



Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Executive Office of Energy & Environmental Affairs

Department of Environmental Protection

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NOTICE OF GRANT OPPORTUNITY **MS4 MUNICIPAL ASSISTANCE GRANT PROGRAM**

Summary of Grant Opportunity: The Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (MassDEP or the Department) seeks proposals from Eligible Entities (as defined below) for innovative projects that will assist multiple communities in meeting the requirements of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's 2016 Small Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4) General Permit. The purpose of this funding is to enable groups of Massachusetts municipalities to expand their efforts to meet 2016 MS4 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 August 18, 2020, and is posted on MassDEP's website at the following link:

<https://www.mass.gov/info-details/grants-financial-assistance-watersheds-water-quality#stormwater-ms4-municipal-assistance-grant-program->

Eligible Entities: Eligible applicants 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; 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 approaches that will help multiple municipalities meet one or more specific requirement(s) of the 2016 Small MS4 General Permit. Eligible projects must:

- a) Provide a shared benefit to multiple communities, including environmental justice communities.
- b) Not duplicate work already done by any Massachusetts stormwater coalition or where a previously funded project delivery is applied to another region (previously funded projects at: <https://www.mass.gov/info-details/stormwater#municipal-resources-for-ms4-compliance->).
- c) Examples of potentially eligible, MS4-focused projects include, but are not limited to:
 - a. Assessment tool for prioritizing retrofit sites;
 - b. Tracking tool for regional stormwater retrofits;
 - c. Review of retrofit applications for different stormwater management applications;

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- d. Review of Stormwater Enterprise Fund implementation issues, costs, successes, challenges and opportunities for crediting;
 - e. Templates for active and completed construction site inspection checklists;
 - f. Formation of new regional MS4 coalitions in areas where none exist;
 - g. MS4 Capital investments, including equipment and electronic resources;
 - h. Outreach and Education services, materials, and/or strategies for public engagement;
 - i. Development of standard operating procedures or templates;
 - j. Training to meet MS4 permit requirements;
 - k. Survey research to identify needs of smaller MS4 municipalities;
 - l. Best Management Practices for improvement to stormwater management; and/or
 - m. MS4 related job training opportunities within environmental justice communities.
- d) Both current and proposed projects are eligible for this grant program, and funding will support work activities for any phase(s) of the project, from initial project planning through project implementation. Work funded by this program must be completed by June 30, 2021. All applicants must provide a feasible timeline for completion of the project prior to this deadline.
- e) Preference will be given to projects that directly assist the greatest number of municipalities, including environmental justice communities. Information on which communities are classified as environmental justice communities can be found at <https://www.mass.gov/info-details/environmental-justice-communities-in-massachusetts>.

Funding Availability: The total funding currently available for projects under this Grant Announcement is \$300,000. Grant awards may range from \$50,000 to \$300,000 per applicant, although the MassDEP review committee reserves the right, in its discretion, to grant smaller awards of exceptional merit. If there are remaining unspent capital funds available from other Department projects during the period between the announcement of this grant opportunity and the announcement of the grants award, the Department will consider allocating supplemental funds to this grant solicitation. If any supplemental funds become available, additional projects may be funded. Applicants must only propose project scopes with timelines that can be completed by June 30, 2021 or earlier.

Grant Application Process: The MS4 Grant Program document on MassDEP's website contains a grant application form, 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.

Bidders' Conference: on the MS4 Grant Program will be held on Tuesday, September 1, 2020 at 1 p.m. via Zoom. To obtain dial-in information or the Zoom link for the Bidders' Conference please contact Laura Schifman via email at laura.schifman@mass.gov with 'FY 2021 MS4 Bidder's Conference 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 electronically by 5:00 P.M. on September 15, 2020.

Match and Other Funding Obligations: Applicants are not required to provide matching funds but are encouraged to identify other known sources of funding from both secured and anticipated sources.

Additional Information: for additional information regarding the MS4 Grant Program, please refer to the MassDEP website link:

<https://www.mass.gov/info-details/grants-financial-assistance-watersheds-water-quality#stormwater-ms4-municipal-assistance-grant-program>