

District of Columbia
Department of Energy and Environment



**NOTICE OF FUNDING AVAILABILITY
AND
REQUEST FOR APPLICATIONS (RFA)**

Community Stormwater Solutions Evaluation and Expansion Grant
(Short name: Community Stormwater Solutions Expansion)
RFA-FY23-WPD-825

Publication Date: 6/16/2023

Application Deadline: 8/11/2023 at 11:59 p.m.

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SECTION 1. GENERAL INFORMATION

1.1 Introduction

The Department of Energy and Environment (DOEE) solicits grant applications from eligible entities (called “Applicant” or “Applicants”) to manage its ongoing Community Stormwater Solutions (“CSS”) grant program (“the Program”).

Since 2016, 78 CSS grants totaling \$1,722,704 have been awarded, with an average of 12 grants per year. For background on this grant program, please visit <http://doee.dc.gov/service/community-stormwater-solutions-grants>.

DOEE anticipates selecting a single grantee. The project period is two years, with the option of up to two additional years, for a total of four years. \$700,000 is available for the first two years. “Year” means a period of 12 months, starting with the Director’s signature on the grant. Thus “two years” is a period of 24 months from the date of signature.

All funding is subject to availability of funds to DOEE. Extension past the second year, through a fourth year, is subject to DOEE’s determination of the adequacy of the grantee’s activities.

Applicants are eligible to request a substantial advance payment/s for a portion of the funding. See “Advance Payments” section below for more information.

The Natural Resources Administration - Watershed Protection Division (WPD) of DOEE will administer this RFA.

1.2 Purpose of the Grant

The purposes of this grant are (1) to continue and expand DOEE’s commitment to fund innovative watershed-focused initiatives, (2) to build capacity among new and low-capacity community-based organizations and small businesses, (3) to support the advancement of diversity, equity, and inclusion in the award-making process and in the projects being implemented, and (4) support community partners through capacity-building initiatives like grant writing and management. By “low-capacity,” DOEE means small organizations or businesses with limited experience or without dedicated-grant writing staff.

1.3 Source of Funds

District of Columbia Anacostia River Clean Up and Protection Fund
District of Columbia Stormwater Enterprise Fund

1.4 Competition for a Grant

This RFA is competitive. Each Applicant must demonstrate its ability to carry out the activities for the grant for which it applies (called a “project”). A review panel will evaluate the applications for each advertised grant according to the stated list of criteria in each project’s description. The most responsive application/s will be recommended for a grant.

Specifically, an award will be made based on eligibility (Section 1.6), the extent to which the proposed project fits within the scope and available funding of the grant, strength of the application, and the organization’s capacity to achieve the grant’s goals.

Each Applicant may submit more than one application with different projects. If an Applicant responds with more than one project, it must do so in a separate proposal and submit all corresponding required documents.

1.5 Projects and Funds Available

DOEE seeks applications for:

Project Name	Project Amount
Community Stormwater Solutions Evaluation and Expansion Grant	\$700,000

1.6 Eligibility

The following are eligible to apply if an “x” appears:

- Nonprofit organizations, including those with IRS 501(c)(3) or 501(c)(4) determinations;
- Faith-based organizations;
- Government agencies;
- Universities/educational institutions; and
- Private Enterprises.

Continuing conditions of eligibility are that the information in the application is complete and truthful and that the Applicant, at all times, is able to meet material conditions stated in its application. Ineligible applicants or applications will not be considered for review.

A material condition can be an eligibility condition, or it can be some other condition that a reasonable DOEE evaluator would conclude is necessary to the Applicant for carrying out the proposed project.

For instance, an Applicant's nonprofit status was a condition of eligibility, and the Applicant lost its nonprofit tax status. That would be a material change in condition and would require immediate communication. Another example is: Applicant's ability to fulfill the terms of the grant is based on the availability of skilled staff. DOEE awards the grant, and then these staff leave. The Applicant must immediately inform DOEE and follow up in writing.

1.7 Definitions

District - The District of Columbia.

Grantee - The person provided a grant by the District, including a sub-grantee.

Person - A natural person or a legal entity, including a partnership, firm, association, joint venture, public or private corporation, trust, estate, commission, board, public or private institution, cooperative, the District government and its agencies, and the federal government and its agencies.

Writing - A tangible or electronic record of a communication or representation, including handwriting, typewriting, printing, photostat, fax, photography, word processing computer output, and e-mail. A "signed" writing includes an electronic symbol or process attached to, or logically associated with a writing, and executed or adopted by a person with the intent to sign the writing.

1.8 Permissible Use of Grant Funds

A grantee may use grant funds only for allowable grant expenditures. Grant funds related to work performed will be provided on a reimbursement basis, except that, in limited circumstances, an advance of funds may be provided for grant administration expenses for a good cause approved by DOEE at its sole discretion. (*See* Parts 3.1(b)2.i, 6.2; Appendix 1 Paragraph 10.g)

1.9 Grant Monitoring

In its sole discretion, DOEE may use several methods to monitor the grant, including site visits, periodic financial reports and the collection of performance data. Each grant is subject to audit.

1.10 Reserved

1.11 General Terms and Conditions

Appendix 1, "General Terms and Conditions" is incorporated by reference in this RFA. Applicants and Grantees must comply with any and all applicable terms and conditions appearing in Appendix 1.

1.12 RFA Conditions - Promises, Certifications, Assertions, and Assurances

Appendix 2, “Applicant’s Promises, Certifications, and Assurances” (“PCA”), is incorporated by reference in this RFA.

1.13 DOEE’s Authority to Make Grants

DOEE has grant-making authority under:

- The Renewable Energy Portfolio Standard Act of 2004 (D.C. Law 15-340, D.C. Official Code §§ 34-1431-40), including § 34-1436(b) and (c);
- The Water Pollution Control Act of 1984, effective March 16, 1985, as amended (D.C. Law 5-188; D.C. Official Code § 8-103.01 *et seq.*);
- The District Department of the Environment Establishment Act of 2005, effective February 15, 2006, as amended (D.C. Law 16-51, D.C. Official Code § 8-151.01 *et seq.*);
- The Comprehensive Stormwater Management Enhancement Amendment Act of 2008, effective March 25, 2009 (D.C. Law 17-371; D.C. Official Code § 8-152.01 *et seq.*); and
- Other applicable laws and regulations.

1.14 Conflicts between RFA and Applicable Law

If any requirement of this RFA conflicts with a provision of any applicable law, including a District or federal law or regulation, the applicable legal provision shall control.

SECTION 2. SUBMISSION OF APPLICATION

2.1 RFA Release Date

The release date of this RFA is 6/16/2023.

2.2 Additional RFA Information

This RFA is issued on DOEE's website at <https://doee.dc.gov/page/grants-and-other-funding>.

The contact person for this RFA is Kara Pennino.

2.3 Applications: Submission Information

Deadline: All applications must be received at <https://doee.dc.gov/page/active-grants-application-portal> by 11:59 p.m. on 8/11/2023.

Once the application is submitted, an email will be automatically generated stating that the application was received. In DOEE's Grants Management System (GMS), the application will be dated and recorded as "received" pending review by DOEE for completeness. DOEE considers an application to be "filed" only if all the required materials are submitted. A late or incomplete application will be considered received, not filed.

How to Submit: The contents of the application are specified in Section 3. All required documents specified in the RFA must be submitted in the designated places in the GMS. Information on how to use the System can be found by scrolling to the bottom of the active grants portal at <https://doee.dc.gov/page/active-grants-application-portal>.

All new applicants must submit a request through <https://doee.dc.gov/page/active-grants-application-portal> to gain access to the GMS. Each organization is only allowed one email address that all members of the team will be expected to use and have access to its inbox. DOEE recommends something similar to DOEEgrants@yourorganization.org or DOEEgrants.yourorganization@gmail.com if there is no domain associated with your organization. Please make sure that the email address is setup and working before using it to register. Register your entity early, and allow for up to 2 business days to receive an invitation to the GMS.

DOEE will not receive an application as a hard copy, emailed copy, or faxed copy unless technical issues arise with the GMS and these issues are documented before 5:00 PM one business day before the application deadline. If technical issues do occur, DOEE can make arrangements to accept a copy another way. If you need to report a technical difficulty, please contact doee.grants@dc.gov and copy 2023CSS.grants@dc.gov.

Rare circumstances may justify another exception to the deadline. If DOEE anticipates major storms, public security disruptions, or power outages, it may change the deadline and advise the public through emails, web posting, and other announcements. Applicants are urged to file timely and not wait until minutes before a deadline.

2.4 Award Announcement

DOEE expects to notify each Applicant in writing of its award status within six to twelve weeks after the application due date.

2.5 Updates and Questions and Answers (Q & A)

Additional information may become available before the application is due. It is the Applicant's responsibility to stay up-to-date on the status and requirements of the grant for which it is applying.

DOEE welcomes questions seeking clarification of matters in this RFA. Questions about the RFA should be sent to 2023CSS.grants@dc.gov with "RE: RFA-FY23-WPD-825" in the subject line.

DOEE will publish updates and Questions and Answers (Q&A) regarding the RFA 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 immediately emailing 2023CSS.grants@dc.gov with the subject line "RE: RFA-FY23-WPD-825 – 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. DOEE will not mail out updates or Q&A materials.

The cutoff date for receipt of any questions is one week prior to the application deadline.

SECTION 3. APPLICATION CONTENT

3.1 Application Content

DOEE intends to fund a project that will benefit the environment, and, in particular, the environment of the District. The application should, in increasing levels of detail, explain how the Applicant will accomplish this.

(Note: Before drafting the application, please read the project description carefully to see if there are restrictions for the DOEE grant. For instance, certain activities might be required to take place in a specific location in the District, or the scoring might give extra points to labor sourced in the District.)

(a) Project Summary

Provide a brief one paragraph summary that explains the project.

(b) RFA Narrative

Enter the project application narrative in the sections provided. Address the following:

(1) Project Description

Organize the Application in sections that follow the order of the criteria of the scoring box of Section 7. The review panel will seek an explanation of the following as they evaluate your application:

i. Goals and Objectives

State how: (a) this project will benefit the environmental goal(s) described in Section 7, and (b) the goal(s) this project will advance. Typically, a goal is long-term and diffuse. An objective is specific, and it will be discrete and identifiable. A project with one goal may have more than one objective. For example: The goal of a grant might be clean District rivers. Objectives of the application might be: implement a citywide recycling campaign; install trash traps.

ii. Target Audience

Identify the target audience. Whom will this project engage? Whom will this project benefit, and how?

iii. Target Location

Identify in which ward(s) in the District the project will be implemented. You may select more than one ward, or districtwide.

iv. Project Activities, Outputs, and Outcomes

Connect the funded activities to quantifiable outputs that produce desired outcomes. DOEE prefers projects that present quantifiable measures. This will show how the project will advance the goal(s) and meet the objective(s). This enables reviewers to evaluate what the proposed project will achieve if funded.

Activities describe how the objectives will be accomplished. A description of activities may include quantity, frequency, duration, and location. For example: “20 community members will participate in a single two-hour-long workshop. There will be a total of 10 workshops. The workshops will take place at community centers in the evening after typical workday hours.”

An **output** is a short-term quantifiable result that one or more activities achieve. DOEE will measure the outputs in order to determine if the grantee successfully implements the activities. For example: “At the end of the project period, 10 recycling workshops will be held, 200 community members will attend the workshops, and 25 social media posts will appear featuring information about recycling.”

A **project outcome** can be a short, medium, or long-term result. It can occur and/or continue during the project and after the project ends. It can be general in nature; or it can be quantifiable. A project can present multiple outcomes. Even if not quantifiable, DOEE may look for an outcome to show that the project is making progress toward achieving a goal.

For example: After several recycling workshops, this project will yield: (a) the Anacostia River will show substantially fewer floating recyclables by next spring, and (b) 60 % of workshop participants will increase their knowledge about where and what to recycle.

(2) Project Budget

You must submit a numeric budget and a separate budget narrative as part of your application under the heading “Proposed Project Budget” in the GMS.

The budget narrative must explain and justify every line item in the numeric budget. The explanation should be thorough enough to allow a reviewer to understand why expenditure levels were chosen and how the line-item amounts were derived. For example: “Personnel will be paid \$xx per hour times xx hours.”

The budget will be the basis for DOEE’s later evaluation of the project and payment requests. DOEE will require documentation for grant payments, and the entire grant will be subject to audit.

i. DOEE's standard policy on reimbursements vs. advances

In the overwhelming majority of cases, DOEE's policy is to reimburse supported, approved, and allowable expenses. If the Applicant seeks an advance payment, it must request advance payment in its application and explain why an advance payment is requested. (See Parts 1.8, and 6.2; Appendix 1, Section 10.g)

ii. Grantee matches and other contributions

Resources provided by the applicant should appear in the column titled "Non-DOEE Match," meaning the Applicant intends to provide the indicated resources (i.e., the "match," and that the resources do not come from DOEE). Entries in this column could include both dollars and the value of the in-kind contributions. For example, in-kind contributions can include staff time, volunteer services, already-paid licensing fees, materials, supplies, and the use of equipment or real estate.

The requirements for matching funds are that they MUST:

1. be verifiable from recipient records;
2. not be allocated as contributions for other grant-funded programs;
3. not already come from federal funds unless there is specific authorization;
4. be necessary for accomplishing program objectives;
5. if the grant is based on any federal funds, be allowable and reasonable according to applicable OMB cost principles; and
6. be spent during the project period.

Volunteer hours provided to a grantee or sub-grantee must be valued at rates consistent with those the Applicant's organization ordinarily pays for similar work, including salary and fringes. If the grantee or a sub-grantee does not have employees performing similar work, the rates must be valued the same as rates ordinarily paid by employers in the same labor market for similar work.

iii. Allowable and non-allowed expenditures

The Applicant must show that all costs in the budget are allowable. Typical allowable costs are:

1. Rental of office space, some vehicles, and some equipment;
2. Employee salaries and benefits;
3. Contractor labor, including professional services;
4. Accounting and bookkeeping services;
5. Communications, including telephone and data services;
6. Printing, reproduction, including signage;
7. Materials and supplies;
8. Computers and printers;

9. Small tools;
10. Some field equipment, typically below \$5,000 in value;
11. Postage and shipping;
12. Necessary travel, meals and lodging; and
13. Insurance.

Non-Allowable costs include:

1. Most major equipment, like vehicles;
2. Lobbying, including salaries and overheads and out-of-pocket expenses;
3. Entertainment;
4. Interest payments on loans;
5. Most food; and
6. Land purchases.

iv. Applicant's indirect costs calculation

An Applicant may include its indirect costs in its budget calculation. (*See* the Nonprofit Fair Compensation Act of 2020, DC Act 23-565 [effective March 2021]) This may be done through the use of a cost rate. In budget backup materials, the Applicant should identify the basis for the calculation, addressing one of the following bases that District law permits it to choose:

1. Its current, unexpired, federally Negotiated Indirect Cost Rate Agreement (NICRA) rate, a negotiated rate with the federal government;

OR

2. One of the following methods:
 - a. 10% of the grant's direct costs;
 - b. A new negotiated rate with DOEE;
 - c. The same indirect rate that it has used with any District agency in the past 2 years; or
 - d. An independent Certified Public Account's (CPA) calculated rate using federal Office of Management and Budget (OMB) guidelines

(The cited statute requires DOEE to provide for at least one of these listed methods. However, the statute excludes the following from the requirement: foundation; hospital; university; college.) If the Applicant proposes to use the services of a *nonprofit* subgrantee or contractor, it must propose to apply the same indirect cost rate to that entity's services. (See Appendix 1. General Terms & Conditions, Paragraph 15.f.)

Federal rules always control for federal funding. For federal funding that passes through the District to the grantee, the indirect cost rate must be consistent with federal regulation 2 CFR 200.331 or its successor.

(c) Applicant

(1) Organization

Describe the named Applicant's history, mission, and current or past projects that demonstrate the organization's capacity to achieve the project's goals. To provide further information, the applicant can reference its website or upload an organizational brochure or résumé under the heading "Additional Information and Document Uploads" in the GMS.

(2) Key personnel

Identify the key team members for the project and provide brief biographies or their résumés under the heading "Additional Information and Document Uploads" in the GMS. The team members can be staff, volunteers, subgrantees, or contractors.

(3) Past performance on District Grants/Contracts

Identify District agencies from which the Applicant has received funding as a contractor, grantee, or partner in the past five years under the heading "Additional Information and Document Uploads" in the GMS. Provide specific information, including:

- i. The grant(s) or contract(s) title;
- ii. The District agency/agencies;
- iii. The grant number(s), contract number(s), or other identifier(s);
- iv. The amount(s) paid; and
- v. What was accomplished as a result of the funding(s).

Briefly describe each dispute, investigation, and/or audit, if any, related to any of these District grants or contracts, or partnerships in the past five years.

(4) Partners

DOEE awards a grant to one entity. When that entity is a legal corporation or partnership, DOEE would award to that entity. Sometimes a "partnership" is informal, just a working arrangement. The "partners" may have decided that multiple participants can improve the success of a project. Such a partnership might be between a government agency, nongovernmental organization (NGO), company, or an individual. One of these "partners" would be the Applicant.

If one or more partners are to be involved in the project, the Applicant must describe each partner's involvement and resource commitments. The partnering organization should attach a letter of support. If the letter is a hard copy letter or scanned, the document should be written on the partner's letterhead and signed by its authorized official. If the letter is an email, the email

should clearly identify the writer and position, the partner, its mailing address, website, and an official's contact name, telephone number, and email address.

For the following types of partners, provide the documentation indicated.

i. District of Columbia Public Schools

If the Applicant will work with the District of Columbia Public Schools (DCPS), it must include a letter of support from the principal of each school with which it will work, and, if available, from each participating teacher. Teachers and principals may send a joint letter.

ii. Property Owner

If the Applicant will work on public land, it must submit a letter of support from an official of the managing agency. Similarly, if the Applicant is to work on private land, it must submit a letter of support from each property owner. If the project includes construction or installation, the letter must acknowledge that the property owner will be responsible (either directly or through an agreement with another entity) for project maintenance.

iii. Partnering Organization

Include a letter of intent from the collaborating organization(s) stating that it agrees to participate in the proposed project, describing the partner's involvement and resource commitments, and explaining the activities and/or services the partner will provide. The letter should demonstrate that the partnering organization understands the project presented for funding and the activities and/or services that the partner will provide. Under the grant terms and conditions, grant-related work or activity that is contracted, subcontracted or subgranted must comply with applicable District laws, including business licensing requirements and documentation of a claimed tax-exempt status.

iv. National Park Service - Exception

Projects that would be carried out on National Park Service (NPS) property will require NPS permission. Sometimes the paperwork supporting such permission takes extra time to complete. DOEE will accept more informal statements generated by responsible NPS officials, including an email statement of intent.

3.4 Work Plan

The application must include a proposed work plan that describes the project's activities and the timeline for project implementation. Upload the work plan in "Additional Information and Document Uploads" in the GMS.

3.5 Required Documents

The following documents must be filed as part of the application package. If the document is not in this filing, DOEE may classify the grant application as “received” but not “filed,” as specified in Section 2.3. However, if a government agency must issue a required document, and the Applicant has requested the document but not received it, DOEE may accept a copy of the Applicant’s written request to the agency for the purpose of deeming the Application “filed.”

(a) Certificate of Good Standing

Each Applicant must submit a current Certificate of Good Standing from the District Department of Consumer and Regulatory Affairs. DOEE requires that the submitted Certificate of Good Standing reflect a date within a six-month period immediately preceding the application’s submission.

(b) Certificate of Clean Hands

The Grantee shall submit a validated Certificate of Clean Hands (CCH) from the DC Office of Tax and Revenue. The CCH can be obtained through [MyTax.DC.gov](https://mytax.dc.gov).

(c) Promises, Certifications, Assertions, and Assurances

Each Applicant must sign and submit the “Promises, Certifications, Assertions, and Assurances” (“PCA”) in Appendix 2. Signing the PCA is a condition of eligibility for this grant. If the Applicant is not prepared to sign the PCA, it should not apply for a grant. Compliance with the promises, certifications, and assurances in the PCA is a continuing condition of eligibility for this grant.

The PCA must be signed by the Applicant or, if the Applicant is an organization, by a duly authorized officer of the organization.

The PCA also includes a sworn statement verifying that the Applicant is not in arrears (i.e., is “current”) on all obligations outstanding to the District, including all District agencies. The Applicant must be “current” as of the date of the application and the date of a grant award. DOEE requires, as a condition of continuing eligibility, that a grantee stay current on such obligations during the grant period.

(d) IRS W-9 Tax Form

The Applicant must submit a current completed W-9 form prepared for the U.S. Internal Revenue Service (IRS). DOEE defines “current” to mean that the document was completed within the same calendar year as that of the application date.

(e) Tax Exemption Affirmation Letter

If the Applicant claims it is a nonprofit organization, the Applicant must prove its nonprofit status. The tax exemption affirmation letter should be provided. It is the IRS's determination letter of non-profit status. If this letter is not available, then the Applicant should provide its most recent IRS Form 990 tax return, if one was submitted. If no return has yet been filed, the organization can submit its application for tax-exempt status. If the group is a "supporting organization" with an IRS tax-exempt status determination, then that organization's tax exemption affirmation letter should also be submitted.

If there is no IRS tax exemption affirmation letter because the organization is a religious organization, then the Applicant may submit the best evidence it can of its status. Examples of the potential best evidence for this purpose include, but are not limited to, (i) a letter from the leader of the organization verifying that the organization is a religious group; (ii) a letter from the group's board chair or similar official, verifying that the organization is a religious group; (iii) the Applicant's most recently submitted state sales or other tax exemption form, if it exists (Form 164 in the District of Columbia); or (iv) the state's issued tax exemption certificate or card if it exists. (*See IRS publication no. 1828, Tax Guide for Churches and Religious Organizations.*)

(f) Applicant's Current Fiscal Year Budget

The Applicant must submit its full budget, including projected income, for the current fiscal year. Also, the Applicant should submit a comparison of budgeted versus actual income and expenses of the fiscal year to date.

(g) Applicant's Financial Statements

If the Applicant has undergone an audit or financial review, it must provide the most recent audited financial statements or reviews. If audited financial statements or reviews are not available, the Applicant must provide its most recent complete year's unaudited financial statements.

(h) Separation of Duties Policy

The Applicant must state how the organization separates financial transactions and duties among people within the organization in order to prevent fraud or waste. This may be a statement that already exists as a formal policy of the organization, or the Applicant may create the statement for purposes of the application. The applicant should state which of these situations apply.

This statement should:

1. Describe how financial transactions are handled and recorded;
2. Provide the names or titles of personnel involved in handling money;
3. Identify how many signatures the financial institution(s) require on the organization's checks and withdrawal slips; and,
4. Address other limits on staff and board members' handling of the organization's money.

(i) System for Award Management (SAM) with Federal Government

The Applicant must be registered in the System for Award Management at www.sam.gov and provide evidence of this registration as part of its application package to DOEE.

(j) Indirect Costs Rate Documentation

No special documentation is required if the Applicant seeks a 10% indirect costs rate in its proposed budget. However, for another rate, include one of the following documents with the application:

1. Unexpired federally Negotiated Indirect Cost Rate Agreement (NICRA);
2. DOEE negotiated agreement;
3. A letter from a District government agency, dated within the last two years, stating the negotiated indirect cost rate; or
4. A letter from an independent CPA certifying the indirect cost rate was determined by the nonprofit organization's audited financial statements following OMB Uniform Guidance.

(k) Certified Business Enterprise Certificate

For grants funded by the Renewable Energy Development Fund, if the Applicant wants to qualify as a Certified Business Enterprise (CBE), the Applicant must submit a current District CBE certificate.

SECTION 4. REVIEW PANEL AND APPLICATION SCORING

4.1 Review Panel

This is a competitive grant. The review panel for the RFA will be composed of individuals with knowledge in the areas directly related to the RFA. The review panel will review, score and rank each Applicant's application.

The panel will recommend the most responsive application for an award of the grant.

Review panels vary in size, but typically are made up of three to five people. Review panel members can be from DOEE staff or outside of DOEE, as long as they do not have a conflict of interest.

4.2 Scoring Criteria

The reviewers score each application according to a list of criteria and the points available for each criterion. See Section 7. A scoring table/grid appears at the end of the Project Description.

The points shown in the scoring table/grid for each criterion are the maximum that can be awarded for that criterion.

A reviewer awards points based on how much the project application satisfies each criterion. The reviewer will award points on a scale using the following descriptions:

- (a) Unacceptable - fails to meet minimum requirements, so will be awarded no points.
- (b) Poor - marginally meets minimum requirements but contains major deficiencies.
- (c) Minimal - marginally meets minimum requirements, but the deficiencies are minor and may be correctable.
- (d) Acceptable - meets the requirements.
- (e) Good – meets the requirements and exceeds some requirements.
- (f) Excellent - exceeds all or most requirements, so maximum points will be awarded.

An RFA may require a match of funds or other resources dedicated to the project. If the application fails to address this, no points will be awarded for the criterion.

Sometimes an RFA will offer additional points. The Applicant should read the grant description carefully to determine if preference points are available. A separate line of the scoring table/grid will show this.

SECTION 5. GRANTEE DOCUMENT REQUIREMENTS

5.1 Submissions if Applicant Will Receive the Grant

Upon acceptance of DOEE’s award of the grant, the Grantee must provide the following documents.

(a) Certificate of Insurance

The Grantee shall submit a certificate of insurance giving evidence of the required coverage. *See* Appendix 1, General Terms and Conditions Section 29. Insurance, and Appendix 6. Insurance Requirements. Ordinarily, DOEE will presume that the budget covers the cost of this required insurance and will not later adjust the grant award for this amount.

(b) Assurance of Continued Truth and Accuracy

Upon receiving DOEE’s Grant Award Notice, the Grantee must notify DOEE of any changes that may have occurred to its organization since the time of submission of its original application. This obligation continues through the grant period. *See* also Section 1.12. RFA Conditions - Promises, Certifications, Assertions, and Assurances.

SECTION 6. REPORTING, PAYMENT, and OTHER PROVISIONS

6.1 Reporting Requirements

The grantee must submit the following reports as a condition of continuing eligibility for funding.

(a) Quarterly Status Reports

DOEE will provide a quarterly status report template with the Grant Award Notice. These reports, which discuss grant activities for the preceding quarter, will be due on each of the following dates.

Quarter 1 (January - March):	April 15
Quarter 2 (April - June):	July 15
Quarter 3 (July - September):	October 15
Quarter 4 (October - December):	January 15

If a report's due date falls on a weekend or District holiday, the report will be due the next business day.

The report must detail: actions taken in the quarter preceding the report date, highlight outputs achieved, provide a financial update, and describe unforeseen changes to the project timetable, staffing, or partnerships, as well as any other changes that may affect project outcomes.

(b) Final Report

DOEE will provide a final report template with the Grant Award Notice. This report includes quantification by the grantee of the project's outputs and describes the extent to which project outcomes met or will meet the objectives of the funded application. The template requires the submission of data and analysis of the data.

6.2 Reimbursement of Project Expenditures, Advances, and Disbursement of Funds

DOEE will not reimburse the grantee for any work undertaken before DOEE awards the grant.

DOEE will reimburse the grantee only for expenditures incurred to perform work under the grant. Ordinarily, DOEE pays out grant funds as reimbursements. Advances are exceptions; not the rule. In limited cases, DOEE may advance funds at the beginning of the grant period for a good cause approved by DOEE at its sole discretion. If the Applicant seeks an advance payment, **it must request such payment in its application** and explain why an advance payment is being requested. (See Parts 1.8, 3.1(b)2; Appendix 1 Section 10.g)

DOEE operates on the District's fiscal year, which starts October 1 of a calendar year and ends September 30 of the next calendar year. Ordinarily, there is no requirement for weekly or monthly invoicing. The grantee should submit each reimbursement request/invoice during the fiscal year for work performed within that same fiscal year. Each request/invoice must include supporting documentation.

Reimbursements will be mailed to the address on file for the grantee. DOEE may make electronic payments in lieu of mailing checks. DOEE generally pays timely, approved, supported grant invoices within 30 days after DOEE receives them.

DOEE may withhold up to the final 10% of a grant until all required activities have been completed, including receipt of the final report. The grantee should treat the prospect of such withholding as likely.

SECTION 7. PROJECTS PROPOSED FOR GRANT FUNDING

7.1 Summary: Project Name, Period, and Available Funds

Project Name

Community Stormwater Solutions Evaluation and Expansion Grant

Introduction

Since 2016, the Community Stormwater Solutions Grant Program (Program) has provided funding to District-based small businesses, nonprofits, faith-based organizations, educational institutions, and other entities to propose and execute creative, community-oriented and – inspired projects. The Program’s objectives are to (1) reduce water pollution from trash and other polluted runoff, (2) raise water quality awareness, and (3) promote behavior changes in District community members. To date, 78 subgrants totaling \$1,722,704 have been awarded.

DOEE is seeking proposals to evaluate the Program, research best practices, work with DOEE to enhance the Program, manage the improved Program by awarding subgrants, and expand the Program’s effectiveness.

Part of the improvement may include (1) building the capacity of potential Program subgrantees through grant writing, management trainings, and technical assistance, (2) reducing financial and grant management barriers of Program grantees, as by providing advance funding and insurance support, and (3) establishing distinct funding opportunities for (a) new projects and for (b) the continuation of previously funded successful Program projects.

DOEE’s intent with this grant opportunity is to establish a four-year relationship with a single grantee. Program changes are subject to DOEE approval.

Terms

“Program” refers to the Community Stormwater Solutions Grant Program.

“Grantee” refers to the entity that receives the Community Stormwater Solutions Evaluation and Expansion Grant.

“Applicant” refers to an entity applying for this RFA.

“Subgrant” and “Subaward” refers to a project funded by a Community Stormwater Solutions Grant.

“Program subgrantees” refers to entities that receive a Community Stormwater Solutions Grant.

A “meaningful engagement strategy” means one driving project deliverables and outcomes to reflect and respond to the community’s needs and goals.

Project Period

The project period is two years, with the option of up to two additional years, for a total of four years. The extension is subject to (a) DOEE’s determination of the adequacy of the grantee’s activities and (b) the availability of funding.

Available Funding

\$700,000 is available for the two-year grant, with the option to add funding for an additional two years, for a total of \$1,400,000 for four years. DOEE has budgeted \$350,000 for the first year. Funding for years two through four is subject to the availability of funds to DOEE. Funding for years three and four is also subject to DOEE’s determination of the adequacy of the grantee’s activities.

These “years” are actually periods of 12 months, so that the first period runs 24 months from the date of the Director’s signature. The second period runs another 24 months from the end of the first period.

The grant period may be extended past the second year and/or funds may be increased in future amendments, subject to the availability of funds, DOEE’s determination of the adequacy of the grantee’s performance, the grantee’s capacity to maintain or increase the scope of work, and the District’s need for the scope of work to be maintained or increased. The award amount could increase or decrease in year two and following years.

To maximize the amount of funding going directly to community partners through subgrants, DOEE encourages an applicant for this grant to offer matching funds to cover, at least partially, the costs of administering the proposed program.

Advance Payments:

Advances shall only be used to cover the cost of subawards, and not administration or other costs incurred by the Grantee. DOEE would provide advance payment only once DOEE approves the related subawards. The Grantee may request advance payments more than once per fiscal year. (DOEE’s fiscal year runs from 10/1 to the following year’s 9/30, and it is named for the year in which 9/30 occurs.)

Advances will be considered spent once the subaward is issued. The Grantee will incur all risks and be responsible for ensuring that the activities funded through the subgrants are completed within the grant period. Additionally, the Grantee will be required to include subaward project updates in their quarterly reports to DOEE. If the subgrants activities funded are not complete, then the Grantee will either repay DOEE, per Section IV.e. of [*Advance Payment Policy and Procedure for Grants*](#), or issue another subaward(s) with approval from DOEE. DOEE will

withhold the final 10% invoiced under the grant until all required activities have been completed, including receipt of the final report.

An Applicant responding to this RFA shall identify in their application the need for advance payment and acknowledge that, if selected, they are prepared to provide the information requested in the [Advance Payment Request form](#). See the [Advance Payment Policy and Procedure for Grants](#) for additional information.

For this RFA, the Grantee is eligible to request an advance payment of up to an amount that equals their budget for sub-awards and not to exceed 90 percent of the total budget. This eligibility provision and advance funds procedure supersedes any discussion in another section of this RFA. (I.e., language in another section, regarding advance payments not exceeding the lesser of 25 percent of the grant award or \$100,000 per grant, does not apply.)

7.2 Project Description

DOEE is looking for innovative ways to enhance the Community Stormwater Solutions Grant Program. DOEE expects to choose one entity for this project. A team may apply, with a lead to serve as the Grantee.

A proposal should include the following elements:

1. **An evaluation strategy for how the Applicant will assess the existing Program.** This could include an evaluation of stormwater and community benefits of past projects, equitable distribution of funding, categorization of the type of projects that have been funded, etc. To learn more about previous Program Requests for Applications (RFAs), visit the DOEE Grants and Funding archives page: <https://doee.dc.gov/page/grants-and-other-funding>. To read about past and current grantees: <https://doee.dc.gov/service/community-stormwater-solutions-grants>.
2. **A robust outreach and meaningful engagement strategy** that addresses how the Applicant will (a) build relationships with existing and potential Program subgrantees and (b) support subgrantees to develop and implement projects that involve meaningful engagement. An outcome of this strategy should include projects that reflect and respond to the community's needs and goals. Applicants are encouraged to develop and support meaningful and mutually beneficial partnerships that honor the strengths of community leaders but do not burden them.
3. **A detailed plan for how the Applicant will compete, award, and manage subgrants** to achieve the Program objectives. Applicants are encouraged to utilize inclusive and equitable strategies to reduce barriers to participation in the Program.

This plan should address:

- a. Grants Administration:

- i. A description of the Applicant’s experience administering subgrants and staffing capabilities.
 - ii. An explanation on the structure and timing in which subgrants will be awarded. Applicants are encouraged to propose innovative grant award structures such as annual grants, multi-annual grants, rolling micro-grant awards, distinct funding opportunities.
 - iii. How the Applicant will monitor subgrantees’ spending and project deliverables.
 - iv. How the Applicant will support subgrantees throughout the project period. This may include support in grant management, grant reporting, project execution, data collection and evaluation.
 - b. Equitable Application and Selection Process:
 - i. How the Applicant will administer a fair and transparent selection process that must address conflicts of interest and maintain the confidentiality of applicants.
 - ii. How Program applications will be reviewed, and how review panelists will be trained, and, if applicable, compensated.
 - c. Subgrantee Management and Support:
 - i. How the Applicant will support Program subgrantee applicants during the pre-application and application process. DOEE has been successful in the past implementing pre-application meetings, grant writing workshops, and technical support.
 - ii. Examples of tools, resources, workshops, networking events, and technical assistance sessions the applicant will provide to support subgrantees.
 - iii. How the Applicant will reduce financial and grant management barriers for subgrantees. Applicants are encouraged to propose strategies such as providing advance funding, umbrella insurance coverage, and fiscal agent partnership.
 - d. Data Collection and Reporting:
 - i. How the Applicant will collect demographic and equity data from subgrantees to measure how the funding was allocated.
 - ii. How the Applicant will measure and collect data from subgrantees on the success of each of the funded projects.
 - iii. How the Applicant will evaluate each subgrant project.
 - iv. How the Applicant will publicly showcase and amplify subgrant projects. Applicants are encouraged to propose creative strategies such as blog posts, social media, videos, and story maps.
4. **A detailed numeric budget and budget narrative that includes a clear justification for the funds requested.** To maximize the amount of funding going directly to community partners through subgrants, DOEE encourages an applicant for this grant to offer matching funds to cover, at least partially, the costs of administering the proposed program. Additionally, if the Applicant requests the use of advance payments, it must identify in the application the need for advance payment and acknowledge that, if selected, the Applicant is prepared to provide the information requested in the

Advance Payment Request form. See the [Advance Payment Policy and Procedure for Grants](#) for additional information.

While improvements to the Program are encouraged, the following Program characteristics are required and must remain.

1. All subaward projects must be physically located in the District.
2. All subgrantees should be physically located in the District. Exceptions will be considered by DOEE.
3. A subgrant may not replace funding for a grantee's existing program, activities, or general operations.
4. Each subgrant must advance the objectives of the Program (stated in the Introduction of Section 7). Here are some examples of projects that advance the Program's objectives. DOEE has funded projects to:
 - a. Install green infrastructure.
 - b. Maintain existing green infrastructure.
 - c. Provide pathways to green jobs focused on stormwater solutions.
 - d. Restore natural habitat.
 - e. Clean up an area affected by a lot of litter and address causes of litter.
 - f. Reduce sources of pollution to District water bodies.
 - g. Engage communities, raise awareness, and bring about behavior change on issues impacting water quality, including stormwater management, trash, pollution prevention, and watershed restoration.
 - h. Increase equitable access to, and encourage activity along, the Anacostia River and natural areas using culturally inclusive and tailored engagement strategies.
 - i. Engage children and families in equitable and inclusive Out of School Time programming and walkable, outdoor trips.
 - j. Provide environmental project-based learning or paid internship opportunities to District of Columbia Public and Charter School students.

5. The grantee's conduct of the Program must further Environmental Justice and Equity. To learn more about DOEE's Equity Framework, visit: https://bit.ly/DOEE_Equity
6. A subgrant application must be awarded additional evaluation points if the proposed project would benefit the Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4) or the Anacostia Watershed.
7. Each year DOEE identifies special focus areas for the Program. For example, in 2022, the special focus areas were projects that support (1) the cultivation of Trash Free Communities and (2) Advance stewardship, environmental education, restoration, community engagement, and maintenance efforts in neighborhoods within the Oxon Run watershed and Oxon Run Park corridor in the District. (The grantee consults with DOEE to determine special focus areas for each funding year's Program.)
8. A subgrant must produce a quantifiable improvement to water quality or lead to a related behavior change (e.g. plant 100 trees, reduce 1,000 gallons of stormwater runoff, or engage 500 people in stewardship activities).
9. An ideal subgrant should do one or more of the following:
 - a. Test a new concept.
 - b. Have the potential to be replicated to wider audiences, if successful.
 - c. Employ an equitable and meaningful engagement strategy with one or more communities. DOEE recognizes that meaningful engagement requires significant staff time for planning, outreach, recruitment, engagement, and post-engagement activities. A subgrant budget should reflect this.
 - d. Use art or another creative solution to communicate the message or create the result.
 - e. Further existing efforts to reduce the impacts of stormwater runoff that can be implemented without requiring significant support by DOEE program staff.

7.3 Project Deliverables

Deliverables

A Grantee must produce at least the following deliverables:

1. A completed evaluation of the Program, including innovative recommendations for changes that reflect community needs and help further the Program objectives found in the Introduction to this Section.

2. An outreach and engagement plan that addresses barriers to entities that have not previously received a Program subgrant.
3. Management of the Program and its subgrants.
4. A report that details the calendar year's Program subgrants.
5. Quarterly progress reports.
6. Electronically accessible folder containing subgrantee project photos and other graphics.
7. Media package to publicly showcase and amplify subgrant projects, such as blog posts, social media, videos, story maps.
8. A final report.

Application Scoring

Each Application will be scored according to the criteria below.

	Scoring Criteria	Points
1	Program Evaluation: Presents a clear and feasible evaluation strategy for how the applicant will assess the existing Program.	10
2	Engagement Strategy: Presents a robust strategy that addresses how the applicant will build relationships with and support existing and potential Program subgrantees.	5
3	Grants Administration: Presents a strong history of grants management and demonstrates the capacity of the applicant staff to administer the program excellently.	10
4	Grants Administration: Presents a clear and feasible plan and schedule for how the applicant will issue and manage subawards.	20
5	Equitable Application and Selection Process: Presents a solid, convincing plan for supporting potential applicants during the application period and holding a fair and transparent review process.	10
6	Subgrantee Management and Support: Demonstrates with specificity how the applicant will meaningfully support and reduce financial and grant management barriers for subgrantees.	10
7	Subgrantee Management and Support: Demonstrates deep experience in nonprofit and business capacity-building.	5
8	Data Collection and Reporting: Demonstrates with specificity how the applicant will collect data, evaluate, and publicly showcase subgrant projects.	10
9	Budget: Presents a reasonable, detailed, numeric budget, and a detailed budget narrative that includes a clear justification for the funds requested.	15

10	Budget includes matching funds that will cover, at least partially, the costs of administering the program.	5
11	Five additional points will be awarded to a local entity. See Appendix 5.	5

SECTION 8. CHECKLIST FOR APPLICANTS

Instructions for applicants: Do not upload this checklist. This checklist is for your benefit. If you use the checklist, you will want to answer all questions below. This checklist is not part of your application.		
1	Does the applicant provide a brief summary of the project?	
2	Is the application from one entity, the Applicant?	
3	Is the named Applicant eligible for funding according to section 1.6 of the RFA?	
4	If project eligibility conditions appear in Section 1.6 of the RFA, does the project fit these conditions?	
5	Is the project application narrative included?	
6	Does the application include a project description and all of the information required in the scoring rubric at the end of Section 7 of the RFA?	
7	Is there a numeric budget?	
8	Is there a budget narrative justifying each budget line item?	
9	Do the line items in the application budget consider the allowable and non-allowable costs in Section 3.1 subsection b.2.iii of the RFA?	
10	Did the applicant read the General Terms and Conditions document (Appendix 1)?	
11	Does the application package include the first page and signed last page of the DOEE Promises, Certifications, Assertions, and Assurances (Appendix 2)?	
12	Does the application package include a Certificate of Good Standing that reflects a date within 6 months of the deadline date?	
13	Does the application package include a valid Certificate of Clean Hands?	
14	Does the application package include IRS W-9 Tax Form?	

15	If the Applicant is a nonprofit organization, does the application package include a Tax Exemption Affirmation Letter?	
16	Does the application package include the applicant's current fiscal year budget?	
17	Does the application package include the applicant's most recent audited or unaudited financial statements?	
18	Does the application package include a Separation of Duties Policy as described in Section 3.5 subsection (h) of the RFA?	
19	If funded by Renewable Energy Development Fund (REDF) and the Applicant is seeking to qualify as a Certified Business Enterprise (CBE), is the current District CBE certificate included?	
20	Is the Applicant registered in the System for Award Management (SAM)?	
21	If the Applicant is eligible to claim indirect costs and is claiming more than 10% of direct costs, does the application package include supporting documentation for the indirect cost rate?	
22	If applicable, does the application package include letters of support from other entities?	
23	If requested, does the application include resumes of key personnel mentioned in the application?	
24	If applicable, does the application identify District agencies from which funds were received, including the project title, amount paid, and what was accomplished?	
25	Does the application include a work plan?	

APPENDICES

Appendix 1 – General Terms and Conditions

Appendix 2 – Promises, Certifications, Assertions, and Assurances

Appendix 3 – N/A

Appendix 4 – N/A

Appendix 5 – Points for Local Entities

Appendix 6 – Insurance Requirements

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