**FFY 2020 Section 319 Nonpoint Source Pollution Competitive Grants Program:**

**Regional Coordinator Initiative**

**TO ALL INTERESTED PARTIES:**

A new initiative within the FFY 2020 Request for Responses for the Section 319 Grant Program will solicit proposals for regional implementation project development. Section 319 of the Clean Water Act of 1987 established a national program to control nonpoint sources (NPS) of pollution. Each year the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection issues a Request for Responses (RFR) for competitive projects to be funded through Section 319 grants.

For FFY 2020, in addition to the usual project types, MassDEP will seek [proposals](https://www.mass.gov/files/documents/2016/08/xf/npsmp.pdf) from Regional Planning Agencies and other eligible not-for-profit entities in Berkshire, Franklin, Hampshire, and Hampden counties, for contract services in support of the Massachusetts Nonpoint Source (NPS) Program. Contractors will serve as Regional Nonpoint Source Coordinators (RCs) and will be expected to carry out NPS-focused work including: outreach and education, identification of regional NPS priorities, development of watershed-based plans, supporting or undertaking the development and submittal of high-quality proposals for funding under 319 or other NPS partner programs, and any other activities that will further the goals of the Massachusetts Nonpoint Source program. Please note activities that address the requirements of NPDES permits are expressly excluded from RC responsibilities. MassDEP or its representatives will provide training, tools, and support for RCs. Applicants may propose either full- or part-time RC positions, but successful proposals will plan for the RC positions to be staffed for the full contract term (through June 30, 2023). As each region will vary in NPS needs, proposals should outline the regional NPS needs and priorities, identify any high-priority areas, identify whether new or existing staff will carry out the new NPS duties, and outline the activities and outcomes to be expected, as well as any specific needs for training. Budgets should address the hourly rates for RC and supervisory time for RCs, materials, travel costs, overhead, and all other related expenses. The 40% match requirement applies, which can be met fully or partially through overhead, benefits, and other in-kind contributions. RCs should plan for travel to the Worcester MassDEP office on a monthly basis, as well as travel throughout their respective regions. This is a new initiative, and the NPS program is open to any and all ideas that will make this program a success for local partners and the agency.

For more information on this initiative or the FFY 2020 RFR please consider attending the Pre-RFR information session on March 7 (March 14 is the snow date), 2019 in the Worcester office of the MassDEP, 8 New Bond Street, Worcester, MA or contact Malcolm Harper, 319 Nonpoint Source Program Coordinator at (508) 767-2795, Malcolm.Harper@mass.gov or Jane Peirce, jane.peirce@mass.gov.