



# Department of Environmental Protection

Charles D. Baker  
Governor

Karyn E. Polito  
Lieutenant Governor

Bethany A. Card  
Secretary

Martin Suuberg  
Commissioner

## **NOTICE OF UPCOMING GRANT OPPORTUNITY FFY2022 Section 604(b) Water Quality Management Planning Grant Pre-RFR Release Informational Conference Call**

The Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection's (MassDEP) Watershed Planning Program plans to hold one pre-Request for Responses (RFR) informational conference call via Zoom to discuss ideas for potential projects before the FFY2022 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 **Thursday, June 16, 2022, 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 browser: [https://us06web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZwoc-iorT8uGNdw0vOlnZA8ep\\_0YNQnnzMN](https://us06web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZwoc-iorT8uGNdw0vOlnZA8ep_0YNQnnzMN)

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

For FFY2022, MassDEP will focus 604(b) grant funds on nonpoint source assessment and planning projects that result in the following:

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

MassDEP expects to have approximately \$165,000 in grant funds from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to put towards new projects in FFY2022. 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 range from \$30,000 to \$70,000. 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 FFY2022 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>.

**Important dates for applicants:**

Pre-RFR Informational Conference Call: **Thursday, June 16, 2022, at 10:00 am**

RFR Posted to MassDEP and COMMBUYS websites: **Wednesday, June 29, 2022** (planned)

Grant Application Deadline: **Wednesday, August 17, 2022**

Please contact Meghan Selby, the Section 604(b) Grant Program Manager, at 617-418-9666 or [meghan.selby@mass.gov](mailto:meghan.selby@mass.gov) with any questions or to discuss ideas and program objectives.