

Bipartisan Infrastructure Law: Notice of Funding Opportunity Recycling Education and Outreach Grants (Round 2)

Resource Conservation and Sustainability Division
U.S. EPA Office of Resource Conservation & Recovery





Agenda

- Introduction
- Funding Opportunity Overview & Requirements
- Evaluating Applications
- Resources





Introduction

Goals of the Webinar

1

Provide an overview of the Recycling Education and Outreach funding opportunity

2

Clarify information about the scope, requirements, evaluation criteria and overall process



Circular Economy Strategy Series

 **Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL)**

 Solid Waste Infrastructure for Recycling Grants

 **Recycling Education and Outreach Grants**

 Battery Collection Best Practices and Labeling Guidelines



- Objectives:**
- A. Improve Markets for Recycling Commodities
 - B. Increase Collection and Improve Materials Management Infrastructure
 - C. Reduce Contamination in the Recycled Materials Stream
 - D. Enhance Policies to Support Recycling
 - E. Standardize Measurement and Increase Data Collection

EPA is establishing a 10-year vision that embraces circularity, sustainable materials management, addresses climate change, and environmental justice.



Circular Economy Strategy Series

 **Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL)**

 Solid Waste Infrastructure for Recycling Grants

 **Recycling Education and Outreach Grants**

 Battery Collection Best Practices and Labeling Guidelines



Objectives:

- 2.A. Develop, launch and run a national consumer education and behavior change campaign.
- 2.C. Partner with the private sector to find upstream solutions to consumer food waste.
- 3.A. Support the development of additional organics recycling infrastructure through grants and other assistance for all communities, especially those that are underserved.
- 3.B. Expand the market for products made from recycled organic waste.
- 3.E. Address contamination in the organic waste recycling stream.





Funding Opportunity Overview & Requirements

REO Round 2 Background

*Section I.A.
of the NOFO*

- For this second round of REO funding, EPA is focusing on **preventing the generation of wasted food and increasing its recycling through composting**. By first focusing on preventing wasted food and then on recycling the remaining food waste, people and the environment experience the greatest benefits.
- Food waste prevention initiatives grounded in education and outreach can also improve the effectiveness of residential and community recycling programs, which include composting programs.
 - When households reduce the amount of food that is going uneaten and being thrown away, they can also reduce the amount of contamination in source separated recyclables and increase recycling. For example, households practicing food waste prevention are more likely to recycle clean, empty food containers, rather than throwing away to landfills or improperly recycling containers heavily contaminated with food.
- Food waste prevention is particularly important in municipalities that currently do not have the ability to develop municipal composting infrastructure, but aim to divert waste from local landfills, increase uptake of separated recycling, and decrease contamination in the recycling stream.



REO Round 2: Three Projects

*Section I.F.
of the NOFO*

Total estimated funding for REO Round 2 is approximately **\$39,094,000**. EPA anticipates awarding only one cooperative agreement that includes three projects:

Project #1: Develop and Implement a National Consumer Wasted Food Reduction Campaign;

Project #2: Expand the Market and Sales of Compost; and

Project #3: Increase Education and Outreach to Households on Composting.



REO Round 2 Objectives

*Section I.D.
of the NOFO*

- All applications for this funding opportunity must contain three projects that meet the following objectives:

Title	Objective	Requires Competitive Process for Selecting Campaign Implementation Subrecipients
Project 1: Develop and Implement a National Consumer Wasted Food Reduction Campaign	Decrease wasted food from households.	Yes
Project 2: Expand the Market and Sales of Compost	Expand markets for and sales of compost.	No
Project 3: Increase Education and Outreach to Households on Composting	Inform the public about new or existing residential food waste composting programs; provide information about the materials that are accepted as part of a residential food waste composting program; and increase collection rates and decrease physical contamination in residential food waste composting programs.	Yes



Statutory/Regulatory Authority

*Section I.B.
of the NOFO*

Section 70402 of the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law established the “Consumer Recycling Education and Outreach Grant Program” (REO grants) and provides \$75,000,000 for REO grants for Federal Fiscal Years 2022 through 2026 at \$15,000,000 per year. Pursuant to Section 70402(b) of the BIL, the purpose of the competitive REO grant program is to **improve the effectiveness of residential and community recycling programs through public education and outreach.**

***Recycling** refers to the series of activities by which materials, including organic materials, are collected, sorted, processed, and/or converted into raw materials to be used for new products. Composting is one way to recycle organic materials, including food waste, into a valuable soil amendment (compost).*

REO grants must:

- inform the public about residential or community recycling programs;
- provide information about the recycled materials that are accepted as part of a residential or community recycling program that provides for the separate collection of residential solid waste from recycled material; and
- increase collection rates and decrease contamination in residential and community recycling programs.



Statutory Set-Aside

*Section I.B.
of the NOFO*

The Bipartisan Infrastructure Law directs 20% of the funding Congress appropriated each fiscal year for:

- low-income communities
- rural communities
- communities identified as Native American pursuant to section 2(9) of the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (25 U.S.C. 3001(9))

EPA is requiring that this 20% allocation be met through subawards to entities that target authorized education and outreach activities to members of those communities.



Statutory Set-Aside Definitions

*Section I.C.
of the NOFO*

- The communities in this set-aside are defined as follows:
 - **Low-income community** - a community in which the median household income is at or below 200% of the Federal poverty level.
 - **Rural Community** - Local areas with populations of 50,000 or less that have limited access to public or private resources commonly found in metropolitan areas; or a Community Network area selected by the Rural Partners Network (See rural.gov for a complete list of communities).
 - **Native American Community** – A community relating to, a Tribe, people, or culture that is indigenous to the United States



Environmental Justice

*Section I.C
of the NOFO*

The just treatment and meaningful involvement of all people regardless of income, race, color, national origin, Tribal affiliation, or disability, in agency decision-making and other Federal activities that affect human health and the environment so that people:

- are fully protected from disproportionate and adverse human health and environment effects (including risks) and hazards, including those related to climate change, the cumulative impacts of environmental and other burdens, and the legacy of racism or other structure or systemic barriers; and
- have equitable access to a healthy, sustainable, and resilient environment in which to live, play, work, learn, grow, worship, and engage in cultural and subsistence practices.

For more information on Environmental Justice at EPA, visit our website:
<https://www.epa.gov/environmentaljustice>



Disadvantaged Community

*Section I.C.
of the NOFO*

- **Justice40**, a Biden Administration initiative, sets a goal that 40% of the overall benefits of certain federal climate, clean energy, and other investments flow to disadvantaged communities.
- Applicants must demonstrate in their proposals that **40% of the overall benefits** created by the projects funded in this assistance agreement will flow to **disadvantaged communities**, which are defined for this competition as a census tract identified by the [Climate and Economic Justice Screening Tool](#) (CEJST) that is at or above the threshold for one or more environmental, climate, or other burdens, and is at or above the threshold for an associated socioeconomic burden; or a Federally Recognized Tribe.

*Note: These activities in communities located in a U.S. Territory (Puerto Rico, U.S. Virgin Islands, Guam, American Samoa, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands) will also count towards the Justice40 goal.



Justice40 Requirements

*Section I.F.
of the NOFO*

- Applicants must demonstrate in their proposals that 40% of the overall benefits created by the projects funded in this assistance agreement will flow to disadvantaged communities. This could be achieved via:
 - subawards from the grant recipient to subrecipients whose work benefits disadvantaged communities;
 - targeted outreach and use of media channels as part of campaigns that ensure members of disadvantaged communities receive campaign messages and information about saving money by wasting less food while also benefitting communities at large by diverting waste from local landfills;
 - targeted outreach to disadvantaged communities aimed at increasing their participation in composting programs and reducing contamination in the compost stream, which can result in cleaner, more valuable compost available to disadvantaged communities; or
 - promoting the development and sale of compost to realize economic, environmental and community benefits in disadvantaged communities (such as green jobs or building soil health).

*These activities in communities located in a U.S. Territory (Puerto Rico, U.S. Virgin Islands, Guam, American Samoa, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands) will also count towards the Justice40 goal.



Type of Activities

*Section I.F.
of the NOFO*

- Activities funded under this grant **may include (but are not limited to)**:
 - public service announcements;
 - door-to-door education and outreach campaigns;
 - social media and digital outreach;
 - an advertising campaign on food waste reduction or composting;
 - the development and dissemination of
 - (i) a toolkit for implementation of outreach and education programs;
 - (ii) information on the importance of quality in the composting stream;
 - (iii) information on the economic and environmental benefits of food waste reduction and composting; and
 - (iv) information on what happens to materials after the materials are placed into a residential or community composting program;
 - businesses composting outreach;
 - bin, cart, and other receptacle labeling and signs.



Prohibition on Use of Funds

*Section III.F.
of the NOFO*

- EPA funds (directly paid by the EPA) cannot be used to develop and administer surveys or other information collections subject to 5 CFR 1320 for feedback unless done in compliance with the OMB regulations implementing Paperwork Reduction Act (PRA).
 - Reasonable costs for analyzing and publishing information collected with non-Federal funds are allowable to the extent authorized in the EPA approved budget for this agreement.
- Construction is not an eligible activity under this grant program.
- No funds may be awarded under the grant program for a residential recycling program that—
 - **does not provide for the separate collection of residential solid waste** (as defined in section 246.101 of title 40, Code of Federal Regulations (as in effect on the date of enactment of this Act)) from recycled material (as defined in that section), unless the funds are used to promote a transition to a system that separately collects recycled materials; or
 - **promotes the establishment of, or conversion to, a residential collection system that does not provide for the separate collection of residential solid waste** from recycled material (as those terms are defined under subparagraph (A)).



Funding Structure and Period of Performance

*Section I.F.
of the NOFO*

- Total estimated funding for REO Round 2 is approximately **\$39,094,000**.
- EPA anticipates awarding only one award that includes all three projects.
- Grant recipients must subaward a portion of the total award funding to competitive campaign-implementation subrecipients to implement education and outreach locally for **project #1** and **#3**, and **they must plan to use a competitive process to select those subrecipients**.
- Voluntary committed cost share will not be accepted or evaluated under this competition.
- Leveraged funds and resources are encouraged (but should only be included in the Summary Information Cover Letter and Project Narrative).
- Estimated start date for projects is **September 2025**.
- All project activities must be completed within the negotiated project performance period of 5 years.
- Funds may not be used for projects that are already complete and paid for.



Funding Structure

**Section I.F.
of the NOFO**

Project #	Budget Requirements	Are subawards required to implement outreach and education locally?*	How is the 20% set aside required to be met?
Project #1	Not less than \$30,000,000 and not more than \$34,094,000.	Yes, and they must be competitive.	At least 20% of the total budget will be allocated to low income, rural, and Native American communities through subawards to entities that target authorized education and outreach activities to members of those communities.
Project #2	Not less than \$5,000,000 and not more than \$9,094,000 (in total for both Project #2 and Project #3).	Allowed but not required.	
Project #3		Yes, and they must be competitive.	
Total budget	Not less than \$35,000,000 and not more than \$39,094,000	-	-

* Applications that allocate more than 20% of the total amount requested to competitive campaign-implementation subawards are more likely to receive a higher evaluation score.



Eligibility - Coalitions

*Section III.A.
of the NOFO*

- EPA requires all applications for this funding opportunity to be **coalition applications**.
- The lead applicant for any coalition must submit a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) **signed by all coalition members prior to receiving the award**.
 - The MOA does not need to be submitted with the application but must be submitted with all signatures by March 1, 2025.
- Entities brought on by subawards to be part of the coalition will be referred to as “coalition members” or “coalition member subrecipients.”
- Coalition members are different than “competitive campaign-implementation subrecipients” and will not be selected through a competitive process.



Coalitions

*Section I.C.
of the NOFO*

- **Coalitions:** A coalition is a special type of partnership, subject to subaward requirements, including the [EPA's Subaward Policy](#). For purposes of this grant program, **a coalition is a group of two or more eligible applicants that share a strong and substantial commitment to the projects** (e.g., financially, materially, or operationally) such that withdrawal by any single member from the coalition would fundamentally alter the design or expected outputs and outcomes of the projects.
- **One entity must be responsible for the grant (i.e., the grantee/lead applicant)** and the other entities would be brought on via subawards to be part of the coalition and will be referred to as **"coalition members"** or **"coalition member subrecipients."** Please see *Section I.G. Coalitions, Section III.A. Eligible Applicants, and Section III.C. Threshold Eligibility Criteria* for more information.

**If an identified coalition member withdraws from an application after the submission deadline, it may impact the evaluation and/or selection of the application.



Eligible Applicants

*Section III.A.
of the NOFO*

- The lead applicant and members of the coalition eligible to receive a grant under the grant program must be—
 - a U.S. State, including Washington, D.C.;
 - Puerto Rico, U.S. Virgin Islands, Guam, American Samoa, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands;
 - Local governments;
 - Federally recognized Tribal governments;
 - Native Hawaiian organizations, Department of Hawaiian Home Lands, Office of Hawaiian Affairs;
 - Nonprofit organizations; or
 - Public-private partnerships.



What is a Public-Private Partnership for the purposes of this NOFO?

*Section I.C.
of the NOFO*

- A public-private partnership (P3) is a formal relationship between a unit of government and a non-governmental organization (for-profit or non-profit) that is memorialized in a legally binding document.
- The public-private partnership must have the authority to enter into binding legal agreements with the Federal government, an organizational structure that ensures accountability for the proper expenditure of Federal funds, and written agreements that specify which party or parties is liable for claims for recovery of unallowable costs incurred under Federal grants.
- Public-Private Partnership agreements must be in place at the time of application submission to be eligible for funding under this grant.



Subrecipients

*Section III.E.
of the NOFO*

Subrecipient: Subrecipients receive subawards from the grantee.

- The subrecipients brought on by subawards to be part of the coalition will be referred to as “**coalition member subrecipients**” or “**coalition members.**”
- The subrecipients who receive subawards to implement campaigns locally will be referred to as “**competitive campaign implementation subrecipients.**”
- The grant recipient may also choose to bring on other types of subrecipients via subaward.
- Please refer to *Section III.E. Subrecipients* for more information.



Eligible Subrecipients

*Section III.E.
of the NOFO*

Eligible subrecipients are as follows:

- Nonprofit organizations;
- Tribal governments (both federally recognized and state-recognized) and intertribal consortia as defined by 40 CFR 35.504;
- Local governments (as defined by 2 CFR 200.1 – includes cities, towns, municipalities, and counties, public housing authorities and councils of government);
- Institutions of higher education (e.g., private and public universities and colleges, including community colleges);
- U.S. Territories and States;
- a Native Hawaiian organization (as defined in section 6207 of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 7517));
- the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands; and
- the Office of Hawaiian Affairs.

Ineligible Subrecipients include:

- Individuals
- For profit businesses, unless EPA's Award Official makes an exception based on factors such as those described in Appendix A of EPA's Subaward Policy.



Outputs/Outcomes

*Section I.L.
of the NOFO*

Grant recipients must report the following outputs and outcomes as a result of activities funded with the grant in semi-annual performance reports:

- Extent of outreach and engagement.
- Change in the amount of household food waste being discarded nationally and in communities who implement consumer wasted food campaigns locally and GHG emissions reduced (in MTCO_{2e}).
- Change in the percent of compost and compost products sold for non-agricultural uses in an area where outreach and education is conducted on use of compost in applications outside of agriculture.
- Change in the amount of food waste recycled through composting in communities where campaigns are implemented.
- Change in the participation rate of the food waste composting program in communities where campaigns are implemented.
- Reduction of physical contamination in the food waste composting stream in communities where campaigns are implemented.
- Number of temporary or permanent jobs created.





Evaluating Applications

Threshold Eligibility

*Section III.C.
of the NOFO*

1. Address all the mandatory objectives described in *Section I.D, Program Vision and Goals* and *Section I.F. Scope of Work*.
2. Applications must include all three projects described in *Section I.F. Scope of Work*.
3. All applications for this funding opportunity are required to be coalition applications.
4. If an applicant chooses to identify a procurement contractor(s) to conduct work proposed in this application, the applicant must demonstrate compliance with the requirements in *Section III.E. Named Contractors*.
5. Federal funds requested must be no less than \$35,000,000 and no more than \$39,094,000.
6. Applicants must clearly demonstrate that the budget for project #1 is no less than \$30,000,000, and no more than \$34,094,000, and the budgets for projects #2 and #3 combined are no less than \$5,000,000 and no more than \$9,094,000 in total.
7. Applicants must demonstrate a portion of the total award funding will be administered as subawards to competitive campaign-implementation subrecipients (see *Section I.C. Key Definitions*) to implement education and outreach locally for projects #1 and #3.



Threshold Eligibility

*Section III.C.
of the NOFO*

8. Under this announcement, 20% of the funding must be allocated for low-income, rural, and Native American communities, as defined in *Section I.C. Key Definitions*.
9. Applications must demonstrate they commit to ensuring that 40% of overall benefits created by the projects funded in this assistance agreement would flow to disadvantaged communities and/or U.S. Territories.
10. Applications must demonstrate that the lead applicant and any named coalition member subrecipients are eligible entities under this NOFO. See *Section III.A. Eligible Entities*.
11. Applications must substantially comply with the application submission instructions and requirements set forth in *Section IV*.
12. Applications must be submitted through [Grants.gov](https://www.Grants.gov).
13. Applications submitted outside of Grants.gov will be deemed ineligible without further consideration unless the applicant can clearly demonstrate that it was due to EPA mishandling or technical problems associated with Grants.gov or SAM.gov. Proof of EPA mishandling or technical problems with Grants.gov or SAM.gov must be submitted to RecyclingEd@epa.gov before the application deadline along with all required application materials
14. If an application is submitted that includes the use of EPA funds for any ineligible tasks or activities as referenced in *Section III.F. Ineligible Costs or Activities and Other Considerations*, that portion of the application will be ineligible for funding and may, depending on the extent to which it affects the application, render the entire application ineligible for funding.



Application Materials

*Section IV.D.
of the NOFO*

Mandatory

- ❑ Application for Federal Assistance (SF-424);
- ❑ Budget Information for Non-Construction Programs (SF-424A);
- ❑ EPA Key Contacts Form 5700-54;
- ❑ EPA Form 4700-4 Pre-award Compliance Review Report; and
- ❑ Project Narrative Attachment Form: Use this to submit your project narrative, prepared as described in *Section IV.E. Project Narrative Attachment Form*.
- ❑ Other Attachments Form: Use this to submit a signed letter of intent from each coalition member stating the member's intent to sign the MOA (see *Section III.A. Eligible Applicants* for more information)



Application Materials

*Section IV.D.
of the NOFO*

Optional Documents

- Use Other Attachments Form, if applicable
- Accepted optional attachments include a Timeline and Milestones document, and documentation demonstrating that competitive procurement was followed if specific names of contractors or equipment is mentioned in the application.

Documents that will not be considered during review

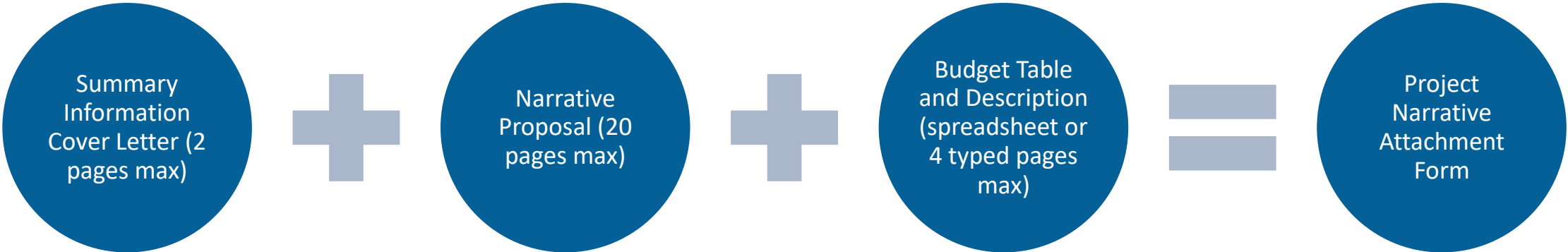
- The following documents will not be considered during the review process:
 - References/works cited, letters of support, staff CV/resumes, solid waste master plans, engineering reports, or feasibility studies



Project Narrative Attachment Form

*Section IV.E.
of the NOFO*

- Factual information about your proposed project must be provided. Do not include discussions of broad principles that are not specific to the proposed work or project covered by your application.
- Vague descriptions, redundancy, and failure to address each of the evaluation criteria will result in a lower ranking.
- The Narrative Proposal should be submitted in the format detailed in *Section IV.E. Project Narrative Attachment Form*.



Optional Templates

EPA will provide optional resources for the following submission documents:

- Optional REO Project Narrative Attachment Resource (includes the Summary Information Cover Letter and Narrative Proposal)
- Optional REO Budget Table and Description Spreadsheet Resource (Excel)

Additionally, EPA will include the following optional resources to help with application submission:

- Optional REO Milestones Resource
- Optional REO Application Checklist

Templates can be found on the REO website:

<https://www.epa.gov/infrastructure/consumer-recycling-education-and-outreach-grant-program>



Summary Information Cover Letter

*Section IV.E.
of the NOFO*

- i. Project Title
- ii. Applicant Name
- iii. Eligible Entity Type
- iv. UEI Number
- v. Project Summaries
- vi. Contact Information
- vii. Leveraged Resources
- viii. EPA Funding Request
- ix. Project Periods
- x. Program Objective Elements
- xi. Coalition Members
- xii. Statutory Set Aside
- xiii. Justice40



Evaluation Criteria

*Section V.A.
of the NOFO*

- Eligible entities whose applications meet the threshold criteria in *Section III.C. Threshold Eligibility Criteria* of this announcement will be reviewed according to the evaluation criteria set forth in the following slides.
- Each application will be rated under a points system, with a total of **170 points** possible.
- Applicants may, but are not required to, use the Optional Resources for the Project Narrative Attachment and the Budget Table & Description Spreadsheet.



Evaluation Criteria Weighting

*Section V.A.
of the NOFO*

Project Summaries
& Approach
(65 pts)

Environmental
Justice
(10 pts)

Measuring
Environmental
Results
(25 pts)

Programmatic
Capability & Past
Performance
(25 pts)

Budget &
Expenditure
(16 pts)

Subaward
Competitive
Process
(22 pts)

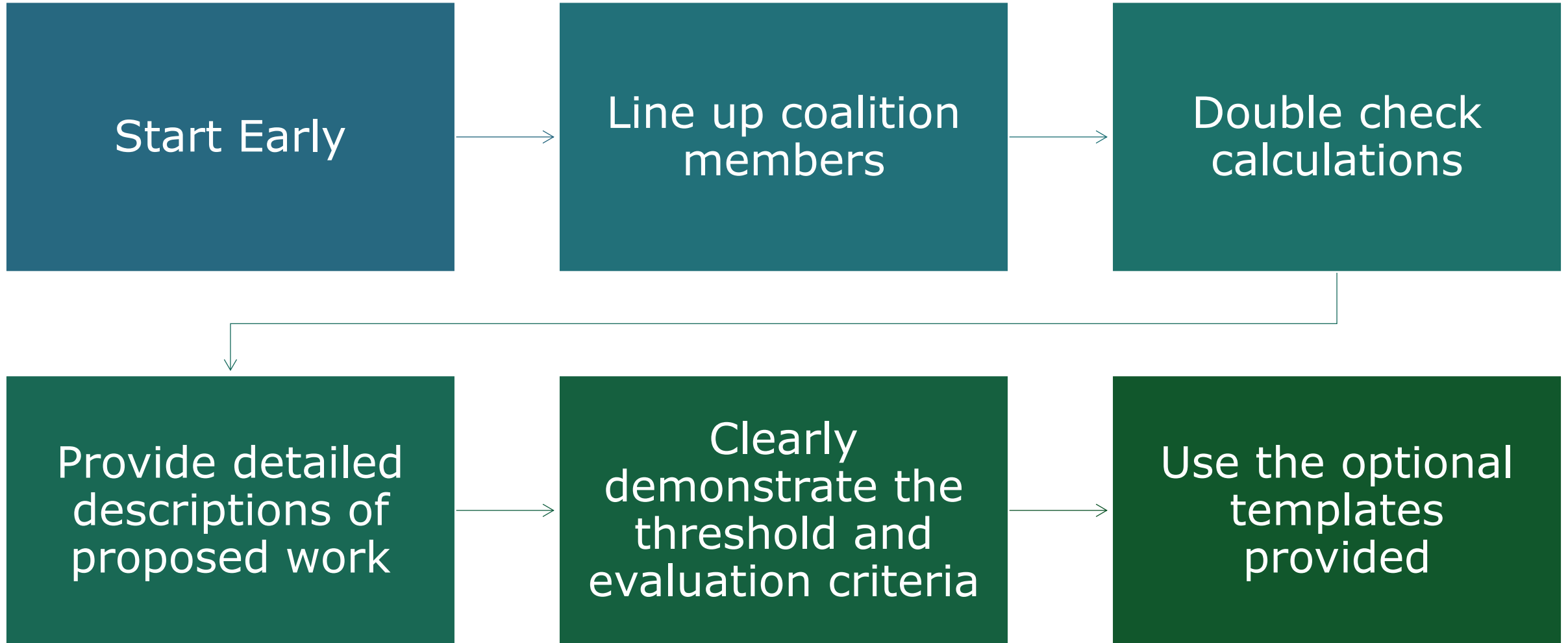
Leveraged Funds
(7 pts)





Resources

Tips for Preparing an Application

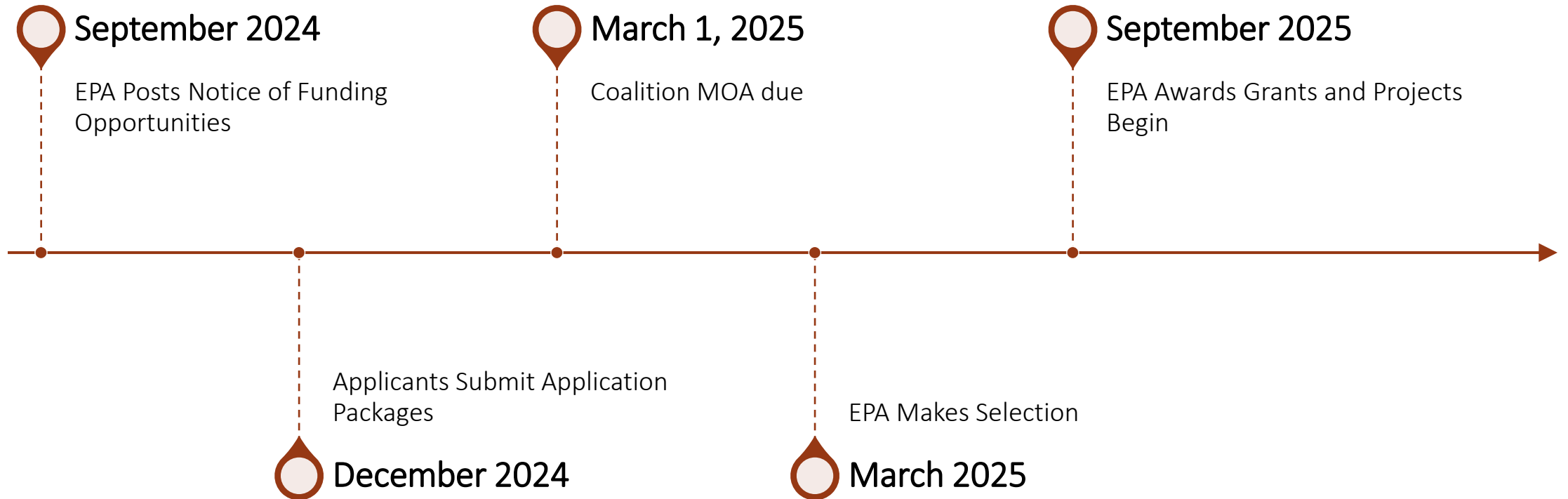


General EPA Grant Requirements

- ***Register Now on SAM.gov!*** These registrations are taking a month or more to complete!
- You must have an active SAM registration in www.SAM.gov to apply for the grant.
- Once your SAM.gov account is active, you must register in www.Grants.gov.



Estimated Timeline



Useful Links

- Recycling Education and Outreach Grant Program Website: <https://www.epa.gov/rcra/recycling-education-and-outreach-grant-program>
 - Here you can find: NOFO, Optional Resources that can be used in preparing an application, A Quick Reference Guide for Evaluating Progress and Reporting Achievements Over Time, a running list of Questions and Answers, and this webinar recording and slides
- Prepare for a Grant Application Website: <https://www.epa.gov/rcra/prepare-grant-application>
- Model Recycling Program Toolkit: <https://www.epa.gov/recyclingstrategy/toolkit>
- Best Practice Guide for Procuring Services, Supplies, and Equipment Under The EPA Assistance Agreements: <https://www.epa.gov/grants/best-practice-guide-procuring-services-supplies-and-equipment-under-epa-assistance>
- The EPA Subaward Policy with attachments: <https://www.epa.gov/grants/grants-policy-issuance-gpi-16-01-epa-subaward-policy-epa-assistance-agreement-recipients>
- The EPA Interim General Budget Development Guidance for Applicants and Recipients of EPA Financial Assistance: www.epa.gov/sites/default/files/2019-05/documents/applicant-budget-development-guidance.pdf
- The EPA Solicitation Clauses: www.epa.gov/grants/epa-solicitation-clauses
- The EPA Grants Policy Resources: www.epa.gov/grants/epa-grants-policy-resources
- The EPA Grants Management Training for Applicants and Recipients: www.epa.gov/grants/epa-grants-management-training-applicants-and-recipients





Email Questions to RecyclingEd@epa.gov



THANK YOU!

