



HRSA Environmental and Historic Preservation Requirements Overview

April 24, 2024

Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA)

Vision: Healthy Communities, Healthy People



Agenda

- Overview
 - National Environmental Policy Act Compliance
 - National Historic Preservation Act Compliance
- Environmental & Historic Preservation (EHP) Application Requirements
- Additional EHP Requirements



What is the National Environmental Policy Act?

- The National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) is the broad umbrella under which all federal projects are evaluated to ensure environmental compliance
- NEPA established a national environmental policy and requires Federal agencies to consider the impacts of proposed activities, programs, and projects on environmental and historic/cultural properties
- The EHP process must be completed before construction begins
- EHP compliance costs are an eligible grant expense item (Line 1 on Budget)



What is the National Environmental Policy Act? (2)

The following are the most common federal laws that HRSA documents under NEPA:

- National Historic Preservation Act
- Clean Air Act; National Emission Standards for Hazardous Air Pollutants
- OSHA - Asbestos and Lead Standards for the Construction Industry
- Clean Water Act
- Coastal Zone Management Act
- Resource Conservation and Recovery Act
- Endangered Species Act
- Farmland Protection Policy Act
- Executive Orders: Floodplains, Wetlands, Environmental Justice



NEPA Process

HRSA responsibilities

- Determine the level of NEPA documentation required
- Review grant applications for compliance with NEPA and other environmental laws and regulations
- Approve lifting of environmental compliance conditions from grants

Recipient responsibilities

- Evaluate and document the environmental effects of the proposed action and alternatives
- Make that information available for public comment, when required



Levels of NEPA Documentation

There are three levels of NEPA documentation that each agency defines within its implementing regulations:

- **Categorical Exclusion (CATEX)**
 - Most minor of the NEPA compliance levels
 - Covers administrative or minor physical actions such as staffing, supplies, and other administrative costs
 - List of CATEXs is provided in HHS General Administrative Manual Part 30 Environmental Protection (30-20-40 Categories of Exclusion)

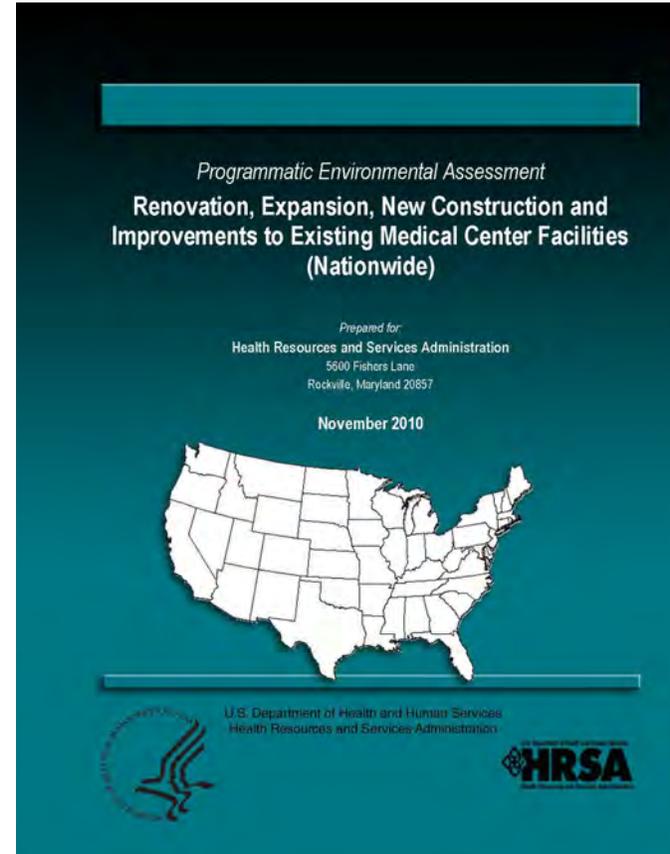


Levels of NEPA Documentation (2)

- Environmental Assessments (EA)
 - Includes physical actions that are moderate in scope and scale
 - Document is completed to determine if there are any “significant” impacts
 - Results in a "Finding of No Significant Impact" (FONSI) OR an "Environmental Impact Statement" (EIS)

Levels of NEPA Documentation (3)

- Programmatic Environmental Assessment (PEA)
- HRSA has a programmatic EA which allows for streamlined NEPA review for HRSA projects
- For Renovation, Expansion, New Construction and Improvements to Existing Medical Center Facilities
- Only for projects with less than 8,000 sf of ground disturbance



Levels of NEPA Documentation (4)

Environmental Impact Statements (EIS)

- Highest level of NEPA review - Rare!
- Projects that have been determined to have significant impacts to the environment and will likely have substantial public interest in the action
- Generally, the scale of these projects is substantial (such as highways or pipelines) or the activity is taking place in a very sensitive natural resource area



National Historic Preservation Act

- What is the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA)?
 - The primary law governing historic preservation programs nationally
- Why is it important to HRSA?
 - It outlines historic preservation responsibilities for Federal agencies



National Historic Preservation Act (2)

- Requires Federal agencies to assess effects of federal undertakings on properties eligible for or listed on the National Register of Historic Places, and properties of importance to Native American Tribes
- NHPA's Section 106 regulations require federal agencies to enter a phased review process
- Does not necessarily require “preservation”. Does require public, regulator review and considerations. Some require tribal involvement
- Historic properties can include archaeological sites, buildings, historic districts, etc., typically greater than 50 years old



National Historic Preservation Act (3)

- Section 106 Process - HRSA responsibilities
 - Review grant applications for compliance with NHPA
 - Review of recipients' coordination with State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO)
 - Consultation with Tribal Historic Preservation Office (THPO)
 - Drafting and Coordination of Agreement Documents, if there is an adverse affect on a historic property
- Section 106 Process - Recipient responsibilities
 - Coordinate with SHPO (using HRSA's delegation letter)
 - Identify historic resources and assess effects of proposed action on historic properties



Undertaking the Environmental and Historic Preservation Review at HRSA – What’s Next?

- Any federal action (grants, loans, permits, etc.) must be reviewed to ensure all environmental and historic preservation (EHP) requirements have been met **prior to draw down of funds and project implementation**
- Notify HRSA if environmental compliance documentation is being (or has been) prepared for another agency



Equipment-Only Projects (HRSA-24-111)

- Moveable equipment – equipment that can be readily shifted that do not require a change in utilities or facility structure
 - Examples: new carts, mobile units, beds, furniture, etc.
- What to Include in Your Equipment Only Application
 - Provide a detailed abstract and narrative for your project.
 - What are you specifically requesting HRSA funds for?
 - Does your project entail the purchase of equipment that is part of a larger project?
 - Does your project entail any minor alteration and renovation to install the equipment?
 - An Environmental and Information Documentation (EID) Sheet may be required



Construction Projects (HRSA-24-110)

- Construction and Modernization projects, with or without equipment: new building structure or facility; or modernization, alternation, repair, remodeling and/or renovation of a building
 - Examples: Construction of a new standalone service delivery site; modernizing facility interior or exterior
- What to Include in Your Construction Application
 - Provide a detailed abstract and narrative for your project
 - Environmental Information Documentation (EID)
 - Project Scope - What are you specifically requesting HRSA funds for?
 - Physical location of your project
 - Includes demolition, new construction, alteration/renovation, etc.



Design-Only Projects (HRSA-24-110)

- Design-only projects: funds limited to allowable/planning related costs for an overall construction project
 - Examples: Proposed site plans, engineering designs
- What to Include in Your Design-Only Application
 - Provide a detailed narrative for your project
 - Environmental Information Documentation (EID)
 - Project Scope - What are you specifically requesting HRSA funds for?
 - Proposed physical location of your project



Environmental Information Documentation (EID)

- EID Checklist
 - Must be submitted for Design-only projects, Modernization (Alteration/Renovation) and/or Construction activities
 - The main source of information used to determine a project's environmental compliance requirements
 - Critical that the EID be accurately completed with a FEMA Flood Insurance Rate Map (FIRM) included

OMB No.: 0915-0324 Expiration Date: 05/31/2022



DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES HEALTH RESOURCES AND SERVICES ADMINISTRATION ENVIRONMENTAL INFORMATION AND DOCUMENTATION (EID)	FOR HRSA USE ONLY	
	Award Recipient Name	
Award Number		Application Tracking #
Project #		Project Type
Project Title		
<p>This Environmental Information and Documentation (EID) checklist consists of information that the agency is required to obtain to comply with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA). NEPA establishes the Federal government's national policy for protection of the environment. HRSA has developed the EID for applicants of funding that would potentially impact the environment and to ensure that their decision-making processes are consistent with NEPA. Applicants must provide information and requested on the EID checklist so that HRSA may ensure compliance with NEPA.</p> <p>HRSA will provide applicants with the results of the agency's environmental review through the NGA. If HRSA determines that additional environmental compliance is necessary, HRSA will notify applicable Award Recipients of specific requirements.</p> <p>Public Burden Statement: An agency may not conduct or sponsor, and a person is not required to respond to, a collection of information unless it displays a valid OMB control number. The OMB control number for this project is 0915-0324. Public reporting burden for this collection of information is estimated to average 1 hour per response, including the time for reviewing instructions, searching existing data sources, and completing and reviewing the collection of information. Send comments regarding this burden estimate or any other aspect of this collection of information, including suggestions for reducing this burden, to: HRSA Reports Clearance Officer, 5600 Fishers Lane, Room 10-29, Rockville, Maryland, 20857.</p>		
<p>Award Recipient Authorized Official: Phone: Email:</p>		
<p>Award Recipient EID Preparer: Phone: Email Address:</p>		
<p>Project Location/Address (Please note - separate EID forms are required for each project location) Please provide the address where the action will occur (e.g. where equipment will be located or where renovations/new construction will occur)</p>		



Environmental Information Documentation (EID) (2)

- The HRSA environmental reviewer reviews the EID Sheet and examines other supporting documents in the application package to verify scope - budget, site plans, engineering drawings, photographs, and state and local agency consultation letters
- Based on these documents, the environmental reviewer documents the environmental issues and assures all were addressed, or completes a request for information (RFI) to ask for additional documents or scope clarification to complete the review



Environmental Information Documentation (EID) (3)

- A clear scope of work must be included in the EID, including:
 - Details of the project (new construction, renovation of existing building)
 - Square footage of the project (include whether this is new construction or addition, new ground disturbance, or interior only renovation)
 - **Age of the building**
 - Details on the existing conditions in the area (vegetation, waterways, wetlands, historic buildings, hazardous materials, floodplains, etc.)
 - Any previous environmental studies completed (Environmental Site Assessment, Cultural Resource Reports, Lead-based paint/asbestos testing, etc.)
 - Consultations with State or Tribal Historic Preservation Offices
 - Consultations with Federal, state or local resource agencies (fish and game, economic development, historic commissions, etc.)
 - **Flood Insurance Rate Map (FIRM)**



Environmental Information Documentation (EID) (4)

If the applicant has additional environmental documents, while not required, these documents can also be submitted with your application. These can include:

- Consultation documents with the State Historic Preservation Officer or other Cultural Resources Reports
- Other environmental documents
 - Asbestos or Lead Based Paint Testing
 - Phase I Environmental Site Assessments
 - Environmental Assessments



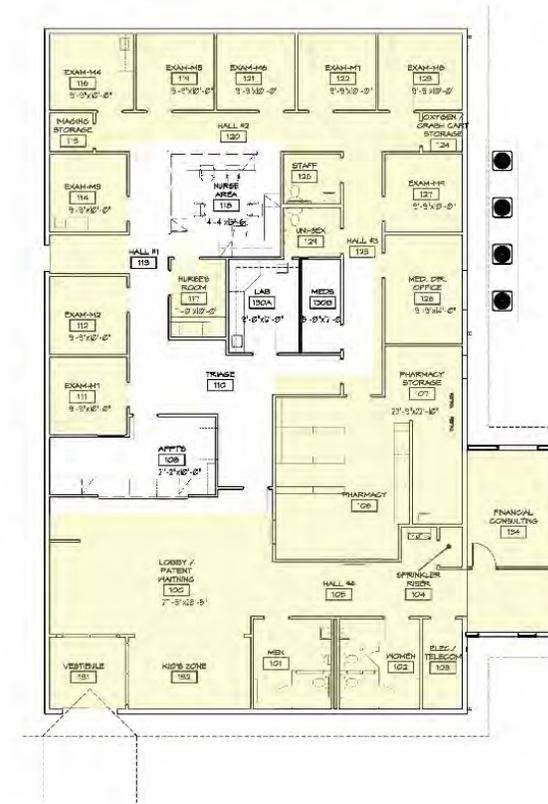
After the Notice of Award (Post-Award)



You Need to Complete an Environmental Assessment

– What's Next?

- Guidance is provided to the award recipient on the scope and issues required to be covered in the EA
- Generally, the award recipient contracts out to a local Architectural & Engineering or Environmental firm to complete the EA



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SCALE: 1/8"=1'-0"

Lyman Davidson
Dooley, L&D Powers Ferry Road - Building 1 - Suite 100 - Marietta, GA 30067 - tel 770-850-6464 - fax 770-856-6030 - Copyright as dated.



Completing an Environmental Assessment

- Once EA is submitted to HRSA, the Environmental Reviewer will review and recommend revisions, if needed
- Once the EA is complete and approved by the Environmental Reviewer, the Environmental Reviewer will draft a FONSI and send to HRSA for signature
- Once the FONSI is signed, the Environmental Reviewer sends the FONSI and a public notice template to the award recipient
- Recipient will advertise and make available for public comment for 30 days



Completing an Environmental Assessment (2)

- If public comments are received, they should be submitted to the EHBs.
- If the comments raised substantive issues, HRSA will work with the applicant to address both in the document and to the person or organization who provided the comments
- At this point, the Environmental Reviewer will recommend to HRSA to lift the environmental conditions



Historic and Archaeological Resources

- For buildings less than 50 years old, where the work is on the interior only, no additional analysis for historic impacts needed
- Buildings older than 50 years, or any permanent physical change to the building's exterior, requires historic review
- When modifying the exterior of a building, you must consider the physical impacts not only to the building itself but also to the appearance of the building from any historic properties in the area



Historic and Archaeological Resources (2)

- If there is ground disturbance (such as trenching for utilities, grading a site, or excavating for a foundation), potential impacts to archaeological resources must be considered
- Background research, surveys, and/or construction monitoring may be required



Historic and Archaeological Resources (3)

- HRSA provides award recipients authorization to initiate consultation with State Historic Preservation Officers (SHPO)
- Initial consultation requirements differ from state to state, but generally it is a small submission with a description of the scope of work and location of the project
- SHPO will respond that no historic properties are present, or that none are adversely affected, or that historic properties are present and must be considered
- SHPO letters can be submitted as part of the application or as an additional document submitted to the Electronic Handbook (EHB)



Historic and Archaeological Resources (4)

- If there is an adverse affect to a historic property or archaeological resources, HRSA then becomes engaged in the Section 106 consultation process to identify ways to avoid or mitigate the adverse effect to historic properties

Historic and Archaeological Resources (5)

- HRSA may need to develop agreement documents with the SHPO and ACHP to complete the Section 106 process
- Requirements may include changes to design, avoiding areas where resources exist, or documenting buildings prior to demolition



Tribal Consultation

- Not all projects that require Section 106 review require consultation with Native American tribes
- Consultation with federally-recognized tribes is required when a project has the potential to affect properties of traditional religious and cultural importance to tribes
- Projects with substantial ground disturbance, new construction in undeveloped natural areas, work on a building or structure with significant tribal association, or transfer, lease or sale of historic properties of religious and cultural significance
- HRSA's Environmental Reviewer will send consultation letters to the THPOs



Additional Documentation Requirements



Hazardous Materials

- Lead-based paint and asbestos testing results must be provided for areas that are to be impacted by the proposed project for existing buildings constructed before 1978
- Federal, state, and local environmental regulations must be followed in the renovation, demolition, and disposal/abatement of contaminated materials

Hazardous Materials On Site

- Need to look at previous uses of the site - toxic materials may have been used or stored at a location a Medical Facility wants to purchase or build
- Toxic materials could include underground storage tanks for fuels, containers of pesticides, or other similar toxins
- Previous site history may require a Phase I Environmental Site Assessment (ESA), and a Phase II ESA, if the Phase I shows likelihood of the presence of contamination
- If the ESA shows that there is contamination, remediation must occur prior to construction

Building in the Floodplain

- Floodplains are delineated by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), with building code requirements integrated into local permitting and floodplain ordinances
- FEMA has mapped the majority of the nation into a database of Flood Insurance Rate Maps (or FIRMs) that show a variety of Special Flood Hazard Areas
- FEMA has a free searchable database: [FEMA Map Service Center](#)
- A flood map with the project location is **required** as part of the EID submission



Building in the Floodplain (3)

- If the award recipient builds or renovates in the floodplain, they should ensure early coordination with their local floodplain administrator
- May be a part of your local building permitting process



Building in the Floodplain (2)

- Executive Order (EO) 11988 requires Federal agencies to evaluate their impact to the floodplains and look at all practicable alternatives to funding activities in the floodplain (seeks to avoid putting Federal investment at risk)
- If the site is in a FEMA flood hazard area, the award recipient may need to complete the EO 11988 8-step process which is documented and made available in a public notice process
- If the award recipient is conducting a NEPA EA, then the EO 11988 process can be integrated into the EA and its public notice process



Building in Other Sensitive Areas – Wetlands

- Wetlands and coastal zones are mapped by Federal and state agencies
- For wetlands, EO 11990 directs Federal agencies to look at avoiding or minimizing impacts to wetlands
- If wetlands are impacted, permitting or coordination may be required prior to undertaking the project. The environmental reviewer will determine the applicable requirement.



Construction in Other Sensitive Areas – Coastal Zones

- Coastal Zones are managed by State agencies and require informal or formal coordination if an activity falls within certain categories
- Must coordinate with a state agency if you are in a coastal zone
- The applicant is required to submit the documentation to the appropriate State
- The Coastal Barrier Resource Act (CBRA) applies to barrier islands and prohibits most new building or facility expansion in these sensitive areas
- Some states restrict construction in tsunami zones (e.g. WA)



Contact Us!

- **HRSA CDS Program and Technical Assistance**

HRSA, Office of Federal Assistance Management

Office of Special Activities

[cgsprogram2024@hrsa.gov](mailto:cdsprogram2024@hrsa.gov)

- **Grants.gov Assistance**

support@grants.gov

[1-800-518-4726](tel:1-800-518-4726)

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