

10/18/2012

Soliciting Tribal Partners for a CA Exchange Network Grant Application

Under the continued partnership of CBFWA and PNAMP a Coordinated Assessments grant application for EPA's Exchange Network grant program is being prepared. The application is due November 9th, 2012. The application will seek funds (we are seeking \$500K) to support the implementation of data flows based on the CA DET approved by the CA Working Group this summer. The application is for a "partnership" grant which are designed to support multi-partner data flows. As required by the grant one entity must act as fiscal agent for partnership grants, WDFW has graciously and bravely stepped forward to act in this capacity for our application. We are now in the process of (quickly) framing out the project approach and partner roles. We are soliciting your interest in participating as a formal partner in the application, and in helping define the approach, resource distribution and roles.

Per the grant requirements, we must use the funds to construct a "flows" of this data. This means that the data has to flow from partners' (possibly shared) data management system, in XML (the exact format defined by our CA DET), to another partner who receives that data. It is also required that the data (once cleared for release) be published as web services for other authorized partner use. At first, we anticipate using StreamNet (and possibly NOAA's SPS system) as the data receiver and re-publisher. Data may flow to other partners as the project develops.

In addition to maintaining the partnership and momentum established by the CA project, Tribal partners in this application would be provided support (through either StreamNet or CRITFIC) for entry and management via a simple CA data management application (see below). The project offers the opportunity to move the CA project from theory to practice.

We are seeking Tribal partners to formally join in the grant application along with the three CA States (WA, OR, ID). While we are still working out the details (and need your input!) we envision that formal Tribal partnering would consist of:

- a) Participation on the management and technical coordination teams that will be needed to implement project (Participation on these team could be distributed among the Tribes to spread the load)
- b) If the CA data is not currently stored in a single information system, Tribes would be asked to locate, clean and organize that data in preparation for entry into a system. For Tribes storing this information in a single system, mapping that system to the DET so that the data can be exported in XML format per the DET.
- c) For Tribes currently without a central system for this data, we are considered two options to provide data management capacity:
 - a. Jointly develop and provide a hosted CA data management system for Tribal (and possibly State) use, under this scenario Tribes would access the application using a web browser to perform data entry and management. The functionality needed to transform the data into XML would be part of the hosted application.
 - b. Jointly develop, provide and install a locally run desktop application.
In order to provide the most functionality with the greatest flexibility we are leaning towards option "a" for the grant application.
- d) Develop policy and procedures for using this infrastructure to "flow" this data to one more partners.
- e) Flow the data to the approved partner

As we learned in the partner capacity research conducted in support of the CA regional strategy, many Tribes are not, at this time, making the indicator calculations covered by the DET. In these cases Tribal partners would just be asked to organize, manage and flow the data they do have available at this time.

The above framework is our starting point for organizing the application, your input is welcome and needed. We especially seek input on how investment around a “flow” based on CA DET, could be executed more efficiently and provide the most direct and indirect benefit to partnering Tribes.

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