



Solicitation for Project Proposals for FY2025 §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 9/27/2024; 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-accepted nine-element watershed plans](#). Communities that may be considered underserved or overburdened may be eligible for a waiver to the requirement for a watershed plan. If your organization is interested in pursuing such a waiver, please contact us directly.

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-accepted nine-element 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 10/1/2025 depending on the timing of MDE's FFY25 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, sediment, bacteria, and/or pH impairments). 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 9/27/2024. 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.

Project Scoring Criteria

	Proposal Evaluation Criteria	Maximum Points	Score Obtained
1	<p>Project Background</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Identifies the watershed where the project will occur and outlines any watershed characteristics that may be relevant to the project b. Provides locations of each implementation site (i.e. lat/long, address, etc.) c. Describes the current water quality conditions or impairments of the site d. Describes current problem to be addressed in that watershed and why it is needed e. Provides map and images of location (optional) f. All site specific factors and concerns for the project are clearly identified 	10	
2	<p>Project Objectives and Goals</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Explains how the project will implement best management practices b. Outlines all objectives and the activities necessary to meet objectives including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. What practices are being proposed? ii. How long will the project last? iii. Who will design and construct the project? iv. What monitoring will be needed to determine success? v. What maintenance will be needed, and who is responsible for that? c. The proposed activity fits within the current watershed plan and addresses a significant NPS pollutant 	30	
3	<p>Project Feasibility and Permanence</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Project outlines how the scope of the work will be broken down b. A timeline for completing work is provided <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Milestones for completing each task is provided ii. Identifies who will complete each task iii. Timeline is achievable c. The cost-effectiveness of the project is outlined <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Costs are reasonable for scope of project ii. Budget breakdown is fully explained d. Maintenance for the future of the project is outlined <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. The project is expected to continue having impacts into the future ii. Lists who is responsible for maintenance and a brief description of how that will occur iii. Describes cost for maintenance (optional) 	20	
4	<p>Measures of Success</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Measurable, expected <u>outputs</u> (direct products/results) are described b. Quantifiable indicators are provided to show success c. Project works to create long term reduction of a nonpoint source pollutant d. Indirect <u>outcomes</u> expected from the project are provided 	10	

5	Partnerships and Support <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Project has support from community partners and stakeholders b. Project identifies the roles of partners and confirms their agreement to the project c. Project outlines partners leveraging/co-funding capabilities d. Project has sufficient support from community members and property owners where the project is taking place 	15	
6	Public Education and Outreach <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Project works to educate and inform the community of the project and its implementation b. Outreach strategy is detailed and effective c. Outreach strategy works to recruit community members and property owners 	15	
7	Opportunities for Extra Points <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Project addresses the impacts of climate change b. Project is located in an underserved or overburdened community and benefits community members <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Justification that the community is considered an underserved or overburdened community (i.e. metrics, on-the-ground experience, etc.) ii. Specific information on how the project will directly benefit an underserved or overburdened community (e.g. community members are actively involved in planning and implementation of project) c. Additional in-kind or monetary match 	15	

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