

***As of 9/8/2016, question 49 has been revised. Please see the questions and answers below.*

Q1: Is there a separate list where questions and answers will be posted besides the website?

A1: No. Prospective applicants may ask to be added to a list to receive an email each time a new question and answer is posted online. Email 2016WatershedProjects@dc.gov or call Lauren Linville at (202) 535-2252 to be added to that list.

Q2: May applicants submit one application for multiple projects or do they need to submit one application for each project they're applying for?

A2: Applicants must submit a separate application for each project for which they're applying.

Q3: Project 2: Can provide examples of type of projects that could receive funding?

A3: DOEE is looking for low-impact development (LID) projects that will install stormwater best management practices that go beyond what our other LID programs already support. Projects proposed for this grant should utilize a new technology and/or provide multiple benefits (environmentally, socially, educationally, etc.) beyond stormwater capture. An example of a project that we wouldn't support is one that proposes replacing a parking lot with pervious pavers, but DOEE already supports that type of project under the RiverSmart Communities program.

Q4: Project 2: Can grant funding be used for design services?

A4: Yes, grant funds can be used for design and construction, but cannot be just for design.

Q5: Project 9: The project description requests proposals focus on 3rd through 8th grade students, but there are hardly any schools in the District that only serve 3rd through 8th grade students. Can you clarify?

A5: DOEE wishes to reach students across elementary and middle schools, but will consider proposals that will reach a smaller range of student grades.

Q5: Project 9: Would you want every grade in the schools to participate?

A5: No.

Q6: Project 2: Would projects funded through this grant be eligible to generate stormwater retention credits?

A6: Yes, but DOEE-funded projects must first enter a pay-back period in order to pay back the District for the cost of the project. After that period, applicants could sell credits generated by the project. More information is available at <http://doee.dc.gov/src>.

Q7: Project 2: This project is partially funded by local funds. Are there any requirements that grantees be or involve local Certified Business Enterprise (CBEs)?

A7: No.

Q8: Project 2: On the bottom of page 28 the project description says proposed needs to manage at least 500 gallons?

A8: That should say it will manage at least 500 gallons per rain event and projects should be designed to handle a 1.2" rain event.

Q9: Can applicants borrow shock fishing backpacks?

A9: No. Applicants must supply their own equipment.

Q10: Project 8: Will any of the monitoring done through this grant be used to meet Army Corps of Engineers' permit requirements or is this monitoring above and beyond what the permit requires?

A10: Both. DOEE will need to meet Army Corps of Engineer permit requirements with this monitoring. We don't have permits for all the projects yet so some of the monitoring will be pre-restoration.

Q11: Project 3: The project heavily focused on invasive species management around streams, which is not an activity typically associated with LID. Can you clarify?

A11: Invasive species management is a significant component because invasive species present in issue with stream restoration maintenance. Invasive species management is not intended to be the primary component of the grant.

Q12: Project 3: Are the list of activities required?

A12: The list of activities is suggestive and DOEE will work with the selected grantee to define those.

Q13: Project 3: Can funding be used for salary?

A13: Yes.

Q14: Project 3: Will DOEE pick the work sites or can the applicant pick the sites?

A14: DOEE will work with the grantee after the grant is awarded to select the sites.

Q15: Project 3: Will the grantee need to identify specific sites when they apply?

A15: The sites will be selected after the grantee is selected.

Q16: Project 8: In what format is the data referenced on page 49 of the RFA?

A16: Narrative report with some tables and graphs.

Q17: Project 8: Is there previous data on available on all the parameters requested to be monitored?

A16: We have them for some but not all. Some streams are planned to be restored so in these cases data has not been collected yet.

Q18: Projects 1 and 3: May applicants partner with other government agencies?

A18: Yes.

Q19: Projects 1 and 3: What types of documentation would applicants need to submit with their application?

A19: Some type of written documentation must be submitted with the application. More information is in the General Terms and Conditions document (Appendix 1).

Q20: All projects: Do applicants need to demonstrate past experience managing funds equal to or greater than the grant award for which they are applying?

A20: Each project has its own scoring criteria, some of which award points based on an applicant's past experience.

Q21: Project 8: Are applicants required to monitor all of the eleven streams listed?

A21: Yes.

Q22: Are applicants precluded from applying if their offices are outside of the District?

A22: No.

Q23: Project 2: Is there a specific type or level of support required from DDOT for project proposed in the public right-of-way.

A23: No, but the support must come from someone authorized to sign off on behalf of DDOT.

Q24: Project 2: If the project is primarily on DPR property, but is adjacent to the public right-of-way, is DDOT approval required?

A24: If the project is only viable with having the permission to work in the public right-of-way, then DDOT approval is required. If the project is viable without it, then DDOT approval is not required.

Q25: Projects 3, 7, &10: Can a for-profit public benefit corporation submit an application?

A25: Private enterprises are not eligible to apply for Projects 3, 7, or 10; although, we welcome for-profit organizations to partner to an eligible entity for these projects.

Q26: Project 3: Can applicants pay program participants with grant funding.

A26: Yes.

Q27: Project 8: What extent of analysis is required between past data and data collected by the grantee?

A27: We expect grantees to compare past conditions to present conditions.

Q28: Project 8: Are applicants allowed to publish data and analysis conducted through this grant?

A28: Refer to page Section VI.6. (pg. 24) of the Promises, Certifications, and Assurances.

Q29: Project 4: Can applicant submit a proposal for only part of project and grant award?

A29: DOEE may divide the grant award into multiple awards.

Q30: Project 4: If there are several proposals worthy of funding, how would DOEE address that?

A30: DOEE may award one award for full amount or work with the top applicants to adjust their scopes of work accordingly.

Q31: Project 8: To what extent would the grantee collaborate with DOEE on monitoring?

A31: For the fish surveys, the grantee will coordinate with DOEE's Fisheries and Wildlife Division to ensure monitoring doesn't occur at the same time. For the vegetative survey, the grantee will coordinate with DOEE on the protocol for surveying. A DOEE employee will accompany the grantee on the first survey.

Q32: Project 6: Will the grantee receive a list of property owners with expressed interest in pervious paver rebates, or will the grantee need to identify property owners interested?

A32: Both. The program is intended to be managed like DOEE's Green Roof Rebate program. The grantee will receive a list of property owners interested, but also be expected to advertise to property owners.

Q33: Project 6: Will the applicant need to create a website, update an existing DOEE website, or both?

A33: DOEE will keep its own webpage, but the grantee will be expected to maintain their own webpage with information on the rebate.

Q34: Project 6: Is the grantee expected to request reimbursement from the District after they have issued a rebate to homeowners? Or may the grantee submit a contractor between a property owner and contractor?

A34: DOEE grants are reimbursement-based. Grantees must request an Advance Payment, but that request must be made in the application.

Q35: Project 6: Does the grantee have any tax obligation when they issue a reimbursement?

A35: No.

Q36: Project 8: May an applicant apply for funding over the grant award amount?

A36: No; however, applicants may apply for an amount less than or equal to the grant award amount available with a reduced scope of work.

Q37: Project 1: Please clarify if applicants are expected to teach a pre-determined curriculum, or develop their own curriculum, or use their own existing curriculum that meets the requirements.

A37: Applicants can develop their own curriculum or use existing curriculum that meets the watershed/environmental literacy model.

Q38: RE: Project 1: If the SCS program accepts an applicant's existing curriculum, will that curriculum be branded as SCS or could the curriculum retain the applicant's branding?

A38: If you develop your own, the curriculum can be branded as the applicant's. DOEE and the school teachers would use that curriculum for implementation.

Q39: RE: Project 1: Will the grantee be able to make additional materials they develop under the grant available on their website?

A39: Yes, this line item will be budgeted in your application.

Q40: RE: Project 8: Is the source of funding for these grants Federal?

A40: Yes, this project is funded by EPA's 319 Program.

Q41: Re: PROJECT 8: The project period says it is one year with the option of up to two additional years for a maximum of 3 years and that there is \$100,000 for this project. Does that mean the \$100,000 is for one year, and the potential additional years would come with additional funding? Or is the \$100,000 supposed to be spent over the course of 3 years? The Project Outputs and Deliverables section also says there should be 3 years of monitoring.

A41: The amount of funding available is \$100,000 for one year with the potential for two additional years pending the availability of funds.

Q42: Re: PROJECT 2: Is there a scoring preference for retrofits versus projects that are capturing more than the compliance level required by DOEE's stormwater regulations?

A42: There is no preference for retrofits over projects going above their regulatory requirement.

Q42: Re: PROJECT 2: Can you confirm the matching funds preference is limited to a 10 point advantage (scoring criteria) constraining the cost-share purpose?

Q43: Cost sharing is a ten point factor. A43 project can be awarded up to 10 points for higher levels of cost share; however matching funds are not required for a project to be awarded.

Q44: All projects: Was participation in the informational sessions mandatory in order to submit a proposal? Is there a recording of the session(s) I can review?

A44: No, participation was not required. There is not a recording of the sessions, but questions and answers from the sessions are available online at <http://doee.dc.gov/node/1181846>.

Q45: All projects: Is it possible to access sample proposals for this or similar projects that have been previously awarded?

A45: No.

Q46: Project 9: Trash focused MWEE – Is this project focused on the Potomac and Anacostia or is it open to focus on other watersheds like Rock Creek?

A46: The focus of this project is on the Anacostia watershed schools, preferably schools in Wards 7 and 8. A proposal for Rock Creek and Potomac schools would not be scored highly.

Q47: Project 7: Can the RiverSmart Communities grant be utilized for a small project?

A47: This project is aimed at running a program that would work on several sites. A proposal for work on one site would not be scored highly.

Q48: Project 8: What level of NPS permission is required to apply for this grant?

A48: No level of NPS permission is required to apply for the grant. Only after award will the grantee be required to obtain the appropriate permits from NPS.

Q49: Project 2: If an applicant has invested in concept drawings prior to the grant award, can those funds be counted towards a match?

Revised A49^{**}: No. Concept drawings could only be considered a match if they were produced during the grant period without using grant funds. Regardless, a match is not a requirement of this project. However, completed concept drawings may make an application stronger.

Q50: Project 2: If an applicant is proposing a project identified in a WIP that involves retrofitting a private business parking lot in a priority watershed, are there any conditions that would make the submission eligible for this RFA rather than the RiverSmart Communities program. If this is a possibility please provide an example.

A50: No, because RiverSmart Communities could fund the entire project in priority watersheds. This grant is only intended to fund projects that would otherwise go unfunded through other DOEE incentive programs.

Q51: Project 6: Can you clarify what is meant by the pervious paver guidance document? Is this document intended to serve as a maintenance guide for pervious pavers, an overall program guide to the homeowner to illustrate the rebate process, or something else?

A51: The required guidance document is primarily intended to serve as a pervious paver maintenance reference for property owners. This guidance document should serve as a long term guide for property owners, property managers, and/or anyone responsible with routine maintenance of the pervious pavers.

Q52: Project 6: What is the standard rebate agreement? Is this document intended to serve as a maintenance guide/waiver form for pervious paver installations or as a contract template with paver contractors?

A52: The standard agreement serves as a general maintenance agreement which identifies the property owner's commitment to maintaining their pervious paver project in exchange for financial and technical assistance from DOEE.

Q53: Project 6: What role do you envision the grantee taking in large-scale projects? Will the property owner be taking the lead in selecting a paver contractor and drawing up the terms of the contract or does the grantee need to plan to take a role in this time-intensive process? Will the contract for the paver installation of large scale projects be between the property owner and the paver contractor?

A53: We envision the property owner will be the primary facilitator with these projects. The grantee will ensure each project meets the designated design and installation criteria required by DOEE and the paver manufacturer. Some larger projects may require more assistance from the grantee depending on the applicant's substantive or procedural knowledge of our program and/or pervious paving. The paver contractor will ultimately be responsible for the design and installation of each paver project. The grantee's role is to review each project and ensure they meet the terms of the installation agreement through administration, verification, tracking, and reporting.

Q54: Project 6: Given the significant scope of work spelled out in the Program Activities section (including time-intensive site visits, project reviews, development and implementation of an education/outreach/marketing program, and reporting), we anticipate a need for a full-time staff person to manage these tasks. In addition, an appropriate amount of resources needs to be dedicated to travel and supplies to support the above efforts along with associated advertising and signage expenses. To ensure a minimum of 25,000 square feet of replacement of impervious surface with vegetation and/or pervious pavement materials, \$250,000 of the total budget should be allocated to rebates. Is there an opportunity to adjust the program activities or minimum rebate goals to fit within the proposed \$300,000 budget? With the current criteria set forth in the RFA, the \$300,000 seems inadequate to meet all of the expected deliverables.

A54: This project has a total budget of \$300,000 with a goal of installing a minimum of 25,000 square feet. We would like to come as close to installing 25,000 square feet as possible.