

R5 Stakeholder  
Discussion on Solid  
Waste Infrastructure for  
Recycling (SWIFR) and  
Consumer Recycling  
Education and Outreach  
(CREO)

## Background

- We will discuss two different upcoming grant programs- Solid Waste Infrastructure for Recycling (SWIFR) and Consumer Recycling Education and Outreach (CREO)
- Several similar elements but focus on different aspects of the recycling system.
- We are seeking input on both programs.

# Background

- The [National Recycling Strategy \(NRS\)](#), released in 2021, identified the need to implement a circular economy approach to materials management strategies. Objectives include:
  - A: Improve Markets for Recycled Commodities
  - B: Increase Collection and Improve Materials Management Infrastructure
  - C: Reduce Contamination in the Recycled Materials Stream
  - D: Enhance Policies and Programs to Support Circularity
  - E: Standardize Measurement and Increase Data Collection

# Challenges to the U.S. Recycling System

- Inadequate recycling infrastructure and market demand for recyclables
- Confusion on what is recyclable, leading to contamination
- Environmental justice concerns, including around exporting recyclables





# Background on the Solid Waste Infrastructure for Recycling (SWIFR) Grant Program and Consumer Recycling Education and Outreach (CREO)

# What is the Solid Waste Infrastructure for Recycling (SWIFR) Grant Program?

## Implement

the plastics strategy under Save Our Seas 2.0 Act section 301(a)

## Support

improvements to local post-consumer materials management, including municipal recycling programs

## Assist

local waste management authorities in making improvements to local waste management systems

## Fund

**\$275M** (\$55M/yr from FY22-FY26 to remain available until expended)

Under section 302(a) of the Save Our Seas 2.0 Act

# What is the Consumer Education and Outreach (CREO) Grant Program?

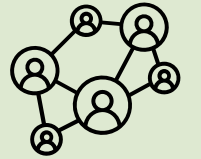
## Fund

\$75 million over 5 years (\$15 million per year) in grants awarded through competitive annual allocations



## Implement

Public education and outreach activities



## Improve

Residential and community recycling programs



# Background

## **Projects as part of this grant will**

- (A) inform the public about residential or community recycling programs;
- (B) provide information about the recycled materials that are accepted as part of a residential or community recycling program that provides for the separate collection of residential solid waste from recycled material; and
- (C) increase collection rates and decrease contamination in residential and community recycling programs.



# Discussion Questions

# Main Question Themes

- Effectively addressing issues in disadvantaged communities
- Measurements that best demonstrate success
- Most impactful infrastructure and E&O actions

# Questions: Disadvantaged Communities

- The both opportunities SOS language requires applicants to provide: “a description of how the funds will support disadvantaged communities.”
- Is your organization addressing disadvantaged communities in your solid waste management program or via education and outreach? If so, how are you approaching this and what have been specific challenges? What is needed to address disadvantaged communities successfully?

# Questions: Measurement

- What data point or indicator do you use to measure success of your program/organization in relation to recycling or education and outreach ?

# Questions: Infrastructure and Recycling

- What are the critical waste infrastructure and recycling needs or issues in your area (e.g., equipment, markets for recycled commodities, contamination, collection/access, MRF processing capacity, community education, etc.)?
- What resources do you need to address the limitations identified?

## Questions: Recycling Education Initiatives and Programs

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What do you think is missing in recycling education in your area (ex: Additional education on contamination, General knowledge, hauler/facility education, etc)?

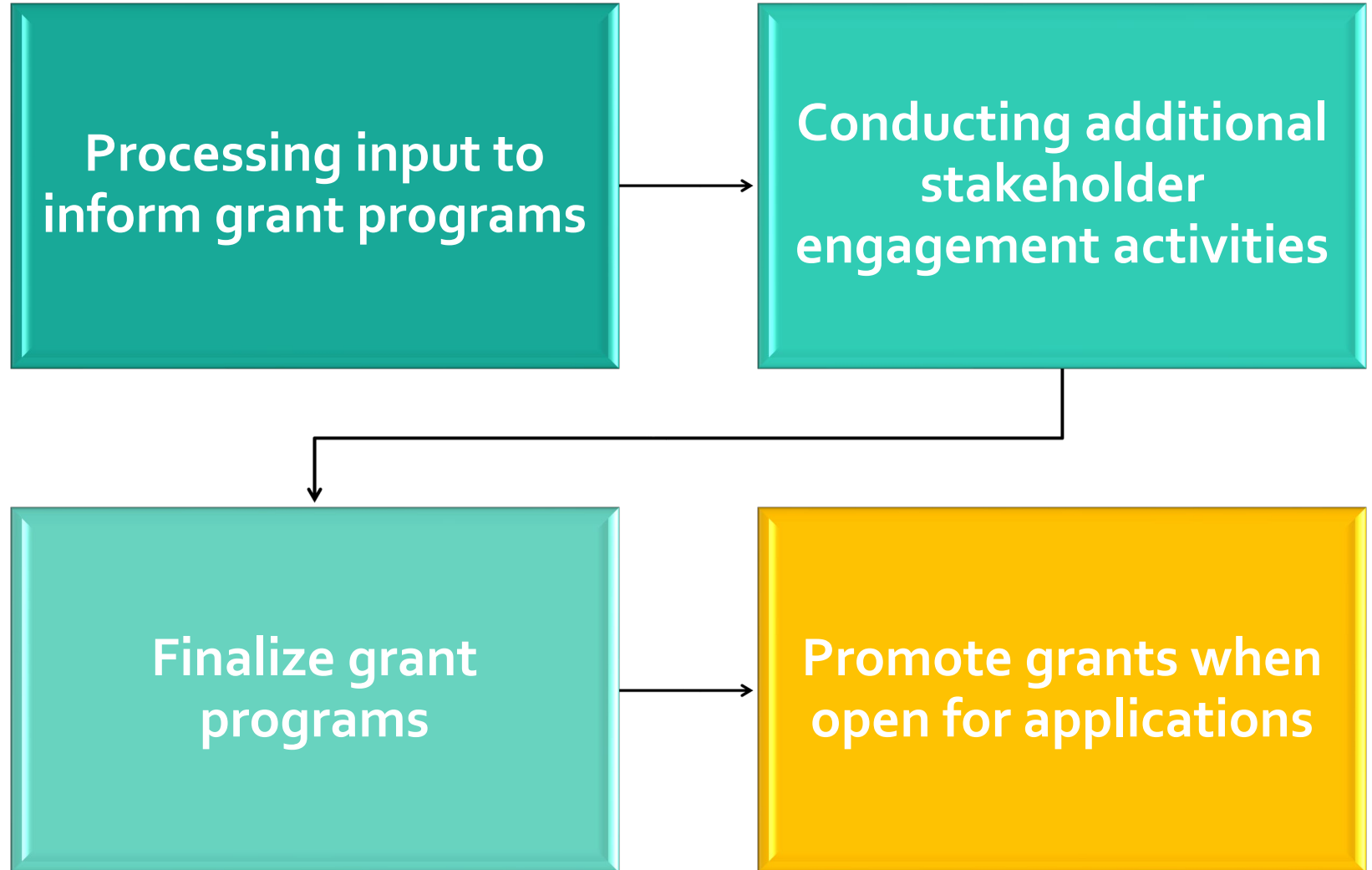
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Do you have examples of E&O initiatives that have been notably successful?

# Other Issues or Concerns

- What other critical points should EPA consider in the context of the programs (SWIFR or CREO) that have not been captured yet? Are there additional challenges or resources you'd like to identify?

# Next Steps and Action Items





For  
More  
Information

Sign up to  
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to learn more about grants, future  
strategies and reports:

<https://www.epa.gov/recyclingstrategy/forms/stay-connected>

Questions?

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