

## Grant Program Overview

Below is an overview of the State & Local Projects (S&L) portion of the Water Resources Development Grant Program (WRDG). For the purposes of this document S&Ls include stream restoration projects approved for federal funding through the Natural Resources Conservation Service's Environmental Quality Incentives Program (NRCS-EQIP).

### **Eligible Projects**

The purpose of the S&L portion of DWR's WRDG is to provide up to 50% cost-share funding of non-federal costs and technical assistance to units of local governments statewide to implement **water management** (stormwater control measures (BMPs), LID/GSI, drainage/flood control), **stream restoration** (including dam/aquatic passage/flow barrier removals, shoreline stabilization/living shorelines, etc.) and **water-based recreation projects** (greenways adjacent to waterbodies, park development, water access sites, etc.). This grant program also provides 50% cost-share funding for conducting **feasibility or engineering studies** to support implementation of these projects.

### **Eligible Applicants**

The applicant (Project Sponsor) is required to be a local government entity such as a municipality, county, Council of Government, etc.). However, a non-governmental organization (NGO) such as a non-profit, private consultant, university, watershed association, etc. can serve as a Primary Contact and help administer the grant on behalf of the local government sponsor (applicant). NGO's are eligible to apply as co-applicant's for stream restoration projects approved for federal funding through NRCS-EQIP. Please see our State & Local Guidelines and NRCS-EQIP Guidelines on our [website](#) for additional information.

### **Application Cycles**

There are two annual application cycles that correspond to two annual review cycles. Our Spring application cycle is from January 1 through June 30 with funding notifications generally in October. Our Fall application cycle begins July 1 and ends December 31 with funding notifications generally in May. These timeframes are subject to change based on limited available funding and other factors outside of our control.

### **Matching Funds**

Our grant provides up to 50% cost-share funding of non-federal project costs for any eligible project. We generally advise applicants not to exceed a \$200,000 funding request from DWR due to limited statewide funding.

Any non-federal funding (state, county, municipal, private, other non-federal grant funding) can be used to meet the applicant's 50% match (funding) requirement. Staff time and materials/equipment usage can also be used to meet the applicant's 50% match requirement and would be considered in-kind match. In-kind contributions for time and materials will need to be documented on In-Kind Statements of Time and Equipment sheets as part of the applicant's reimbursement requests per the Reimbursement Instructions document that can be viewed on our website under the Reimbursement Requests heading.

Although federal funding cannot be used towards the applicant's 50% match requirement, the amount of federal funding can be deducted from the total project cost which decreases the total funding request and therefore indirectly decreases the applicant's match requirement.

### **Site Visit**

The primary purpose of a pre-application site visit is for the WRDG Grant Administrator to photo-document the project area and gain a better perspective of the proposed project from a member of the team who is familiar with the project. Additionally, it provides an opportunity for a member(s) of the project team to showcase the merits of the proposed project and facilitates onsite discussion to address any questions or concerns the project team may have about how competitive their project appears to be within the context of our grant program.

### **Grant Review Criteria**

Our statutory application review requirements are as follows:

1. The economic, social, and environmental benefits to be provided by the projects;
2. Regional benefits of projects to an area greater than the area under the jurisdiction of the local sponsoring entity;
3. The financial resources of the local sponsoring entity;
4. The environmental impact of the project;
5. Any direct benefit to State-owned lands and properties.

### **Website**

Further information about the State & Local portion of the WRDG can be found under the under the *State and Local Projects* and *NRCS-EQIP Stream Restoration Projects* headings on our website below, including links to our Grant Guidelines, Program Powerpoint Presentation and Application Spreadsheet.

The *Water Resources Grants* sidebar to the top right of the page contains links to previous Grant Awards, Related Funding Sources and Additional Resources. A *Featured Projects* link has also been added that provides content for five featured projects in an interactive, visually-appealing ESRI Storymap format that span the five types of State & Local projects that the WRDG provides funding for.

We strongly encourage interested parties to view our website periodically for program updates, particularly with our *Grant Guidelines* documents.

**Program Website:** <https://deq.nc.gov/about/divisions/water-resources/water-resources-grants/water-resources-development-grant-program>

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