



Exchange Network Grant Program

Writing a Successful Application

Tribal Exchange Network Users' Conference

May 5, 2011



Purpose of Discussion

- Highlight tips for writing a successful EN grant application
- Identify resources





EN Grant Background

- Provides funding to states, tribes and territories
 - to develop the information technology and information management capabilities to address environmental, natural resource, and human-health challenges
 - exchanging environmental data in support of better environmental decision-making
 - may also be used to fund the standardization, exchange and integration of geospatial information
- Annual Process
- 2-year projects
- \$10 million requested in the FY12 President's Budget



FY 2012 Grants Program Schedule

Activity	Month
Priorities Developed	April-June
FY 2010 Award Notification Letters	May
Draft SN Posted	June
Stakeholder Conference Calls	June
Solicitation Notice Published	July
Applications Due	November



Find Out What EPA Priorities Are

- Priorities
 - What is prioritized within the Solicitation Notice?
 - What are the recommended activities in Appendix A?
- Participate in stakeholder calls (2) in June
 - Prepare your questions beforehand
- Sign up for Exchange Network Alerts
- Participate in National & Regional conferences



Determine What Your Tribe Needs

- Talk to your environmental program
 - Current data flow method
 - Status of their database
 - Program trends, priorities & needs
- Develop relationships
 - Are some folks interested in trying something new? Willing to cooperate?
 - You may be investing time for a future year.
- Start checking ideas with EPA program staff before the guidance is out in the summer



Join Needs to Priorities

- Read draft guidance immediately
- Outline proposals
- Draft a schedule for each piece to submit
 - Allow time for approvals



Partnerships

- Partnership projects eligible for additional funding \$350K
- Project narratives and budgets should demonstrate why additional resources are needed
 - project complexity
 - vital collaborative activities
- Identify project roles and responsibilities for the applicant and partners
- Include support letters



Writing the Narrative

- Be concise (10 page limit)
- Focus on Evaluation Criteria
- Grant proposals must lead to outcomes that support environmental results
- Proposals are evaluated based on the major technical and non-technical outputs and outcomes

Goals, Tasks, and Milestones

- Each proposed goal is expected to demonstrate a link of at least one outcome leading to an expected environmental result.

Goal	Output (<i>Task</i>)	Target Date	Outcome
1. AA Data Flow	1.1 Map to AA Schema	Date	Phrase
	1.2 Implement AA Flow		
	1.3 Improve GIS locations for AA		
2. BB Data Flow	2.1 Map to BB Schema		
	2.2 Implement BB Flow		
	2.3 Publish web service		



Examples of Project Outputs:

- development of schema
- development of publishing tools
- issuance of RFPs

Examples of Project Outcomes:

- improving the timeliness and accuracy of environmental data
- reducing burden and costs associated with data management and reporting
- supporting better decision-making by building data access for environmental professionals and the public



Use EPA's Outline

- Use numbering system & labels identified in the SN
- Make a list of every required item/phrase
 - Find a place for it in the outline
 - Label it
 - If something does not apply—
 - Try to find some angle that does apply
 - If not, explain why. Do NOT leave it blank.



Past Performance

- Past Performance
 - Use updated tables from your latest 6-month status report
 - If completion date not met, explain current efforts & why deadlines missed.





Resources



www.exchangenetwork.net

- Sign up for Exchange Network Alerts
- EN Tribal Partner Existing Solutions
- Success Stories
- Tribal Representatives on EN Governance (TGG)

www.epa.gov/exchangenetwork

- Apply for an EN Grant

http://www.exchangenetworkwiki.com/wiki/index.php/Main_Page

- Exchange Network Wiki