|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| MassDEP logo | Commonwealth of Massachusetts Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs Department of Environmental Protection |
| 100 Cambridge Street Suite 900, Boston, ma 02114, or call 617-292-5000 |

**Maura T. Healey, Governor Rebecca L. Tepper, Secretary**

**Kimberley Driscoll, Lieutenant Governor Bonnie Heiple, Commissioner**

**NOTICE OF GRANT OPPORTUNITY**

**MS4 MUNICIPAL ASSISTANCE FY26 GRANT PROGRAM**

**Summary of Grant Opportunity:** The Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (MassDEP or the Department) seeks proposals from: groups of Massachusetts cities/towns; Regional Planning Agencies on behalf of groups of Massachusetts cities/towns; Massachusetts stormwater coalitions representing two or more municipalities; and/or non-profit organizations on behalf of groups of Massachusetts cities/towns, for innovative projects that will help multiple communities meet the requirements of the 2016 Small Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4) General Permit (2016 Small MS4 General Permit). The purpose of this funding is to help groups of Massachusetts municipalities expand their efforts to meet the 2016 Small MS4 General Permit requirements and reduce stormwater pollution through coordinated partnerships that emphasize resource sharing.

**Grant Opportunity Application and Requirements:** The MS4 Municipal Assistance Grant Program document was issued on September 2, 2025, and is posted on MassDEP’s website at the following link:

[MS4 Municipal Assistance Grant I Mass.gov](https://www.mass.gov/info-details/grants-financial-assistance-watersheds-water-quality#stormwater-ms4-municipal-assistance-grant-program-)

**Eligible Entities:**Eligible Entities are groups of two or more Massachusetts municipalities that are subject to the 2016 Small MS4 General Permit; Regional Planning Agencies acting on behalf of two or more municipalities that are subject to the 2016 Small MS4 General Permit; Massachusetts stormwater coalitions representing two or more municipalities that are subject to the 2016 Small MS4 General Permit; and/or non-profit organizations acting on behalf of two or more municipalities that are subject to the 2016 Small MS4 General Permit.

**Eligible Projects:** Eligible projects will result in tools or strategies that will help multiple municipalities meet one or more requirement(s) of the 2016 Small MS4 General Permit. Ineligible projects include funding for the operation and maintenance of sewer systems.

* 1. Eligible projects must provide a shared benefit to two or more communities.
  2. Eligible projects must not duplicate work already done by any Massachusetts stormwater coalition or apply a previously funded project delivery to another region (previously funded projects by MS4 Minimum Control Measure at: [MS4 Municipal Assistance Grant I Mass.gov](https://www.mass.gov/info-details/stormwater#municipal-resources-for-ms4-compliance-)).
  3. Examples of potentially eligible, MS4-focused projects include, but are not limited to:
     1. Assessment tool(s) for identifying retrofit sites;
     2. Data intake and field-certification tool(s) for Best Management Practices (BMP) and/or operation and maintenance programs;
     3. Formation of new regional MS4 coalitions and/or the establishment of stormwater enterprise funds or stormwater utilities in areas where none exist;
     4. MS4 capital investments, including investments in equipment and electronic resources;
     5. Outreach and education services, materials, and/or strategies for (a) public engagement and/or (b) establishment of stormwater enterprise funds or stormwater utilities;
     6. Survey research to identify the needs of smaller MS4 municipalities;
     7. Asset management tools for tracking and maintaining stormwater infrastructure such as catch basins, culverts and BMPs; and/or
     8. MS4-related job training opportunities.
  4. Both existing and proposed projects are eligible for this grant program, and funding will support work activities for any phase(s) of a project, from initial project planning through project implementation, so long as the work funded by this program is conducted during FY26 (i.e., started on or after July 1, 2025, and completed on or before June 30, 2026). Please be advised that to receive reimbursement for project expenses incurred during FY26, but prior to the grant award, applicants must submit documentation (i.e., invoices, purchase orders and proof of payment, and/or vendor contracts) during the contracting process. All Applications must include a feasible timeline for completion (i.e., illustrating that the project can be completed on or before the June 30, 2026, deadline).
  5. Preference will be given to projects that directly assist the greatest number of municipalities that are identified as “Disadvantaged Communities”. Information on which communities are classified as Disadvantaged Communities can be found in Attachment B of the RFR and online at: [FY25 Disadvantaged Communities Calculations I Mass.gov](https://www.mass.gov/doc/affordability-calculation-october-2024/download).
  6. All assets, equipment, data, and/or other property purchased as a result of awards made through this program shall be owned by the grant applicant and/or municipalities partnering on an application, not by MassDEP.

**Funding Availability**: The total funding currently available for projects under this Grant Announcement and at the time of posting is $250,000. Grant awards may range from $50,000 to $75,000 per applicant, although the MassDEP review committee reserves the right, in its discretion, to grant smaller awards to proposals of exceptional merit. If additional or unspent funds become available during the period, between the announcement of this grant opportunity and the announcement of the grant awards, MassDEP may consider allocating supplemental funds to this grant solicitation.  Applicants must only propose project scopes with timelines that can be completed on or before June 30, 2026. All funding of awards issues through this program are subject to the availability of appropriations or funding from other Department sources.

**Disadvantaged Communities:** MassDEP is committed to advancing Disadvantaged Communities through its public investments. To that end, preference will be given to projects that provide direct benefit to Disadvantaged Communities. Information on how communities are classified as Disadvantaged Communities and which communities they are can be found at [The Disadvantaged Community Loan Forgiveness Program | Mass.gov](https://www.mass.gov/info-details/the-disadvantaged-community-loan-forgiveness-program#disadvantaged-community-designation)

**Grant Application Process:** The MS4 Grant Program document on MassDEP’s website contains a grant application form (Attachment A), a procurement schedule describing the steps of the application process, all project proposal and qualification requirements, and a specific format for responding to this Grant Opportunity.

**Pre-Application Meeting:** A Pre-Application Meeting on Zoom will be held on Wednesday, September 10, 2025, at 1:00 P.M. To obtain the meeting link information or the Zoom link please contact Courtney Starling via email at [Courtney.starling@mass.gov](mailto:Courtney.starling@mass.gov) with ‘FY 2026 MS4 Pre-Application Meeting Details’ in the email subject line.

**Evaluation Criteria:** The evaluation criteria components for MassDEP’s review and scoring of proposals are as specified in the MS4 Grant Program Document.

**Application Deadline:** Applications are due via email to Douglas Coppi via email at: [douglas.coppi@mass.gov](mailto:douglas.coppi@mass.gov) by **5:00 P.M. E.S.T on Friday, October 3, 2025.** Please use “FY2026 [Applicant Name] MS4 Grant Application” in the email subject line.

**Match and Other Funding Obligations:** Applicants are not required to provide matching funds. However, Applicants are encouraged to identify other known sources of funding for a proposed project on the Application Form, from both secured and anticipated sources. In addition, applicants are advised that grant awards involving capital funds, which is the case here, are required to be disbursed on a cost reimbursement basis, meaning that grantees will be reimbursed for funds already expended. To receive reimbursement for funds expended, grantees must submit a written request for payment, along with any other required documentation. All work must be completed on or before June 30, 2026, and grantees are strongly encouraged to submit written requests for payment, and any corresponding supporting documentation, on or before June 30, 2026, as well.

**Additional Information**: for additional information regarding the MS4 Grant Program, please refer to the MassDEP website link: [MS4 Municipal Assistance Grant I Mass.gov](https://www.mass.gov/info-details/grants-financial-assistance-watersheds-water-quality#stormwater-ms4-municipal-assistance-grant-program-)

**This information is available in alternate format.**

**Please contact MassDEP at 617-292-5500 or TTY# MassRelay Service 1-800-439-2370**

**MassDEP Website: www.mass.gov/dep**