

TRIBES IN THE EN UPDATE

From the Tribal Exchange Network Group



Unveiling the Updated Tribalexchangenetwork.org!

[TribalExchangeNetwork.org](https://tribalexchangenetwork.org) is not just a website; it is a digital space designed with the specific purpose of connecting Tribal communities with information on technical assistance and support. While the 'old' webpage served its function well, we're excited to expand functionality, accessibility, and features! Read on below to find out more:

- **Events Calendar:** Stay up-to-date with TXG's Data Academies, upcoming online and in-person courses, as well as the Tribal Exchange Network Conference dates.
- Check out the [Tribal Exchange Network Conference \(TENC\) page](#) for updates and information on upcoming TENCs, as well as links to information about past TENCs, including symposium topics, webinars, agendas, and videos.
- On our [Newsletter page](#), you'll find the most recent copy of the Tribes in the EN Newsletter, the recently overhauled monthly publication from the TXG. Here you'll also find all of our back-issues as well!

- The [About Us](#) page is a great place to start if you are curious about what TXG is all about, or want to learn more about each of our members, as well as our partners.
- If you've ever been curious about the Exchange Network (EN), or had questions about what it is, head to the [About the Exchange Network](#) page, which lists out EN partners, goals, a brief history, and our role in supporting the partnership.
- And if you've ever thought of becoming a TXG Member yourself, or have any interest in supporting Tribal Data, check out the [Become a Member](#) page, which has information on membership requirements, roles, and a link to our membership application.

In the coming months we will be adding features and functionality to the website including a Knowledge Center, and information on TXG's Technical Assistance, so be sure to check back often!

We hope you find the new format helpful, and we'd love to hear your feedback! Reach out at: txg@tribalexchangenetwork.org.

TRIBAL EXCHANGE NETWORK (TXG) EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Frank Harjo, Chair
GIS Manager, Muscogee Nation

Angie Reed, Vice Chair
Water Resources Planner, Penobscot Indian Nation

Jennifer Reyher, Budget Chair
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Bruce Jones
SSHIAP Section Manager, Northwest Indian Fisheries Commission

Brianda Hernandez
Water Quality Program Coordinator, Bishop Paiute Tribe

Sheryn Olson
Inter-Tribal Monitoring Data Project Manager, Columbia River Inter-Tribal Fish Commission

Lisa Gover
Director - Environmental Quality, Gila River Indian Community

RESOURCES

Environmental Protection Network's Free Technical Assistance

The Environmental Protection Network (EPN) is providing NO-COST assistance to tribes. Their network of over 550 EPA alumni volunteers can help tribes effectively and meaningfully participate in government decision-making by helping them navigate EPA, potential grants, regulatory processes, federal policies, and publicly available data to support their work. You can view their webpage to view their focus, past projects, services types, contact information and more.

In addition, the American Indian Environmental Office (AIEO) and EPN have a memorandum of understanding (MOU) that is focused on helping tribes to address their climate adaptation priorities, though the technical assistance available from EPN isn't limited to climate adaptation or this MOU.

If you're interested in receiving free technical assistance, please visit the EPN [website](#), or contact Davina Resto at Davina.Resto@environmentalprotectionnetwork.org.

Institute for Tribal Environmental Professionals Online Courses

The Institute for Tribal Environmental Professionals (ITEP) [Click Here](#) for ITEP's new Tribal Environmental Management and Planning Online Courses. Sign up for a self-paced course hosted by ITEP's Waste and Response and Tribal Air Quality programs.

National Tribal Waste Management Peer Matching Program

EPA coordinates the National Tribal Waste Management Peer Matching Program, which aims to strengthen tribal capacity and develop sustainable waste management programs. Peer matches are voluntary, structured opportunities for tribes and Alaska Native Villages who are working on similar issues to exchange experiences and practical knowledge through a mentoring program. This program allows tribes and Alaska Native Villages to address a specific challenge, such as designing and supervising construction of a transfer station.

DOE's Clean Energy to Communities

DOE's Clean Energy to Communities (C2C) program provides communities with expertise and tools to achieve their clean energy goals. Expert Match accepts requests at all times, and requests are reviewed on a rolling basis to provide 40-60 hours of technical assistance over the course of 3 months. Go to #11 on their website for more information.

NASA Online Training Courses

Check out NASA's website for free on-demand trainings on Earth Observations ranging from disaster risk modeling, climate risk assessment, and monitoring water quality using remote sensing.

EPA Grants Trainings Available

EPA's Office of Grants and Debarment is pleased to announce the availability of [several new and updated training resources](#) for grant applicants and recipients:

- NEW—Learn how to Register in [SAM.gov](#) and [Grants.gov](#) to apply for EPA grants. Aimed to help you register your organization in SAM.gov, create an applicant profile in Grants.gov.
- How to Develop a Budget training will help you prepare work plans, budgets, and budget narratives for EPA grants.
- EPA Grants Management Training for Applicants and Recipients introduces key aspects of the grant life cycle starting with preparing an application through closing out a grant.

EPA Tools & Resources Webinar Series

EPA Tools and Resources Webinar Series [Click here](#) to see all past and upcoming webinars hosted by the EPA.

Software Licensing Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ): A Resource for Tribal Environmental Professionals

This document provides information on sensible and efficient approaches for tribes who use federal funding to procure software and support its longer-term operations and maintenance costs. A complimentary document, [the Software Procurement Roadmap for Tribes](#) provides a step by step roadmap for procuring software.

For questions, contact Jessica Snyder, Office of E-Enterprise at snyder.jessica@epa.gov.

UPDATES & ANNOUNCEMENTS

RESHARE: U.S. Environmental Protection Agency released first set of data collected under the fifth Unregulated Contaminant Monitoring Rule (UCMR 5).

In the latest action to deliver on [EPA's PFAS Strategic Roadmap](#), UCMR 5 will provide new data that will improve EPA's understanding of the frequency that 29 PFAS and lithium are found in the nation's drinking water systems, and at what levels. The monitoring data on PFAS and lithium will help the Agency make determinations about future actions to protect public health under the Safe Drinking Water Act. This action advances the Biden-Harris Administration's commitment to combat PFAS pollution and safeguard drinking water for all people.

EPA is also deploying \$9 billion, included in President Biden's [Bipartisan Infrastructure Law](#), specifically to invest in communities with drinking water impacted by PFAS and other emerging contaminants. This includes \$4 billion via the Drinking Water State Revolving Fund (DWSRF) and \$5 billion through EPA's "Emerging Contaminants in Small or Disadvantaged Communities" grant program. States, Tribes and communities can further leverage an additional nearly \$12 billion in BIL DWSRF funds and billions more in annual SRF funds dedicated to making drinking water safer. These funds will help communities make important investments in solutions to remove PFAS from drinking water. For more information visit [EPA's Ground Water and Drinking Water webpage](#).

[GAO Report: EPA Needs to Develop a Business Case for Replacing Legacy Air Quality Data Systems](#)

Released: 10/29/2023

EPA primarily uses two legacy IT systems to manage outdoor air quality data that tribal, state, and local air monitoring agencies collect. Data from these systems helps to identify areas that don't meet air quality standards and communicate information about air pollution levels to the public. But these aging systems present maintenance and usability challenges for EPA and other users. For example, EPA has had trouble finding IT staff familiar with the outdated software in one of the systems. EPA is considering replacing these systems with a new one, and [GAO recommends](#) that EPA document the need for and cost of a new system to inform this decision.

[GAO Report: Numerous Programs Provide Cybersecurity Support to State, Local Tribal and Territorial Governments](#)

Released: 11/16/2023

The Government Accountability Office (GAO) recently published findings that Federal funding could be used to help Tribal, State, local, and territorial governments improve their cybersecurity through 27 grant programs managed by eight federal agencies. None of them are specifically intended to fund cybersecurity, but they can be used that way.

Find out more about these programs and how you can access them in the link above.

[Fifth National Climate Assessment \(NCA5\)](#)

(NCA5) is a Congressionally mandated report that assesses the science of climate change and its impacts on the United States. Access the atlas: <https://atlas.globalchange.gov/>. Chapter 16 is *Indigenous Peoples*. Within it, is a section on federally funded tribal renewable energy projects.

GET IT ON YOUR CALENDAR:

[EPA's Exchange Network Forum](#)

January 11th, 2024

The Exchange Network is a community that works together to improve data sharing, leading to better decision-making to protect people and the environment.

The forum is a venue to discuss how to improve and better use the Exchange Network's services and partnerships to share information among EPA, States, and Tribes. The Forum provides an opportunity for Exchange Network partners to:

- Learn about important Exchange Network information and updates.
- Share challenges and opportunities to improve the Exchange Network's collaborative model, communication channels, and technical framework.
- Learn about innovative ways EPA, States and Tribes are using the Exchange Network.

The Forum will meet the second Thursday of every month (except December 2023) via Zoom. Link in title above.

Register Here: [EN Forum Registration](#)

FUNDING & CONSULTATION OPPORTUNITIES

[NOAA Coastal Habitat Restoration and Resilience Grants for Tribes and Underserved Communities](#)

\$45 million in funding is available for projects that will advance the coastal habitat restoration and climate resilience priorities of tribes and underserved communities under the [Bipartisan Infrastructure Law and Inflation Reduction Act](#). Through this funding, NOAA will help support community-driven habitat restoration and build the capacity of tribes and underserved communities to more fully participate in restoration activities.

Applications Due: 12/19/2023.

[EPA Draft Revision of Technical Guidance for Assessing Environmental Justice in Regulatory Analysis](#)

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is asking for public comment on the draft revision of the Technical Guidance for Assessing Environmental Justice in Regulatory Analysis. The Technical Guidance for Assessing Environmental Justice in Regulatory Analysis was first published in 2016. The EPA is updating it to reflect the state of the science; new peer-reviewed Agency guidance; and new terminology, priorities, and direction, including Executive Order 14096. The purpose of this guidance is to outline analytic expectations and discuss technical approaches and methods that can be used by Agency analysts to evaluate EJ concerns for regulatory actions.

Comment Deadline: 1/15/2024.

[California Department of Toxic Substances Control Technical Assistance Grant Program](#)

The Technical Assistance Grant (TAG) program provides funds ranging from \$40,000 to \$150,000 to eligible communities to hire independent Technical Advisors with the goal to effectively communicate technical information to communities so they can become more involved and informed about Response Actions (cleanup sites). Response actions include activities performed to address a release or potential release of contamination at a property under DTSC oversight.

Applications due: 1/15/2024

[Tribal Broadband Connectivity Program](#)

The Tribal Broadband Connectivity Program (TBCP) is a \$3 billion program, from President Biden's Bipartisan Infrastructure Law and the Consolidated Appropriations Act, to support Tribal governments bringing high-speed Internet to Tribal lands, including telehealth, distance learning, affordability, and digital inclusion initiatives. This second round of funding from the Tribal Broadband Connectivity Program will make approximately \$980 million available on Native American, Alaska Native and Native Hawaiian lands for deployment of Internet infrastructure, affordability programs, telehealth and distance learning initiatives.

Applications Due: 1/23/2024

[NOAA's National Integrated Drought Information System \(NIDIS\) funding announced](#)

Approximately \$2 million in funding for projects is available to support tribal drought resilience as part of President Biden's [Investing in America agenda](#). This investment will help tribal nations address current and future drought risk on tribal lands across the Western U.S. while informing decision-making and strengthening tribal drought resilience in a changing climate. Proposals may request funding of up to \$700,000 total to be disseminated in the first year and expended over three years in the form of cooperative agreements.

Applications Due: 2/24/2024.

December Reader Poll

What type of data management training would most benefit your Tribal Environmental Program?

Follow the link below to answer:

[BIT.LY/3P4S5QB](https://bit.ly/3P4S5QB)



EXCHANGE NETWORK NEWS

If you filed for an Exchange Network (EN) Grant this fiscal year, please see below for updates from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA):

- Please keep an eye out for emails from grant staff, as application errors need to be corrected before processing; delays in responding or providing updated documents will further delay award finalization.
- Staff will be reaching out to any organizations whose indirect cost rates expired on September 30th; there are three options:
 - Use an updated rate agreement OR draft rate agreement, as submitted to DOI (and update application with the new rate as needed);
 - Use the de minimus rate of 10%; or
 - Work with EPA to submit an exemption, allowing you to use your old rate.
- Note: Although awards are delayed, period of performance dates will remain October 1st, 2023, to September 30th, 2026.
 - The first round of semi-annual reports will therefore be due on the standard schedule per our Terms and Conditions (March 31st, due in CDX by April 30th).
- The EN Grant Program met & exceeded its Tribal commitment this year (at least 20% of total funding to be awarded to tribal grantees); the office will be sharing more details on that in the future.
- Once all awards are final, the list of awardees and a summary of their projects will be available on the EN website here:
<https://www.epa.gov/exchangenetwork/previous-exchange-network-grant-projects>

Did your Tribal Environmental Program recently receive an Exchange Network Grant? We'd love to hear about it! Reach out at TXG@TribalExchangeNetwork.org to share your story and be featured in an upcoming newsletter.

Find out more about the [Exchange Network & its Grant Program](#)

TRIBAL DATA IN THE NEWS

[Feds Award \\$192M for Water Projects](#) ©USA Herald, 11/17/23.

[Worsening warming is hurting people in all regions](#): US climate assessment ©Indian Country Today, 11/14/23.

[New Mexico extends ban on oil and gas leasing around Chaco park](#). ©Indian Country Today, 12/15/23.

[Applying the 'CARE Principles for Indigenous Data Governance' to ecology and biodiversity research](#) ©Nature - Ecology & Evolution Paper, 8/9/23.

[Researchers and Ojibwe to use environmental data to strengthen Tribal sovereignty](#) ©Northwestern Now, 09/1/23.

[Indigenous Resilience Center puts tribes first in several water solutions projects](#). ©Wyoming Public Radio, 11/26/23.

JOB & INTERNSHIP BOARD

[Climate Adaptation Scientists of Tomorrow \(CAST\) Undergraduate Research Cohort, US Geological Society \(USGS\)](#)

Build your climate science skills, training, and development for two years and join a cohort of 20 undergraduate students with common interests across the U.S. Lead an undergraduate research project in your area of interest at a leading university. Program provides 10 weeks room and board, and a stipend for two summers.

Compensation: 10 weeks room & board + minimum \$5,000/summer

Applications due: 12/31/2023

[Program Manager \(Division Chief\) Office of Indigenous Connectivity and Technology, Bureau of Indian Affairs \(BIA\)](#)

This position oversees spectrum & broadband expansion, electric vehicle infrastructure, new technology development, and interagency coordination for new wireless services on Tribal lands to promote economic development and spectrum leasing opportunities for Tribal Nations!

Salary: \$136,980 - \$177,978/year

Applications due: 1/11/2024

[Environmental Analyst, National Congress of American Indians \(NCAI\)](#)

The Environmental Analyst will conduct research and analysis on environmental and natural resource matters important to Indian Country for the NCAI Institute for Environmental Sovereignty.

Applicants should have at least eight years of experience in the field of environmental science, biology, toxicology, and/or forestry, preferably including at a federal or state regulatory agency.

Salary: \$72,000 - \$101,000/year

Applications due: Open until filled.

[Tribal College and University \(TCU\) Cyberinfrastructure Facilitator, American Indian Higher Education Consortium \(AIHEC\)](#)

The Cyberinfrastructure (CI) Facilitator, as part of the AIHEC Cyberinfrastructure Team) will engage directly with the 37 Tribal Colleges and Universities nationwide focusing on the integration of CI resources and IT staff support into the campuses' academic and research activities.

Salary: Unknown

Applications due: ASAP

HAVE A STORY
IDEA OR UPDATE
TO SHARE?

EMAIL US AT
TXG@TRIBALEXCHANGENETWORK.ORG

SIGN UP FOR ONE-ON-ONE FREE
TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE, LEARN
ABOUT BECOMING A MEMBER, AND
MEET OUR MEMBERS AT:
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You have received this email as a
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Newsletter.

This newsletter was developed by the Institute for Tribal Environmental Professionals (ITEP) on behalf of the Tribal Exchange Network Group (TXG), under Assistance Agreement (OS-83997701) awarded to Northern Arizona University (NAU) by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). It has not been formally reviewed by EPA. The views expressed in this document are solely those of the TXG.

