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Governor

ARKANSAS DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

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319(h) Grant Eligibility and Requirements

Types of projects that are eligible for funding include, but are not limited to:

- Stream and Riparian Restoration, including aquatic organism passage
- Urban/Low Impact Development Implementation
- Water Quality Monitoring
- Education and Outreach
- Title X Cost Share (Conservation Districts)
- Unpaved Roads

The Arkansas Department of Agriculture's Natural Resources Division (NRD) is always looking for novel ideas to monitor and implement best management practices (BMPs) to reduce nonpoint source (NPS) pollution in Arkansas.

Consideration will be given to project types in the following order:

- BMP implementation projects within a designated priority watershed, as defined by the 2024-2029 NPS Management Plan.
- BMP implementation projects within Tier 1 and Tier 2 watersheds identified in the Arkansas Nutrient Reduction Strategy.
- BMP implementation projects within a watershed with a United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) accepted nine element watershed management plan (WMP).
- In-stream water quality monitoring projects that support or assist the development of a nine element WMP, or capture results of implementation within a NPS priority watershed or Tier 2 nutrient reduction watershed.
- Outreach/education or planning projects within NPS priority watersheds that are a component of an EPA accepted nine element WMP.

Research projects are not eligible for funding.

All monitoring projects must include a task to enter the data collected into the EPA's Storage and Retrieval (STORET) or Water Quality Exchange (WQX) database.

All grant workplans must identify a cause(s) and source(s) of NPS pollution within the respective watershed's project area.

Grant Application Checklist:

- Approved project pre-proposal form
- Completed workplan
- Map of project work area and/or watershed(s)

A grant workplan at a minimum will consist of the following:

- The identified impaired waterbody or segment targeted and the hydrologic unit code (HUC) of the targeted watershed.
- Specific NPS pollution constituent(s) defined to be controlled, reduced, or abated.
- A tracking mechanism to quantify results and a specific timeline in which task or activities are to be completed.
- Estimated cost per task, complete budgets, justifications, and financial review requirements.
- Model and/or methodology for estimating NPS pollution reduction, control, or abatement (when applicable).
- Justification of a reasonable expectation that water quality will be improved.
- An ability to conduct required reporting:
 - Semi-annual reports: Forms provided by NRD briefly stating quarterly task completions and appropriate deliverables.
 - Annual reports: Form provided by NRD to summarize project activities through the federal fiscal year (October 1 – September 30).
 - Final report: Submitted at the end of the project to encompass all activities and outcome or conclusion.
 - Financial review: Review completed by a qualified accounting professional or certified public accountant to look over all financial records at completion of the project.
- A pre-approved proposal form.

Applying for a grant does not guarantee funding of the request.

Starting July 17, 2023, NRD Water Quality Section staff will be available to work with and advise applicants in the preparation of their grant workplans. Pre-proposals must be submitted by September 15, 2023. If selected, NRD will require applicants to submit a full workplan proposal with additional project details and budget information.

Workplan pre-proposal templates are provided by staff and are available by calling (501) 682-1611 or through the NRD website at agriculture.arkansas.gov/natural-resources/divisions/water-management/nonpoint-source-management/. Electronic submittal will be accepted provided such application is submitted in Microsoft Word 2010 or later format.

Workplan proposals received after the close of business on September 15, 2023, will not be accepted.

Fluctuations in federal funding levels may occur. NRD is not typically informed of EPA 319(h) allocation/funding levels until March or a later date. Those workplans approved for funding by NRD and EPA should plan to have a start date of October 1, 2024.

NRD requires that section 319(h) grant recipients provide a minimum of non-federal match in the amount of 43 percent of the entire project costs. For example, if a project has a total cost of \$100,000, the recipient will be required to provide \$43,000 in non-federal funds or in-kind services. The amount of federal funds available for the example grant would be \$57,000. Funds and services used as match shall

not be utilized as match for any other federal grant program and shall not in any way be paid by federal funds.

Previously approved workplans, project descriptions, presentations, annual, and final project reports may be reviewed at agriculture.arkansas.gov/natural-resources/divisions/water-management/nonpoint-source-management/. If you have questions or need additional information, please contact NRD Water Quality Section staff.

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