[View this email in your browser](#)



*March 2024*

# In the News

## EPA Announces Exchange Network Grant Opportunities for FY24

The US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has published the FY24 Solicitation Notice for grant funding available to support Exchange Network projects, with goals of fostering better environmental management and decision-making through increased access to timely, high quality, environmental information.

In FY24, the EPA expects to award approximately 25-35 grants of up to $500,000 each. The exact number of grants awarded will depend on the number of applications submitted by application deadline, the amounts of proposed project budgets, and the quality of proposals. EPA remains committed to awarding tribal assistance agreements equal to at least 20 percent of the appropriated funds for program. Additional funds up to $15,000 can be requested by first-time applicants who are interested in working with an experienced mentor to support and enhance their project outcomes.

Additional guidance, including optional fillable templates for the cover letter, project narrative (work plan), and budget narrative attachment form, plus a budget calculation tool, is available through the Grants.gov listing and on the EPA webpage for the Exchange Network Grant Program.  Applicants are encouraged to carefully review the new FY24 version, as updates have been made since the FY23 version. Informational webinars on key changes in the FY24 funding opportunity will be announced soon.

**Applications are due Wednesday, May 22nd, 2024.**

*Interested in learning how some Tribes have put Exchange Network funding to use in their programs? Check out these presentations, videos, and case studies!*

Case Study: Bishop Paiute Tribe Uses EN Program Funds to Expand Capacity (2023)

Video: Yakama Nation Fisheries Program End-to-End Digital Data Management Systems (2022)

Video: Wabanaki Water Protection-Collaborative Improvements to Data Management and Exchange (2022)

Presentation: NWIFC's Tribal Water Quality Database Solution (2021)

Video: Gila River Indian Community Emissions Inventory System for Air Quality (2020)

Video: Port Gamble S'Klallam Tribal Fisheries Data Management Capacity Development (2020)

Video: EN Innovations at Three Tribal Water Quality Monitoring Programs (2018)

# UPCOMING EVENTS & TRAININGS

## 2024 Tribal Data Drop-In Sessions

**3rd** *Thursday <> Monthly <> 10 am Pacific*

**Tribal support for R, Excel, GIS, and more!**
*Community Connections*
*Open Forum Q&A and Breakouts*
*Resources for Tribes*

**bit.ly/2024DataDropIns**

Hosted by the Tribal Exchange Network Group (TXG)
and the Institute for Tribal Environmental Professionals (ITEP)

## 2024 Exchange Network Forum Monthly Series

**2nd** *Thursday <> Monthly <> 10 am Pacific*

**A monthly online venue to share information on the Exchange Network's services and partnerships**
*Guest presentations and open discussions for EPA, States, Tribes, & Territories*

**bit.ly/2024ENForum**

Hosted by the Environmental Information Exchange Network.

The U.S. Indigenous Data Sovereignty (IDSov) Network will hold a two-day in-person summit April 11-12, near Tucson, Arizona on the homelands of the Pascua Yaqui Tribe. IDSov and IDGov advocates will use the summit to transition their work from delineating principles and rights of Indigenous Peoples related to accessing and controlling their own data, knowledges, cultural heritage, specimens and relatives toward the following three goals, 1) Establishing a national standard in the US. for Indigenous data governance, 2) Creating an Indigenous data standard via nation-to-nation partnerships between Indigenous Peoples and the federal government, and 3) Enhancing Indigenous Peoples' laws, policies, and systems for Indigenous data sovereignty led by the priorities, vision, and strengths of sovereign Indigenous Peoples for our shared data futures. To learn more, visit: https://usindigenousdatanetwork.org/us-indigenous-data-sovereignty-governance-summit/.

## National Tribal GIS Council Conference

The National Tribal Geographic Information Support Center (NTGISC) is hosting the 14th Annual National Tribal GIS Conference, co-hosted by Southwestern Indian Polytechnic Institute (SIPI). Attendees will have access to hands-on workshops & networking opportunities to support the utilization of geospatial information technologies within Indian Country. This year's theme, GIS: The Data That Supports Tribal Sovereignty, aims to highlight the geospatial tools, resources, and projects to strengthen sovereignty and community engagement. The conference will be held April 29 - May 2, 2024 in Albuquerque, New Mexico. See https://ntgisc.regfox.com/14th-annual-tribal-gis-conference for details and registration.

## National Tribal Forum on Air Quality

Hosted by the Eastern Band of Cherokee in North Carolina on May 6 – 9, 2024, the 24th Annual National Tribal Forum on Air Quality convenes at the gateway to the Great Smokey Mountains. This year's theme, Environmental Action in Native Communities, will focus on local and national efforts to advance air quality protection, climate change awareness, and environmental action in Tribal communities. For more information, visit www.nau.edu/ntfaq.

## Tribal Workshops on R & Python

The Tribal Exchange Network Group (TXG) is partnering with The Carpentries organization to offer free online trainings for Tribal professionals interested in learning new skills and reinforcing best practices for effective data management, analysis, and visualization. No prior knowledge is required; registration opens approximately 8 weeks before the workshop. For more information, visit: https://www.tribalexchangenetwork.org/trainings-events.
*June 4-6, 2024: Data Carpentry for Ecologists (R emphasis)*
*July 30-August 1, 2024: Data Carpentry for Ecologists (Python emphasis)*
*October 1-3, 2024: Software Carpentry: R for Reproducible Scientific Analysis*
*November 19-21, 2024: Software Carpentry: Programming with R*

Save the Date! September 17-19, 2024, the E2i continues the longstanding series of meetings held by the National Environmental Information Exchange Network and E-Enterprise for the Environment. E2i brings together a broad community of attendees from state, Tribal, and local environmental agencies, U.S. EPA, vendors, and other stakeholders with an interest in improving the productivity and responsiveness of the environmental protection enterprise. The meeting will create opportunities for attendees to connect with other community members, share their successes and challenges, and learn about best practices in environmental protection. Visit the E2i Meeting website for more information and updates.

*Have an event to share? Contact us at: txg@tribalexchangenetwork.org.*



## TRAINING: R for Water Resources Data Science

Introductory and intermediate course for R looking at water resource data. The introductory course goes over the basics of installing and running R to data visualizations and troubleshooting among other modules. The intermediate course goes over version controls using git, interactive visualizations, and R Shiny. For more information visit: https://www.r4wrds.com/.

## Environmental Protection Network's Free Technical Assistance
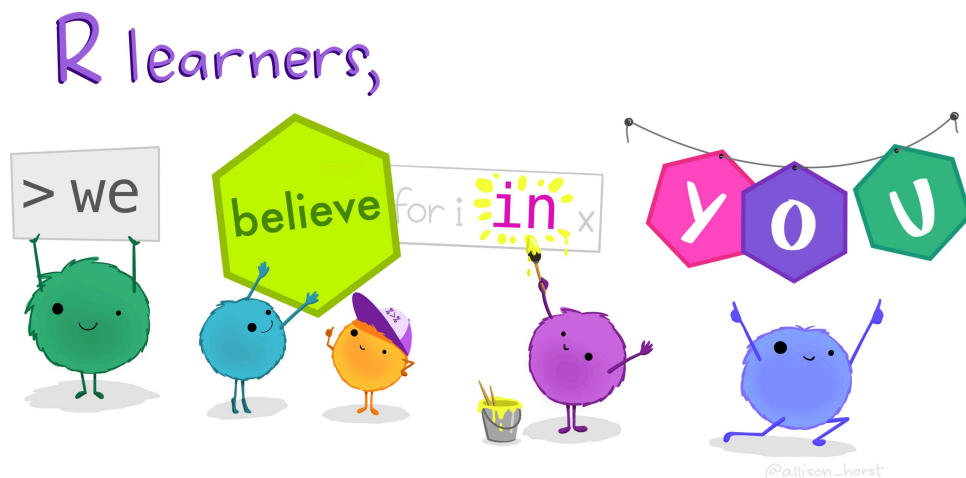
participate in government decision-making by helping them navigate EPA, potential grants, regulatory processes, federal policies, and publicly available data to support their work. You can view their webpage to view their focus, past projects, services types, contact information and more. In addition, 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.

## Software Licensing & Procurement Resources for Tribes

These resources provide options for sensible and efficient approaches to software procurement and addressing longer-term costs and needs. Tribal and EPA representatives worked collaboratively to present potential solutions for Tribes who use software to conduct their environmental business. Visit: https://www.epa.gov/e-enterprise/software-licensing-resources-tribal-environmental-professionals for more information.

*Find more resources and information in our previous newsletters at: https://www.tribalexchangenetwork.org/newsletter.*



*Artwork by @allison_horst*

Our mailing address is:

Want to change how you receive these emails?
You can update your preferences or unsubscribe