



NONPOINT SOURCE MANAGEMENT GRANT PROGRAM

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Who is eligible to request funding?

Eligible entities include governmental entities, public universities or colleges, and nonprofits. See section 287.012(14), Florida Statutes (F.S.), for the definition of a governmental entity.

What if a project is eligible for multiple grant programs?

Applicants should submit separate applications for each eligible grant program on ProtectingFloridaTogether.gov/Grants.

What types of grants are available and how much funding is available annually?

The Nonpoint Source Management Program administers state and federal grant funding for projects that reduce pollution from nonpoint sources, particularly to address impaired waterbodies and meet restoration goals related to total maximum daily loads (TMDLs) and approved restoration plans. There are no set maximum or minimum funding request caps per project but funding is limited.

- State funding - approximately \$5 million is appropriated annually to the Department through the Florida legislature for the State Water-quality Assistance Grant (SWAG). This funding is intended for “shovel ready” capital improvement construction projects treating waters not attaining standards.
- Federal funding - approximately \$3 million is available from the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) through section 319(h) of the Clean Water Act. The grant stipulates that a minimum of 50% of the state’s grant funds must go towards projects that implement adopted EPA-approved nine element Watershed Based Plans (WBPs), e.g., Basin Management Action Plans (BMAPs) or Reasonable Assurance Plans (RAPs).

What kinds of projects are eligible for grant funds?

Examples of eligible projects or programs include, but are not limited to:

- Demonstration and evaluation of best management practices ([BMPs](#)).
- Nonpoint source pollution reduction in priority watersheds.
- [Green stormwater infrastructure \(GSI\)](#)/low impact development for stormwater.
- Ground water protection from nonpoint sources.
- [Public education programs](#) on nonpoint source management (319h Grant only).
- Septic to sewer projects, including (319h Grant only).
 - Laying the lateral from the residence/business to the main sewer line.
 - Connection to sewer line.
 - Installing a grinding station [if on the resident’s property].
 - Abandonment of the septic if the remaining septic tank is a continued source of pollution.

*Impact fees (also called infrastructure or capital fees) are **not eligible** costs under this grant funding.

While it is important to identify all project components being requested under both the grant and match funds so that the project can be fully evaluated, each project proposal submitted will be categorized into one of the following general categories for evaluation:

- Stormwater Treatment;
- Agricultural BMP;
- Onsite Sewage Treatment and Disposal Systems (OSTDSs or "septic systems");
- Water Quality Monitoring Only (of installed nonpoint source BMPs);
- Nonpoint Source Education Only;
- Hydrologic Restoration;
- BMP Research;
- Other Water Quality.

My project example or category is not listed, is it eligible for Nonpoint Source grant funding?

Contact the grant coordinator to discuss your project details to determine funding eligibility. If your project is not eligible for these grants, visit the [DEP Funding Opportunities](#) webpage for other options.

When are funds available and for how long are they available?

This depends on whether the project receives State funding through the State Water Quality Assistance Grant or Federal funding through the EPA's Section 319h Grant. Note, the application is the same for both, and the Department selects the type of funding a project receives.

State-funded Projects:

State funding is available after July 1 and upon award after legislative appropriation. The duration these funds are available is about three years, commonly referred to as the "grant period." However, with adequate justification, there are extensions available for this grant.

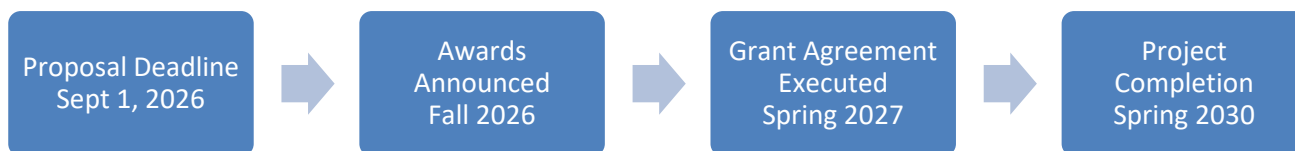
Federal-funded Projects:

Because the State must apply for the Federal grant for the following Federal fiscal year, there is a longer lead time before Federal funding is available for projects. It generally takes about 1-1/2 years from the time a project proposal is submitted to the Department before the money is available.

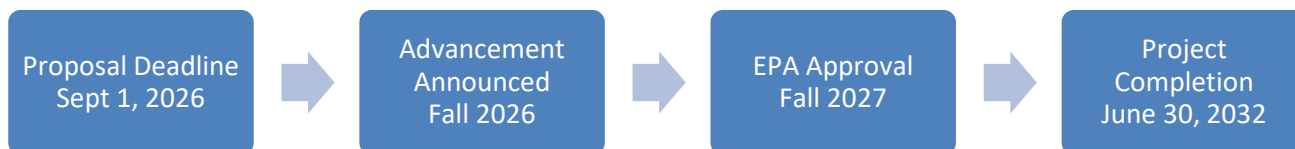
These projects are expected to be completed within approximately three years of award. Projects cannot be extended past the EPA deadline.

To pull this all together in an example:

SWAG Awards



319h Awards



Are there local match requirements for these grants?

State-funded projects (i.e., State Water Quality Assistance Grants) do not require a local match, but your proposal will receive additional credits in the evaluation process if there is a local commitment to accomplish the project.

Federal-funded projects (i.e., 319h Grants) generally require a minimum 40% non-Federal match. Another way of stating this is that Section 319(h) funding should generally not exceed 60% of the total eligible project cost. Grantees can claim match dollars spent from July 1 of the previous Federal fiscal year. A [Clean Water State Revolving Fund \(CWSRF\)](#) loan can be the match.

If so, what are eligible activities for match funding?

Eligible projects and activities that qualify as match include the same types of projects and activities that are eligible for grant funding. In addition, planning, engineering and design activities are eligible to use for match funding as well as certain in-kind services related to the project. Likewise, the same projects and activities that are ineligible for grant funding are also ineligible for match funding, with the exception of planning, engineering and design. Federal funding, with the exception of a CWSRF loan, and other federally-funded in-kind services cannot count as a match. Contact the grant coordinator to discuss your project details to ensure your match meets eligibility requirements.

Are there any restrictions to the federal 319(h) Grants?

Yes, there are a few restrictions and caveats on the use of 319(h) Grant funding under the Clean Water Act. They are:

- "No pipes or ditches" - Section 319(h) Grants cannot be used for any project that the EPA considers a point source. Or rather the project must meet the EPA's definition of a nonpoint source as defined in section [502\(14\) of the Clean Water Act](#). For more on nonpoint source versus point source, go to EPA's Basic Information about Nonpoint Source (NPS) Pollution.
- "Not required by permit" - Any project listed as a requirement under an MS4 permit is not eligible for Federal funding. If the project is not listed as required under the permit or is well above and beyond requirements, it may be eligible for funding.
- "Monitoring required" - Federal funding requires an evaluation of project effectiveness. For structural construction projects, this typically involves water quality monitoring of the installed BMPs to verify pollutant load reductions. For nonstructural projects such as educational program implementation, this can involve tracking behavior change and validation of knowledge gained by outreach to the target audience(s).

To dig further into all the Federal requirements, check out the [EPA Guidelines for States and Territories on the 319\(h\) Grant Program](#).

How do I apply for funding?

Eligible entities will complete a project proposal request through the Protecting Florida Together (PFT) grants portal. The PFT portal will open on July 1, 2026, and close on September 1, 2026. Contact the grant coordinator to get a PDF copy of the proposal request document or with any questions.

I submitted a project proposal, now what?

The Department anticipates reviewing and evaluating submitted proposals each fall (September/October). You may be contacted during the review period for additional information and/or questions that came up during the evaluation process. Once evaluations are done for all projects reviewed in that funding cycle, you will receive one of the following three notification emails:

- Selected for State funding - The Department has selected your project for State funding and you will be contacted shortly to begin the process of executing a cost-reimbursement grant agreement between the Department and your organization. The Department will assign a grant manager who will coordinate

drafting the agreement, managing the grant project and handling your reimbursement requests. It is important to work closely with and respond in a timely manner to your assigned grant manager.

- **Selected for Federal funding** - The Department has selected your project for Federal funding and will send on your proposal to the EPA. If the EPA also approves the project for section 319(h) grant funding, you will receive a second notification that you have passed the second step and you will be contacted shortly to begin the process of executing a cost-reimbursement grant agreement between the Department and your organization. Similarly, the Department will assign a grant manager who will coordinate drafting the agreement, managing the grant project, and handling your reimbursement requests. It is important to work closely with and respond in a timely manner to your assigned grant manager.
- **Not selected/no further action required** - The Department has not selected your project for State or Federal funding in the current selection cycle.

What do some of these terms mean that are referred to during the application process?

- **Size of Land Area Being Treated** – The size of the contributing land area, in acres (usually a watershed or sub-basin) that drains to the project being constructed.
- **Size of Project Impact** – The size of the site in acres where the project is being constructed (usually the extent of the permitted plans).
- **Waterbody Identification (WBID)** - The term is used interchangeably with waterbody segment. For more information on WBIDs, please visit the [DEP Basin 411](#) website.
- **Pollutant of Concern** – The pollutant or pollutants that have been identified as causing the impairment of a waterbody.
- **Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL)** – A scientific determination of the maximum amount of a given pollutant that a surface water can absorb and still meet the water quality standards that protect human health and aquatic life. Waterbodies that do not meet water quality standards are identified as "impaired" for the particular pollutants of concern—such as nutrients, bacteria, mercury, etc.—and TMDLs must be developed, adopted, and implemented for those pollutants to reduce concentrations and clean up the waterbody.
- **Verified Impaired Water** as defined by rule 62-303.200(7) of the Florida Administrative Code – A waterbody or waterbody segment that does not meet its applicable water quality standards as set forth in Chapters 62-302 and 62-4, F.A.C., as determined by the methodology in Part IV of [Chapter 62-303, F.A.C], due in whole or in part to discharges of pollutants from point or nonpoint sources. The process for verifying that a water is impaired is described in Rule 62-303.400, F.A.C.

How do I get on your distribution list?

To receive notifications that grant funds are available and other Division of Water Restoration Assistance funding-related announcements, subscribe on the [Protecting Florida Together](#) website.

For more questions or information:

Contact the Grant Coordinator or visit the Nonpoint Source Management Program website.