

Exchange Network Forum

Partnerships with EPA, States & Tribes

Thursday, April 11, 2024

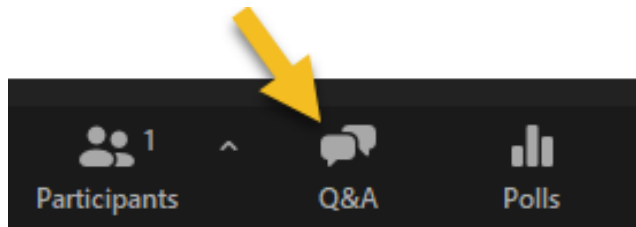
Format

- **This Forum is an open meeting.** We want to encourage open dialogue. Please be respectful.
- **You will hear from Tribes, States, and EPA.** Calls are divided into thirds, with time for each group to push updates and request feedback.
- **We will send polls, surveys to gauge interests.** This is a call run by Exchange Network partners for Exchange Network partners.

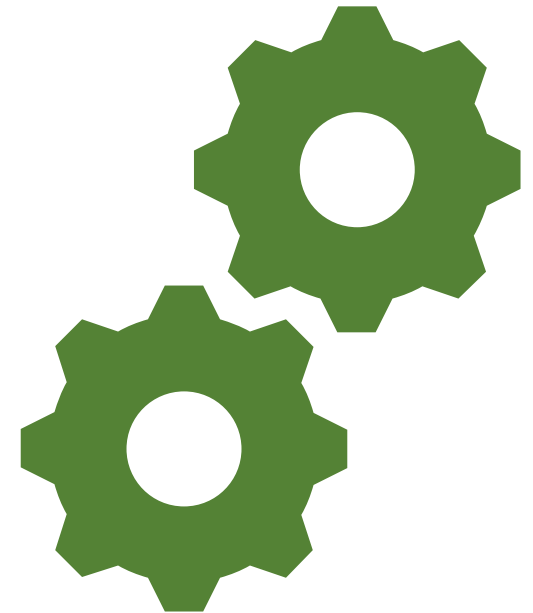


Logistics

- **Introduce yourself!** If or when you speak, please tell us your name the organization you represent.
- **Submit questions using Zoom Q/A Feature.** We will do our best to answer questions during the call.

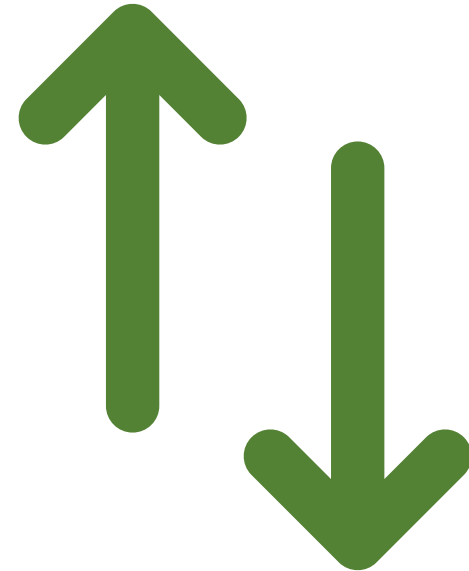


- **Use the chat to share ideas.** You can message the (co)hosts and participants directly.



Meeting Guidelines

- **Choose to be present and participate**
- **Engage actively, raise your hand to speak**
- **Maintain a respectful, open space to share and discuss ideas**
- **Assume positive intent**
- **Be curious and open to new ideas**
- **Listen and question with a desire to understand**
- **Stay on topic**
- **Turn on your camera when speaking**
- **Meetings will be recorded**



Agenda

- **Welcome**
- **Meet Your EN Coordinator: Region 7**
- **FY24 EN Grant Solicitation Notice**
- **Environmental Information & Innovation (E2i) Sessions**
- **Open Forum**





EPA Region 7 – Regional Exchange Network Coordinators (RENCs)



R7 RENC Overview [Outgoing]

Name:

Cassandra Krul

Job Title (prior):

Program Analyst

Time at the Agency:

5 Years, 6 Months

Time in the RENC Role:

5 Years, 5 Months

Other Job (non-RENC) Roles:

VISTA Program Coordinator;
Senior Grants Project Officer

Contact Information:

krul.cassandra@epa.gov

(913) 551-7808



R7 RENC Overview [Current]

Name: Carmen Quizon

Job Title: Program Analyst

Time at the Agency: 1 year, 1 month

Time in the RENC Role: 2 months

Other Job (non-RENC) Roles: Performance Partnership Grant
Project Officer; Best Place to Work
Committee Coordinator;
Employee Viewpoint Survey
Analysis

Contact Information: quizon.carmen@epa.gov
913-551-7060



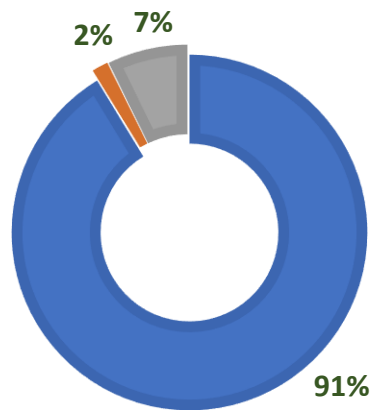
R7 Regional Overview

8 Current Open Grants

69 Total Grants since 2002

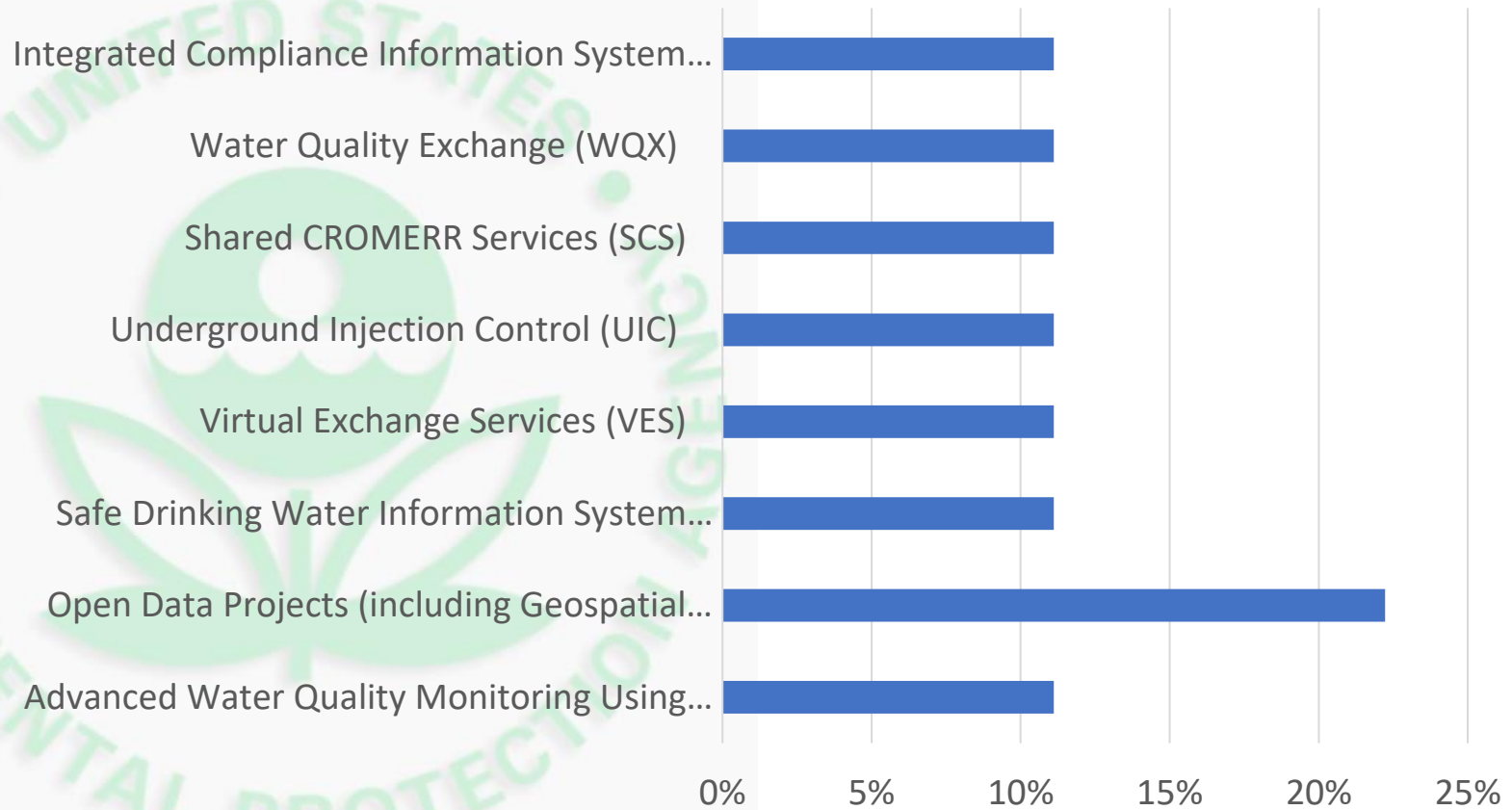
R7 EN GRANTEE TYPE

■ STATE ■ OTHER ■ TRIBE



*Other grantee types include universities and instrumentalities of the state or tribe.

R7 Grants by Project Opportunity Type (2021-2023)



R7 Project Highlight

Grantee Org:

Nebraska State Fire Marshal (NSFM)

Award Year:

2022

EN Partnership Grant?

Yes

EN Project Opportunity:

Streamlining and Delivering Current Data to Inform Timely Decisions in Managing Underground Storage Tanks

Project Description:

NSFM and North Carolina Department of Environmental Quality aim to modernize the exchange of data between states and EPA using web-based technologies to maintain the latest available data sets on underground storage tanks. This will enhance decision-making in protecting water quality and improve emergency response capabilities.

R7 Project Highlight

Notable Project Highlights/ Accomplishments:

Successes

- upgraded Java/Tomcat versions
- tackled outdated/vulnerable technologies with upgrades
- converted application to Spring/Hibernate for more robust capabilities and better look/feel
- VES Connector is returning data from simple queries
- CAT Environment is close to being ready for Client Testing

Troubleshooting challenges

- database logs continue to fill up and no clue why; DBAs are concerned about it being a resource hog
- help from anyone in determining why Tenable scans are overloading our database logs is welcome!

FY24 EN Grant Solicitation Notice

- **The FY24 EN Grant Solicitation Notice is LIVE!**
Applications are due no later than May 22nd, 2024 at 11:59 PM ET.
- **Upcoming Webinars on FY24 EN Grants:**
 - April 25th (General) at 3 PM ET
 - April 30th (General) at 3 PM ET
 - May 2nd (Tribes) at 3 PM ET
- **Contact the EN Grant Program Leads for more information:**
 - Erin McGowan (mcgowan.erin@epa.gov)
 - Aimee Awad (awad.aimee@epa.gov)



EN Grants

- **Who can apply?** Entities Eligible for Funding are outlined in the SN Section III-A:
 - States
 - U.S. Territories
 - Federally Recognized Tribes and Alaska Native Villages
 - Inter-tribal Consortia of Federally Recognized Tribes
 - Instrumentalities of a State or Tribe



Instrumentalities

- **An instrumentality is an organization created by or pursuant to state or tribal statute and operated for public purposes.** Generally, an instrumentality performs governmental functions, but does not have the full powers of a government, such as police authority, taxation, and eminent domain.
 - **States and Territories** must: Provide a signed attorney general letter certifying this status.
 - **Tribes** must: Provide a certification and supporting documentation from the tribal council or other appropriate tribal government official certifying this status.



Eligibility

- **Ineligible entities have the option partner with an eligible entity, provided that:**
 - The lead applicant (formal EN partner) meets the specifications outlined in Sections III-A, III-D, and IV-B.
 - The partnership is not formed from agencies within a single state, territorial, or tribal government.
- **The eligible entity could then share funds with your organization via a subaward.** See additional subaward information under Section II-A.



Funding

- **EN grant program expects to award approximately \$10,500,000 in 25-35 assistance agreements.**
 - *Single Applicants* can request up to \$300,000.
 - *Eligible EN Partnerships (Coalition Applications)* can request up to \$500,000.
 - *'Individual Capacity Building with Mentorship'* applicants can request up to \$315,000.
 - Up to \$300,000 in project costs & \$15,000 in mentorship costs.
 - Open to tribes, intertribal consortia, and territories only. All requirements must be met (see SN Appendix C, Page C3).



Projects

- **All projects must support one or more Exchange Network Funding Areas:**
 - **EN Funding Area 1:** Increased Data Access and Innovative Business Processes
 - **EN Funding Area 2:** Eliminate paper submittals and expand e-reporting
 - **EN Funding Area 3:** Augment the information management capacity of EN partners
- **Projects may fall under one or more EN project opportunities.** Applicants can also propose projects that do not have a specific EN project opportunity write-up.



Project Opportunities

- **Project opportunities** are specific project write-ups providing potential applicants with the information needed to design a proposal for a data exchange, data service, or project type.
- **These write-ups are available in SN Appendices A-C.** Each includes a description, suggested project activities, estimated costs, and helpful links/resources.
- **EN Project Opportunities** in **Appendix A** support EN Funding Area 1; **Appendix B** support EN Funding Area 2; and, **Appendix C** support EN Funding Area 3.



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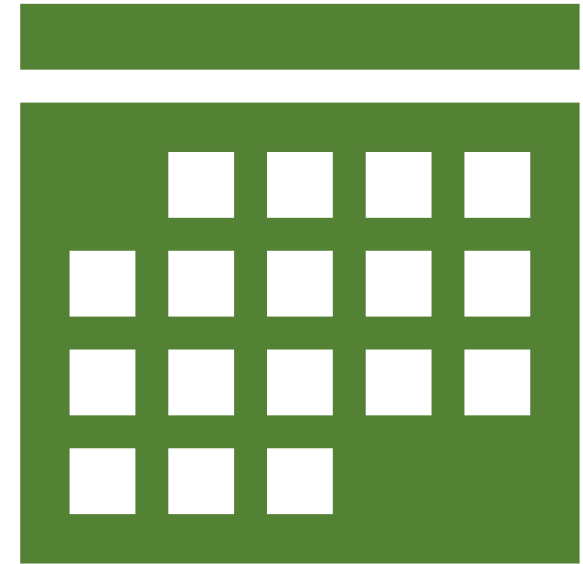
National Meeting

- **Environmental Information & Innovation (E2i).** National meeting for the environmental protection community that builds on a long-standing meeting series.
- **E2i will be an in-person event**, likely with some virtual components.
- **EPA, states, and tribes are cooperatively planning the meeting program** and soliciting content proposals from across the community of environmental regulators.



National Meeting

- **Theme:** Reinvigorate, Collaborate, Innovate
- **Location:** Kansas City, Missouri
- **Dates:** September 17 to 19, 2024



National Meeting

- **Call for Content:** You are invited to submit a brief abstract on a relevant topic that you would like to present at the 2024 E2i.
- **You can submit your abstract for any of the following formats:**
 - Lightning Talks
 - Podium Presentations
 - Panel Discussions
 - Innovation Videos
 - Workshops
- Submit your ideas by [accessing this form.](#)

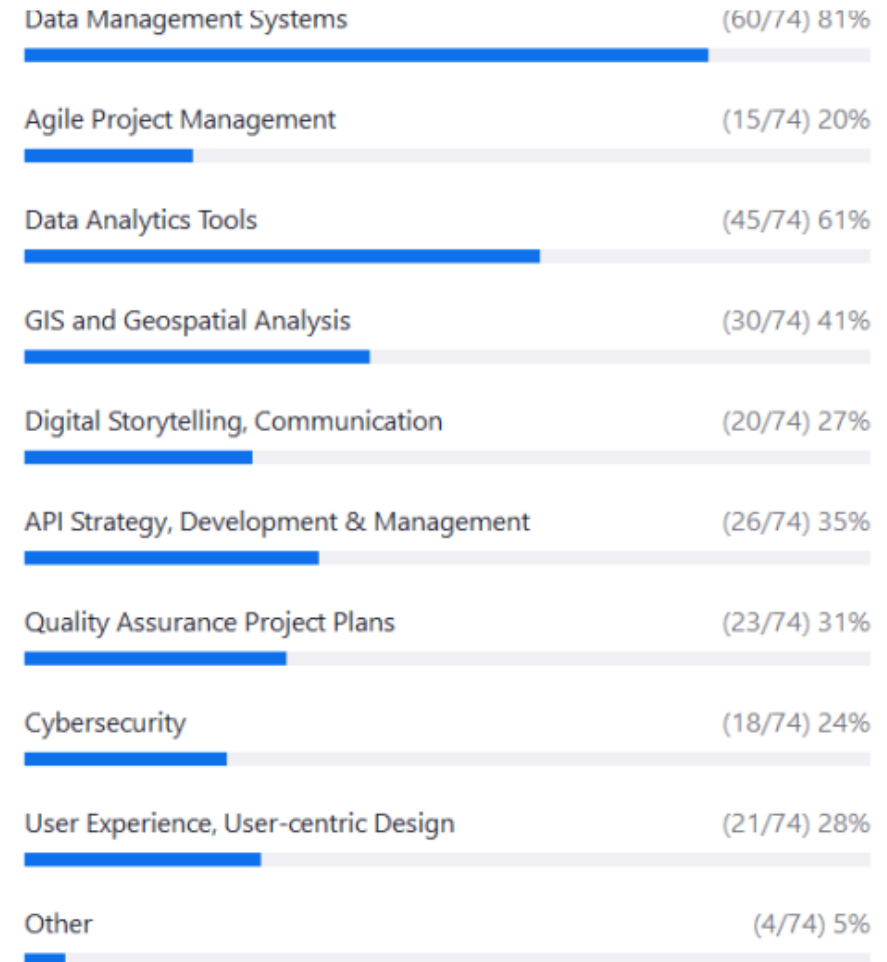


National Meeting

We want to hear from you!

2. From the list of possible workshops or training sessions, please select topics that most interest you: (Multiple Choice)

74/102 (72%) answered



Open Forum

- **Submit questions using Zoom Q/A Feature.**
We will do our best to answer questions during the call. If not, we will follow up with you directly or during the next Forum.



Contact

Moderator: [Alex O'Neill](#) (US EPA)

Panelists: [Cassandra Krul](#) (US EPA), [Carmen Quizon](#) (US EPA), [Kurt Rakouskas](#) (ECOS)

Hosts: [Beth Jackson](#) (US EPA), [Matt Kelly](#) (US EPA), [Kate Sijthoff](#) (US EPA, Contractor)



Thank you!

Questions?