

Information on Requirements that Pass-Through Entities must “Flow Down” to Subrecipients

EPA is providing the following list of statutory, regulatory, and Executive Order requirements to assist recipients or “pass-through entities” who make subawards under the Uniform Grant Guidance (UGG) to identify potential Federal requirements that may apply to subrecipients on EPA funded projects per [2 CFR 200.331\(a\)\(2\)](#). The list is for informational purposes only and is not intended to be a comprehensive description of all requirements applicable to each EPA financial assistance award. How a specific requirement applies depends on the nature of the project and may require coordination between EPA and other Federal agencies. Pass-through entities should consult their EPA Project Officer for further advice if they believe any of these requirements impact a subaward.

Note that major EPA assistance programs involving construction such as the Clean Water State Revolving Fund (CWSRF) and Drinking Water State Revolving Fund (DWSRF) programs have their own regulations and guidance documents for complying with “Flow Down” requirements. Loans and similar transactions that CWSRF and DWSRF recipients enter into are not subawards for the purposes of the [2 CFR Part 200](#) UGG. The information below, therefore, does not apply to loans and similar transactions entered into by recipients of CWSRF and DWSRF capitalization grants.

1. Nondiscrimination Laws and Social Policies

These requirements, if applicable, apply to the organization receiving EPA financial assistance itself, rather than the project receiving EPA funding. Most EPA financial assistance recipients are subject to the laws and policies described below. This list of nondiscrimination and social policy requirements is for informational purposes only and is not intended to provide guidance on compliance in the context of a particular EPA assistance agreement. If it appears that one or more of these requirements may apply, pass-through entities should consult with their EPA Project Officer for advice.

a. Non-Discrimination Laws

Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, Section 13 of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act Amendments of 1972, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, The Age Discrimination Act of 1975. These four laws prohibit discrimination in the provision of services or benefits, on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, disability or age, in programs or activities receiving federal financial assistance. Pursuant to EPA’s regulations on “*Nondiscrimination in Programs receiving Federal Assistance from the Environmental Protection Agency*,” in [40 CFR Part 5](#) and [40 CFR Part 7](#) the pass-through entity must agree, and require all subrecipients to agree, not to discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, disability or age. The fact that the regulations do not address discrimination on the basis of age *does not* exempt recipients from compliance with the later-enacted Age Discrimination Act.

b. Executive Order 11246

Part III of Executive Order No. 11246 (September 24, 1965) as amended prohibits discrimination in Federally assisted construction activities. As provided in section 301 of the Executive Order, Pass-through entities must ensure that subrecipients include the seven clauses specified in section 202 of the Order in all construction contracts. Section 302 defines "Construction contract" as “any contract for the construction, rehabilitation, alteration, conversion, extension, or repair of buildings, highways, or other improvements to real property.” Contracts less than \$10,000 are exempt from the requirements of the Order.

c. Disadvantaged Business Enterprises

EPA regulations at [40 CFR Part 33, “Participation by Disadvantaged Business Enterprises in U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Programs”](#) set forth requirements for making good faith efforts to ensure that Disadvantaged Business Enterprises, including Minority Business Enterprises and Women’s Business Enterprises receive a fair share of contracts awarded with funds provided by EPA financial assistance agreements. These requirements apply to subrecipients in accordance with [40 CFR 33.102](#) and the definition of “Recipient” in [40 CFR 33.103](#).

d. Consultation with State and Local Officials

The Demonstration Cities and Metropolitan Development Act and the Intergovernmental Cooperation Act instructed federal agencies to consult with local officials to ensure smoother coordination of their assistance programs and to ensure that projects funded under federal programs are consistent with local planning requirements. Similarly, Executive Order 12372 as amended (1983) established procedures for intergovernmental review of federal financial assistance projects. EPA has implemented these requirements in [40 CFR Part 29](#).

The [Catalogue of Federal Domestic Assistance](#) entry for the pass-through entity’s agreement with EPA will specify whether intergovernmental review requirements are applicable. If intergovernmental review is required, and neither EPA nor the pass-through entity complied with [40 CFR Part 29](#) prior to award because the location of subaward projects had not been determined, the pass-through entity must comply with intergovernmental review requirements after award. Intergovernmental review requirements vary among the states. As provided at [40 CFR 29.9\(d\)](#) if a state does not have a single point of contact for intergovernmental review, the recipient must offer directly affected State, area-wide, regional and local officials an opportunity to comment on the subrecipient’s proposed project.

e. Clean Air Act and Clean Water Act

Section 306 of the Clean Air Act (CAA) and section 508 of the Clean Water Act (CWA), as implemented by Executive Order 11738 (1973), prohibit performance of Federal assistance agreements at facilities disqualified due to certain violations of the CAA or CWA. Disqualified facilities are listed in the [System for Award Management](#). Pass-through entities must ensure that subrecipients are not disqualified and that they are aware of the requirement to check SAM, to determine if facilities that will be used to perform contracts or subawards are listed in SAM.

2. Financial Management Policies

These policies apply to transactions financed by EPA financial assistance funds and apply to both pass-through entities and subrecipients on the basis of either regulatory requirement or the [General Terms and Conditions](#) (T&C) of the pass-through entity’s agreement with EPA. Pass-through entities should consult with their EPA Project Officer for advice if they have questions regarding how these policies apply to a particular subaward.

a. Federal Funding Accountability and Transparency Act

As set forth in the General Condition of the pass-through entity’s agreement with EPA entitled “Reporting Subawards and Executive Compensation” the pass-through entity must ensure that subrecipients comply with Federal Funding Accountability and Transparency Act (FFATA) reporting requirements. Pass-through entities may use the terms of their subaward agreement or other effective means to meet their responsibilities.

b. Suspension and Debarment

The pass-through entities responsibilities are described at [2 CFR Part 180, Subpart C](#) and the “Debarment and Suspension” T&C of the pass-through entity’s agreement with EPA. These requirements, which

include checking [SAM](#) to ensure that potential contractors, subrecipients and their principals and agents are not suspended, debarred or otherwise ineligible to participate in Federal assistance programs also apply to subrecipients. It is important to note that in addition to being precluded from all first tier contracts and all contracts requiring EPA approval in accordance with [2 CFR 180.220](#) under [2 CFR 1532.220](#) suspended or debarred parties may not receive EPA funded contracts in excess of \$25,000 at any tier. Also, at [2 CFR 1532.995](#) EPA has identified activities that suspended or debarred parties may not perform as a “Principal” in EPA financial assistance agreements and subawards.

c. Limits on Fees Charged by Individual Consultants

EPA’s Fiscal Year 2009 Appropriation Act (Pub. L. 111-8) restricts the amount of EPA financial assistance that recipients may use to compensate individual consultants. EPA implements this requirement at [2 CFR 1500.9\(a\)](#) and the “Consultant Cap” T&C. Pass-through entities must ensure that subrecipients comply with the limitation on compensation for individual consultants through the terms of their subaward agreements or another effective means. Additional information regarding when the consultant fee limit applies is available at 69 Fed. Reg. 18380 (April 7, 2004).

d. Management Fees

EPA policy prohibits recipients and subrecipients from charging management fees or making similar arrangements to receive EPA financial assistance in excess of direct or Federally approved indirect cost rates. This prohibition is implemented by the Management Fees T&C. Pass-through entities must ensure that subrecipients comply with this requirement through the terms of their subaward agreements or another effective means.

e. New Restriction on Lobbying, 40 CFR Part 34

Pass-through entities must ensure that subawards in excess of \$100,000 require that subrecipients submit certification and disclosure forms required by [40 CFR 34.110](#) and the “Lobbying and Litigation” T&C.

f. Uniform Grant Guidance Requirements (UGG)

Subrecipients must comply with [2 CFR Part 200](#) requirements when they award procurement contracts, make subawards, and incur other costs borne by EPA financial assistance. Pass-through entities must ensure that subrecipients comply with this requirement through the terms of their subaward agreements or another effective means.

3. Environmental Authorities

These requirements typically apply when an EPA funded project involves construction, remediation of contamination in water, soil, or buildings, and similar activities which alter the physical environment. Other environmental laws may apply to a project independent of EPA funding. Financial assistance for research, training, technical assistance and related outreach, environmental education, program operations, or installation of pollution control equipment on vehicles or vessels, are generally not affected by these requirements. Note that this list of environmental authorities is for informational purposes only and is not intended to provide guidance on compliance in the context of a particular EPA assistance agreement. If it appears that one or more of these requirements may apply, pass-through entities should consult with their EPA Project Officer for advice.

a. National Environmental Policy Act

Where applicable, the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) requires federal agencies to conduct an environmental review of their proposed actions, with a view toward ensuring informed decision-making and public input. EPA’s NEPA regulations are at [40 CFR Part 6](#), and note that certain EPA actions are exempt from NEPA. Pass-through entities and subrecipients may be required to assist EPA with NEPA compliance, where appropriate.

b. Executive Order No. 12898 (1994)

This Executive Order (E.O.) directs federal agencies to “make achieving environmental justice part of its mission.” Each covered agency is required to identify and address, as appropriate, any “disproportionately high and adverse human health or environmental effects of its programs, policies, and activities on minority populations and low-income populations.” One vehicle for EPA’s efforts to address environmental justice concerns is a NEPA analysis. Considering environmental justice generally involves identifying potential adverse effects on minority populations and low-income populations, as well as encouraging early public participation and the development of alternative or mitigating options as appropriate. The terms and conditions of the EPA award may require pass-through entities and subrecipients to assist EPA in ensuring the requirements of the Executive Order are met.

c. National Historic Preservation Act

Section 106 of the NHPA requires federal agencies to take into account the effects of their undertakings on historic properties and to provide the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation (ACHP) a reasonable opportunity to comment on such undertakings. Under the ACHP’s regulations, consultations generally occur in the first instance with state and/or tribal historic preservation officials, with direct ACHP involvement in certain cases. EPA funded projects with the potential to affect historic properties – *i.e.*, properties listed in or eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places – may implicate this statute. This may include, for instance, EPA-funded projects that involve alteration of structures (*e.g.*, asbestos abatement) that are historic properties or construction/remediation on culturally sensitive lands. Pass-through entities should work with their Project Officer to ensure that subrecipients are available to work with EPA on any required consultation process with the State or Tribal Historic Preservation Office prior to commencing the project to ensure compliance with section 106 of the NHPA.

d. Archeological and Historic Preservation Act

This law applies if archeologically significant artifacts or similar items are discovered after an EPA funded construction project has begun, and compliance may be coordinated with the NHPA, discussed above. The AHPA requires federal agencies to identify relics, specimens, and other forms of scientific, prehistorical, historical, or archaeological data that may be lost during the construction of federally sponsored projects to ensure that these resources are not inadvertently transferred, sold, demolished or substantially altered, or allowed to deteriorate significantly. Pass-through entities must ensure that subrecipients performing construction projects are aware of this requirement and pass-through entities must notify EPA if the AHPA is triggered.

e. Protection of Wetlands, Executive Order 11990 (1973), as amended

EPA funded projects involving new construction in wetlands may implicate this Executive Order. The terms and conditions of the EPA assistance agreement may require pass-through entities to ensure that subrecipients assist EPA in determining whether a proposed project will be located in (or affect) a wetland, and if so, evaluating practicable alternative locations for the project or other mitigation.

f. Flood Plain Management, Executive Order 11988 (1977), as amended, and Executive Order 13690 (2015)

EPA funded projects that are in or will affect a flood plain are covered by these Executive Orders and Water Resources Council guidance. EPA assistance agreement terms and conditions may require pass-through entities to ensure that subrecipients work with EPA to evaluate practicable alternatives or other mitigation to reduce flood risks and protect flood plains.

g. Farmland Protection Policy Act

This statute requires EPA to use criteria developed by the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) to identify the potential adverse effects of Federal programs on farmland and its conversion to nonagricultural uses, to mitigate these effects, and to ensure that programs are carried out in a manner that is

compatible with the farmland preservation policies of state and local governments, and private organizations. Pass-through entities and their subrecipients may need to work with EPA or NRCS, as appropriate, to ensure compliance.

h. Coastal Zone Management Act

This statute requires EPA to ensure that Agency funded activities in coastal areas are consistent with state coastal zone management plans that have been approved by the Department of Commerce. Pass-through entities and subrecipients should consult directly with the state Coastal Zone Management agency during the planning stages to ensure that the EPA funded project will be consistent with the state's coastal zone management plan.

i. Coastal Barriers Resources Act

This statute restricts federal financial assistance that would encourage development in the Coastal Barriers Resources System, a collection of undeveloped and ecologically sensitive barrier formations along the Atlantic and Gulf Coasts of the United States, and the shore areas of the Great Lakes, and adjacent wetlands, marshes, estuaries, inlets, and near-shore waters. During the planning phase of a proposed project located in the Coastal Barriers Resources System, pass-through entities and subrecipients should consult with the state Coastal Zone Management agency to determine whether a proposed project will have an effect on the system, and if so, the alternative sites or mitigating measures that must be incorporated in the project's design.

j. Wild and Scenic Rivers Act

This statute prohibits federal assistance for water resource projects that would have direct and adverse effects on, invade, or unreasonably diminish, the special values of a congressionally designated wild and scenic river. Pass-through entities and subrecipients should consult with appropriate state or federal (National Park Service or Bureau of Land Management) agency to determine whether the project or any alternatives under consideration may affect a designated river.

k. Endangered Species Act (ESA)

This statute requires Federal agencies to ensure that their activities are not likely to jeopardize endangered species, adversely modify designated critical habitats, or incidentally take (injure or kill) endangered animals without authorization, in consultation with the appropriate federal wildlife agency (the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service or National Marine Fisheries Service) as described in [50 CFR Part 402](#). The ESA consultation process is triggered when an action "may affect" ESA-protected species or critical habitat. Pass-through entities and subrecipients should coordinate with EPA to ensure consultation occurs where appropriate."

l. Magnuson-Stevens Fisheries Conservation and Management Act

Magnuson-Stevens Fisheries Conservation and Management Act as amended by The Sustainable Fisheries Act of 1996 is intended to manage and conserve Essential Fish Habitats (EFH). The National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) administers the Act. Pass-through entities and subrecipients must coordinate with NMFS to determine whether a proposed project may adversely affect an EFH. If an action may adversely affect an EFH, the subrecipient must complete an EFH consultation with NMFS.

m. Clean Air Conformity Act

This statute prohibits any Federal assistance for an activity within a non-attainment or maintenance area that fails to conform to an applicable State Implementation Plan. Pass-through entities and subrecipients should first consult with their state air program's web site to determine if an EPA funded activity is in a non-attainment or maintenance area. If the EPA funded activity is within a non-attainment or maintenance area the pass-through entity and subrecipient should consult with the state air program to determine conformity. Note that EPA regulations at [40 CFR 93.153\(c\)](#) exempt a number of activities including

planning, studies, technical assistance and remediation under the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Liability and Compensation Act (CERCLA).

n. **Safe Drinking Water Act**

Precludes the use of EPA financial assistance for projects that would contaminate sole source aquifers. Pass-through entities and subrecipients must contact state officials to determine whether a sole source aquifer is in the vicinity of the proposed project. If a sole source aquifer is in the project planning area, then the assistance recipient, in consultation with state ground water officials, must conduct investigations to determine if the aquifer could be contaminated by the project. If the project could potentially affect ground water supplies, the assistance recipient, in consultation with ground water officials, must elect an alternative site or devise adequate mitigating measures.