

Questions and Answers for Request for Applications #2019-1901-RRD

Clean Rivers Impervious Area Charge (CRIAC) Nonprofit Relief Program Off-Site Stormwater Mitigation Construction Grant

- Q1.** My organization removes trash and invasive species from wooded areas. Is this restoration considered a form of green infrastructure?
- A1.** Removal of trash and invasive species is not considered a green infrastructure practice. See Section 7 of the RFA for more information about activities that can be funded under the grant.
- Q2.** My organization is not affected by the CRIAC. Can we do work on behalf of another organization?
- A2.** Organizations not affected by the CRIAC may apply for a grant to construct green infrastructure on the property of another organization.
- Q3.** Does this opportunity include a total possible award of \$270,000.00 or five at that level?
- A3.** The RFA includes up to \$270,000.00 total, which may be split among multiple applicants. For additional details, see Section 7.2 of the RFA.
- Q4.** If the CRIAC grant was used to implement a project that generates Stormwater Retention Credits (SRCs), would the 50% limitation policy “for projects that DOEE supports with stormwater funds” apply? Or, given the source of the funds as an account generated in lieu of the installation and maintenance of “a stormwater mitigation project on the site of the nonprofit organization” required by the BSA, would the grantee be able to receive the full allotment of SRCs?
- A4.** The limitations policy would not apply to these grant funds.
- Q5.** Could you clarify the type of infiltration test needed for the grant application for the CRIAC grant? Are there any guidelines available?
- A5.** Chapter 3 of the Stormwater Management Guidebook (<http://doee.dc.gov/swguidebook>) identifies which green infrastructure types require an infiltration test. Green infrastructure practices are called Best Management Practices (BMPs) in the Stormwater Management Guidebook. Appendix O of the Stormwater Management Guidebook identifies the technical requirements for an infiltration test.

**Department of Energy and Environment, Regulatory Review Division
Clean Rivers Impervious Area Charge (CRIAC) Nonprofit Relief Program
Off-site Stormwater Mitigation Construction Grant (CRIAC Stormwater Mitigation Grant)**

**Pre-Application Meeting
DOEE Headquarters, 1200 First Street NE, 9am
December 11, 2018**

General

- DOEE provided an overview of the CRIAC Nonprofit Relief Program. Additional details are available at <https://doee.dc.gov/service/criacrelief>.
- DOEE provided an overview of the CRIAC Stormwater Mitigation Grant, the purpose of which is to assist nonprofit organizations with the off-site stormwater mitigation requirements of the CRIAC Nonprofit Relief Program through construction of green infrastructure (GI) in the District.
- DOEE explained that the funds can only be used between the issuance of a grant award and 9/30/2019 (the end of Fiscal Year 2019). If construction will continue past 9/30/2019, the applicant must provide a plan for completion of the project after the grant period without the use of grant funds.
- DOEE explained that the application process will include four rounds of review as described in Section 1.4 of the RFA. DOEE explained that applicants who do not receive funding in a round of review may reapply in a subsequent round of review.
- DOEE requested that attendees send an email to criac.stormwatermitigation@dc.gov to confirm that they were on the call in order to receive a copy of the notes from the meeting.

Questions and Answers

Q1. Is this grant restricted to the Anacostia River Watershed? Are there watershed restrictions?

A1. No, there are no watershed restrictions.

Additional Information Provided After the Pre-Application Meeting: While it is not a requirement for a project to be located in the Anacostia River watershed, Section 7.2 of the RFA identifies a preference for projects located in the Anacostia River watershed and in the areas served by the Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4).

Q2. Are projects that receive funding from this grant eligible for the Stormwater Retention Credit (SRC) program? How do projects enroll in both programs?

A2. Yes, as long as the project meets the SRC program requirements. The eligibility of the project for the SRC program is not affected by the receipt of these grant funds. DOEE expects SRC aggregators to be especially interested in this grant, as

funds can be used on projects that will generate SRCs, including projects that will participate in the SRC Price Lock Program. However, it is important to note that separate applications will be needed in order to enroll in these programs.

Q3. Are matching funds required?

A3. Yes, matching funds are required. This grant is designed to supplement existing funds. The requirements for matching funds are described in Section 7.2 of the RFA. The Scoring Criteria also identify the requirement to use matching funds.

Q4. Is there a preference for a property owner submitting an application vs a third party submitting an application to construct GI on another entity's property?

Q4. There is no specific preference about whether the applicant for the grant is a property owner or third party who will construct GI on another entity's property. In either case, applicants will need to demonstrate the ability to design GI and obtain permits, which could include prior success on GI projects. This could include prior success by the property owner or prior success by a third party constructing GI on the property of others. If the project is constructed on the property of a nonprofit, and the nonprofit is enrolled, or intends to enroll, in the CRIAC Nonprofit Relief Program, then the nonprofit cannot submit an application for the construction grant themselves. However, third parties could apply for a grant that involves construction of GI on properties owned by nonprofits that are enrolled in the CRIAC Nonprofit Relief Program.

Q5. Does a nonprofit need 501(c)3 status?

A5. While it is not a requirement to construct green infrastructure on a nonprofit property, these projects will be eligible for 5 additional points in the grant scoring criteria.

Additional Information Provided After the Pre-Application Meeting: DOEE stated during the meeting that DOEE would provide additional information about the required documentation of nonprofit status. Applicants may submit documentation consistent with Section 3.4(d) of the RFA to show that the property is a nonprofit organization. Applicants may also submit documentation that the District's Office of Tax and Revenue has determined the property is exempt from property taxes.

Q6. Does the project have to be designed and built according to the Stormwater Management Guidebook?

A6. Yes. As described in the deliverables in Section 7.3 of the RFA, grantees must provide data about the GI constructed, which includes calculations from the Stormwater Management Guidebook (<http://doee.dc.gov/swguidebook>). While projects must meet the design requirements of the Stormwater Management

Guidebook, projects are not required to meet the performance requirements of the District's stormwater management regulations.

- Q7.** If the project is built on nonprofit property, who owns it and who is responsible for its maintenance?
- A7.** If a third party constructs green infrastructure on the property of another entity, then the third party and the property owner should decide who owns the green infrastructure and who is responsible for maintenance. While it is not a requirement for all of the details of this arrangement to be included in the application, it is a requirement that the application outline a long-term maintenance plan. There is no requirement for a permanent maintenance covenant.
- Q8.** Will the grant funds pay for an initial infiltration test for a bioretention project?
- A8.** The grant application requires a preliminary design, including sizing and potential constraints. By the time of application, the applicant should already know if infiltration is feasible. It is possible that other DOEE programs may cover the cost of an infiltration test.