



Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Executive Office of Energy & Environmental Affairs

Department of Environmental Protection

100 Cambridge Street Suite 900 Boston, MA 02114 • 617-292-5500

Maura T. Healey
Governor

Kimberley Driscoll
Lieutenant Governor

Rebecca L. Tepper
Secretary

Bonnie Heiple
Commissioner

MS4 Grant Question and Answer Document August 30, 2024

On July 26, 2024, the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (MassDEP) announced the 2024-2025 Opportunity for the MS4 Municipal Assistance Grant Program (Grant Program). Answers to questions emailed in, as well as posed to MassDEP at a Teams Pre-Application Meeting held on August 5, 2024, to are below. Additional information can be found online, at : <https://www.mass.gov/info-details/grants-financial-assistance-watersheds-water-quality#stormwater-ms4-municipal-assistance-grant-program>

Below are MassDEP's official Answers to all questions received by the August 16, 2024, deadline. The questions below reflect those received both during the August 5, 2024, Pre-Application Meeting, and via email as identified in Sections 1.J. and 1.K. of the RFR.

A recording of the Pre-Application Meeting is unavailable due to a technical difficulty. In lieu of a recording, the following meeting minutes have been provided.

The August 5, 2024, Pre-Application Meeting Began at 10:03 A.M. and concluded at 10:20 A.M.

Elizabeth Clark, MassDEP: Provided a brief grant program overview to meet MS4 permit requirements and described eligible entities as described in the RFR. Many prior projects were to meet education requirements and develop tools. Ms. Clark identified that projects cannot duplicate past work. Ms. Clark summarized that applications are due on September 6, 2024, and the program is funded at \$250,000 and awards may range from \$50,000-\$250,000. No match is required, but it may be considered during the evaluation of the grant.

Courtney Starling, MassDEP: Provided an overview on contract terms, the potential for reimbursements for project costs prior to grant award. Pointed out evaluation criteria on Pg. 5 of application. Reiterated the need to partner for collaborations. Reiterated submission instructions as identified in the RFR. Pointed out Attachment A and cautioned that the Application format is required. Provided overview of budget table to break project down by milestone and responsible party.

This information is available in alternate format. Please contact Melixza Esenyie at 617-626-1282.
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Questions & Answers (Pre-Application Meeting):

Question 1: What is the goal of having the towns work together? Same watershed?

Answer 1: The goal of encouraging towns to work together is to develop and share resources among as many permittees as possible to maximize the impact of the funding. The grant encourages information sharing, as materials generated through the grant program are posted to then mass.gov website. See RFR Section 1.B. Examples of eligible projects can be found in the MS4 Grant RFR Section 1.C.

Question 2: What are examples of Past Projects?

Answer 2: Past projects are posted on mass.gov at the following website as well as listed in the table below: <https://www.mass.gov/info-details/stormwater-permitting#resources-and-tools-for-ms4-compliance> See RFR Section 1.C.b.

The following table was provided in the Chat in response:

AWARD YEAR	AMOUNT	APPLICANT	TITLE
2017-2018	\$50,000	Berkshire Regional Planning Commission	A regional approach toward meeting Illicit Discharge Detection & Elimination (IDDE) requirements
2017-2018	\$170,375	MA Statewide Municipal Stormwater Coalition	Development of the Think Blue Massachusetts campaign
2017-2018	\$50,000	Pioneer Valley Planning Commission	Development of offsite mitigation manual for redevelopment projects
2018-2019	\$25,000	Central MA Regional Stormwater Coalition	Development of MS4-permit Standard Operating Procedures and templates for SWMP
2018-2019	\$205,300	MA Statewide Municipal Stormwater Coalition	Expansion of the Think Blue Massachusetts campaign
2018-2019	\$64,645	The Greenscapes Coalition with Salem Sound	Three tools for MS4 Communities
2018-2019	\$50,000	Southeastern Regional Stormwater Coalition	Training workshops on Stormwater Management Programs and Illicit Discharge Detection and Elimination programs
2019-2020	\$107,795	MA Statewide Municipal Stormwater Coalition	Think Blue Phase 3
2019-2020	\$28,000	Central MA Regional Stormwater Coalition	IDDE Training
2019-2020	\$55,000	Southeastern Regional Stormwater Coalition	SWPPP Preparation

AWARD YEAR	AMOUNT	APPLICANT	TITLE
2019-2020	\$62,504	Northern Middlesex Council of Governments	Northern Middlesex Capacity Building for Local Oversight of Development and Redevelopment Projects
2019-2020	\$46,700	Massachusetts Maritime Academy and Buzzards Bay Stormwater Collaborative	IDDE Trailer and Training
2020-2021	\$75,354	MA Statewide Municipal Stormwater Coalition	Think Blue IV
2020-2021	\$66,776	Neponset Stormwater Partnership + Connecticut River Stormwater Collaborative	Nitrogen and Phosphorus Source Identification Report Development Project
2020-2021	\$45,000	Merrimack Valley Stormwater Collaborative	Stormwater Best Management Practices (BMP) Retrofits and Modification Reports for the Merrimack Valley Stormwater Collaborative Communities
2020-2021	\$9,771	Charles River Stormwater Collaborative + Central MA Regional Stormwater Coalition	Model Phosphorous Control Plan Development and Implementation Planning
2020-2021	\$47,000	Massachusetts Maritime Academy and Buzzards Bay Stormwater	The Buzzards Bay Stormwater Collaborative Illicit Discharge Investigation and MS4 Support
2021-2022	\$75,000	MA Statewide Municipal Stormwater Coalition	Think Blue Massachusetts – Phase IV
2021-2022	\$65,000	Merrimack Valley Planning Commission	Code Review to Decrease Impervious Area Creation and Encourage Use of Low Impact Development
2021-2022	\$49,470	Charles River Watershed Association	Continued Phosphorous Control Planning and Initiation of Implementation
2021-2022	\$69,000	Massachusetts Maritime Academy and Buzzards Bay Stormwater Collaborative	Train the Trainers in Practical Illicit Discharge Investigation
2021-2022	\$31,100	Mystic River Watershed Association	Mystic River Watershed Adopt-a-Drain Program

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AWARD YEAR	AMOUNT	APPLICANT	TITLE
2022-2023	\$70,500	Merrimack Valley Planning Commission	Greenscapes Model Bylaw Toolkit
2022-2023	\$56,800	Metropolitan Area Planning Council	Equitable Green Infrastructure Tool
2022-2023	\$61,970	Charles River Watershed Association	Land Use Cover Data for the Charles River Watershed
2022-2023	\$83,895	Pioneer Valley Planning Commission	A series of virtual training sessions were held to educate the development community on stormwater management

MassDEP did not receive any written questions on this Grant RFR.