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2025 Section 319(h) NPS Implementation Program Request for Applications (RFA)

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Welcome everyone. Before we get started, here are a few webinar protocols.

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2025 Section 319(h) NPS Implementation Program Request for Applications (RFA)

Overview of RFA Requirements

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Virginia Department of Environmental Quality

July 17, 2024

Good morning and welcome to the webinar for the 2025 319(h) NPS Implementation Program Request for Applications (RFA). I'm Melissa Secor, Nonpoint Source Project Coordinator at the Central Office in Richmond. I'm managing this year's RFA process on behalf of the Office of Watershed and Local Government Assistance Program. Also with me today is Stephanie Kreps, Team Lead of the Grants and Implementation Nonpoint Source Program. She is supporting this meeting by monitoring the questions and involved in the Q&A session. She'll provide any helpful input along the way.

Today's webinar is scheduled from 9:30-noon and it's set up as two parts. The first part is an overview of the RFA and the second is a training on completing the application materials. The goal of both presentations is to equip applicants with general, but comprehensive information to help you submit a successful application for this funding.

If you'd like to follow along, there are several documents in the 'Handout' tab of the webinar. I'll also provide a link to the website where all these materials are posted later in this presentation.

Poll: Who is with us?

Please tell us if you're participating today on behalf of:

- Nonprofit organization
- Municipality, Planning District or Regional Commission
- Soil and Water Conservation District
- DEQ or other state agency
- Other

Overview

- RFA overview
- Type of projects
- Education and outreach; Water Quality Monitoring
- Ineligible activities
- Budgeting
- Application materials
- Resources
- Changes since RFA was issued
- Q&A

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Today we will cover the following topics.

RFA overview: who, what, where

Types of projects (required elements)

Examples of education and outreach activities; Water quality monitoring activities that are eligible

What a project can't be: ineligible activities, or those that aren't eligible as stand-alone activities

Budgeting: things to keep in mind as it pertains to the budget (TA:BMP ratios)

Application materials: what needs to be submitted

Resources: where to get help and turn when you have questions

Changes since RFA issued

Q&A

[STOP FOR QUESTIONS]

Poll: Have you ever managed a 319(h) funded project in the past?

- Yes, I currently manage a project or starting a new one soon
- Yes, but it's been at least 3 years ago
- No, but I've been a partner on a past funded project
- No, I'm totally new to this funding program
- No, I work for DEQ...and support projects in some capacity

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Let's do another poll to get a sense of your experience with this grant program.

[LAUNCH POLL]

Clarify: Keep in mind that if an entity has a current project or starting a new one on or after 10/1/2024, that they should not apply to this RFA *if* they would like to continue their project **in the same IP area**. If they want a new project in a **NEW IP area**, than they can apply to this RFA. Follow up with the Regional NPS Coordinator for more information.

NPS RFA Overview

- What is 319(h) funding?
- Who can apply?
- What can you apply for?
- Where can you work?



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Let's begin with the RFA overview. More details can be found in the RFA Information document and Table 1.

What is 319(h) funding?

319(h) funding gets its name from Section 319(h) of the Clean Water Act. This section of the CWA established the Nonpoint Source Management Program to reduce and mitigate the effects of nonpoint source pollution to waters in the state. So when I say 'nonpoint source', this means pollution that is **caused by rainfall or snowmelt moving over and through the ground**. As the runoff moves, it picks up and carries away natural and human-made pollutants such as sediment, bacteria, and nutrients, finally depositing them into lakes, rivers, wetlands, coastal waters, and ground waters. Click next to show WQ Monitoring Graphic: So when DEQ monitors streams across Virginia, we assesses the data to see if the samples exceed water quality standards and if they do, we work with local partners to develop a study to figure out how to fix it (aka Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL)). Once we do that, we work with local partners to develop a cleanup plan to outline all the activities that will address the nonpoint sources of pollution and these are called the Implementation Plans (IPs). Each year, EPA awards 319(h) funds to states, territories, and tribes to implement these plans and we need organizations like you to help us get things done on the ground to implement

these plans. Then we monitor again and assess the data to see if there are changes in water quality. This cycle continues until we've reached the water quality standard. So in short, this funding is to help Virginia meet its water quality standards.

[Click next to remove WQ Monitoring Graphic.](#)

Who can apply for 319(h) funding?

Local governments (including counties, cities, and towns), county health departments, Soil and Water Conservation Districts, Virginia institutes of higher education (universities, colleges, etc.), Planning District Commissions, Regional Commissions, Tribes of Virginia, nonprofit environmental organizations, and other agencies/departments of the Commonwealth of Virginia.

[Click next to show text about existing awards.](#) Remember, if you currently have a 319(h) funded project that you want to continue or have a new one starting on or after 10/1/2024, do not apply to this RFA and follow up with your NPS Regional Coordinator for details on how to continue your current project. BUT, even if you are one of these grantees and want to start a [NEW](#) project in a [NEW](#) IP area, then you should apply this RFA.

What can you apply for?

[Click next twice to show funding options text.](#)

To know what types of activities can be funded in your area of interest, first you'll need to find the approved Implementation Plan (IP) that encompasses that area. You can find a list of all the approved plans in Table 1 and obtain a copy by visiting the DEQ website or emailing Ashley Wendt. BMPs fall into four sectors: agriculture, residential septic, pet waste, and urban. We'll go over each of these in more detail in the next few slides.

Please keep in mind that any activities done with this funding must be written in an approved IP. For example, if your area of interest only has a plan addressing sedimentation, you won't be able to implement a residential septic project there because these septic practices are for a bacteria impairment and wouldn't be included in the plan. You can implement one or more of these sectors in the same project (ag and residential septic; residential septic and pet waste; just ag; just residential septic, etc.) but keep it within the applicable IP and ensure it's feasible/realistic within your means.

Also, funding must be used for on-the-ground implementation with the expectation that the bulk of a project will be implementing best management practices (BMPs). Why? Because BMPs installed are the surest way to improve water quality and that's the ultimate goal of this funding.

Other activities can include **education/outreach** as outlined in the IP, as well as, **water quality monitoring** consistent with the monitoring plan described in the IP. We'll go

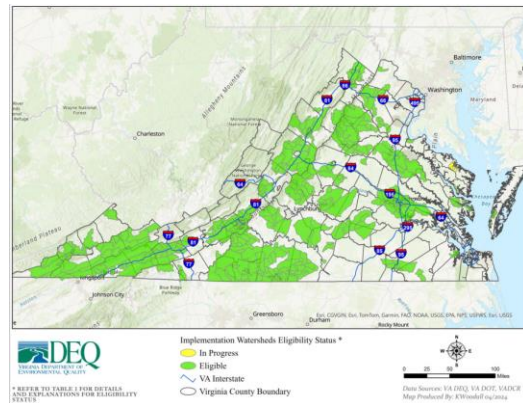
over this in more detail in the next few slides.
Check next to remove funding options text.

Where can you work?

Click next to show location text. Any activities done with this funding must be located within an approved plan's geographic area where practices will improve specific impaired river/stream segments. Each plan will describe the geographic area of the watershed but another way to look at this is using the mapping resources provided by DEQ including the eligibility map and table from this RFA and the DEQ Environmental Data Mapper (EDM) online. I'll show you the eligibility table and then take a few minutes to show you a few examples in EDM.

Mapping Tools

- RFA Eligibility Map and Table 1
- [Virginia DEQ Environmental Data Mapper \(EDM\)](#)
- [VA EJScreen+ Mapping Tool](#)



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1. Table 1/ [Refer to RFA TABLE 1- in webinar handouts]. This table lists the eligible plans by watershed name, city/county it's located within, the pollutant that's being addressed (bacteria, sediment, temperature, etc.) and a comment on its eligibility. This shows either eligible plan and in progress.

2. [SHOW EDM site: <https://apps.deq.virginia.gov/EDM/>.] Next, let's look at EDM. There is a link to this site in the PPT that will be uploaded.

This is what the website looks like when you first load.

In the DEQ Data Layers, select TMDL/IP Watershed Layers and Implementation Watersheds to see the various plans across the Commonwealth.

Green: Indicates IPs eligible for 319(h) funding which is key for the RFA; yellow indicates in progress; orange border indicates ineligible (that area has an old IP but there's interest in the area so considering updating in the future). Focus on green!

Yellow: Regarding yellow "in progress" areas. The EDM map shows all in-progress IPs whereas the RFA map shows two "in progress" IPs that are currently under EPA review. Since EPA approval is needed by 12/1/2024 to qualify for this RFA and based on current status of EPA review, we are now recommending you defer to next year if you want to use those areas.

Green – Again the green area should be your focus! Questions about eligibility –

contact your RC.

So let's look at some examples to help show this.

[SHOW Examples in EDM: Zoom into area of interest.

Green/Eligible IP: South Fork Holston IP in Washington and Smyth Counties.

Review the IP document link in EDM.

Example search. Can enter an address or an IP watershed name in search bar (e.g., South Fork Holston, use dropdown to Implementation Watershed option).

Fiscal Stress - Also you can add a layer to show areas of fiscal stress. This layer helps determine eligibility for increased cost-share rates based on fiscal stress rating. Fiscal stress data is based on the median household income for the county from USHUD/Census and pulled annually. We will go into further detail in Part 2.

Beyond fiscal stress, another consideration in the RFA is if there are Environmental Justice (EJ) communities in your area.

3. Virginia EJScreen+ - Recommend using this mapping tool to identify possible low-income areas or communities of color. Then your application can list the areas and how the program can involve them.

[SHOW EXAMPLE:

<https://vadeq.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=bad3e23c0d6545a1b6b36c1a45e8ed43>

Add DEQ Data Layers > TMDL / IP Watershed Layers > Implementation Watersheds

EJ data is displayed on the US Census block group level.

Add Layers > Low Income Communities

Zoom in to IP area and if it shows low-income communities then you can acknowledge in the RFA submittal. Consider if there are any partnership opportunities.

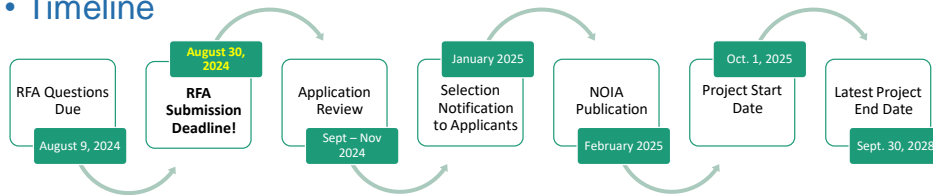
Add Layer > Communities of Color Mention information in pop-up and link to an EJScreen+ Report.

Key: Zoom in, see boundaries, see if EJ communities apply.

There are lots of info available. Contact us if you need any help navigating them.

NPS RFA Overview

- Award Range: \$75,000-\$300,000 (up to \$1.5 million across Virginia), for up to 3 years
- Reimbursable grant
- Match requirements
- Timeline



- Key Documents
 - [Funding, Grant and Project Resources](#)

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- **Funding available** – The awards for each applicant can range between \$75,000 and \$300,000 (and DEQ has a total of up to \$1.5 million across VA). Please be aware that funding levels are subject to change.
- **Project length** - Up to 3 years
- Important to know that the 319h grant program is a reimbursement program so the Subrecipient will need to front the costs and request reimbursement on a quarterly basis.
- **Match requirement** - 30% for non-SWCDs. We will discuss more in depth in budgeting slide.
- **Application Timeline** - This slide provides the funding timeline.
 - Could be minor shifts.
 - You might be wondering the reasons for the gap between February and October 2025? We are applying to EPA for the funds. So DEQ won't receive them until Fall 2025. Sometimes funds come in sooner or there are other funds available that allow for projects to start sooner. But bottom line, don't apply for projects to start sooner than 10/1/25.
- **Key Docs:** All key information is on the DEQ website, linked here.
<https://www.deq.virginia.gov/our-programs/water/water-quality/nonpoint-source-management/funding-grant-and-project-resources>

- [Open link and show how to navigate to the RFA files. Show where the BMP Guidelines and Specs are located.]

Agricultural BMP Projects



- ☑ Partner with Soil and Water Conservation District (if not already a SWCD)
- ☑ Access to DCR's Tracking System
- ☑ Use BMP Specifications from [Virginia Agricultural Cost-Share Manual \(VACS\)](#) and/or [NPS BMP Specifications](#)
- ☑ Have a process for identifying and recruiting participants
- ☑ Plan for how funding will complement or work with any VACS funding available

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Ok, let's get into more detail on the sectors I mentioned earlier with some key points to keep in mind. Remember: Don't forget to review the approved Implementation Plan (IP) that encompasses the area you're interested in to know what types of activities can be funded.

Let's start with Agricultural BMPs. If your plan includes agricultural practices, these may include things like stream exclusion and riparian/forested buffers. This funding uses a cost-share model (like the Virginia Agricultural Cost-Share, VACS) where the cost of the BMP implemented is shared with the agricultural landowner. For projects implementing these Ag practices, here are some things to keep in mind:

1. Partner with a Soil and Water Conservation District, assuming that the applicant isn't already a SWCD. SWCD's are the state's foremost experts in Agricultural (Ag) BMP implementation through their administration of DCR's Virginia Agricultural Cost-Share (VACS) program.
2. SWCDs are the access point for DCR's Tracking System, which is required for reporting/tracking Ag BMPs so another reason why they're necessary partners.

3. Cost-share for implementing Ag BMPs must use specifications for those BMPs that are in the VACS manual (<https://casdsis.dcr.virginia.gov/htdocs/agbmpman/agbmptoc.htm>) or the NPS BMP Specifications document (<https://www.deq.virginia.gov/home/showdocument?id=24137>).
4. Know how you will identify and recruit landowners to participate in cost-share program – consider contingency plans if outreach strategies don't pan out as anticipated (many don't).
5. Plan for how you'll coordinate/leverage funding for producers to maximize their participation. Especially important where VACS funding is available, but also consider other funding like the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS).

Details about these topics are found in the RFA Instructions file.

Agricultural BMP Projects (Continued)



- ☑ Use [BMP Contract](#)
- ☑ Follow Bid Procedures in [VACS Manual](#)
- ☑ Obtain Engineering Job Approval Authority (see [NPS BMP Guidelines](#))
- ☑ Apply Conservation Plan Requirements and Biosecurity Considerations (see [VACS Manual](#) for both)
- ☑ Can issue 1099-G for cost-share greater than \$600

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6. All landowners receiving cost-share funding need to sign a BMP Contract. This is available via DCR's Tracking System and in the NPS BMP Guidelines (BMP Contract: <https://www.deq.virginia.gov/home/showdocument?id=24139>).

7. Multiple bids are required for this work (competitive process) and grantees must ensure applicants follow and document the bid procedures outlined in the VACS Manual (<https://casdsis.dcr.virginia.gov/htdocs/agbmpman/agbmptoc.htm>).

8. Approval for Ag project designs must come from someone with a DCR-issued Engineering Job Approval Authority (EJAA)...whether that's someone on the grantee's staff, a partner's staff, through joint-funding with VACS or USDA/NRCS since the approvals for that funding will ensure proper EJAA, or contract with a Professional Engineer (PE). NPS BMP Guidelines: <https://www.deq.virginia.gov/home/showdocument?id=24238>

9. The NPS program has requirements for conservation plans and biosecurity considerations for all Ag BMPs in NPS implementation areas. More about those special considerations is in the VACS Manual (<https://casdsis.dcr.virginia.gov/htdocs/agbmpman/agbmptoc.htm>).

10. Grantees must be able and willing to issue 1099-G tax forms for cost-share it administers over \$600.

Details about these topics are found in the RFA Instructions file.

Residential Septic BMP Projects



- ☑ Partner with local/county health dept.
- ☑ Access to DCR's Tracking System or DEQ's [BMP Warehouse](#)
- ☑ Use [NPS BMP Specifications](#) and Residential Septic Guidelines from [NPS BMP Guidelines](#)
- ☑ Have a process for identifying and recruiting participants
- ☑ Use [BMP Contract](#)

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Like the Ag BMPs, residential septic BMPs use a cost-share model where the cost of the septic BMP implemented is shared with the homeowner. Examples of residential septic BMPs include pumping out septic tanks, fixing or replacing failing septic systems, connecting to sewer lines, and installing alternative systems.

For projects implementing the residential septic practices, here are some things to keep in mind:

1. Partner with local/county health departments. They issue permits for septic work and have staff who are experts at addressing septic issues. They can also be the source of referrals to your cost-share programs.
2. To track BMP implementation, you can do it 1 of 2 ways: 1) You'll need a partnership with a SWCD to access the DCR Tracking System...assuming your organization is not already a SWCD; or 2) You can use DEQ's BMP Warehouse (<https://apps.deq.virginia.gov/BMP/>). Any partner can access DEQ's BMP Warehouse as long as you create an account. To upload BMPs to the warehouse, use a template provided within the site.
3. Cost-share for implementing septic BMPs must use specifications and guidelines for

those BMPs that are in the NPS BMP Specifications (<https://www.deq.virginia.gov/home/showdocument?id=24137>) and NPS BMP Guidelines (<https://www.deq.virginia.gov/home/showdocument?id=24238>)

4. Know how you will ID and recruit homeowners to implement BMPs – consider contingency plans if outreach strategies don't pan out as anticipated (many don't). You'll need a lot of homeowners to participate (compared to Ag/urban BMPs) to be successful so consider that in outreach planning.

5. Must use BMP Contract from DEQ as it includes conditions required for federal funding (<https://www.deq.virginia.gov/home/showdocument?id=24139>)

Residential Septic BMP Projects (Continued)



- ☑ Follow Bid Procedures (see [NPS BMP Guidelines](#))
- ☑ Develop Guidelines (within 30 days of contract start & annually).
Template at [NPS BMP Guidelines](#))
- ☑ Can issue a 1099-M tax form to participants receiving more than \$600 in cost-share payments
- ☑ Familiarity with or knowledge of licensed [septic service providers](#) in your project area

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6. Like Ag, multiple bids are required for the work so grantees must ensure applicants follow and document the bid procedures outlined in the NPS BMP Guidelines (<https://www.deq.virginia.gov/home/showdocument?id=24238>)

7. You'll need to develop Residential Septic Guidelines for cost-share (within the first 30 days of award and updated annually) that includes the landowner's eligibility for the program, how they should apply, and the associated administrative procedures. Guidelines for what should be included are in the NPS BMP Guidelines (<https://www.deq.virginia.gov/home/showdocument?id=24238>) and a template is available in that same document.

8. Grantees must be able and willing to issue 1099-M tax forms for over \$600 in cost-share payments to homeowners.

9. Know who the licensed septic service providers are in your area. There are parts of the state that have very limited licensed contractors to do some of the septic BMPs offered for cost share. This could be a major roadblock to implementation. The link here will take you to a VDH page with a map of septic haulers, installers, operators, OSEs, PE, etc. across the state (<https://www.vdh.virginia.gov/environmental->

health/onsite-sewage-water-services-updated/septic-system-and-private-well-service-providers/).

Pet Waste BMP Projects

- ☑ Use BMP Specifications from [NPS BMP Specifications](#)
- ☑ Need to be able to supply landowners with Landowner and Operations and Maintenance Agreements
- ☑ Access to DEQ's [BMP Warehouse](#)



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Now we will discuss pet waste BMPs, which include practices such as residential-size composters, pet waste stations, and confined canine facilities. For projects implementing the pet waste practices, here are some things to keep in mind:

1. Cost-share for implementing pet waste BMPs must use DEQ specifications for those practices (found in the NPS BMP Specifications: <https://www.deq.virginia.gov/home/showdocument?id=24137> .
2. There is no standard issue contract like there is for Ag and Septic BMPs, although DEQ can advise on what should be included in Landowner and Operation and Maintenance Agreements.
3. Pet Waste BMPs are only reported and tracked through DEQ's BMP Warehouse, which just requires a log-in and upload via a template (<https://apps.deq.virginia.gov/BMP>).

Urban BMP Projects



- ☑ Partner with local government staff and appropriate stormwater professionals
- ☑ Process for identifying and recruiting participants
- ☑ Use BMP Specifications
 - [VCAP BMP Manual](#)
 - [DEQ's Stormwater Handbook](#)
 - [DEQ & VA Tech's Stormwater BMP Clearinghouse](#) and/or
 - [VA Stream Restoration and Stabilization BMP Guide](#)

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Lastly, there are urban BMPs that can be done which address stormwater and other actions not required by a NPDES/VPDES permit or required to meet permit conditions. Some examples are things like rain gardens, streambank stabilization, and permeable pavement.

1. You'll need technical expertise for design, and design approval. Also, you may need to involve local government for permitting, if necessary. A government agency issuing a permit may not necessarily be a partner in all projects, but it does make sense to investigate the permitting process and build that process into your timeline for the project.
2. Know how you will identify and recruit partners/homeowners to implement BMPs – consider contingency plans if outreach strategies don't pan out as anticipated (many don't).
3. Cost-share for implementing urban BMPs must use specifications in any one of these four specification documents/manuals.
 - Virginia Conservation Assistance Program (VCAP) BMP Manual
 - DEQ's Stormwater Handbook

- DEQ & VA Tech's Stormwater BMP Clearinghouse and/or
- VA Stream Restoration and Stabilization BMP Guide

Urban BMP Projects (Continued)



- ☑ Supply landowners with Landowner and Operations and Maintenance Agreements
- ☑ Provide final design
- ☑ Certify/document that BMPs won't "count" towards NPDES/VPDES permit requirements
- ☑ Access to DEQ's [BMP Warehouse](#)

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4. There is no standard issue contract like there is for Ag and Septic BMPs, although DEQ can advise on what should be included in Landowner and Operation and Maintenance Agreements.

5. You will need to provide a copy of the final design approved for the project file.

6. 319(h) cannot be used to meet any NPDES/VPDES permit requirements. Urban projects should be going "above and beyond" what is required in those permits.

7. Urban BMPs are also reported and tracked through DEQ's BMP Warehouse, which just requires a log-in and upload via a template (<https://apps.deq.virginia.gov/BMP>).

Education and Outreach



- ☑ Supplement to BMP implementation...a means to recruit interest for BMP implementation
- ☑ Must have a connection to goals & milestones of IP
- ☑ General education and outreach examples:
 - TMDL education (what is a TMDL? Why does it matter to you?)
 - Workshops and farm tours
 - Tools and resources to target participation
 - Encouraging public-private partnerships (e.g., connecting realtors with Department of Health staff)
 - Others?

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So that covers the 4 sectors. Another type of activity that you can do is education and outreach. This is allowed as a supplement to BMP implementation, as a means to recruit interest for BMP installation and support activities identified in the IP. The purchasing and use of outreach materials, equipment (items more than \$5,000), and supplies **must directly support** eligible project outreach and educational activities and have a connection to the goals and milestones of the IP.

General environmental outreach, like anti-littering campaigns, and educating K-12 audiences is usually not a part of an IP. Those don't have a clear connection to the goals and milestones of an IP. Outreach and education geared towards signing up landowners to participate in a cost-share program, or curbing pet waste, are directly connected to BMP implementation and obvious choices for spending 319(h) resources.

Other activities that aren't geared towards increasing sign-ups may also be eligible though. For example:

- Getting folks familiar with the TMDL that spurred the IP and what voluntary actions they can take to support it
- Inviting community members to tour a demonstration site of an implemented BMP
- Producing tools and resources (i.e., brochures, videos, pamphlets, etc.) to target

- folks to participate in implementing BMPs on their property
- Networking between groups, like realtors and health dept staff, is another way to spread awareness of the benefits of BMP implementation
 - Others listed in the RFA on page 5.

[STOP FOR QUESTIONS]

Water Quality Monitoring



- ☑ Align with monitoring plan in the IP
- ☑ Ability to enter data into the [EPA's Water Quality Exchange \(WQX/WQX Web\)](#) database or the Chesapeake Monitoring Cooperative, which links to EPA's WQX/WQX Web database
- ☑ An existing DEQ-approved QAPP or time included to develop one
- ☑ Certification that WQM activity is not for research and BMP efficiency

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And the last type of activity you can do is water quality monitoring.

1. Water Quality Monitoring (WQM) activity must be included in the IP, especially if the IP includes details for monitoring such as parameters, sites, and samples collected per year.
2. Data will need to be uploaded to EPA's database (either directly or through EPA's Water Quality Exchange database (<https://www.epa.gov/waterdata/water-quality-data-wqx>) or the Chesapeake Monitoring Cooperative, which links to EPA's database. Be sure to include time and training to ensure staff can do that within the grant period.
3. A Quality Assurance Project Plan (QAPP) is necessary. Be sure to include time to develop one. Since QAPPs require EPA Headquarters review and approval, Grantees should be aware of the time necessary to accommodate the extensive review and revisions cycles involved to prepare and finalize a QAPP.
4. WQM activities should be consistent with the monitoring plan described in the IP. It is not intended to be used for research or BMP efficiency. Which then begs the question...what CAN it be used for? Two good examples are:

1. Documenting progress in achieving water quality milestones in the IP.
2. Identifying areas in the IP where pollutants of concern concentrations or loadings are the highest, which could assist in outreach and targeting of BMP implementation. For example, maybe you're focused on 2-3 HUCs (hydrologic unit codes) of an IP area for implementation. You could choose another HUC in which to do WQM for future project development.

Ineligible Activities



- Where there isn't an approved IP
- BMPs not included in an IP
- To meet regulatory or legal requirements
- Residential septic program with only maintenance or pump-outs
- BMP implementation focused only on Virginia WIP III requirements
- Water quality monitoring for research and BMP efficiency
- Public sanitary sewer system improvements
- Design, outreach, or WQM only
- Promotional materials (some exceptions)
- Food and refreshments (very limited in scope)

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So now we'll go over what are the ineligible activities: Here are some highlights:

- Any implementation outside of an IP area can not be funded. Get to know your IP area (recommend using EDM to find locations, Table 1).
- As you're getting to know your IP area, be sure you're staying within the scope of activities/BMPs that are included in an IP.
- If you're required to do something to satisfy an enforcement action or for NPDES, VPDES, MS4, this isn't the right funding source for your project.
- Residential septic programs that only include maintenance or pump-outs will not be funded. The repair and/or replacement of failed systems or straight pipes or connections to public sewer must be included to be eligible for funding.
- Projects with BMP implementation aimed solely on addressing Virginia's Watershed Implementation Plan (WIP III) to meet Chesapeake Bay TMDL requirements are not eligible.
- Water quality monitoring for research and BMP efficiency.
- Public sanitary sewer system improvements including sewer line extensions (Note: Connections from an individual house to the property line in order to connect to a sewer line are eligible).
- Purchase of promotional items is ineligible, unless the promotional item is specifically listed in the IP, was specifically detailed in the Grantee's Application, and

DEQ receives prior authorization from EPA.

- Clarification on promotional materials:
 - You can do: newspaper, radio, TV, social media ads for cost-share program promotion. Same goes for direct mail. Door hangers, flyers, etc. are also OK. Check the IP to see what type of promotional materials are included.
 - You cannot do: PR and advertising to promote your organization, such as gifts, souvenirs, displays at annual meetings or conventions, or other goodies that are handed out at a booth or public event.
- Food and refreshments are allowed, but they need pre-approval with justification well documented and adherence to DEQ and EPA guidelines.
- See the RFA Instructions file for more information.

Budgeting

- Reimbursement only
- New Residential Septic cost caps and cost-share rates
 - Found in the FY25 NPS BMP Guidelines and Specifications
- Match Requirements
 - Non-SWCDs
 - 30% match
 - Can be a combination of federal and non-federal funds
 - SWCDs
 - No match requirements but must continue to provide cost-share for BMPs (e.g., homeowner/property owner)
 - Note:
 - Exceptions for septic match can reduce to 15% based on high/above average fiscal stress.
- 35% limit on Technical Assistance (TA); up to 50% with exceptions
 - Administering sub-grants for multiple partners; WQM; New grantee
- Budget Details
 - Show calculations in the cells.
 - Results must tabulate with data provided.
 - Add notes/comments to help explain!

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- As mentioned earlier, this funding is a reimbursement program so Applicants should be aware that they will perform the work, pay for project costs, and submit a report to DEQ for reimbursement on a quarterly basis.
- Effective July 1, 2024 there are new residential septic cost caps and cost-share rates. So if application includes septic, please use the FY25 BMP Guidelines and Specification files for the new rates.
- Match Requirements
 - Non-SWCDs - a minimum of 30% match requirement (can be federal or non-federal sources). For example, match could be provided by NFWF, DCR, VCAP, local non-profits, and/or homeowners for portions of the cost share. Activities that are deemed ineligible for 319(h) funding are not eligible to be used as match.
 - SWCDs – no match requirement but must provide cost-share for BMPs. As a result, don't need to include TA match but the BMP portion of the budget should reflect the cost-share from homeowners/property owners or other programs (e.g., VACS, VCAP, etc.) used to pay for the BMP. Will discuss more during Part 2 of this presentation.
 - Notes:
 - Match exception: Projects that include the development and implementation

of a residential septic program in a **high/above average fiscal stress** area may reduce their match to 15% .

- 35% is the baseline Technical Assistance (TA) limit for all applicants **but** you can get up to 50% if you are applying with some exceptions, such as: Administering sub-grants for multiple partners; WQM; or applying as a new grantee. We'll cover more of this in Part 2 of the webinar.
- Budget Details - Will mention this during Part 2 but budgets
 - Need to show calculations in the cells.
 - Results must tabulate with data provided
 - Examples: Personnel working 100 hours at \$25/hour = \$2,500.
 - BMPs proposed 5 RB-1s at \$450 each then the total must be \$2,250.
 - Use the notes/comments cells to help explain!

Residential Septic Cost-share Rates and Caps

- 50-90% cost-share based on:
 - county fiscal stress
 - property-owner income

Table 1: No Fiscal Stress (Below Average and Low Fiscal Stress) Septic Cost-share Rates/Caps

Practice	Median Income	<40%	40-60%	61-80%	81-100%	100-120%	>120% or no income verification
Practice	Ave Total Practice Cost	80%	75%	65%	60%	55%	50%
Septic Tank Pump-out (RB-1)	\$450	\$360	\$340	\$295	\$270	\$250	\$225
Connection to Sewer (RB-2)	\$12,500	\$10,000	\$9,375	\$8,125	\$7,500	\$6,875	\$6,250
Connection to Sewer with Pump (RB-2P)	\$20,500	\$16,400	\$15,375	\$13,325	\$12,300	\$11,275	\$10,250
Septic Tank System Repair (RB-3)	\$7,500	\$6,000	\$5,625	\$4,875	\$4,500	\$4,125	\$3,750
Inspection and Non-Permitted Repair (RB-3M) (5-year lifespan)	\$3,250	\$2,600	\$2,440	\$2,115	\$1,950	\$1,790	\$1,625
Inspection and Non-Permitted Repair (RB-3M) (10-year lifespan)	\$6,500	\$5,200	\$4,875	\$4,225	\$3,900	\$3,575	\$3,250
Septic Tank System Installation/Replacement (RB-4)	\$12,500	\$10,000	\$9,375	\$8,125	\$7,500	\$6,875	\$6,250
Septic Tank System with Pump (RB-4P)	\$16,500	\$13,200	\$12,375	\$10,725	\$9,900	\$9,075	\$8,250
Alternative Onsite Sewage Systems (RB-5)	\$31,500	\$25,200	\$23,625	\$20,475	\$18,900	\$17,325	\$15,750

Table 2: Fiscal Stress (High and Above Average Fiscal Stress) Septic Cost-share Rates/Caps

Practice	Median Income	<40%	40-60%	61-80%	81-100%	100-120%	>120% or no income verification
Practice	Ave Total Practice Cost	90%	85%	75%	70%	65%	50%
Septic Tank Pump-out (RB-1)	\$450	\$405	\$385	\$340	\$315	\$295	\$225
Connection to Sewer (RB-2)	\$12,500	\$11,250	\$10,625	\$9,375	\$8,750	\$8,125	\$6,250
Connection to Sewer with Pump (RB-2P)	\$20,500	\$18,450	\$17,425	\$15,375	\$14,350	\$13,325	\$10,250
Septic Tank System Repair (RB-3)	\$7,500	\$6,750	\$6,375	\$5,625	\$5,250	\$4,875	\$3,750
Inspection and Non-Permitted Repair (RB-3M) (5-year lifespan)	\$3,250	\$2,925	\$2,765	\$2,440	\$2,275	\$2,115	\$1,625
Inspection and Non-Permitted Repair (RB-3M) (10-year lifespan)	\$6,500	\$5,850	\$5,525	\$4,875	\$4,550	\$4,225	\$3,250
Septic Tank System Installation/Replacement (RB-4)	\$12,500	\$11,250	\$10,625	\$9,375	\$8,750	\$8,125	\$6,250
Septic Tank System with Pump (RB-4P)	\$16,500	\$14,850	\$14,025	\$12,375	\$11,550	\$10,725	\$8,250
Alternative Onsite Sewage Systems (RB-5)	\$31,500	\$28,350	\$26,775	\$23,625	\$22,050	\$20,475	\$15,750

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See the NPS [Guidelines](#) and [Specifications](#) for details



- Let's go into more detail about a point from the previous slide.
- Effective July 1, 2024 there are new residential septic cost caps and cost-share rates. So if your application includes septic BMPs you should use the FY25 BMP Guidelines and Specification files for the new rates.
- This slide provides the new septic BMP costs. We increased the average total practice costs due to feedback from existing subrecipients/partners and considered recent actual costs to complete the BMPs.
- There are a lot of numbers going on in these tables so let's break it down.
- There are several considerations to determine the possible costs of a septic BMP. First is if the area is classified as fiscal stress and next depends on property-owner income verification.
- So for fiscal stress, earlier I showed you the data layer in EDM website to easily see if your area classifies as fiscal stress or not. Recall, the fiscal stress data is based on annual county-level data for median household income. The result of that determination will tell you which costing structure to use:
- Table 1 on the left is for areas not classified as fiscal stress. Table 2 on the right is for areas classified as fiscal stress.
- Next, you consider property-owner income. The NPS program offers a minimum of 50% cost-share to all participants no matter their income level. And we increase

assistance up to 90% cost-share for certain incomes. Subrecipients are responsible for establishing a process to verify income and determine the appropriate cost-share percentage rates to use. But it should be based upon the median household income (on the homeowner/property-owner level).

- For example, say you are in a fiscal stress area, then use Table 2 on the right. Next, complete income verification of a property-owner and find they are at 50% of the county median household income, then they would use the 85% cost-share rates. Which would result in 319h funds covering \$385 of a RB-1 septic tank pump-out. Or \$6375 for RB-3 septic tank system repairs.
- Example: Use the same method for Table 1 on the left when you are in a No Fiscal Stress area. So again, if income verification shows the property-owner's median income is 50% of the county levels, then you'd use the 75% cost-share rates. Which provides \$340 for RB-1 septic pump outs and \$5625 for RB-3 septic tank system repairs.
- The DEQ NPS BMP Guidelines and Specifications files provides much more details about this topic.

Application Materials



- Application Form (Attachment 1) – submit in Excel format
- Application Questions (Attachment 2) – submit in Excel format
- Documentation
 - Match letters of support – submit in PDF format as 1 file
 - Map – no format requirement, but must be one (1)-8 ½ x 11” page
 - W-9 – must be signed
 - Optional documents
- Submission instructions
 - Send to npsgrants@deq.virginia.gov with subject line: “2025 NPS TMDL RFA_<insert name of IP Watershed/Report>”

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The application materials or ‘package’ to be submitted for this RFA include the following items:

Application Form (Attachment 1)

It’s an Excel format with 6 tabs. Submit as Excel document. We’ll go into more detail in Part 2.

Application Questions (Attachment 2)

This is an Excel document (with 5 tabs) with questions (so the narrative). Submit as Excel document. The questions align with the criteria on which the application will be evaluated. The questions are set up so that it ‘walks you through’ the information needed so applicants can give straight forward answers. Depending on the types of activities you’ll propose to do, many questions can be skipped if N/A. Many questions are one-word (yes/no) responses or one-sentence answers. We’ll go into more detail on the next part of the webinar.

Documentation

Be sure to follow the requirements for file types when submitting documentation (see Table A in the RFA)

Have signatures where needed.

- Match letters of support- should be packaged together in one pdf file.
- Project area map- there's no required format but must be legible and fit on (1) 8 1/2 x 11-inch page
- W-9- don't forget to get it signed. Make sure you're using the VA Commonwealth substitute form (link in the RFA)
- Optional documents include: letter of support from non-match providing partners, description of previous accomplishments, or a copy of the federally-approved indirect rate agreement

Submission instructions

- Submission is by email only. Send to npsgrants@deq.virginia.gov with subject line: "2025 NPS TMDL RFA_<insert name of IP>" by Aug 30, 2024.

Resources

- One-stop shop: DEQ [Funding, Grant and Project Resources](#) website
- Find IP(s) of interest: [Table 1](#)
- Find a copy of the IP(s) [here](#) or email Ashley.Wendt@deq.virginia.gov
- See IP boundaries: [DEQ EDM](#)
- See Eligibility [Map](#)
- Contact regional NPS Coordinator
 - Past activity
 - Water quality data

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Check out the following resources:

- **One-stop shop for resources:** For links to all the RFA materials, manuals, templates, etc.
 - DEQ NPS Funding, Grant, and Project Resources (includes link to DEQ BMP Manual): <https://www.deq.virginia.gov/our-programs/water/water-quality/nonpoint-source-management/funding-grant-and-project-resources>
 - [CLICK on the link and show how to navigate drop down in funding.]
- See **Table 1 for a list of eligible IPs** to find your IP of interest. Implementation Plans are your primary document for putting together a project. As I've mentioned, all activities must be included in the IP and within the IP boundaries.
- To obtain a **copy of the IP of interest**, go to the DEQ website: <https://www.deq.virginia.gov/our-programs/water/water-quality/implementation/approved-implementation-plans> or email Ashley.Wendt@deq.virginia.gov if a link to the IP is not active.
- To see the **IP boundaries**, you can find maps within the IP(s) or visit the DEQ Environmental Data Mapper (EDM): <https://apps.deq.virginia.gov/EDM/>
- Also we have linked to an Eligibility Map that indicates the implementation watersheds and eligibility status.
- Contact your **Regional Nonpoint Source Coordinator** (see the RFA for contact

information). They can tell you what past activity has occurred in the watershed (e.g., BMPs and WQM), which are both application questions.

RFA Changes Since Publication

- Updated Links to the FY25 DEQ NPS BMP Guidelines, Specifications, and BMP Contract
- Clarification of new match requirements for SWCDs.
 - *New versions of RFA Instructions, Attachments 1 and 2, and FAQs.

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Please note the following revisions have been made since the RFA was issued June 7:

- Updated Links to the FY25 DEQ NPS BMP Guidelines, Specifications, and BMP Contract
- Clarification of new match requirements for SWCDs.
 - New versions of Attachment 1 and 2 so if already working on the response, please download the latest version.

Questions?



Reminder: Webinar recording and presentation (with notes) will be posted on the [DEQ NPS website](#) (under Current Funding Opportunities) and the [Virginia Business Opportunities \(eVA\) website](#)

Take a break!

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We'll stop for questions now.

We will post all Q&A, along with the webinar recording and notes to the DEQ NPS website <https://www.deq.virginia.gov/our-programs/water/water-quality/nonpoint-source-management/funding-grant-and-project-resources>, under Current Funding Opportunities and the eVA link: https://mvendor.cgieva.com/Vendor/public/IVDetails.jsp?PageTitle=SO+Details&rfp_id_lot=69207&rfp_id_round=1

[TAKE A BREAK BEFORE STARTING PART 2].