



# NONPOINT SOURCE MANAGEMENT GRANT PROGRAM

## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

### What types of projects are eligible?

Eligible projects include, but are not limited to:

- Demonstration and evaluation of [BMPs](#).
- Nonpoint pollution reduction in priority watersheds (e.g., areas with water quality restoration plans, etc.).
- Example includes treatment of impaired waters.
  - [Green stormwater infrastructure \(GSI\)](#)/low impact development for stormwater.
  - Ground water protection from nonpoint sources.
  - [Public education programs](#) on nonpoint source management ("319 Grant" only).
- Septic-to-sewer projects ("319 Grant" only).
  - Examples include laying the lateral for the residence/business to the sewer main, the connection to the sewer, installing a grinder pump/station on resident property and abandonment of the septic system if the septic tank would be a continued source of pollution.

### Who is eligible to receive grant funding?

Local governments, non-state entities (including public universities and colleges) and nonprofit organizations may apply.

### What are the minimum and maximum request amounts?

There are no set minimum or maximum funding amounts. However, most awards range between \$5,000 and \$1 million.

### When is the proposal period open?

There is not set timeframe for when the grants portal opens. To receive updates, sign up for notifications through the [Preference Center | Water Quality Dashboard](#).

### When will awards be announced?

There is no specific date for award announcements. Selected applicants are notified individually by the program.

### What is the performance period for the grant?

The performance period depends on whether the project receives state or federal funding. This same application is used for both funding types, and the department determines the source of funding.

## State-Funded Projects (State Water Quality Assistance Grants):

- Funds become available after July 1 (the start of Florida's fiscal year).
- The standard grant period is approximately three years.
- If needed, these funds may be extended (e.g., "certified forward") beyond the initial grant period.

## Federally-Funded Projects (319 Grant):

- Federal funding takes longer due to the application process.
- It generally takes 12-18 months from submission to receive funding.
- Proposals are submitted to EPA in the spring and awarded the following summer/fall.
- The grant period lasts three years, ending on June 30 of the final year.

For example, a project submitted in Spring 2024 would be selected in Fall 2024, approved for EPA 319(h) Fiscal Year 2025 funds in Summer/Fall 2025 (which ends Sept. 30, 2026) and must be completed by June 30, 2030, or funds may be reverted.

**IMPORTANT:** Work cannot begin until an agreement is fully executed by both parties.

## What if a project is eligible for multiple grant programs?

Applicants should submit separate applications for each eligible grant program on [ProtectingFloridaTogether.gov/Grants](https://ProtectingFloridaTogether.gov/Grants).

## How much funding is available?

Approximately \$8 million is available annually for water quality improvement projects in Florida.

## Are Word versions of the application questions available?

Yes, a .docx version of the questions will be available alongside the webform.

## Is there a match requirement?

State-Funded Projects (State Water Quality Assistance Grants): No match is required, but local cost share is a consideration for selection.

Federally-Funded Projects (319h Grants): Typically require a 40% non-federal match, meaning Section 319(h) funding should not exceed 60% of total project costs. Match dollars can be counted from July 1 of the awarded federal Fiscal Year. A [Clean Water State Revolving Fund \(CWSRF\)](#) loan can be the match, but no other federal funding may be used towards fulfilling legally required match.

## What activities qualify as match funding?

Eligible projects and activities that qualify as match include the same types of projects covered by the grant. In addition, planning, engineering and design activities are eligible to use for match funding, as well as certain in-kind services related to the project.

Federal funding cannot be used as match, except for a [Clean Water State Revolving Fund \(CWSRF\)](#) loan.

## Can we apply if we are still awaiting award notifications from the previous year?

Yes.

## Are there any restrictions to the federal 319(h) Grants?

Yes. Restrictions under the Clean Water Act include:

- Funds cannot be used for projects classified as “point sources” under [section 502\(14\) of the Clean Water Act](#).
- Projects required under an MS4 permit are not eligible for federal funding unless they go beyond permit requirements.
- Funded projects must undergo an evaluation of effectiveness. For structural construction projects, this typically involves water quality monitoring of the installed BMPs to verify pollutant load reductions. For nonstructural projects (e.g. educational program implementation), this can involve tracking of behavior change and validation of knowledge gained by outreach to the target audience(s).

For full federal requirements, see the [EPA Guidelines for States and Tribes on the 319\(h\) Grant Program](#).

