



John R. Kasich, Governor  
Mary Taylor, Lt. Governor  
Scott J. Nally, Director

## Supplemental FY13 Request for Proposals Section 319 Grants

Special limitations and exclusions apply – Read Carefully

January 14, 2013

**DEADLINE FOR APPLICATION March 29, 2013**

Dear Water Resource Partner:

We are pleased to announce that Ohio EPA is soliciting proposals for local nonpoint source project implementation grants awarded under Section 319(h) of the Clean Water Act. These grants are being awarded with federal funding that is immediately available due to either previous thrift or were returned unspent by previous grantees. Local grants of up to \$100,000 each are available to local governments, county and municipal park districts, soil & water conservation districts, and conservation nonprofit organizations with land managing responsibilities. Projects must be implemented and completed within 18 months of grant receipt and are **limited to** watersheds that have either a completed Total Maximum Daily Load Study and/or a state endorsed 9-element watershed action plan. Due to the short term of these grants, we anticipate that most awards will be made for single-site specific projects.

**Priority Funding:** Section 319(h) grant funding is specifically targeted to Ohio waters with completed TMDL studies and/or state endorsed watershed action plans that identify NPS pollution as a significant cause of aquatic life use impairment. Projects that can eliminate such impairments and/or restore impaired segments of streams will score significantly higher than general NPS pollution prevention and/or reduction projects. **We will not consider funding any projects with this supplemental in watersheds that do not have a TMDL or a state endorsed 9-element watershed action plan.** ALL proposed projects must be implemented consistent with the nine required elements listed in Attachment 1 of this RFP.

**Eligible Applicants:** The following entities are eligible to apply for and receive grant funding under this supplemental section 319 grant cycle:

- Local municipalities, counties and townships
- County and municipal park districts
- Soil & water conservation districts
- 501(c)(3) nonprofit conservation groups with land management responsibilities

**Eligible Projects:** Water quality improvement projects eligible for grant funding include:

- Small lowhead dam removal projects
- Stream restoration and re-naturalization using “green” designs

- Riparian restoration and protection such as streambank stabilization using “green” designs
- Wetland restoration and protection
- Innovative stormwater demonstration projects

Additional details regarding projects that are eligible under this supplemental RFP are included on page 3 of this Request for Proposals.

All grants awarded under this supplemental RFP will be done so following a competitive process. Projects **MUST** demonstrate the following **at the time of application**:

- Readiness to proceed.
- Local commitment of match equaling 40% of total project costs
- Site-specific information or a specifically defined area of focus.
- Projects will be proposed on public property within authority of the applicant
- Consistency with an approved TMDL and/or a 9-element state endorsed watershed action plan.
- Evidence that successful completion will result in the improvement of riparian or in-stream habitat and water quality conditions.
- Allowable, appropriate and reasonable project costs.
- Applicant must demonstrate the appropriate authority and expertise to successfully complete the project.

**Grant Amounts and Local Match Requirements:** Applicants may request up to \$100,000 in supplemental section 319(h) grant funding. Applicants demonstrating thrift and cost efficiencies will score higher during the review. Applicants must provide a local match of at least 40% of the total project costs. For example, if total project costs are \$100,000 then applicants may not request more than \$60,000 in grant funds.

**Grant Terms & Requirements:** **These supplemental section 319 sub-grants will be awarded for ONLY a two-year period.** Successful applicants will be required to execute a formal grant agreement with Ohio EPA and projects must be completed within the two-year grant year period—there are no opportunities to extend a grant agreement with these projects. Be sure you can complete the project in time allotted before submitting an application. ***Projects that are “shovel-ready” and will complete all scheduled activities within the first 12-months will receive significantly higher consideration.***

**Public Outreach Requirements:** Applications for these grants must support their local project with public awareness activities such as public meetings, project tours, signs, newsletters and fact sheets. Costs associated with project-specific public outreach activities are eligible as a cost component of a grant, but may not exceed five percent (5%) of total project costs. *General nonpoint source pollution or environmental education and outreach activities OR equipment such as computers, projectors, etc. are NOT eligible for this supplemental grant cycle.*

## Sample Project Listing

A listing of the types of eligible projects for Supplemental Section 319 grants funding follows:

## **Stream Restoration and/or Re-naturalization Projects**

Ohio EPA is encouraging applications for stream restoration or re-naturalization projects that re-establish in-stream habitat, natural flow conditions and stable morphological conditions. Eligible projects include, but are not limited to:

- Natural stream channel restoration
- Stream bank stabilization, using green materials and designs. *Rip-rap is prohibited.*
- Converting traditional drainage ditches to over-wide channels
- Levee/dike removal or modification to reconnect streams to flood plain areas
- Small lowhead dam removal
- In-stream habitat restoration
- Other projects that restore natural stream ecology, morphology and flow

Stream restoration projects will receive a higher score when restored areas are protected with conservation easements and/or other riparian protection measures such as riparian ordinances. Any easements acquired using grant funding must be consistent with provisions of Ohio Revised Code Section 5301.67(A). ***Logjam removals and similar types of projects are NOT ELIGIBLE for section 319(h) projects.***

## **Riparian Restoration Projects**

Ohio EPA is also encouraging applications for projects that propose to restore and protect high quality riparian areas along high quality streams and/or to restore impacted riparian areas along impaired streams. Eligible projects include, but are not limited to the following:

- Riparian plantings using native hardwood tree and shrub species
- Riparian wetland restoration
- Invasive species management in riparian forested areas
- Acquisition of riparian conservation easements on high quality streams
- Floodplain re-naturalization projects
- Levee/dike removal or modification to reconnect streams to flood plain areas

## **Innovative Storm Water Demonstration Projects**

Uncontrolled runoff from storm events may be a serious contributor of nonpoint source pollutants to some of Ohio's streams. Many urban areas in Ohio are required to regulate and/or manage storm water flow and do so under storm water permits issued by Ohio EPA. *(Grants may not be used to implement any activities required under storm water or as mitigation for other permits such as those issued under section 401 of the Clean Water Act).* Recent trends in storm water management have identified innovative practices and techniques that are showing promise in the management of storm water. Ohio EPA is interested in promoting these practices by funding **HIGHLY VISIBLE** local projects that demonstrate these innovative storm water management practices. Eligible projects include, but are not limited to the following:

- Retrofitting public commons or parking areas with permeable pavement or pavers
- Installing small scale green roofs on public buildings
- Installing bio-filtration islands and/or vegetated retention structures such as large public rain gardens\* or large infiltration planting areas

- Installing passive “treatment trains” combining multiple BMPs such as pocket wetlands, bio-filtration islands and others
- Constructing storm water treatment wetlands
- Constructing rainwater harvesting and reuse systems on public buildings or facilities
- Other practices designed to demonstrate innovative management of storm water flows

*Projects that are completed at highly visible public facilities such as city halls, heavily visited public parks and other areas where projects may help to educate the public and others on alternatives to traditional stormwater management will score considerably higher than projects that are proposed in areas that are not generally accessible by the public.*

*\*Supplemental Section 319(h) grant funding may not be used for projects such as rain gardens, rain barrels or others conducted on lands owned by private for-profit businesses and/or individual homeowners. **GRANT FUNDS MAY NOT BE USED FOR STORMWATER PROJECTS WITHIN AREAS THAT EXPERIENCE COMBINED SEWER OVERFLOWS.***

### **Wetland Restoration and/or Re-naturalization**

Wetland areas play a critical role in effectively filtering nonpoint source pollutants/nutrients. We are particularly interested in funding projects that protect or restore existing wetland areas that are currently being degraded by land uses such as farming, mowing or active development. Eligible wetland projects include but are not limited to the following:

- Restoring historical wetland areas that have been converted to farmland or other uses
- Replanting impacted wetland areas with native plants, tree and shrubs species

*Projects proposing the removal of invasive species as the primary restoration method are not eligible for grant funding. Invasive species removal may ONLY be completed with grant or matching funds when done coincidental to construction activities.*

*Grant funding may NOT be used for the construction of highly engineered wetlands such as those requiring the use of pumps or other mechanical features.*

## **Ineligible Projects**

The following activities are not eligible for the supplemental section 319(h) grants cycle. Please read carefully since special rules and exemptions apply for this RFP only:

1. Home sewage treatment system repair and/or replacement projects
2. Projects that propose to acquire property
3. Acid Mine Drainage abatement and Abandoned Mine Land reclamation
4. Logjam removal projects and/or drainage ditch maintenance or management
5. ONLY under this supplemental Request for Proposals (RFP) and grant cycle, agricultural projects involving cost-share BMPs with multiple landowners. **The limited time available for implementation makes this cycle of grants particularly unfit for cost-share projects with multiple landowners.**
6. Projects required under enforcement order or an enforcement-required supplemental enforcement project, or required as mitigation under regulatory programs such as Section 401 permits, NPDES permits or Permits to Install
7. Any project that is part of an approved nutrient trading program. Nutrient trading projects in general are not eligible for consideration under the Section 319 program.

8. Projects that are proposed to be implemented in areas subject to Combined Sewer Overflows.
9. Projects that propose best management practices (BMPs) or “end-of-pipe treatments” which are either required or expected to be required under an NPDES permit or a Permit to Install
10. Projects required under Phase 1 or Phase 2 NPDES storm water compliance efforts
11. Research or monitoring activities
12. *This supplemental grant funding is **not available** for projects being completed on **private property**.*

## **Application Deadline & Review Procedures**

**The deadline for submitting applications for this supplemental grant cycle is March 29th, 2013.**

Applications must be complete and postmarked by the above date to be considered for funding. Applications postmarked (or hand-delivered) after this date will be returned to the applicant without further consideration. Please submit three (3) copies of the complete application with original (blue ink) signatures and one (1) copy of the application in Microsoft Word format and any project site photos or design drawings on a CD. Completed applications may be mailed or delivered to:

Ohio Environmental Protection Agency  
Division of Surface Water  
Attn: Russ Gibson, NPS Program Manager  
50 West Town Street, Suite 700  
Columbus, Ohio 43216-1049

Upon receipt, all grant applications will be reviewed for completeness, technical merit and adherence to the section 319(h) grant criteria. Applications found to be administratively complete will undergo a comprehensive review using criteria designed to evaluate and score the following:

- Environmental results likely to be achieved
- Applicability to the TMDL report and/or local watershed planning efforts
- Overall effectiveness of the project
- Feasibility of completing the proposed project in a timely manner
- Applicant’s capability to administer federal grant funds
- Project’s readiness to proceed
- The project includes a site specific location
- The long term benefits of the project
- The cost effectiveness of the project and
- Existing environmental quality and restorability of the watershed
- Project specific educational and outreach activities

In addition to the above general criteria that are applicable to all applicants, projects also will be evaluated using specific technical criteria developed for the specific type of proposed project.

Upon completion of all reviews, applications will be ranked according to their review scores and recommendations for funding will be developed based upon this ranking. Funding decisions will be made by the Director of Ohio EPA with grant awards likely to be made by May 1, 2013. Successful applicants will be required to execute a formal grant agreement and adhere to all requirements of the Section 319(h) grants program.

## Application Materials and Technical Assistance

Interested parties should use the supplemental 2013 Section 319 grant applications and forms that are available at the Ohio EPA, Division of Surface Water (DSW) homepage located at [www.epa.ohio.gov/dsw/nps/index.aspx](http://www.epa.ohio.gov/dsw/nps/index.aspx).

We appreciate your interest and look forward to working with you to help Ohio meet important water quality goals. If after reviewing this information you require additional assistance or have questions, please do not hesitate to contact Martha Spurbeck, Grants Administrator at 614-644-2869 or Russ Gibson, NPS Program Manager at 614-644-2020.

Sincerely,



George Elmaraghy, P.E., Chief  
Division of Surface Water

## Attachment 1

### **Nine Program Elements that All Projects Must Meet**

The following information is condensed from 2003 U.S. EPA Guidance for Watershed Action Plans.<sup>1</sup> All Section 319 implementation grant projects are required by federal 319(h) grant guidelines to meet each of the following nine elements:

1. An identification of the causes and sources or groups of similar sources that must be controlled to achieve the load reductions estimated.
2. An estimate of the load reductions expected for the management measures described.
3. A description of the NPS management measures that must be implemented to achieve the load reductions estimates and identification (using a map or a description) of the critical areas in which those measures are required.
4. An estimate of the amount of financial assistance needed.
5. An information/education component that will be used to enhance public understanding of the project and encourage their early and continued participation.
6. A schedule for implementing the NPS management measures that is reasonably expeditious.
7. A description of interim, measurable milestones for determining whether NPS management measures or other control actions are being implemented.
8. A set of criteria that can be used to determine whether loading reductions are being achieved over time and substantial progress is being made toward attaining water quality standards.
9. A monitoring component to evaluate the effectiveness of the implementation efforts over time, measured against the (established) criteria. (Projects will meet this element by virtue of Ohio EPA performing statewide 319 project monitoring during FFY13).

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<sup>1</sup> For the complete text, please refer to <http://www.epa.gov/fedrgstr/EPA-WATER/2003/October/Day-23/w26755.htm>. These nine program elements also form the basis of Ohio's watershed plan endorsement criteria.