



Solicitation for Project Proposals for FY2024 §319(h) Grant Funding

Summary Guidance for Projects Fundable by the §319(h) Grant

Timing

Proposals are due to MDE by 11:59PM EST on 9/29/2023; but early submittals are encouraged.

Eligibility

Local and State entities, including county and municipal agencies, Soil Conservation Districts, State agencies, and State institutions of higher learning; private firms; and nonprofit organizations are eligible within watersheds with EPA-approved A-I watershed plans. Project managers must ensure they have capacity in grant management and funding, as §319(h) funding is a reimbursement style grant in Maryland. Justification of capacity must be included in the project proposal, and MDE may request further documentation or have additional oversight to ensure project completion if a project is selected.

Project Type & Location

A description of acceptable NPS BMP implementation is included in each EPA-approved A-I watershed plan. Proposals for new watershed plans or addendums to existing watershed plans may also be considered for MDE and EPA review.

Match

No matching funds are required, as the State of Maryland covers the required 40% match.

Optional: Leveraging of project funding in addition to the Federal Grant and required match is encouraged and may improve likelihood of grant funding.

Grant Conditions

Federal EPA grant conditions apply, such as requiring fair hiring practices, and grant reimbursement occurs only for satisfactory deliverables/invoices. (No up-front funding.)

Availability & Start Date

Earliest project start date is 10/1/2024 depending on timing of MDE's FFY24 Grant Application and EPA's award of the grant.

Grant Amount

Negotiable per proposal - typically ranging from \$30,000 to \$400,000. Overall, this grant opportunity is offering potentially up to around a million dollars.

Project Duration

Negotiable per proposal - typically ranging from less than one year to a maximum of 5 years to complete the project.

Pollutant Load Reduction

In-the-ground implementation projects must produce “measurable environmental results,” (i.e., estimated pollutant load reduction for nitrogen, phosphorus and/or sediment). Estimated future reduction(s) must be included in the project proposal. Revised estimated reduction(s) is required as one final deliverable.

Deliverables

Quarterly status reports are required. Final report is required to document project status, achievements, and results. Particulars will be negotiated.

Procurement Regulations

Project managers must abide by the State of Maryland’s procurement regulations, which are, in turn, in compliance with federal procurement rules and regulations. No §319(h) funding can be used to supplement or cover any staff salary already paid for by §319(h) or any other funding sources. In addition, §319(h) funding cannot be used to fund any activities specifically required by a draft or final National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES), municipal separate storm sewer system (MS4) or concentrated animal feeding operation (CAFO) permit.

Projects must be in compliance with the Build America Buy America (BABA) Act, and documentation justifying compliance may be required (e.g. submission of a detailed budget showing costs of construction materials). MDE highly encourages project managers to include a requirement to comply with BABA in each project's design and construction RFPs. General information about BABA can be found at <https://www.epa.gov/cwsrf/build-america-buy-america-baba> and information on BABA waivers can be found at <https://www.epa.gov/cwsrf/build-america-buy-america-baba-approved-waivers>.

General Information

In Maryland, §319(h) Grant funds are typically offered once each year. Contact MDE to be notified via email for future opportunities.

Application Submission

Please submit project proposals to mde.nps319@maryland.gov by 11:59PM EST on 9/29/2023. Required elements of a project proposal include, at minimum, a work plan entailing a project description, timeline, deliverables table, and budget. Additional documentation, including detailed budget breakdowns, pictures, and maps, may also be included. Please use the contact information provided if you have any questions or need a template.

Contact JaceyL.Brooks1@maryland.gov or mde.nps319@maryland.gov for additional information if needed.