

Environmental Compliance Fact Sheet for IHS Grants (This requirement applies to all IHS Grants.)

IHS diabetes grant proposals are subject to National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) review by IHS, with assistance from the grantee (42 U.S.C. 4332), as well as grantee compliance with all applicable environmental laws and regulations as referenced in the form SF 424B Assurances for Non-Construction Programs, item 11, and other related grant conditions. While grants for patient care services may not have environmental impacts, any grant that includes building, remodeling, excavation, purchasing modular structures, change of land use, and related project activities requires documentation of an environmental review in accordance with NEPA. Please refer to the attached Environmental Information and Documentation form for a list of common environmental considerations for this grant. The applicable IHS NEPA policy is based on the President's Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) regulations, the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) policy (General Administrative Manual, Part 30), and the Public Health Service (PHS) Grants Policy Statement.

The correct level of NEPA analysis and documentation required for a proposed IHS grant or other IHS action is based on the level of significance of the anticipated environmental impacts. For example, any construction-type activity is considered a major Federal action which requires more investigation and analysis than routine patient care activities.

Responsibility and Authority

Grant proposal must include a completed Environmental Information and Documentation form. All IHS Area Directors and program managers are responsible for compliance with all applicable environmental laws, regulations, and Executive Orders for IHS funded grants and any other activities that require IHS concurrence. Please contact your Area NEPA coordinator for assistance in assessing NEPA and related environmental impacts.

In addition, grantees are required to comply with applicable Federal, tribal, state, or local environmental laws and regulations, including those listed on form SF 424B in item 11 and other listed conditions.

Environmental Analysis Should Begin Early

Implementing an environmental review early in grants application process or project planning is the recommended approach and will prevent unnecessary costs, delays, and impacts. Consideration of environmental concerns and constraints associated with a particular site, approach, health care activity, engineering concept, or field operations early in the planning process allows IHS and grantees to:

- Determine to what extent NEPA applies and what level of reporting will be required for a particular proposed action and what procedures and documents are necessary
- Investigate alternative proposals before too much effort has gone into planning
- Change the planning and concept or operational requirements to resolve environmental problems rather than compensate for them
- Determine what other environmental statutory requirements apply

It is very important that the potential impacts be analyzed for environmental impacts before the grant is approved or the project is begun. There are no "waivers" for NEPA requirements, which must be completed before a grant is approved and before work of the grant or project is initiated.

Changes in Grant Activities

If you wish to change the type of activity for which the grant was awarded, the IHS must decide if further environmental review is required before approving the change; e.g., transfer of funds or change in activity between non-construction and construction activities. Depending on the activity, you must obtain prior approval from IHS for changes in scope, direction, type of service delivery or training, or other areas that constitute a significant change from the objectives or purposes of the approved project.