

**U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service**

FWS - Science Applications

<https://www.fws.gov/project/american-rescue-plan-act-zoonotic-disease-grant-program>

F23AS00139 Zoonotic Disease Initiative - Tribes  
Fiscal Year: 2023  
F23AS00139

**Due Date for Applications: 04/20/2023**

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## A. Program Description

### **Authority:**

American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 [Pub. L. 117-2 \[H.R. 1319\], 135 Stat. 94](#)

### **Assistance Listing Number:**

15.069

### **Background, Purpose and Program Requirements:**

The American Rescue Plan provides financial assistance “for research and extension activities to strengthen early detection, rapid response, and science-based management to address wildlife disease outbreaks before they become pandemics and strengthen capacity for wildlife health monitoring to enhance early detection of diseases that have capacity to jump the species barrier and pose a risk in the United States.”

Zoonotic Disease Initiative funding will be used to establish and enhance Tribal fish and wildlife agencies’ capabilities to effectively address health issues involving free-ranging terrestrial, avian, and aquatic wildlife and minimize the negative impacts of health issues affecting free-ranging wildlife through surveillance, management, and research to protect the public against zoonotic disease outbreaks.

This new federal assistance program is designed to increase readiness for wildlife agencies to protect against future pandemics and encourage them to coordinate their efforts across jurisdictions in a seamless manner. Assistance will be available for a range of activities with the goal of the program being to strengthen the foundation of an interjurisdictional landscape-level wildlife health and disease network to protect wildlife, ecosystems, economies, and the American public. This goal will be supported through the following objectives:

1. Wildlife managers have a current, evidence-based wildlife disease plan which considers:
  - Disease surveillance and techniques for surveillance strategies
  - Diagnostic pathology, microbiology, virology, parasitology, toxicology,, and biosafety
  - Outbreak response
  - Wildlife population management
  - Regulatory and policy response
  - Data management
  - Risk assessment and decision support
  - Training
  - Communication plans so that key stakeholders receive and understand information about wildlife diseases in a timely manner.
2. State, territorial, and Tribal managers in the same regions are connected in an interjurisdictional network of practitioners, including public health and veterinary services.
3. Wildlife managers have access to diagnostic services for wildlife disease.

4. Wildlife managers have capacity to manage wildlife health data, data sharing, and communication.

Project length is one to three years.

The following activities are eligible for funding:

A. Best management practices for fish and wildlife diseases	Develop all-inclusive Best Management Practices or issue-specific BMPs for fish and wildlife disease such as feeding wildlife, water quality and quantity management, integrated pest management plans
B. Biosecurity & biosafety	Develop biosecurity and biosafety protocols/educational resources for field staff, management practices, animal handling, captive facilities; develop and implement biosecurity protocols
C. Communications, internal and external	Develop rapid communication structures and relationships for both routine and emergency disease events (in-state, regional, national; wildlife/agriculture/public health); develop a suite of external (public) communication templates for wildlife disease issues
D. Disease forecasting, risk assessments, horizon scanning	Identify current and future needs; assessments to identify gaps in capacity; current and future state associated with climate change; environmental persistence and potential routes of exposure to pathogens; identification of spillover hotspots; identification of highly susceptible species locations; wildlife susceptibility research; research on human health implications and economic impact of wildlife diseases; risk assessment of “reverse zoonotic transmission” from humans or between domestic animals and wildlife
E. Disease management planning	Disease contingency plans for regions or organizations for emergency and routine morbidity and mortality events; inclusion of guidance for wildlife disease as part of Wildlife Action Plans; development of disease-specific field responses; carcass disposal protocols and agreements; plans for creating a sustainable, long-term disease management program; systems approaches to develop management actions
F. Disease surveillance design	Design enhanced surveillance systems for early detection and monitoring at biologically relevant spatial scales that will provide statistically significant results; environmental surveillance approaches (e.g. aquatic surveillance for waterborne pathogens)
G. Emergency response	Emergency response plans; develop inter-jurisdictional response capabilities; clarify agency responsibilities and funding streams for covering the costs of emergency response; ensure agency contacts are up to date; set up mutual aid agreements; table top and field

	exercises; development of an All-Hazards Incident Management Team with fish and wildlife disease skillset; foreign animal disease outbreak plans; After Action analysis (hot wash) of disease response activities and management interventions; structured-decision making/adaptive management/modeling approach to determine how to move forward in a disease response with a large amount of uncertainty; Design long-term monitoring programs to follow-up on response activities and detect recurrence of the disease issue and/or lasting impacts to the population as a result of the disease or the management response to it
H. Hire staff dedicated to fish and wildlife health duties	Hire fish and wildlife biologists and technicians to increase field response capabilities for detection of disease events, sample collection, sample processing, data entry, and response); Hire fish and wildlife veterinarians, ecologists, social scientists, biologists to address fish and wildlife health and disease.
I. Human dimensions	Examining tolerance of management interventions (e.g. timing, locations); risk perceptions and how those can be influenced or utilized to address disease issues; what messages and messaging formats are most effective; educational campaigns based on human dimensions research; risk communication; knowledge translation and mobilization; Conflict resolution - working with partners to resolve chronic sources of conflict when addressing fish and wildlife health, focus groups, stakeholder meetings, social science evaluations, training in conflict resolution
J. Increasing resilience and protecting environmental services to decrease the impact of disease	Prevent or decrease human & domestic animal interactions with wildlife; add a component to wildlife action plan for increasing resilience against disease; safe harbor agreements; collaborations with EPA; addressing invasive and injurious species through prevention, response, control of invasive and injurious species that could serve as reservoirs of disease; water and environmental quality
K. Information management systems	State/Tribe level data management capability, production of reports, maps, data interpretation and visualization; Conversion of legacy data into electronic formats that can be entered into databases; create data management plan; Data sharing strategies between wildlife agencies, or between wildlife/agriculture/public health agencies
L. Jurisdictions & authorities	Inventory of existing statutory and regulatory framework; conduct a gap analysis of statutes and regulations from detection to recovery; Resolution of inter-jurisdictional issues; Development of laws, regulations, and ordinances; Ensuring an enabling environment exists for wildlife agencies to enact a wildlife health program (legislative authorities) and that agencies have

	organizational capacity (plans, people, infrastructure), and technical capacities to enact the program (training, etc.)
M. Laboratory network and services	Establish new or strengthen existing diagnostic networks; Expansion of diagnostic services available; Join a regional diagnostic lab service as a member (e.g. Southeastern Cooperative Wildlife Disease Study), or establish agreements with state-level and national labs; Logistics and equipment for sample collection, testing, archiving, and storage
N. Partnerships and networks	Strengthening existing networks and governance structures, creating new networks and partnerships; formalize partnerships through Memoranda of Understanding or other documents; nurturing a wildlife health community of practice to be inclusive of Federal, State, Territorial, and Tribal agencies; activate citizen scientists for disease detection and response
O. Policy and regulation development	Develop policies and regulations to prevent disease introduction, decrease disease transmission, respond to disease events, increase resilience, measure success, adaptive management, create sustainable fish and wildlife health programs
P. Public and occupational health	Create guidelines, policy, and outreach regarding biosafety and public health for personnel, volunteers, and visitors; create linkages and collaborations with local, State, Territorial, and Tribal public health offices for routine and emergency events; hire public health expertise
Q. Research to develop disease detection and management tools	Projects focused on applied disease prevention, surveillance, management, detection techniques, ways to limit disease transmission, promoting resilience, to support an adaptive management approach
R. Tools and management strategies development for climate adaptation and mitigation for disease impacts	Systematic collection of health data and integration with climatic and environmental data to determine species and populations at risk from health effects of climate change; Utilization of health promotion and harm reduction approaches in development of adaptation strategies; analysis of wildlife or zoonotic diseases prone to expansion due to climatic changes.
S. Training	Didactic and hands-on courses for biologists, veterinarians, law enforcement officers, volunteers, rehabilitators, and partners on: Fish and wildlife disease, incident management, biosafety/biosecurity/personal protective equipment use; inter-jurisdictional collaborative training; creating consistency in training

	across States, Territories, and Tribes; establishment of training programs for wildlife health professionals
T. Wildlife rehabilitation	Instituting and improving biosecurity & biosafety practices of rehabilitators to prevent or minimize disease transmission; developing release protocols to reduce impacts on ecosystems; increasing disease diagnostics for animals submitted to rehabilitators

Award funds cannot be used for real property acquisition or construction.

## B. Federal Award Information

### B1. Total Funding

**Estimated Total Funding**

\$4,500,000

### B2. Expected Award Amount

**Maximum Award**

\$775,000

**Minimum Award**

\$75,000

### B3. Expected Award Funding and Anticipated Dates

**Expected Award Funding**

**Expected Award Date**

October 01, 2023

### B4. Number of Awards

**Expected Number of Awards**

7

### B5. Type of Award

## Funding Instrument Type

G - Grant

### C. Eligibility Information

#### C1. Eligible Applicants

##### Eligible Applicants

07 – Native American tribal governments (Federally recognized)

11 – Native American tribal organizations (other than Federally recognized tribal governments)

##### Additional Information on Eligibility

#### C2. Cost Sharing or Matching

##### Cost Sharing / Matching Requirement

No

##### Percentage of Cost Sharing / Matching Requirement

#### C3. Other

##### Foreign Entities or Projects:

**State Sponsors of Terrorism:** This program will not fund projects in [countries determined by the U.S. Department of State to have repeatedly provided support for acts of international terrorism](#) and therefore are subject to sanctions restricting receipt of U.S. foreign assistance and other financial transactions.

**Office of Foreign Assets Control Sanctions:** This program will not fund projects in countries subject to [comprehensive sanction programs administered by the U.S. Department of Treasury, Office of Foreign Asset Control](#) without proper licenses.

**In-Country Licenses, Permits, or Approvals:** Entities conducting activities outside the U.S. are responsible for coordinating with appropriate U.S. and foreign government authorities as necessary to obtain all required licenses, permits, or approvals before undertaking project activities. The Service does not assume responsibility for recipient compliance with the laws, regulations, policies, or procedures of the foreign country in which they are conducting work.

##### Excluded Parties:

The DOI conducts a review of the SAM.gov Exclusions database for all applicant entities and their key project personnel prior to award. The DOI cannot award funds to entities or their key project personnel identified in the SAM.gov Exclusions database as ineligible, prohibited/restricted or otherwise excluded from receiving Federal contracts, certain subcontracts, and certain Federal assistance and benefits, as their ineligibility condition applies to this Federal program.

### D. Application and Submission Information

## **D1. Address to Request Application Package**

### **Program Website Link**

<https://www.fws.gov/project/american-rescue-plan-act-zoonotic-disease-grant-program>

## **D2. Content and Form of Application Submission**

### **SF-424, Application for Federal Assistance**

All applicants must submit the Standard Form (SF)-424, Application for Federal Assistance. This form is available with the announcement on Grants.gov and in GrantSolutions. The form must be complete and signed by an Authorized Representative. For all applicants except individuals and commercial entities, the Authorized Representative's signature on a standard application form submitted to the Service represents their certification that the entity's financial management system meets [2 CFR §200.302](#) financial management requirements. The non-Federal entity's financial management system must be sufficient to:

1. Permit the preparation of required reports;
2. Trace funds to a level of expenditures adequate to establish that the entity has used such funds per Federal statutes, regulations, and terms and conditions of the Federal award;
3. Provide for the requirements in [2 CFR §200.302\(b\)](#); and
4. Comply with [§200.334](#) Retention requirements for records, [§200.335](#) Requests for transfer of records, [§200.336](#) Methods for collection, transmission, and storage of information, and [§200.337](#) Access to records.

If this application requests more than \$100,000 in Federal funds, the Authorized Representative's signature on or submission of the SF-424 form in GrantSolutions also represents their certification of the statements in 43 CFR Part 18, Appendix A-Certification Regarding Lobbying.

When completing the SF-424 Application form, enter only the amount requested from this Federal program in Box 18a, Estimated Federal Funding. Include any other Federal sources of funding in Box 18e. Estimated Other Funding and identify any such sources and amounts in the required Budget Narrative (see below). For individuals applying as a private citizen (i.e., unrelated to any business or nonprofit organization you may own or operate in your name), do NOT include your Social Security Number on this or any other document to be submitted with your application! When completing the SF-424 Application form, individuals must enter in Box 8b. Employee/Taxpayer Identification Number (EIN/TIN) the substitute number "444-44-4444." Individuals may register in SAM.gov but are not required to have a SAM.gov registration. For individuals without a SAM.gov registration enter in Box 8c. the substitute Unique Entity Identifier (UEI) "KA5HQCLKUVW1".

### **Project Abstract Summary (OMB Number 4040-0019)**

Applicants must complete and submit the Project Abstract Summary form. The Project Abstract Summary form must provide a brief award description. The description must be in plain language that the public can understand without viewing the full application proposal. It should include a brief, simple description of the project purpose, activities to be performed, deliverables and expected outcomes, intended beneficiaries, and subrecipient activities, if known at the time of submission.

Do not include personally identifiable, sensitive, or proprietary information in the award description as this is available to the public. Use only English characters, numbers, punctuation, and standard symbols. Use of non-English, non-standard characters (also referred to as special or extended ASCII characters) will result in the award description failing to be reported correctly to USASpending.gov. Award descriptions are limited to 4,000 characters or less. Applicants should check the length of the award description and proofread for proper grammar and spelling.

For applicants applying through Grants.gov: Applicants must download and complete the Grants.gov “Project Abstract Summary” form from the full text announcement. To submit the Grants.gov “Project Abstract Summary” form with the application, applicants must add the form as an attachment to the Grants.gov “Attachments” form that is included in the application package.

For applicants applying through GrantSolutions-Grants Management Module (GS-GMM): Applicants must enter the information in the Project Abstract Summary screen. Do not upload a document in place of entering the information directly into GS-GMM Project Abstract Screen.

### **Project Narrative**

Project narrative must include:

- Project title
- Description of entity(ies) undertaking the project
- Statement of need that addresses: the specific concern, problem, or issue to be addressed or opportunity to be leveraged; the consequences of not addressing the need; and how the proposed project aligns with the Service program’s goals
- Project objectives that are specific, measurable, achievable, realistic, and time-bound, and any milestones that must be reached to achieve objectives
- Activities, including detailing for each who is carrying out the activity, what is involved, how will it be carried out (method), and when and where the activity will be carried out
- Timeline of when significant project events or milestones are anticipated
- Sufficient information to support environmental compliance review requirements. Note: while the environmental compliance laws are primarily applicable to projects carried out in the U.S., projects carried out on the high seas are subject to compliance with Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act, and projects outside the U.S. on any property on the UNESCO World Heritage List or the in-country equivalent of the U.S. National Register of Historic Places are subject to compliance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act
- Information on key project personnel, including details on their expertise, skill, or significance to the project
- Project location details and supporting documentation such as maps, GIS data, or geopolitical data, as applicable.

### **SF-424A, Budget Information for Non-Construction Programs**

Applicants must complete and submit the SF-424A Budget Information form for Non-Construction Programs or Projects. All required application forms are available with this announcement on Grants.gov or in GrantSolutions. Federal award recipients and subrecipients are subject to Federal award cost principles in Title 2 of the Code of Federal Regulations (CFR)

part 200. Applicants must show funds requested from this Federal program separately from any other Federal sources of funding. In “Section A – Budget Summary” on the SF-424A form enter the funding requested from this Federal program in the first row. Identify any other Federal funding sources and amounts in the required Budget Narrative (see below). In the SF-424A “Contractual” category total, do not combine estimated subawards and contractual costs. Use the “Contractual” category to reflect estimated contractual costs only. Enter estimated subaward costs in the SF-424A “Other” category. Provide a separate description and total estimated costs for both contractual and subaward costs in the required Budget Narrative (see below).

### **Budget Narrative**

Applicants must include a budget narrative that describes and justifies requested budget items and costs. In your budget narrative, describe how the SF-424 Budget Information, “Object Class Category” totals were determined. For personnel salary costs, generally describe how estimates were determined by identifying what type of staff will support the project and how much time they will contribute to the project (in hours or workdays). Describe any proposed [items of cost that require prior approval](#) under the [Federal award cost principles](#), including any anticipated subawarding, transferring, or contracting out of any work under the award. Provide a separate description and total estimated costs for both contractual and subaward costs. If equipment previously purchased with Federal funds is available for the project, provide a list of that equipment and identify the Federal funding source. Identify any third-party cash or in-kind contributions that a partner or other entity will contribute to the project and describe how the contributions directly and substantively benefit completion of the project. For in-kind contributions, identify the source, the amount, and the valuation methodology used to determine the total value. See [2 CFR §200.306](#) for more information. Please note the prohibitions on certain telecommunications and video surveillance services or equipment in [2 CFR 200.216](#). The Department of the Interior’s [Unmanned Aircraft web page](#) provides a list of approved unmanned aircraft and related equipment and software.

### **Conflict of Interest Disclosure**

Per the Financial Assistance Interior Regulation (FAIR), [2 CFR §1402.112](#), applicants must state in their application if any actual or potential conflict of interest exists at the time of submission.

#### *a. Applicability.*

1. This section intends to ensure that non-Federal entities and their employees take appropriate steps to avoid conflicts of interest in their responsibilities under or with respect to Federal financial assistance agreements.
2. In the procurement of supplies, equipment, construction, and services by recipients and by sub recipients, the conflict of interest provisions in [2 CFR §200.318](#) apply.

#### *b. Notification.*

1. Non-Federal entities, including applicants for financial assistance awards, must disclose in writing any conflict of interest to the DOI awarding agency or pass-through entity in accordance with [2 CFR §200.112](#).
2. Recipients must establish internal controls that include, at a minimum, procedures to identify, disclose, and mitigate or eliminate identified conflicts of interest. The recipient is responsible for notifying the

Financial Assistance Officer in writing of any conflicts of interest that may arise during the life of the award, including those that have been reported by sub recipients.

- c. *Restrictions on lobbying.* Non-Federal entities are strictly prohibited from using funds under a grant or cooperative agreement for lobbying activities and must provide the required certifications and disclosures pursuant to [43 CFR §18](#) and [31 USC §1352](#).
- d. *Review procedures.* The Financial Assistance Officer will examine each conflict of interest disclosure on the basis of its particular facts and the nature of the proposed grant or cooperative agreement, and will determine whether a significant potential conflict exists and, if it does, develop an appropriate means for resolving it.

Enforcement. Failure to resolve conflicts of interest in a manner that satisfies the government may be cause for termination of the award. Failure to make required disclosures may result in any of the remedies described in [2 CFR §200.339](#), Remedies for noncompliance, including suspension or debarment (see also [2 CFR §180](#)).

#### **Uniform Audit Reporting Statement**

All U.S. states, local governments, Indian tribes, institutions of higher education, and non-profit organizations expending \$750,000 USD or more in Federal award funds in the applicant's fiscal year must submit a Single Audit report for that year through the [Federal Audit Clearinghouse's Internet Data Entry System](#), in accordance with 2 CFR 200 subpart F. U.S. state, local government, Indian tribes, institutions of higher education, and non-profit applicants must state if your organization was or was not required to submit a Single Audit report for the most recently closed fiscal year. If your organization was required to submit a Single Audit report for the most recently closed fiscal year, provide the EIN associated with that report and state if it is available through the [Federal Audit Clearinghouse](#) website.

#### **Certification Regarding Lobbying**

Applicants requesting more than \$100,000 in Federal funding must certify to the statements in [43CFR Part 18, Appendix A-Certification Regarding Lobbying](#). If this application requests more than \$100,000 in Federal funds, the Authorized Official's signature on the appropriate SF-424, Application for Federal Assistance form also represents the entity's certification of the statements in [43 CFR Part 18, Appendix A](#).

#### **Disclosure of Lobbying Activities**

Applicants and recipients must not use any federally appropriated funds (annually appropriated or continuing appropriations) or matching funds under a Federal award to pay any person for lobbying in connection with the award. Lobbying is influencing or attempting to influence an officer or employee of any U.S. agency, a Member of the U.S. Congress, an officer or employee of the U.S. Congress, or an employee of a Member of the U.S. Congress connection with the award. Applicants and recipients must complete and submit the [SF-LLL, "Disclosure of Lobbying Activities"](#) form if the Federal share of the proposal or award is more than \$100,000 and the applicant or recipient has made or has agreed to make any payment using non-appropriated funds for lobbying in connection with the application or award. The SF-LLL form is available with this Funding Opportunity on Grants.gov. See 43 CFR, Subpart 18.100 for more information on when additional submission of this form is required.

### **Overlap or Duplication of Effort Statement**

Applicants must provide a statement indicating if there is any overlap between this Federal application and any other Federal application, or funded project, in regard to activities, costs, or time commitment of key personnel. If no such overlap or duplication exists, state, “There are no overlaps or duplication between this application and any of our other Federal applications or funded projects, including in regard to activities, costs, or time commitment of key personnel”. If any such overlap exists, provide a complete description of overlaps or duplications between this proposal and any other federally funded project or application in regard to activities, costs, and time commitment of key personnel, as applicable. Provide a copy of any overlapping or duplicative proposal submitted to any other potential funding entity and identify when that proposal was submitted, to whom (entity name and program), and when you anticipate being notified of their funding decision. When overlap exists, your statement must end with “We understand that if at any time we receive funding from another source that is duplicative of the funding we are requesting from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service in this application, we will immediately notify the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service point of contact identified in this Funding Opportunity in writing.”

### **D3. Unique Entity Identifier and System for Award Management (SAM)**

#### **Identifier and System for Award Management (SAM.gov) Registration:**

This requirement does not apply to individuals applying for funds as an individual (i.e., unrelated to any business or nonprofit organization you may own, operate, or work within), or any entity with an exception to bypass SAM.gov registration with prior approval from the funding bureau or office in accordance with bureau or office policy. All other applicants are required to register as a financial assistance recipient in SAM.gov prior to submitting a Federal award application and obtain a [Unique Entity Identifier \(UEI\)](#). A Federal award may not be made to an applicant that has not completed the SAM.gov registration. If an applicant selected for funding has not completed their SAM.gov registration by the time the program is ready to make an award, the program may determine the applicant is not qualified to receive an award. Federal award recipients must also continue to maintain an active SAM.gov registration with current information through the life of their Federal award(s). Entities already registered in SAM.gov should review their registration to confirm that they are registered as a financial assistance recipient, which requires completion of the SAM.gov “Financial Assistance General Certifications and Representations”. See the “Submission Requirements” section of this document below for more information on SAM.gov registration.

Applicants can register on the [SAM.gov](#) website. The “Help” tab on the website contains User Guides and other information to assist you with registration. The Grants.gov “[Register with SAM](#)” page also provides detailed instructions. Applicants can contact the supporting Federal Service Desk for help registering in SAM. Once registered in SAM, entities must renew and revalidate their SAM registration at least once every 12 months from the date previously registered. Entities are strongly encouraged to revalidate their registration as often as needed to ensure their information is up to date and reflects changes that may have been made to the entity’s IRS information. If applicable, foreign entities who want to receive payment directly to a U.S. bank account must enter and maintain valid, current banking information in SAM.

#### **D4. Submission Dates and Times**

##### **Due Date for Applications**

04/20/2023

##### **Application Due Date Explanation**

Electronically submitted applications must be submitted no later than 11:59 PM., ET, on the listed application due date

#### **D5. Intergovernmental Review**

An intergovernmental review may be required for applications submissions from a U.S. state or local government prior to submission. Applicants must contact their State's Single Point of Contact (SPOC) to comply with the state's process under [Executive Order 12372](#). The State Single Point of Contact list is available on the [OMB Office of Federal Financial Management website](#).

#### **D6. Funding Restrictions**

##### **Indirect Costs: Individuals**

Individuals applying for and receiving funds separate from a business or non-profit organization they may operate are not eligible to charge indirect costs to their award. If you are an individual applying for funding, you must not include any indirect costs in your proposed budget.

##### **Indirect Costs: Organizations**

The Federal awarding agency that provides the largest amount of direct funding to your organization is your cognizant agency for indirect costs, unless otherwise assigned by the White House Office of Management and Budget (OMB). If the Department of the Interior (DOI) is your organization's cognizant agency, the Interior Business Center (IBC) will negotiate your indirect cost rate. Contact the IBC by phone 916-930-3803 or using the [IBC Email Submission Form](#). See the [IBC Website](#) for more information.

Organizations must have an active Federal award before they can submit an indirect cost rate proposal to their cognizant agency. Failure to establish an approved rate during the award period renders all costs otherwise allocable as indirect costs unallowable under the award. Recipients may not shift unallowable indirect costs to another Federal award unless specifically authorized to do so by legislation.

##### **Required Indirect Cost Statement to be submitted by Organization:**

**U.S. state or local government entities receiving more than \$35 million in direct Federal funding** must include the following statement in their application and attach a copy of their most recently negotiated rate agreement:

- We are a U.S. state or local government entity receiving more than \$35 million in direct Federal funding. We submit our indirect cost rate proposals to our cognizant agency. Our current indirect cost rate is [insert rate]. Attached is a copy of our most recently negotiated rate agreement/certification.

**U.S. state or local government entities receiving \$35 million or less in direct Federal funding** must include the applicable statement from this list:

- We are a U.S. state or local government entity receiving \$35 million or less in direct Federal funding. We prepare and retain for audit an indirect cost rate proposal and documentation per 2 CFR 200, Appendix VII. Our current indirect cost rate is [insert rate], which is charged against [insert a complete description of the direct cost base used to distribute indirect costs to the award].
- We are a U.S. state or local government entity receiving \$35 million or less in direct Federal funding. We have not prepared an indirect cost rate proposal and documentation per 2 CFR §200, Appendix VII and elect to charge the de minimis rate of 10% of Modified Total Direct Costs as defined in 2 CFR §200.1. We understand we must use this methodology consistently for all Federal awards until we choose to establish a rate per 2 CFR §200. We understand we must notify the Service in writing if we establish a rate that changes the methodology used to charge indirect costs during the award period. We understand that additional Federal funds may not be available to support an unexpected increase in indirect costs during the project period and that such changes are subject to review, negotiation, and prior approval by the Service.

**All other organizations** must include the applicable statement from this list and any related documentation in their application. Please note, an organization with a current negotiated (including provisional) rate may not elect to charge the 10% de minimis rate of Modified Total Direct Costs during the period covered by their current negotiated rate.

- We are an organization with a current negotiated indirect cost rate. In the event we receive an award, we will charge indirect costs per our current negotiated rate agreement. Attached is a copy of our current rate agreement.
- We are an organization with a negotiated indirect cost rate that has expired. Attached is copy of our most recently negotiated rate agreement. If we receive an award, we will submit an indirect cost rate proposal to our cognizant agency within 90 calendar days after the award date. We understand we must provide the Service a copy of our approved rate agreement before charging indirect costs to the Federal award.
- We are an organization that has never negotiated an indirect cost rate with our cognizant agency. Our indirect cost rate is [insert rate], which is charged against [insert a complete description of the direct cost base used to distribute indirect costs to the award]. If we receive an award, we will submit an indirect cost rate proposal to our cognizant agency within 90 calendar days after the award date. We understand we must provide the Service a copy of our approved rate agreement before charging indirect costs to the Federal award.
- We are an organization that does not have a current negotiated (including provisional) rate. In the event an award is made, we elect to charge the de minimis rate of 10% of Modified Total Direct Costs as defined in 2 CFR §200.1. We understand we must use this methodology consistently for all Federal awards until such time as we negotiate a

different rate with our cognizant agency. We understand that we must notify the Service in writing if during the award period we establish a rate that changes the methodology used to charge indirect costs to the award. We understand that additional Federal funds may not be available to support an unexpected increase in indirect costs and that such changes are subject to review, negotiation, and prior approval by the Service.

- We are an organization submitting a [insert either “Cooperative Fish and Wildlife Research Unit Program” or “Cooperative Ecosystem Studies Unit Network”] project proposal, which has an indirect cost rate cap of [insert rate; CRU is currently 15%; CESU is currently 17.5%]. In the event we receive an award, we understand that if we have a current negotiated (including provisional) indirect cost rate agreement we must charge the capped indirect cost rate to the same base identified in our approved indirect cost rate agreement. We understand we must request prior approval from the awarding program to use the [2 CFR 200.1 Modified Total Direct Costs](#) (MTDC) base instead of our approved base and that we must submit such requests with our application, including a calculation showing how use of the MTDC base results in an overall reduction in the total indirect costs recovered. If we do not have current negotiated (including provisional) rate, we understand we must charge the capped indirect cost rate against Modified Total Direct Costs (MTDC) as defined in 2 CFR §200.1. If we have never negotiated a rate, we understand we must use the de minimis rate of 10% of MTDC.
- We are an organization that will charge all costs directly.

## **D7. Other Submission Requirements**

The Service uses the GrantSolutions system to manage financial assistance applications and awards. Applicants must register in and conduct any subsequent award business with the Service in GrantSolutions. To apply, your organization and organization officials must be established in GrantSolutions. To register your organization in GrantSolutions, send an email to [help@grantsolutions.gov](mailto:help@grantsolutions.gov) with the following information:

Subject: New Organization Request

- Organization/Individual Name
- Point of Contact first and last name, email, and phone number
- Organization Type
- SAM.gov Unique Entity Identifier (not required for individuals or Service-waived entities)
- Organization Employer Identification Number (Applicants that are INDIVIDUALS DO NOT include your social security number)
- Address

Organizational details should match those in the organization’s SAM.gov registration. To establish organization official accounts and user role(s), complete a Recipient User Account Request Form for each official and email it to [help@grantsolutions.gov](mailto:help@grantsolutions.gov). The GrantSolutions entity user roles are: Authorizing Official (ADO); Principal Investigator/Program Director (PI/PD); Support Specialist (GSS); Financial Officer (FO); and Financial Support Staff (FSS). All roles can do the following: enter applications, amendments, and reports, view awards, and

view and create notes. The ADO and the PI/PD roles can also submit applications, amendments, and reports. The FO role can also submit reports. At a minimum, registered organizations must assign someone to the ADO and PI/PD roles. For more information, see the GrantSolutions Recipient Training and FAQs web page. For GrantSolutions registration, submission, and other assistance contact their Customer Support by telephone at 1-866-577-0771 or by email at [help@grantsolutions.gov](mailto:help@grantsolutions.gov).

**E. Application Review Information**

**E1. Criteria**

Selection of projects will be based on the merits of the proposal. Proposals must explain how the applicant will build an interjurisdictional landscape-level wildlife health and disease network to protect wildlife, ecosystems, economies, and the American public. Selection factors will be rated numerically and are as follows:

<b>Areas of Emphasis/Merit Criteria for 2023</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· Conducts wildlife health management planning activities</li> <li>· Creates both internal and external communications networks, with an emphasis on One Health</li> <li>· Conducts interagency emergency planning and response (wildlife/agriculture/public health, municipal/state/federal/tribal, regional)</li> <li>· Establishes diagnostic access for applicant organization and/or others (e.g. neighboring tribes)</li> <li>· Jurisdictions, authorities, policies gap analysis and policy development for disease prevention</li> <li>· Establishes data and information management plan</li> <li>· Increases agency wildlife health capabilities</li> <li>· Conducts inter-jurisdictional wildlife health training</li> <li>· Increases human dimensions capacity</li> <li>· Increases public health capacity</li> </ul>
<b>Two Part Scoring</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· Two-part scoring consists of an assessment of the areas of emphasis/merit criteria, as well as extra credit points that may be given for subjective criteria (all criteria are listed below)</li> <li>· Applicant must identify which criteria they are addressing (may address just one criteria or more than one)</li> <li>· Applicant must provide a description of why they are not addressing some of the criteria (e.g. agency is already doing it or doesn't have the capacity)</li> </ul>

- Points are assigned only for Areas of Emphasis/Merit Criteria that are identified by the applicant as addressed in the proposal
- Point scale: 1= poor to 10= awesome
- Examples are provided for scores of 1, 5, 9, and 10. These are examples and are not meant to be overly prescriptive. Applicants may explain why certain activities are not addressed (such as they have already achieved that previously)
- The scale and scope of the application will be evaluated relative to the potential impact of the project and the benefit to the wildlife health network (projects small in scale and scope can rank just as high as bigger projects!)
- “Regional scale” = beyond the state or tribal boundary
- “Interagency” = beyond the wildlife management agency (such as public health department, department of agriculture, municipal/state/federal/tribal, regional)
- Extra credit points may be given for subjective criteria

**Part 1 Scoring**

<b>Areas of Emphasis/Merit Criteria</b>	<b>Is this criteria addressed in the proposal?</b>	<b>Examples of points available for each criteria</b>
Wildlife health management plan		1= draft wildlife health management plan 5= above + guidance for Tribal or State Wildlife Action Plan 9= above + plans to create a wildlife health program 10= above + planning at a regional scale (i.e. beyond state or tribal boundaries)
Communications		1= communications for routine or emergency events 5= above + templates for internal and external comms 9= above + hires communications specialist for disease 10= above + communications are regional in scale
Emergency disease response plan		1= develop emergency disease response plan 5= above + develop interagency response capabilities 9= above + train incident team with disease skills 10= above + emergency planning/response at regional scale
Diagnostic access		1= expands diagnostic access for applicant and/or others

		<p>5= above + creates data sharing strategies</p> <p>9= above + creates new diagnostic service</p> <p>10= above + diagnostic access is at regional scale</p>
Jurisdictions, authorities, and policies		<p>1= Regulatory gap analysis</p> <p>5= above + develop policy/regs/authorities to fill gaps</p> <p>10= above + creates sustainable fish and wildlife health program supported by specific policy/regs/authorities</p>
Data and information management		<p>1= creates data management and sharing plan</p> <p>5= above + production of reports, maps, data interpretation and visualization, shares the products with partners</p> <p>9= above + hires data manager</p> <p>10= above + includes regional data sharing</p>
Wildlife health capacity building		<p>1= dedicated percentage of staff time to wildlife health</p> <p>5= above + hires wildlife disease biologists and field techs</p> <p>10= above + hires veterinarians, ecologists, social scientists</p>
Training offered		<p>1= creates and conducts wildlife health training for agency</p> <p>5= above + hosts interagency collaborative training</p> <p>9= above + certification program for wildlife disease biologists</p> <p>10= above + training is offered at the regional scale</p>
Human dimensions		<p>1= increases human dimensions capacity in agency (e.g. works with a social scientist to determine what drives behavior that increases wildlife disease risk for wildlife, agriculture, and human health)</p> <p>5= above + applies strategies to resolve conflict over wildlife disease management issues, uses social science to decrease disease risk through behavior change</p> <p>10 = above + hires social scientist</p>
Occupational and public health		<p>1= increases occupational and public health capacity in the agency</p> <p>5= above + creates occupational and public health guidelines, policy, and outreach for personnel, volunteers, and visitors</p> <p>10= above + hires occupational or public health specialist</p>

<b>Part Two Scoring</b>	
<b>Subjective Criteria</b>	<b>Possible Points</b>
One Health concepts, including zoonotic disease prevention and management, are integrated throughout the proposal	2
Proposal has scientific merit, peer reviewed references provided	1
Clear writing, organized proposal	1
Methods and funding requested are commensurate with the proposed objectives	1
Innovative proposal and actions can be replicated elsewhere	1
Hiring practices or access to services show diversity, equity, and inclusion	1

Proposal narratives must be 10 pages or fewer. Proposals will be rated by numeric score by qualified reviewers. Reviewers will be Federal veterinarians, biologists, ecologists, or social scientists or data management specialists. Qualifications will be verified by General Schedule professional qualifications. Selections will be documented by aggregated scoring sheets and memorandum to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Director, filed in Science Applications Headquarters office.

## **E2. Review and Selection Process**

Prior to award, the program will review any applicant statement regarding potential overlap or duplication between the project to be funded and any other funded or proposed project in terms of activities, funding, or time commitment of key personnel. Depending on the circumstances, the program may request modification to the application, other pending applications, or an active award, as needed to eliminate any duplication of effort, or the FWS may choose not to fund the selected project.

Prior to award, the program will conduct and document a review of the proposed budget to ensure figures are calculated correctly, proposed costs are clearly linked to the project narrative and seem necessary and reasonable, no obviously unallowable costs are included, costs requiring prior approval are identified and described, indirect cost are applied correctly, and any program

match or cost share requirements are addressed.

The program may not make a Federal award to an applicant that has not completed the SAM.gov registration. If an applicant selected for funding has not completed their SAM.gov registration by the time the Bureau is ready to make an award, the program may determine that the applicant is not qualified to receive an award. The program can use that determination as a basis for making an award to another applicant.

Prior to award, the program will evaluate the risk posed by applicants as required in [2 CFR §200.206](#). Prior to approving awards for Federal funding in excess of the simplified acquisition threshold (currently \$250,000), the Bureau is required to review and consider any information about or from the applicant found in the Federal Awardee Performance and Integrity Information System. The Bureau will consider this information when completing the risk review. The Bureau uses the results of the risk evaluation to establish monitoring plans, recipient reporting frequency requirements, and to determine if one or more of the specific award conditions in [2 CFR §200.208](#) should be applied to the award.

Proposals will be scored individually by 3 reviewers per proposal, if possible. All reviewers will be required to verify they have no conflict of interest with any proposal or applicant organization. Scores will be aggregated by the selection facilitator/grant specialist and then a meeting held to discuss scoring and to rank proposals. If reviewers have feedback or questions for applicants, grant specialist will communicate with applicants to suggest improvements or budget changes for approved projects. Unfunded projects will be notified through Grant Solutions. All project selections will be approved by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Director or designate. Selected proposals will be published on our website no more than 120 days from proposal due date.

### **E3. CFR – Regulatory Information**

See the [Service’s General Award Terms and Conditions](#) for the general administrative and national policy requirements applicable to Service awards. The Service will communicate any other program- or project-specific special terms and conditions to recipients in their notices of award.

### **E4. Anticipated Announcement and Federal Award Dates**

### **F. Federal Award Administration Information**

#### **F1. Federal Award Notices**

Successful applicants will be notified through Grant Solutions with a copy of their signed Notice of Award, which is the authorizing document obligating federal funds to your project.

## **F2. Administrative and National Policy Requirements**

See the [DOI Standard Terms and Conditions](#) for the administrative and national policy requirements applicable to DOI awards.

See the [Service's General Award Terms and Conditions](#) for the general administrative and national policy requirements applicable to Service awards.

### **Buy America Provision for Infrastructure: Required Use of American Iron, Steel, Manufactured Products, and Construction Materials.**

As required by Section 70914 of the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (Pub. L. 117-58), on or after May 14, 2022, none of the funds under a federal award that are part of a Federal financial assistance program for infrastructure may be obligated for a project unless all the iron, steel, manufactured products, and construction materials used in the project are produced in the United States, unless subject to an approved waiver. Recipients conducting infrastructure projects under the award must include related requirements all subawards, including all contracts and purchase orders for infrastructure work or products under this program. For the full text term applicable to infrastructure and related waiver request standards and procedures, see the Service's General Award Terms and Conditions.

## **F3. Reporting**

### **Financial Reports**

All recipients must use the [SF-425, Federal Financial Report](#) form for financial reporting. At a minimum, all recipients must submit a **final** financial report. Final reports are due no later than 120 calendar days after the award period of performance end date or termination date. For awards with periods of performance longer than 12 months, recipients are required to submit **interim** financial reports on the frequency established in the Notice of Award. The only exception to the interim financial reporting requirement is if the recipient is required to use the SF 270/271 to request payment and requests payment at least once annually through the entire award period of performance. We will describe all financial reporting requirements in the Notice of Award.

### **Non-Construction Performance Reports**

Performance reports must contain a comparison of actual accomplishments with the established goals and objectives of the award; a description of reasons why established goals was not met, if appropriate; and any other pertinent information relevant to the project results. **Final** reports are due no later than 120 calendar days after the award period of performance end date or termination date. For awards with periods of performance longer than 12 months, recipients are required to submit **interim performance** reports on the frequency established in the Notice of Award.

### **Construction Performance Reports**

For construction awards, onsite technical inspections and certified percentage of completion data may be relied on to monitor progress for construction. Additional performance reports for construction activities may be required only when considered necessary. However, awards that include both construction and non-construction activities require performance reporting for the non-construction activities. See [2 CFR§200.329](#) for more information. The USFWS will describe all performance reporting requirements in the Notice of Award.

### **Significant Development Reports**

Events may occur between the scheduled performance reporting dates which have significant impact upon the supported activity. In such cases, recipients are required to notify the Bureau in writing as soon as the recipient becomes aware of any problems, delays, or adverse conditions that will materially impair the ability to meet the objective of the Federal award. This disclosure must include a statement of any corrective action(s) taken or contemplated, and any assistance needed to resolve the situation. The recipient should also notify the Service in writing of any favorable developments that enable meeting time schedules and objectives sooner or at less cost than anticipated or producing more or different beneficial results than originally planned.

### **Real Property Reports**

Recipients and subrecipients are required to submit status reports on the status of real property acquired under the award in which the Federal government retains an interest. The required frequency of these reports will depend on the anticipated length of the Federal interest period. The Bureau will include recipient-specific real property reporting requirements, including the required standard form or data elements, reporting frequency, and report due dates, in the Notice of Award when applicable.

### **Conflict of Interest Disclosures**

Per 2 CFR §1402.112, non-Federal entities and their employees must take appropriate steps to avoid conflicts of interest in their responsibilities under or with respect to Federal financial assistance agreements. In the procurement of supplies, equipment, construction, and services by recipients and by subrecipients, the provisions in [2 CFR §200.318](#) apply. Non-Federal entities, including applicants for financial assistance awards, must disclose in writing any conflict of interest to the DOI awarding agency or pass-through entity in accordance with [2 CFR §200.112](#). Recipients must establish internal controls that include, at a minimum, procedures to identify, disclose, and mitigate or eliminate identified conflicts of interest. The recipient is responsible for notifying the Service Project Officer identified in their notice of award in writing of any conflicts of interest that may arise during the life of the award, including those that reported by subrecipients. The Service will examine each disclosure to determine whether a significant potential conflict exists and, if it does, work with the applicant or recipient to develop an appropriate resolution. Failure to resolve conflicts of interest in a manner that satisfies the government may be cause for termination of the award.

### **Other Mandatory Disclosures**

The Non-Federal entity or applicant for a Federal award must disclose, in a timely manner, in writing to the Federal awarding agency or pass-through entity all violations of Federal criminal law involving fraud, bribery, or gratuity violations potentially affecting the Federal award. Non-Federal entities that receive a Federal award including the terms and conditions outlined in 2 CFR 200, Appendix XII—Award Term and Condition for Recipient Integrity and Performance Matters are required to report certain civil, criminal, or administrative proceedings to SAM.

Failure to make required disclosures can result in any of the remedies for noncompliance described in 2 CFR §200.339, including suspension or debarment.

### **Reporting Matters Related to Recipient Integrity and Performance**

If the total value of your currently active grants, cooperative agreements, and procurement contracts from all Federal awarding agencies exceeds \$10,000,000 for any period of time during the period of performance of this Federal award, then you as the recipient during that period of time must maintain the currency of information reported to the [System for Award Management](#) that is made available in the designated integrity and performance system (currently the [Federal Awardee Performance and Integrity Information System](#)) about civil, criminal, or administrative proceedings in accordance with [Appendix XII to 2 CFR 200](#).

## **G. Federal Awarding Agency Contact(s)**

### **G1. Program Technical Contact**

For **programmatic technical assistance**, contact:

First and Last Name:

Anna-Marie York

Telephone:

703-358-1881

Email:

anna-marie\_york@fws.gov

### **G2. Program Administration**

For **program administration assistance**, contact:

First and Last Name:

Anna-Marie York

Telephone:

703-358-1881

Email:

anna-marie\_york@fws.gov

### **G3. Application System Technical Support**

**For Grants.gov technical registration and submission, downloading forms and application packages, contact:**

Grants.gov Customer Support

Numeric Input Field: 1-800-518-4726

[Support@grants.gov](mailto:Support@grants.gov)

**For GrantSolutions technical registration, submission, and other assistance contact:**  
GrantSolutions Customer Support  
1-866-577-0771  
[Help@grantsolutions.gov](mailto:Help@grantsolutions.gov)

## H. Other Information

### Payments

Domestic recipients are required to register in and receive payment through the U.S. Treasury's Automated Standard Application for Payments (ASAP), unless approved for a waiver by the Service program. Foreign recipients receiving funds to a final destination bank outside the U.S. are required to receive payment through the U.S. Treasury's International Treasury Services (ITS) System. Foreign recipients receiving funds to a final destination bank in the U.S. are required to enter and maintain current banking details in their SAM.gov entity profile and receive payment through the Automated Clearing House network by electronic funds transfer (EFT). The Bureau will include recipient-specific instructions on how to request payment, including identification of any additional information required and where to submit payment requests, as applicable, in all Notices of Award.

### **PAPERWORK REDUCTION ACT STATEMENT:**

#### **OMB Control Number: 1018-0100**

Per the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (PRA; 44 U.S.C. 3501 et seq.), the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) collects information in accordance with program authorizing legislation to conduct a review and select projects for funding and, if awarded, to evaluate performance. Your response is required to obtain or retain a benefit. We may not conduct or sponsor, and a person is not required to respond to, a collection of information unless it displays a currently valid OMB control number.

**Privacy Act Statement:** This information collection is authorized by 5 U.S.C. 5701 et seq. The information provided will be used to administer all Service financial assistance programs and activities including to: (1) determine eligibility under the authorizing legislation and applicable program regulations; (2) determine allowability of major cost items under the Cost Principles at 2 CFR 200; (3) select those projects that will provide the highest return on the Federal investment; and (4) assist in compliance with laws, as applicable, such as the National Environmental Policy Act, the National Historic Preservation Act, and the Uniform Relocation Assistance and Real Property Acquisition Policies Act of 1970. This information may be shared in accordance with the Privacy Act of 1974 and the routine uses listed in INTERIOR/DOI-89, Grants and Cooperative Agreements: FBMS - 73 FR 43775 (July 28, 2008). Furnishing this information is voluntary; however, failure to provide all requested information may prevent the Service from awarding funds.

**Estimated Burden Statement:** We estimate that it will take you on average about 40 hours to complete an initial application, about 3 hours to revise the terms of an award, and about 8 hours per report to prepare and submit financial and performance reports, including time to maintain records and gather information. Actual times for these activities will vary depending on program-

specific requirements. Direct comments regarding the burden estimates or any other aspect of the specific forms to the Service Information Clearance Officer, USFWS, U.S. Department of the Interior, 5275 Leesburg Pike, MS: PRB (JAO/3W), Falls Church, VA 22041-3803, or by email to [Info\\_Coll@fws.gov](mailto:Info_Coll@fws.gov).