

From: [Fields, Robert](#)
To: [Bonnie L Keeler](#); vtroxler@umn.edu
Cc: [Davis, Sidler](#)
Subject: Termination of EPA Assistance Award: XJ_00E03450-4 Regents of University of Minnesota
Date: Friday, February 21, 2025 3:51:32 PM
Attachments: [EPA XJ_00E03450-4.pdf](#)
[Termination Memo Template Feb21.docx](#) [XJ00E03450-4.docx](#)
Importance: High
Sensitivity: Confidential

RE: Termination of EPA Assistance Award

Dear EPA Grant Recipient:

Attached is your Termination of Award from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. The Federal Award Identification Number (FAIN) is on your agreement on the top of page one and in the subject line of this message. Please use this number in communicating with EPA about this grant.

Please carefully review the assistance agreement and the terms and conditions.

We recommend you forward the award document to any other personnel in your organization requiring information about the award. The recipient's signature is not required on this agreement.

For information regarding payments and financial reports, please refer to the following website at <https://www.epa.gov/financial/grants>. Additionally, the RTP Finance Center's email address is rtpfc-grants@epa.gov.

If you have any questions, please contact Amy Sanders Region 5 Senior Resource Official, sanders.amy@epa.gov.

Sincerely,

Robert Fields
Section Supervisor Assistance Section 1/GMO/
Region 5 Competition Advocate
US EPA
Mission Support Division
Region 5
Acquisition and Assistance Branch
77 West Jackson Blvd., MA-10J
Chicago, IL 60604
fields.robert@epa.gov

312-886-9017

Attachments:

Official EPA Award Document

Termination Memo

	U.S. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY Assistance Amendment	GRANT NUMBER (FAIN): 00E03450 MODIFICATION NUMBER: 4 PROGRAM CODE: XJ	DATE OF AWARD 02/21/2025
		TYPE OF ACTION No Cost Amendment	MAILING DATE 02/21/2025
		PAYMENT METHOD: ASAP	ACH# 50931
		RECIPIENT TYPE: State Institution of Higher Learning	
RECIPIENT: REGENTS OF THE UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA 200 Oak Street SE Minneapolis, MN 55455-2070 EIN: 41-6007513		Send Payment Request to: Contact EPA RTPFC at: rtpfc-grants@epa.gov PAYEE: Regents of University of Minnesota 200 Oak Street SE SUITE 450 Minneapolis, MN 55455-2070	
PROJECT MANAGER Bonnie Keeler 130 Humphrey School 301 19th Avenue South Minneapolis, MN 55455 Email: keel0041@umn.edu Phone: 612-625-8905	EPA PROJECT OFFICER Sidler Davis 77 West Jackson Blvd., RM-19J Chicago, IL 60604-1049 Email: davis.sidler@epa.gov Phone: 312-886-4314	EPA GRANT SPECIALIST Robert Fields Assistance Section 1, MA-10J 77 West Jackson Blvd. Chicago, IL 60604-1049 Email: fields.robert@epa.gov Phone: 312-886-9017	
PROJECT TITLE AND EXPLANATION OF CHANGES COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE TO ADVANCE ENVIRONMENT AND ENERGY JUSTICE IN THE GREAT LAKES REGION See Attachment 1 for project description.			
BUDGET PERIOD 06/01/2023 - 02/21/2025	PROJECT PERIOD 06/01/2023 - 02/21/2025	TOTAL BUDGET PERIOD COST \$ 10,000,000.00	TOTAL PROJECT PERIOD COST \$ 10,000,000.00
NOTICE OF AWARD Based on your Application dated 02/21/2025 including all modifications and amendments, the United States acting by and through the US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) hereby awards \$ 0.00. EPA agrees to cost-share <u>100.00%</u> of all approved budget period costs incurred, up to and not exceeding total federal funding of \$ 8,000,000.00. Recipient's signature is not required on this agreement. The recipient demonstrates its commitment to carry out this award by either: 1) drawing down funds within 21 days after the EPA award or amendment mailing date; or 2) not filing a notice of disagreement with the award terms and conditions within 21 days after the EPA award or amendment mailing date. If the recipient disagrees with the terms and conditions specified in this award, the authorized representative of the recipient must furnish a notice of disagreement to the EPA Award Official within 21 days after the EPA award or amendment mailing date. In case of disagreement, and until the disagreement is resolved, the recipient should not draw down on the funds provided by this award/amendment, and any costs incurred by the recipient are at its own risk. This agreement is subject to applicable EPA regulatory and statutory provisions, all terms and conditions of this agreement and any attachments.			
ISSUING OFFICE (GRANTS MANAGEMENT OFFICE)		AWARD APPROVAL OFFICE	
ORGANIZATION / ADDRESS U.S. EPA, Region 5, U.S. EPA Region 5 Mail Code MCG10J 77 West Jackson Blvd. Chicago, IL 60604-3507		ORGANIZATION / ADDRESS U.S. EPA, Region 5, Office of Regional Administrator R5 - Region 5 77 West Jackson Blvd. R-19J Chicago, IL 60604-1049	
THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA BY THE U.S. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY			
Digital signature applied by EPA Award Official for Sheila Dolan - Manager, Acquisition & Assistance Branch by Robert Fields - Award Official Delegate			DATE 02/21/2025

EPA Funding Information

FUNDS	FORMER AWARD	THIS ACTION	AMENDED TOTAL
EPA Amount This Action	\$ 8,000,000	\$ 0	\$ 8,000,000
EPA In-Kind Amount	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0
Unexpended Prior Year Balance	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0
Other Federal Funds	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0
Recipient Contribution	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0
State Contribution	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0
Local Contribution	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0
Other Contribution	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0
Allowable Project Cost	\$ 8,000,000	\$ 0	\$ 8,000,000

Assistance Program (CFDA)	Statutory Authority	Regulatory Authority
66.309 - Surveys, Studies, Investigations, Training and Special Purpose Activities Relating to Environmental Justice	Clean Air Act: Sec. 103(b)(3) Clean Water Act: Sec. 104(b)(3) Solid Waste Disposal Act: Sec. 8001(a) 2022 Consolidated Appropriations Act (PL 117-103) 2023 Consolidated Appropriations Act (PL 117-328) Clean Air Act: Sec. 138	2 CFR 200, 2 CFR 1500, 40 CFR 33 and 40 CFR 45

Budget Summary Page

Table A - Object Class Category (Non-Construction)	Total Approved Allowable Budget Period Cost
1. Personnel	\$ 2,401,497
2. Fringe Benefits	\$ 807,824
3. Travel	\$ 63,900
4. Equipment	\$ 0
5. Supplies	\$ 6,140
6. Contractual	\$ 53,676
7. Construction	\$ 0
8. Other	\$ 5,418,115
9. Total Direct Charges	\$ 8,751,152
10. Indirect Costs: 0.00 % Base See Table B	\$ 1,248,848
11. Total (Share: Recipient <u>0.00</u> % Federal <u>100.00</u> %)	\$ 10,000,000
12. Total Approved Assistance Amount	\$ 10,000,000
13. Program Income	\$ 0
14. Total EPA Amount Awarded This Action	\$ 0
15. Total EPA Amount Awarded To Date	\$ 8,000,000

Table B Budget Worksheet #1

Table B - Program Element Classification (Non-construction)	Total Approved Allowable Budget Period Cost
1. 07/01/2021 - until amended. pred. 35% - MTDC each \$25,000 subaward limit, and exclude PSC	\$ 0
2. 07/01/2024 06/30/2028 - 37.00% - MTDC each \$25,000 subaward limit, and exclude PSC	\$ 0
3.	\$ 0
4.	\$ 0
5.	\$ 0
6.	\$ 0
7.	\$ 0
8.	\$ 0
9.	\$ 0
10.	\$ 0
11. Total (Share: Recip % Fed %)	\$ 0
12. Total Approved Assistance Amount	\$ 0

Attachment 1 - Project Description

The Thriving Communities Technical Assistance Center will leverage existing university extension networks and technical service providers to reach remote, rural, and underserved communities across EPA Region 5, including the states of Minnesota, Michigan, Wisconsin, Illinois, Indiana, and Ohio and 37 Tribal Nations. The Inflation Reduction Act (IRA) technical assistance (TA) funds issued to the enter name of TCTAC are specifically for the EJ TCTAC to coordinate and collaborate with the EJ Thriving Communities Grantmaking program recipients (Grantmakers) and/or provide additional technical assistance and support to applicants and subgrantee recipients funded through the Grantmaker program. The Grantmakers are considered Technical Assistance providers, who provide funding as well as technical assistance to applicants and subgrantee recipients addressing environmental concerns of disadvantaged communities. Per the EJ TCTAC Request for Applications (RFA), Funding Opportunity Number EPA-I-OP-OEJ-22-02, the EJ TCTACs are expected to coordinate with other Technical Assistance providers over the project period.

This amendment is to stop work; terminate the agreement; reduce performance period duration; curtail scope of work; and waive certain reporting requirements. Administrative terms and conditions are added.

Per 2 CFR 200.340 and the Termination General Terms and Conditions of this agreement, EPA is terminating this award. Your organization shall immediately stop work and take all reasonable steps to minimize the incurrence of costs otherwise allocable to the assistance agreement. See terms and conditions.

Administrative Conditions

FOLLOWING TERMS AND CONDITIONS HAVE BEEN ADDED AS FOLLOWS:

UNILATERAL TERMINATION

1. The Agency is asserting its right under 2 CFR 200.340 and the Termination General Term and Condition of this agreement to unilaterally terminate this award. This amendment serves as required notice under 2 CFR 200.341.
2. Consistent with 2 CFR 200.343 Effect of suspension and termination, costs to the recipient or subrecipient resulting from financial obligations incurred by the recipient or subrecipient after the termination of a Federal award are not allowable. Costs after termination are allowable if:
 - a. The costs result from financial obligations which were properly incurred by the recipient or subrecipient before the effective date of suspension or termination, and not in anticipation of it; and
 - b. The costs would be allowable if the Federal award was not suspended or expired normally at the end of the period of performance in which the termination takes effect.
 - c. The costs are reasonable and necessary termination costs consistent with 2 CFR 200.472.
3. Federal Financial Reporting (FFR) General Terms and Conditions is still in full force and effect. EPA recipients must submit the SF-425 no later than 120 calendar days after the end date of the period of performance of the award.
4. Programmatic Terms and Conditions. Performance reporting is still in full force and effect. The recipient must submit the final report no later than 120 calendar days after the period of performance.

In accordance with 2 CFR 200.329, the recipient agrees to submit performance reports that include information on each of the following areas:

- a. A comparison of accomplishments to the outputs/outcomes established in the assistance agreement work plan for the reporting period;
- b. Explanations on why established outputs/outcomes were not met; and
- c. Additional information, analysis, and explanation of cost overruns or high-than-expected-unit costs.

5. Waiver of Reports

The following reports are waived:

- a. Utilization of Disadvantaged Business Enterprises General Terms and Conditions.
- b. Tangible Personal Property Report, SF-428, General Terms and Conditions.

6. Record Retention

Access to Records, 2 CFR 200.337, is still in full force and effect. The termination of this award does not affect the right of EPA to disallow costs and recover funds on the basis of a later audit or other reviews. Information regarding record retention, property disposition in accordance with EPA regulations, and other frequently asked questions can be accessed at <https://www.epa.gov/grants/frequent-questions-about-closeouts>.

Programmatic Conditions

N/A



OFFICE OF MISSION SUPPORT

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

April 11, 2025

MEMORANDUM

SUBJECT: Termination of EPA Assistance Agreement XJ00E03450-0 under 2 CFR 200.340

FROM: EPA Award Official

TO: Victoria Troxler, Senior Grants and Contract Officer
Regents of University of Minnesota

The purpose of this communication is to notify you that the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is hereby terminating Assistance Agreement No. XJ00E03450-4 awarded to Regents of University of Minnesota. In accordance with 2 CFR 200.340(a)(2) (effective August 13, 2020 – September 30, 2024) and the Termination term and condition contained in the EPA General Terms and Conditions effective August 13, 2020 – September 30, 2024, EPA Assistance Agreement XJ00E03450-4 is terminated in its entirety effective immediately on the grounds that the award no longer effectuates the program goals or agency priorities. The objectives of the award are no longer consistent with EPA funding priorities.

It is a priority of the EPA to eliminate discrimination in all programs throughout the United States. The EPA Administrator has determined that, per the Agency's obligations to the constitutional and statutory law of the United States, this priority includes ensuring that the Agency's grants do not support programs or organizations that promote or take part in diversity, equity, and inclusion ("DEI") initiatives, "environmental justice" initiatives, and conflict with the Agency's policy of prioritizing merit, fairness, and excellence in performing our statutory functions. In addition to complying with the civil rights laws, it is vital that the Agency assess whether all grant payments are free from fraud, abuse, waste, and duplication, as well as to assess whether current grants are in the best interests of the United States.

The grant specified above provides funding for programs that promote or take part in DEI initiatives or environmental justice initiatives or other initiatives that conflict with the Agency's policy of prioritizing merit, fairness, and excellence in performing our statutory functions; that are not free from fraud, abuse, waste, or duplication; or that otherwise fail to serve the best interests of the United States. The grant is therefore inconsistent with, and no longer effectuates, Agency priorities.

The process for closeout is generally outlined in 2 CFR 200.344. EPA is clarifying what reports are required and what reports are waived below. Other requirements are still in effect if applicable to your grant.

EPA is requiring the following closeout reports due within 120 days of closeout (2 CFR 200.344a:)

- Final Federal Financial Report, SF-425
- Final Technical Report

- Other programmatic reports identified in your terms and conditions

As part of this termination, EPA is waiving the following closeout reports:

- Property Report, SF-428
- Final Minority Business Enterprise/Woman Business Enterprise Utilization Under Federal Grants and Cooperative Agreements, EPA Form 5700-52A

The recipient may request payment from the Automated Standard Application Payments (ASAP) system for allowable costs incurred up to the date of this memo provided that such costs were contained in the approved workplan. Costs incurred by you after this termination are allowable only if (a) those costs were properly incurred by you before the effective date of this termination, and not in anticipation of it; and (b) those costs would be allowable if your federal award was not suspended or expired normally at the end of the period of performance in which the termination takes effect. See 2 C.F.R. § 200.343. You are encouraged to carefully review and discharge your closeout responsibilities set forth in 2 C.F.R. § 200.344-45 and your award agreement. Those responsibilities include, but are not limited to, your obligation to “promptly refund any unobligated funds” that have been paid out but “are not authorized to be retained.” See 2 C.F.R. § 200.344(g).

Also, per 2 CFR 200.472, a recipient may use grant funds to properly closeout their grant including reasonable and necessary costs that might occur after the date of this memo. If the recipient drew down funds from ASAP for costs beyond the termination date or for costs that exceed the amount necessary to properly closeout their grant, the recipient must contact RTPFC at rtpfc-grants@epa.gov for instructions on how to return the excess funds.

The EPA Grants Management Office has issued an amendment to the agreement to document the termination.

If you wish to dispute this termination decision, the Disputes Decision Official (DDO), coyle.ann@epa.gov, must receive the Dispute no later than 30 calendar days from the date this termination notice is electronically sent to you. Disputes must be sent electronically by email to the DDO, with a copy to the EPA Award Official, dolan.sheila@epa.gov within the 30-day period stated above. The Dispute submitted to the DDO must include: (1) A copy of the disputed Agency Decision; (2) A detailed statement of the specific legal and factual grounds for the Dispute, including copies of any supporting documents; (3) The specific remedy or relief you seek under the Dispute; and (4) The name and contact information, including email address, of your designated point of contact for the Dispute. See 2 CFR 1500.15

The requirements on post-closeout adjustments and continuing responsibilities, including audit and record retention requirements, at 2 CFR 200.345 remain in effect.

ATTACHMENT

Amendment Document

cc: Robert Fields, EPA Grants Specialist
Sidler Davis, EPA Project Officer
Office Regional Administrative