

TMDL Grant Funds Allocation Process and Criteria

For the last several years, funding has been made available to EPA regions for purposes of supporting TMDL development and implementation. These funds can be utilized for either contract support or grants to states, tribes or other entities. The following Process and ranking criteria have been established to facilitate the allocation of these funds in Region 10.

The Process

When the Watershed Restoration Unit is notified of available funds, a notice will be provided to all members of the unit and TMDL Project Managers outside the unit. The notice will include a best estimate of amount available, time frame for submitting proposals and a copy of the criteria listed below. Project proposals are to be submitted to the appropriate State TMDL Program Manager by the date specified in the notice. The State TMDL Program Managers will also be responsible for soliciting needs from their respective states and other appropriate entities.

Each State TMDL Program Manager, in coordination with the State Team, will initially rank proposed projects in his or her state using the criteria listed below.

The State TMDL Program Managers, OW Grant/Contract specialist and Unit Manager will meet to review all the proposed projects and decide on funding allocations. (The group will also examine other funding sources for projects.) A staff level consensus decision on distribution of funds is desirable. However, if consensus is not reached, the decision will be elevated to the Unit Manager. Staff recommendations will be provided to the Unit Manager for approval.

The initial allocation should include a reserve of approximately 5% of the total funds available. Requests for the utilization of these monies for projects or needs presented after the initial allocation of funds should be directed to the Unit Manager.

States will be notified of the funding decisions, including the rationale for the distribution of monies between States.

Project Officers for each project will be identified. Each project officer will be responsible for all administrative duties associated with project funding.

Criteria for Project Ranking

The following criteria will be utilized to rank project proposals. Projects which meet the criteria for "Top Priority" should also identify the numeric ranking within that category. The "Medium Priority" and "Low Priority" projects will be considered as a category.

Top Priorities (In order of priority)

1. For finalizing TMDLs per past due legal obligation
2. For finalizing TMDLs which are due within the next year and EPA is the lead
3. For providing support (defined as activities directly pertaining to TMDL development) to states/tribes to develop TMDLs which are due within the year
4. For finalizing TMDLs which are due within 2 years and where EPA is the lead (tribal TMDLs or where EPA is lead by agreement)

Medium Priority

- For development of TMDLs due within 5 years (including assessments, monitoring, modeling, establishing targets, document preparation, etc.)
- For development of TMDL implementation plans

Lowest Priority

- For developing models and tools which will be indirectly used to develop TMDLs
- For developing water quality targets for TMDLs
- For training, workshops, conferences and outreach to enhance the capability of state, EPA and tribal staff to develop TMDLs
- For implementation of TMDLs

In addition to the criteria identified above, an equitable distribution of monies between Region 10 states is desired. However, other factors such as the amount of work in each State, legal risks, environmental risks and opportunities may affect this distribution.

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