



Commonwealth of Massachusetts  
Executive Office of Energy & Environmental Affairs

# Department of Environmental Protection

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## **NOTICE OF GRANT OPPORTUNITY FFY 19 604b Water Quality Management Planning Pre-RFR Meetings December 3, 2018**

The Department of Environmental Protection plans to hold two pre - RFR Informational Meetings to discuss potential projects before the FFY 19 604b RFR is issued in early 2019. We recommend potential respondents attend these meeting to discuss your ideas for new projects. The meetings will be held at:

- 1) MassDEP's Boston Office at One Winter Street, Boston MA on Tuesday, January 29, 2019 from 10 A.M. to Noon in Conference Room C on the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor; and**
- 2) MassDEP's Central Regional Office at 8 New Bond Street Worcester MA on Wednesday, January 30, 2018 from 10:00 A.M. to Noon in the Chicopee Room (Snow date is Thursday, January 31st at the same location from 10AM to Noon).**

See <https://www.mass.gov/service-details/massdep-boston-office>, and <https://www.mass.gov/locations/central-regional-office-massdep> for directions.

For FFY 2019, the Department will focus 604b grant funds towards nonpoint source assessment and planning projects leading to the:

- 1) determination of the nature, extent and causes of water quality problems and determination of pollutant load reductions necessary to meet water quality standards;
- 2) development of municipal and regional approaches to stormwater issues including coordination of technical information sharing among communities and creation of storm-water utilities in regulated and non-regulated communities;
- 3) development of Watershed-based Plans (WBPs) for 319 grant projects. An on-line tool to support development of WBPs can be found at: <http://prj.geosyntec.com/MassDEPWBP>;
- 4) development of green infrastructure projects that manage wet weather to maintain or restore natural hydrology; or
- 5) development of preliminary designs and implementation plans that will address water quality impairments in impaired watersheds.

The Department expects to receive approximately **\$220,000** from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) as the 40% pass-through allocation for FFY 19. A local match is not required for 604b projects. Provision of a match, however, either in cash or as in-kind services, can increase the competitiveness of a proposal by demonstrating local commitment to the project. Typically successful proposals are in the \$30,000 to \$50,000 range and the Department makes 4 to 5 awards each year.

Generally, assessment/planning tasks that focus on watershed or sub-watershed-based nonpoint source assessment efforts will be considered for funding. All proposals should provide both a locus and detailed map of the project area. If feasible, the proposal should include the 303d listing from the 2016 Integrated List of Waters with the specific water quality impairment (s) for the project area. Other Water Quality data collected for the project area should be summarized in the proposal.

Eligible grant applicants include: regional planning agencies, council of governments, counties, conservation districts, and cities and towns. MassDEP encourages eligible respondents to propose water quality assessment/planning projects that will lead to direct actions by Municipalities and others to implement water quality improvements.

Potential applicants are strongly encouraged to contact MassDEP before the RFR issue date to refine project ideas and obtain feedback. Contact Gary Gonyea at (617-556-1152 or [gary.gonyea@state.ma.us](mailto:gary.gonyea@state.ma.us)) to discuss ideas and program objectives. The FFY19 604b RFR BWR-2019-04 will be posted on the MassDEP Water Grants page located at: <https://www.mass.gov/service-details/grants-financial-assistance-watersheds-water-quality>.

The tentative schedule is as follows:

Pre-RFR Informational Meetings	January 29-31, 2019
RFR Posted on MassDEP web page	February 15, 2019
Questions submitted	March 1, 2019
Responses posted on MassDEP web page	March 8, 2019
Responses due to MassDEP	March 29, 2019
Evaluation of Responses	April - June 2019
Award Announcement (estimated)	August 2019
Projects Initiated (estimated)	Fall 2019