

Questions and Answers Related to the Upcoming Drought Resiliency and Water Efficiency Grant Program

Q: Is the purchase of devices and equipment eligible for this grant opportunity?

A: Yes, in general the purchase of devices and equipment are eligible for reimbursement through this program. However, certain purchases will not be eligible, such as:

- Any related costs incurred prior to the execution of a grant with EEA or after the contract has ended
- Unrelated equipment purchases
- Ongoing operations and maintenance
- Travel costs not directly related to project implementation
- Any costs funded by any other Federal or other State grant or loan to the applicant
- Costs incurred by police details
- Costs to acquire an interest in real property

Please refer to the RFR once posted for details on allowable and unallowable costs.

Q: Is there a match requirement from applicants?

A: No, there is no match requirement for this program.

Q: What is the total available funding under this grant program?

A: The total availability funding for this program is expected to be \$500,000. The target amount for individual awards is up to \$50,000, with the possibility for larger awards depending on the number of qualified applicants received.

Q: Are there any requirements related to Minority Business Enterprise (MBE), Women Business Enterprise (WBE), and/or Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (DBE)?

A: No, there are no requirements for applicants or contractors working with applicants to meet MBE/WBE/DBE criteria to be eligible for this program.

Q: Do proposals need to be new or if an ongoing project fits the requirements, could you apply for funding?

A: The project does not need to be a new project to be eligible. However, only costs incurred between the start of the contract and June 30th, 2025 are eligible for reimbursement.

Q: Are extra rating points given for Environmental Justice communities?

A: Preference will be given to projects that provide direct benefit to EJ populations. Information on which communities are classified as EJ populations can be found at: <https://www.mass.gov/info-details/environmental-justice-populations-in-massachusetts>.

Q: Can the project start before the award?

A: The project can start before the award. However, only costs incurred between the start of the contract and June 30th, 2025 are eligible for reimbursement.

Q: is the closing date for application a hard date or soft?

A: The closing date for applications will be a hard date. The final date for submitting applications will be announced in the full RFR once it gets posted. Please refer to the RFR for details on the grant program timeline.