

Questions and Answers for Request for Applications # RFA-FY23-RRD-798

Enhancing Green Infrastructure Community Benefits

UPDATE:

The application deadline has been changed from 2/24/23 at 11:59 p.m. to 3/17/23 at 11:59 p.m.

Q1. Is the grant funding available for projects on public land?

A1. Yes, this funding is available for projects on public land.

Q2. How will we find out about any updates regarding the RFA?

A2. DOEE will publish updates and Questions and Answers (Q&A) regarding the RFA on the RFA webpage at doee.dc.gov. DOEE will also create an email list to send updates and information regarding the RFA.

A person can be put on the email list by emailing 2022GICoBenefits.grants@dc.gov with the subject line “RE: RFA-FY23-RRD-798 – Add me to the email list.” DOEE will provide the information to those on the email list at the same time the information is uploaded to the DOEE website.

Q3. Can the grant be used to fund components other than construction or the installation of stormwater retention capacity eligible for SRCs (such as maintenance or other non-construction costs)?

A3. No. The grant will not fund elements of stormwater retention credits (SRC) eligible green infrastructure (GI) practices, including construction and non-construction related costs, such as maintenance. The dollar amount of funding elements for SRC eligibility of a proposed GI under the RFA cannot be included in the GI’s proposal.

If applicable, projects proposed under this RFA should identify and document other sources of funding that will be used to construct stormwater retention capacity. For additional information see section 7.2 Project Description of the RFA available on DOEE’s webpage: doee.dc.gov/node/1637916.

Q4. Can grant funds be used to provide stipends or honoraria to community members who are involved in a participatory design/planning process?

A4. Yes, grant funds can be used to provide stipends or honoraria to community members who are involved in a participatory design and/or planning process for a green infrastructure (GI) project. Projects funded under this RFA must employ a participatory process to engage the community.

Q5. Were the pre-application information meetings recorded?

- A5.** The meetings were not recorded. However, the PowerPoint presentation shared during the meetings is available on the RFA webpage at doee.dc.gov/node/1637916. And questions asked during the meetings are documented on this Q&A.
- Q6.** Why does the grant ask for such a wide range of skill sets compared to those typically asked of SRC Aggregators?
- A6.** Applicants under this RFA do not need to have experience in the SRC Trading Program in order to be successful. Work funded under this grant may be implemented by entities with different ranges of skill sets that help to achieve the grant's purpose.
- Q7.** Can this grant be used to supplement an existing or active BMP project?
- A7.** Yes, this grant can be used to supplement an existing or active BMP/green infrastructure project, as long as the project achieves the purpose of the grant. Please note, this grant will not fund stormwater retention capacity.
- Q8.** Is there a reason why there is a 10% threshold on indirect costs?
- A8.** The provisions for indirect costs are set by the District's policy. An Applicant may include its indirect costs in its budget calculation, in accordance with the Nonprofit Fair Compensation Act of 2020, DC Act 23-565 [effective March 2021]). Additional information about indirect costs can be found in *Section 3.1(b)(2)iv* of the RFA.
- Q9.** Can this grant be used to pay business contractors and outreach workers as a direct cost?
- A9.** Yes.
- Q10.** Does the grant budget have to cover the implementation or installation of various design aspects from community outreach and charrettes? (Art installations/benches etc.)?
- A10.** Though the RFA allows it, the grant budget does not need to cover the implementation or installation of designs that come from community outreach or charrettes associated with GI projects.

The project may fund tasks related to the following categories described in the RFA:

1. Discovering Community Priorities
2. Installing Additional Elements
3. Outreach and Education; and
4. Other Projects, specifically for proposals that seek to creatively enhance the community benefits of GI and achieve the purpose of this grant with innovative approaches that may not be captured within the other categories.

Additional information about the activities funded under this grant can be found in *Section 7. Projects Proposed for Grant Funding* of the RFA.

Q11. Can homeowners apply for these programs?

A11. Homeowners may apply for this RFA if they meet the eligibility criteria. Eligibility for this grant is open to the following entities:

1. Nonprofit organizations, including those with IRS 501(c)(3) or 501(c)(4) determinations.
2. Faith-based organizations.
3. Private Enterprises.

Q12. What projects to reduce the risk of flooding in homes are acceptable?

A12. DOEE expects applicants to propose innovative projects that use a participatory planning and design process to identify community-identified green infrastructure (GI) benefits, specifically for [Stormwater Retention Credit \(SRC\)](#)-generating GI projects. DOEE does not have a list of acceptable projects for funding, but this grant may fund activities related to the following categories described in the RFA:

1. Discovering Community Priorities
2. Installing Additional Elements
3. Outreach and Education; and
4. Other Projects, specifically for proposals that seek to creatively enhance the community benefits of GI and achieve the purpose of this grant with innovative approaches that may not be captured within the other categories.

Additional information about the activities funded under this grant can be found in *Section 7. Projects Proposed for Grant Funding* of the RFA.

Q13. Are projects based in Buffalo, NY eligible for this grant?

A13. No, projects based in Buffalo, NY are not eligible for this grant.

The goal of this RFA is to enhance the benefits that [SRC-generating GI](#) practices provide to property owners, residents, and other nearby stakeholders in the District of Columbia. The RFA aims to fund projects that will enhance the ability of District communities to work constructively with SRC aggregators.