

EPA Region 6 Fiscal Year 2008 Indian Environmental General Assistance Program (GAP)  
Announcement

I. Funding Opportunity Description

The principal focus of GAP is development of general tribal environmental capability. Assistance may be provided under this program only for activities which the Agency determines are appropriate to carry out the purposes of the Act (Indian Environmental General Assistance Program Act of 1992, Public Law 102-497, Section 11, 42 U.S.C. 4368b, as amended, Public Law 103-155). Regulations for this program may be found in 40 CFR Part 35.

GAP supports development of environmental protection programs. A GAP grant offers a unique opportunity for a tribe to build capacity necessary to administer its own integrated environmental program, develop the capability to manage specific programs and establish a core program for environmental protection. Activities eligible for funding under this program are those for planning, developing, and establishing capability to implement environmental protection programs. Additional allowable activities under GAP include the development and implementation of Solid and Hazardous Waste (SW/HW) projects. Consistent with national guidance, we believe requests for funding of SW/HW programs and projects made as part of your GAP application should promote the development of self-sustaining programs, prevention programs, and one-time cleanups, rather than long term operation and maintenance (O&M) activities.

II. Award Information

We request your GAP proposal include work plan activities with a maximum base budget of \$110,000. Final funding amounts will depend on work plan negotiations with your Project Officer. Some awards may be reduced due to prior GAP performance problems, such as uncompleted deliverables, late reporting and consistently high account balances. GAP grant project periods may not exceed four years, but at the end of a four-year grant period, tribes and intertribal consortia may apply for new GAP grants. Successful applicants will receive assistance in either the form of a Grant Agreement or a Cooperative Agreement. Applicants are not required to provide any matching share of GAP project costs.

In addition to the base funding level, the Region is offering two opportunities to meet additional environmental needs: 1) Solid and hazardous waste implementation, and 2) Additional Environmental Needs. For both of these funding opportunities, we ask that your requests be described separately from the base program.

- **Solid and Hazardous Waste** Our office is reserving approximately \$500,000 for solid and hazardous waste (SW/HW) projects. This reserve is intended to serve as one-time funding for program development or cleanup projects rather than long term operation and maintenance (O&M) activities. For example, development of integrated solid waste management plans, codes and regulations, recycling, household waste collection events, and implementing cleanups for open dump sites. Proposals must be described separately from the base program and are limited to a maximum

- budget of \$10,000. The following factors and principles will be considered in making determinations regarding funding of SW/HW implementation proposals:
- the prior performance under EPA grants of the grantee;
  - the feasibility of the proposal;
  - the sustainability of the project(s);
  - the reasonableness of costs cited for the activities;
  - the known health impact and known environmental impacts
- **Additional Environmental Needs** The Region will consider funding requests to meet additional environmental needs. We do not anticipate available funds will cover many, if any, of these additional needs.

For this fiscal year, the Region's funding priorities will be:

- 1) Funding of \$110,000 for eligible tribal applicants;
- 2) Funding of \$110,000 for a limited number of eligible consortia;
- 3) GAP Support Activities (RTOC, Tribal Summit, Technical Assistance, etc.);
- 4) Solid Waste/Hazardous Waste additional projects not covered in base funding;
- 5) Funding of existing multi-year programs;
- 6) Funding of new multi-year programs;
- 7) Funding for additional tribal environmental needs.

Please note that \$50,000 of the FY08 funds will be reserved to be used at the discretion of the Region 6 Office of Environmental Justice and Tribal Affairs director for emerging and/or critical needs in Indian Country. **Grantees that are currently receiving multi-year funding are invited to submit proposals for Solid Waste projects and additional tribal environmental needs.**

### III. Eligibility Information

Eligible applicants include Region 6 Federally recognized tribes and intertribal consortia. An intertribal consortium is eligible to receive GAP grants if the consortium can adequately document all member tribes authorize the consortium to apply for and receive the grant.

### IV. Application and Submission Information

#### Proposals

We request that your GAP proposal, consisting of a work plan, budget narrative and the SF-424a budget pages be submitted to your Project Officer using GAP online. The GAP Online System provides a centralized tool for creating work plans and reporting progress. The GAP Online User Guide can be found at: <http://www.epa.gov/indian/pdfs/gap-online-tribal-guide-2007.pdf>. If this system is not operational then the proposal may be emailed to your project officer. **The proposal must be received online or by email no later than February 29, 2008.** This proposal does not include any forms that require leadership signatures. A complete application, along with all certifications, will be required after successful negotiations with your Project Officer.

EPA Order 5700.7 “Environmental Results under EPA Assistance Agreements,” requires a direct link between work plan commitments and environmental results. Therefore, our office will emphasize well defined outputs and outcomes that can be linked to environmental results. Copies of the Order are available upon request.

An acceptable work plan must be consistent with 40 CFR Part 35.507, which requires work years and funding level estimates for components. At the request of the national program office, a template is provided for your use.

We are again offering the option of submitting multi-year GAP proposals. Please remember that the GAP statute limits project and budget periods to no more than four years. Thus, if you are currently in the third year of your GAP grant and would like to submit a multi-year proposal, you must be willing to close your current GAP grant and begin a new grant cycle.

#### Complete Applications

**Applicants must submit a full application postmarked no later than April 30, 2008.**

A full application includes the following items:

- 1) Application for Federal Assistance (SF424)
- 2) Budget Information Non-Construction Programs (SF 424A)
- 3) Assurances Non Construction Programs (SF 424B)
- 4) Certification Regarding Debarment, Suspension, and Other Responsibility Matters (EPA Form 5700-49)
- 5) Certification Regarding Lobbying
- 6) Pre-award Compliance Review Report (4700-4)
- 7) Key Contact List

You can obtain the forms required for the full application package from your Project Officer or online at: <http://www.whitehouse.gov/omb/grants/>

Please submit your complete and full application to:

U.S. EPA Region 6 (6RA-DT)  
Office of Environmental Justice and Tribal Affairs  
1445 Ross Avenue, Suite 1200  
Dallas, Texas 75202-2733

## V. Application Review Information

Evaluations of applications will be based on the following:

- 1) Commitments listed in the work plan are allowable under GAP.
- 2) Commitments in the work plan do not unnecessarily duplicate past efforts.
- 3) The work plan identifies Environmental Results.
- 4) Costs are reasonable and allowable.
- 5) The scope of work supports the development of elements and a core tribal environmental protection program.

## VI. Award Administration

### Award Notice

Funded tribes will receive an Assistance Agreement signed by the Award Official. The tribal leader must return a signed copy of the Assistance Agreement to EPA within three calendar weeks after receipt of the letter. The Assistance Agreement will specify the budget and project period dates which represents the allowable time period for performing the activities under the award.

### Administrative and National Policy Requirements

Regulations governing the award and the administration of environmental programs for tribes and tribal consortia can be found in Title 40 of the Code of Federal Regulations (CFR), Parts 31 and 35, Subpart B (40 CFR 35.500-35.518).

### Reporting

At a minimum, grantees will be required to submit an annual programmatic progress report within 90 days of the end of the fiscal year using GAP Online. However, some grantees may be required or may negotiate to submit either semiannual or quarterly programmatic progress reports. Semiannual reports are due 30 days after the end of the 2<sup>nd</sup> fiscal quarter and 30 days after the end of the fiscal year. Quarterly reports are due 30 days after the end of each fiscal quarter. Programmatic reports must document the progress in performing the commitments listed in the work plan and the reports must describe any problems with completing the commitments and the recipient's plan for resolving the problems. Programmatic reports must comply with the regulations listed in CFR 40 Part 31.40 and CFR 40 Part 35.515.

Financial Status Reports (FSRs) are required and must, at a minimum, be submitted within 90 days of the end of the project period. However, some grantees may be required or may negotiate to submit FSRs more frequently. A Final FSR must be submitted within 90 days of the assistance agreement's expiration. FSRs must comply with all the Assistance Agreement's Terms and Conditions as well as with the regulations listed in CFR 40 Part 31.41.

## VII. Agency Contacts

For further information please feel free to contact the Tribal Team at 800-887-6063. Or via mail at:

U.S. EPA Region 6 (6RA-DT)  
Office of Environmental Justice and Tribal Affairs  
1445 Ross Avenue, Suite 1200  
Dallas, Texas 75202-2733

## VIII. Other Information

A website link to the Indian General Assistance Program 2006 Grant Administration Guidance, a sample work plan template and the 2007 Grant Administration Guidance are available at: <http://www.epa.gov/indian/gap.htm>