

Virginia Department of Environmental Quality Clean Water Financing and Assistance Program

Stormwater Local Assistance Fund (SLAF) Overview

Overview

The [Stormwater Local Assistance Fund \(SLAF\)](#) provides matching grants to local governments for the purchase of nonpoint source nutrient credits and the planning, design, and implementation of stormwater best management practices (BMPs) that address cost efficiency and commitments related to reducing water quality pollutant loads.

When is the application period and how do I apply?

- August 1 – October 1, 2024
- Submit a completed application online through the [DEQ Portal](#).
- Submit hard copy files by mail based on project type.

How much funding is available?

- Approximately \$25 million is available in state Fiscal Year (FY) 2025 from the Virginia General Assembly.

What is the timeline to complete a SLAF project?

- Please refer to the [SLAF Submittal Requirements Checklist](#) for a list of items to submit to the assigned DEQ Project Manager and Project Officer. Applicants will provide a general project timeline when submitting a SLAF application. Upon receipt of checklist items, a grant agreement will be awarded. Applicants have two years to complete checklist items to execute a grant agreement. CWFAP staff can work with localities to provide additional time as long project components are being completed and a timeline is in place to reach project completion.

Who is eligible to apply?

- Any city, county town, municipal corporation, authority, district, commission or political subdivision.

What is the percentage of grant funding?

- 50:50
- Recipient must be able to demonstrate local match.
- Grants awarded for eligible projects in localities with high or above average fiscal stress may account for more than 50% of the costs of the project.

Is there a minimum or maximum grant amount?

- Minimum = \$50,000
- Maximum = \$5,000,000
- The minimum and maximum amounts may be adjusted at the discretion of the DEQ Director.

What expenses are eligible for funding?

- Capital projects for reducing and treating stormwater runoff. Examples include the following: New stormwater BMPs, Retrofits of stormwater BMPs, Stream restoration, Low impact development projects, Buffer restoration, Pond retrofits and Wetlands restoration.
 - Planning, design, permitting, inspection and construction costs
 - Planning and design expenses incurred on an approved project prior to execution of a grant agreement are eligible costs provided they are necessary and directly attributable to the project and any services or contracts are secured in accordance with state procurement requirements.
 - Professional services (i.e., planning, design and construction oversight) expenses are limited to 35% of construction costs.
- Purchase of nonpoint source nutrient credits eligible only in funding cycles where the appropriation language allows its eligibility.

What expenses are ineligible for funding?

- Salaries, administrative costs such as supplies, rent, travel, costs to operate or maintain a project, interest expenses associated with funds borrowed for planning, design or construction, any expenses deemed unnecessary or unrelated to the water quality function of the project, expenses associated with post-construction monitoring. Please refer to SLAF Program Guidelines for a complete list of ineligible activities.

Where can I find a list of eligible best management practices (BMPs)?

- Visit the [Virginia Stormwater BMP Clearinghouse website](#) for more information.
- Stream Restoration Projects shall meet the applicable qualifying conditions and be designed and credited for pollutant reduction in accordance with the [September 2021 Unified Stream Restoration Guide](#).

How do I calculate nutrient reductions?

- Please refer to the [SLAF Program Guidelines](#) for the Methodology for Calculating Total Phosphorus and Total Nitrogen Reduction.