



**Department of  
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Conservation**

# **Water Quality Improvement Implementation and Planning Grants**

**November, 2019**

# Two Types of Grants

## Implementation

- Water Quality Improvement Projects (WQIP) Program

## Planning

- Engineering Planning Grant (EPG)
- Non-agricultural Nonpoint Source Planning Grant (NPG)





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# Water Quality Improvement Projects (WQIP)

# Overview

- Competitive, statewide implementation grant
- Addresses documented water quality impairments
- Protects a drinking water source



# Grant Funding

- Dollar amounts available each year is based on NYS Budget
- Clean Water Infrastructure Act
- Environmental Protection Fund



# Eligible Applicants

- Municipalities
- Soil and water conservation districts
- Not-for-profit corporations (**Only** source water protection and aquatic connectivity restoration projects)



# Eligible Activities

- Wastewater Treatment Improvement
- Non-agricultural Nonpoint Source Abatement and Control
- Land Acquisition for Source Water Protection
- Salt Storage
- Aquatic Connectivity Restoration
- Municipal Separate Storm Sewer Systems (MS4s)



# Wastewater Treatment Improvement

## High Priority (25% match)

- Wastewater Effluent Disinfection for Facilities Without Disinfection
- Combined Sewer Overflow/Sanitary Sewer Overflow (CSO/SSO)
- Watershed Plan Implementation
- Communities with Inadequate On-Site Septic Systems
- Nitrogen Abatement for Shellfishing Waters

## Secondary Priority (60% match)

- General wastewater infrastructure improvements





# Non-Agricultural Nonpoint Source

## Eligible projects (25% match)

- Particular Nonpoint Source Best Management Practices (BMPs)

## Eligible categories

- Decentralized Wastewater Treatment Facilities for Failing On-Site Treatment Systems or Long Island On-Site Treatment Systems that do not Currently Abate Nitrogen
- Green Infrastructure Practice/Stormwater Retrofits
- Great Lakes Nature-Based Shoreline
- Streambank Stabilization and Riparian Buffers
- In-Waterbody Controls for Nutrients
- Beach Restoration
- Culvert Repair and Replacement
- Nonpoint Source Programs

# Source Water Protection thru Land Acquisition

## Eligible projects (25% match)

- Protect surface public drinking water supplies
- Protect groundwater public drinking water supplies

## Note that:

- Project must include land acquisition, either land purchase or easements
- Municipalities, soil and water conservation districts and not-for-profits, such as land trusts, are eligible

# Salt Storage

## Eligible projects (50% match)

- Projects to construct a structure to cover a salt or salt/sand mixture storage pile.
- All projects must comply with the OGS salt storage specs.



# Aquatic Connectivity Restoration

## Eligible projects (25% match)

- Improves aquatic habitat connectivity at road/stream crossings or dams
- Restores the natural movement of organisms
- Focus is on culverts, bridges or dams that are causing obstructions



# Municipal Separate Storm Sewer Systems (MS4)

## Eligible Projects (25% match)

- Comprehensive system mapping/program mapping
- Purchase vacuum truck equipment



# Pre-Application Requirements

- All municipalities and soil and water conservation districts must register in the NYS Grants Gateway System to be eligible for this grant
- All not-for-profits must register and prequalify in the NYS Grants Gateway System to eligible for this grant.





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# DEC/EFC Wastewater Infrastructure Engineering Planning Grant

# EPG Overview

- DEC and EFC offering grants to help municipalities pay for engineering report for their wastewater infrastructure
- Up to \$100,000 per award
- 20% local match required
- Must meet MWBE requirements





# Eligible Applicants

- Municipality
  - AND Based on 2017 American Community Survey:
- Municipal median household income (MHI) equal to or less than \$90,000 for Long Island, New York City and Mid-Hudson regions
- Municipal median household income equal to or less than \$70,000 for the rest of the state



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# Funding Priorities

- Required by an executed Order on Consent
- Required by a SPDES permit
- Upgrading or replacing an existing wastewater system
- Constructing a wastewater treatment and/or collection system for an area with failing onsite septic systems
- Addressing a pollutant of concern in a watershed implementation plan (i.e., TMDL, 9 Element Watershed Plan, DEC HABs Action Plan)



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# Potential Grant Awards

- \$100,000 for eligible municipalities for Inflow/Infiltration projects (no population limit)
- \$50,000 for eligible municipalities with a population of 50,000 or greater
- \$30,000 for eligible municipalities with a population less than 50,000



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# Project Funding

Grant awards are disbursed in two or more payments based on progress of the project:

- A portion is advanced when the grant agreement is executed
- The final payment is made when DEC and EFC approve the engineering report





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# Non-Agricultural Nonpoint Source Planning Grant

# Funding Overview

- Grants to help pay for planning reports needed for nonpoint source projects
  - Prepare projects to apply for WQIP, other funding
  - Grant categories align with WQIP nonpoint source
  - Eligible reports are required or suggested for WQIP NPS projects
- Up to \$30,000 per award
- 10% local match
- Up to 10 applications per applicant

# Eligible Applicants

- Municipalities
- Soil and water conservation districts



# Eligible Activities

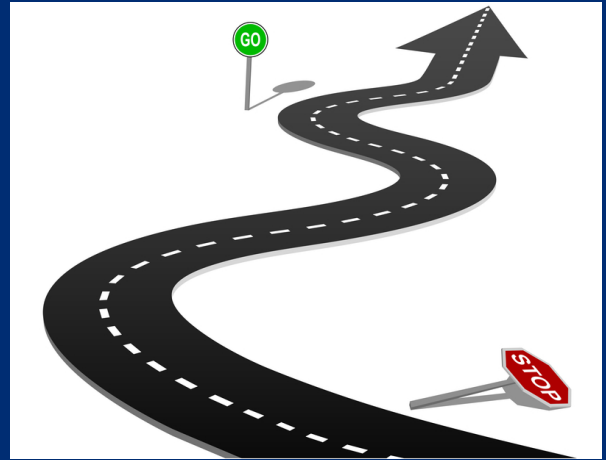
- Initial planning services to produce planning reports
- Grant categories:
  - Decentralized Wastewater Treatment Facilities for Failing On-Site Treatment Systems or Long Island On-Site Treatment Systems that do Not Currently Abate Nitrogen
  - Green Infrastructure Practices/Stormwater Retrofits
  - Great Lakes Nature-Based Shoreline Projects
  - Streambank Stabilization
  - In-Waterbody Controls for Nutrients
  - Beach Restoration
  - Culvert Repair & Replacement
- Eligible report types vary by project type





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# Tips for Applicants



# General Application Tips

- Start early
- Attach everything required
- Make the connections
  - Show how your project fits the grant
- Check that the match percentage is correct and the source of match is clear
- Contact your REDC to tell them about your project

# Project Budget for WQIP

- Fill out and attach expenditure-based budget
- Include only costs to be reimbursed by WQIP
- Check that amount requested in budget summary = amount requested in application
- Check that match percentage is correct and the source of match is clear

# Thank You

## Contact Information

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On the web:

<http://www.dec.ny.gov/pubs/4774.html>

<http://www.dec.ny.gov/pubs/81196.html>

