



Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Executive Office of Energy & Environmental Affairs

Department of Environmental Protection

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NOTICE OF UPCOMING GRANT OPPORTUNITY FFY2021 Section 604(b) Water Quality Management Planning Grant Pre-RFR Release Informational Conference Call

The Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (MassDEP) plans to hold one pre-Request for Responses (RFR) informational conference call via zoom to discuss ideas for potential projects before the FFY2021 Section 604(b) RFR is issued. MassDEP recommends that all potential grant applicants participate in the call to discuss ideas for new projects.

The call will be held on **February 10, 2020 at 10 a.m.** To participate **you must register** in advance of the meeting. To register click [here](#) or copy and paste the following address into your web browser:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZYqdu6gqTspGtFXzfFoYanHMZ3aoJwm2d8V>

After you register, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the conference call.

For FFY2021, MassDEP will focus Section 604(b) grant funds on nonpoint source assessment and planning projects that result in the following:

1. Development of Watershed-based Plans (WBPs) for local watershed planning and to support future 319 grant implementation projects. An online tool to support development of WBPs can be found at: <http://prj.geosyntec.com/MassDEPWBP>;
2. Development of preliminary designs and implementation plans that will address water quality impairments in impaired watersheds;
3. Development of Watershed-based Plans for 319 grant Healthy Waterbody Projects to be used to guide watershed protection and management activities;
4. Determination of the nature, extent, and causes of water quality problems and determination of pollutant load reductions necessary to meet water quality standards; or
5. Development of green infrastructure projects that manage wet weather events to maintain or restore natural hydrology

MassDEP expects to have approximately \$220,000 in grant funds from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to put toward new projects in FFY2021. A match of funds or in-kind services is not required for Section 604(b) projects; however, an application that includes a match may increase the competitiveness of a proposal by demonstrating local commitment to the project. Projects are expected to utilize firms that qualify as Disadvantaged Minority Owned Businesses (4.2% budget) and Disadvantaged Women Owned Businesses (4.5% budget). Typically, successful proposals are in the \$30,000 to \$50,000 range and MassDEP makes 4 to 5 awards each year. Eligible entities include: regional planning agencies, councils of governments, counties, conservation districts, and/or cities and towns.

Potential applicants are strongly encouraged to contact MassDEP before the RFR release date to refine project ideas and obtain feedback. For additional information and to find the FFY2021 Section 604(b) RFR once it is posted please visit the MassDEP Grants & Financial Assistance: Watersheds & Water Quality website located at: <https://www.mass.gov/info-details/grants-financial-assistance-watersheds-water-quality>.

This information is available in alternate format. Contact Michelle Waters-Ekanem, Director of Diversity/Civil Rights at 617-292-5751.

TTY# MassRelay Service 1-800-439-2370

MassDEP Website: www.mass.gov/dep

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Important dates for applicants:

Pre-RFR Informational Conference Call: **February 10, 2021 at 10:00 a.m.**

RFR Posted to MassDEP and COMMBUYS websites: **February 18, 2021** (planned)

Grant Application Deadline: **April 14, 2021 at 5:00 p.m.**

Please contact Patricia Arp, the Interim Section 604(b) Grant Program Coordinator, at patricia.arp@mass.gov with any questions or to discuss ideas and program objectives.