical capability to perform the proposed work.
  - Leverage of other resources (e.g., cost share, participation by other organizations) as part of the proposed approach.
  - Cost effectiveness and reasonableness of the proposal.
  - Compliance with directions for submittal contained in the RFP.
- The proposals are evaluated by EPA staff on a scale of 1 to 5 with 1 being low and 5 being high. The eight criteria above have equal weight. The maximum score possible is 40 points. EPA reserves the right to reject all proposals and make no awards.
- h. Grant Application or FFO  
[http://www.epa.gov/region02/rfp/2005/water04\\_104b3.htm#5](http://www.epa.gov/region02/rfp/2005/water04_104b3.htm#5)