

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Grant Summary Climate Pollution Reduction Grants (CPRG) Phase 2 Program

The Climate Pollution Reduction Grants (CPRG) program provides \$5 billion in grants to states, local governments, tribes, and territories to develop and implement ambitious plans for reducing greenhouse gas emissions and other harmful air pollution. Authorized under Section 60114 of the Inflation Reduction Act, this two-phase program provides \$250 million for noncompetitive planning grants and approximately \$4.6 billion for competitive implementation grants.

CPRG Implementation Grants

EPA has announced two competitions for CPRG implementation grants – a general competition for applications from states, municipalities, tribal consortia, and territories, and a competition only for tribes, tribal consortia, and territories. These competitions are open to entities that received planning grants to develop **Priority Climate Action Plans (PCAPs)** under <u>phase 1 of the CPRG program</u>, as well as entities that did not directly receive a planning grant that are applying for funds to implement measures included in an applicable PCAP. Eligible applicants may only apply for funding to implement measures contained in an applicable PCAP.

For the general competition, EPA anticipates awarding individual grants between \$2 million and \$500 million, with funding tiers allowing comparably sized projects to compete against one another. For the competition for tribes and territories, EPA anticipates awarding individual grants ranging between \$1 million to \$25 million.

A Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) released on December 12, 2023, goes into further detail about the implementation grants. On December 12, 2023, a NOFO explanation of correction for implementation grants was posted. This document summarizes both notices.



FY 2024 APPLICATION DEADLINE: April 1, 2024

11:59 p.m. EDT

FY 2025 NOFO PUBLICATION DATE:

October 15, 2024

FY 2025 APPLICATION

DEADLINE: April 1, 2025 11:59 p.m. EDT

Climate Pollution Reduction Program At-a-Glance



ISSUING AGENCY

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)

ELIGIBLE APPLICANTS

- States (excluding Florida, Iowa, Kentucky, and South Dakota).
- Lead organizations for state CPRG planning grants.
- Other state agencies, departments, or other executive branch-level offices.
- Municipality in an applicable state, metropolitan area, or territorial PCAP.
- Lead organizations for MSA CPRG planning grants.
- Other municipal agencies (including local air pollution control agencies), departments, or other municipal government offices.
- Councils of government, metropolitan planning organizations, or other regional organizations comprised of multiple municipalities.
- Coalitions consisting of two or more eligible applicants can apply jointly.

ELIGIBLE PROJECT TYPES

- Implementation of PCAPs for states, MSAs, tribes, and territories, to reduce climate pollution through GHG reduction measures.
- Cost must be necessary and reasonable to implement the GHG reduction measures described in the application.



ANTICIPATED AWARD DATE

July 2024 (anticipated notification of funding selection) and October 2024 (anticipated award)



OBJECTIVE

The NOFO announces the availability of up to \$4.3 billion for the CPRG implementation grants general competition. Lead organizations for CPRG planning grants must submit their Priority Climate Action Plans (PCAPs) to EPA by March 1, 2024, in order for lead organizations and other eligible applicants to submit grant applications to fund measures contained in those plans.



FUNDING

The total funding expected to be available is approximately \$4.3 billion. EPA anticipates awarding a total of approximately 30 to 115 grants that are expected to range between \$2 million and \$500 million.



% LOCAL MATCH REQUIRED

No cost sharing/matching funds or leveraged resources are required as a condition of eligibility under this competition. Funds awarded under this program cannot be used to meet the matching funds requirement under another federal grant program.



OTHER IMPORTANT NOTES

- Cost Effectiveness Analysis required.
- Projects are eligible only if they have been identified in a PCAP.



DEADLINE April 1, 2024, at 11:59 p.m. EDT

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Program Goals and Objectives

EPA takes seriously its responsibility to protect human health and the environment as the United States faces the increasingly harmful impacts of climate change. Across the country, communities are experiencing more deadly wildfires and storm surges, more extreme drought and water scarcity, and dangerous levels of flooding, among other impacts.

The Fourth National Climate Assessment found that intense extreme weather and climate-related events are expected to continue to damage infrastructure, ecosystems, and social systems that provide essential benefits to communities. If left unchecked, future climate change is expected to further disrupt many areas of life and exacerbate existing challenges to prosperity posed by aging and deteriorating infrastructure, stressed ecosystems, and long-standing inequalities. However, with this challenge comes an opportunity to invest in a cleaner economy that will spur innovation and economic growth while building more equitable, sustainable, and resilient communities.

Accordingly, the CPRG general competition for implementation grants is designed to enable states, municipalities, tribes, and territories to achieve the following goals:

- Implement ambitious measures that will achieve significant cumulative GHG emissions reductions by 2030 and beyond
- Pursue measures that will achieve substantial community benefits, such as reduction of criteria air pollutants (CAPs) and hazardous air pollutants (HAPs), particularly in low-income and disadvantaged communities
- Complement other funding sources to maximize these GHG reductions and community benefits
- Pursue innovative policies and programs that are replicable and can be "scaled up" across multiple jurisdictions

The CPRG general competition is also designed to incentivize eligible applicants to apply for funding together as a coalition to implement GHG reduction measures regionally, across multiple municipalities, state boundaries, or even state and tribal boundaries. Details on eligible applicants and coalitions are available in Section III. A of the <u>NOFO</u>.

Federal Award Information

The total funding expected to be available for awards under the CPRG implementation grants general competition is approximately \$4.3 billion. Funding is dependent upon Agency appropriations, funding availability, Agency priorities, and other applicable considerations. EPA has issued a separate NOFO under Funding Opportunity Number <u>EPA-R-OAR-CPRGT-23-09</u> for a competition reserved exclusively for eligible tribes and territories. Eligible tribes and territories may also apply for grants under this CPRG implementation grants general competition.

For the CPRG General Competition (not tribes/territories),

EPA anticipates awarding approximately 30 to 115 grants under this announcement — subject to the availability of funds, the quantity and quality of applications received, Agency priorities, and other applicable considerations.

Awards are expected to range between \$2 million and \$500 million. The EPA expects to award grants within five tiers (described in Table 1) with funds targeted for each tier. The EPA has established these tiers to provide funding opportunities for a range of potential applicants. These ranges reflect differences in the scope, scale, and cost of GHG reduction measures and are intended to help applicants structure their applications to best reflect the cost of their proposed measures and their ability to implement the grant.

The total grant amount requested in an application will determine the tier within which the application will be evaluated. Applications will be evaluated against other applications within the same tier.

Tier	Grant Ranges	Funds Targeted for Each Tier	Anticipated Number of Grants to be Awarded
Tier A	\$200,000,000 - \$500,000,000	\$2 billion	4 - 10
Tier B	\$100,000,000 - \$199,999,999	\$1.3 billion	6 - 13
Tier C	\$50,000,000 - \$99,999,999	\$0.6 billion	6 - 12
Tier D	\$10,000,000 - \$49,999,999	\$0.3 billion	6 - 30
Tier E	\$2,000,000 - \$9,999,999	\$0.1 billion	10 - 50

Table 1: Five Tiers of Grants Award

The EPA **will not award** multiple grants to implement the same measure in the same location. Therefore, communication and coordination between entities that may apply to fund similar measures should occur before applications are submitted. The EPA strongly encourages lead organizations to make draft versions of their PCAPs available as early as possible so that **entities considering whether to submit an implementation grant application** can begin development of their applications well before April 1, 2024, application deadline. The EPA also encourages **eligible applicants who are considering applying for a CPRG implementation grant** to participate in the PCAP development process and provide input on priority measures to include in the plan, in collaboration with other participants and stakeholders.

Exclusions

Municipalities and State agencies and local air pollution control agencies in Florida, Iowa, Kentucky, and South Dakota are not covered by an MSA PCAP because the states of Florida, Iowa, Kentucky and South Dakota declined to participate in the planning grant phase of this program.

No state agencies, departments, or other executive branch-level offices in those four states can be eligible applicants for the CPRG implementation grant phase.

Similarly, no municipal government office or air pollution control agency within these four states is eligible to apply under this NOFO, except for those municipalities and air agencies covered by an applicable PCAP developed for an MSA receiving a planning grant, including the following:

- 1. Miami-Fort Lauderdale-Pompano Beach, FL Metro Area
- 2. Tampa-St. Petersburg-Clearwater, FL Metro Area
- 3. Orlando-Kissimmee-Sanford, FL Metro Area
- 4. Jacksonville, FL Metro Area
- 5. North Port-Sarasota-Bradenton, FL Metro Area

- 6. Des Moines-West Des Moines, IA Metro Area
- 7. Cedar Rapids, IA Metro Area
- 8. Iowa City, IA Metro Area
- 9. Omaha-Council Bluffs, NE-IA Metro Area
- 10. Louisville/Jefferson County, KY-IN Metro Area
- 11. Lexington-Fayette, KY Metro Area
- 12. Bowling Green, KY Metro Area
- 13. Cincinnati, OH-KY-IN Metro Area
- 14. Rapid City, SD Metro Area

Evaluation Criteria

Only eligible applicants whose application meets the threshold eligibility criteria will be evaluated according to the criteria listed below. Applicants should explicitly address these criteria as part of their application package submittal in the project narrative, following the content requirements outlined in Section IV and Appendix C of the NOFO. Applications will be evaluated for each criterion based on 1) the extent to which the response meets the content requirements in Section IV and Appendix C, and 2) the quality and completeness of the overall response. There is a total of 250 points.

- Overall Project Summary and Approach (45 points)
- Impact of GHG Reduction Measures (60 points)
- Environmental Results Outputs, Outcomes, and Performance Measures (30 points)
- Low-Income and Disadvantaged Communities (35 points)
- Job Quality (5 points)
- Programmatic Capability and Past Performance (30 points)
- Budget and Timely Expenditure of Grant Funds (45 points)

Your Infrastructure Finance, Sustainability & Resiliency, and grant writing professionals stand by ready to support project sponsors applying for funding from the CPRG Grant Program.

If you need any assistance or have questions, please contact:

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