

## 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, flood reduction, drainage improvements, etc.), **stream restoration** (including dam/aquatic barrier removals, shoreline stabilization/living shorelines, etc.) and **water-based recreation projects** (water access sites, park development, greenways adjacent to waterbodies, etc.). This grant program also provides 50% cost-share funding for conducting **feasibility or engineering studies** to support implementation of these projects. Projects incorporating nature-based design elements are generally most competitive for our funding.

### **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). NGOs 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**

As of August 2025 there is one annual spring grant application cycle, which will begin Jan. 1 and end on June 30 of each year, beginning in 2026. More information will be provided later this Fall on our website about our Spring 2026 application cycle. Application cycles 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.

### **Pre-Application Consultations**

As of July 1, 2024, a pre-application site visit is no longer required as part of the application process. However, a project team member is required to contact the Grant Administrator at least one month prior to the end of the application cycle (by June 1 for Spring Cycle and December 1 for Fall Cycle), to schedule a virtual, 30 minute pre-application consultation. The primary purpose of this consultation is to confirm project eligibility and address any grant application and administration questions.

### **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 provides visually-appealing, multimedia content for projects in an [ArcGIS 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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