

Federal Fiscal Year (FFY) 2014 Clean Water Act Section 319 Grant Solicitation Announcement and Guidance



TO: All Interested and Eligible Organizations, Groups, and Agencies

FROM: The Indiana Department of Environmental Management's Nonpoint Source Program

RE: Call for Grant Applications for FFY 2014 CWA Section 319 Nonpoint Source Funds

NEW DUE DATE FOR NOTICE OF INTENT: June 1, 2013

NEW DUE DATE FOR PROPOSALS: August 30, 2013

OVERVIEW

The Indiana Department of Environmental Management (IDEM) is seeking applications for projects that will reduce nonpoint source pollution in Indiana's lakes, rivers, and streams. Funding for selected projects will be provided by Clean Water Act Section 319 grant funds. This document describes the Section 319 Nonpoint Source Grant Program, who can apply for funding, the funding priorities for the FFY 2014 application solicitation, grant match requirements, activities ineligible for funding, tips on how to apply for funding, and other information that will help you plan your project and submit a competitive application.

IDEM'S NONPOINT SOURCE PROGRAM

The Federal Clean Water Act Section 319 provides funding for various types of projects that work to reduce nonpoint source water pollution. Nonpoint source pollution does not come from a pipe. It results when water (rain or snowmelt) moves across land, such as city streets, agricultural fields and residential backyards, and picks up sediment, fertilizers, pesticides, animal wastes, road salt, motor oil and other pollutants. Nonpoint source pollution is the leading cause of water quality problems in Indiana and is responsible for many of the impairments identified on the CWA Section 303(d) List of Impaired Waters. IDEM's Section 319 Nonpoint Source Program provides funding and technical assistance to groups that work with citizens to develop locally-based solutions to nonpoint source pollution. Specific ways to address nonpoint source water pollution include conducting watershed inventories and water quality assessments for the purpose of developing comprehensive watershed management plans; implementing approved watershed management plans, including implementation of best management practices (BMPs) that directly reduce sources of nonpoint source pollution; and education and outreach on watershed management.

To be considered for Section 319 funding, the project sponsor (the entity responsible for the project and its overall success), must be one of the following:

1. Municipality
2. County Government
3. State Government
4. Federal Government
5. College/University
6. Nonprofit 501(c)(3)

SECTION 319 GRANT FUNDING PRIORITIES FOR FFY 2014

1. In order to continue to make measurable improvements in water quality in Indiana, and to prioritize watersheds for actions focused on reducing nutrient loading to the Gulf of Mexico in coordination with the Indiana Conservation Partnership, IDEM's Nonpoint Source Program is focusing funding watershed management plan implementation projects addressing nutrients in the following watersheds:
 - East Fork White River Basin (HUCs 05120204-Driftwood, 05-Flatrock Haw, 06-Upper East Fork White, 07-Muscatatuck, 08-Lower East Fork White)
 - Wabash River Basin (HUCs 05120101-Upper Wabash, 02-Salamonie, 03-Mississinewa, 04-Upper Eel, 05-Middle Wabash-Deer, 06-Tippecanoe, 07-Wildcat, 08-Middle Wabash-Little Vermillion, 09-Vermillion, 10-Sugar, 11-Middle Wabash-Busseron, 13-Lower Wabash)
2. In order to support the conditionally approved Lake Michigan Coastal Plan until it is finalized and meets the requirements of the Coastal Zone Act Reauthorization Amendments (CZARA), IDEM's Nonpoint Source Program is focusing funding in the following watershed:
 - Watershed planning and/or implementation in the Coastal Zone Program area (Little Calumet-Galien Basin – HUC4040001)
3. Watershed planning and/or implementation in watersheds with one or more impaired waterbodies that have an approved Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL).
4. Watershed planning and/or implementation in watersheds that include waterbodies in Category 5A or 4A of Indiana's Draft 2012 Integrated Water Monitoring and Assessment Report.
5. Implementation of watershed management plans that have met, or will soon meet, IDEM's Watershed Management Plan 2003 or 2009 Checklist.

Proposals for projects that are 319-eligible but do not meet one of the FFY 2014 priorities will also be reviewed and considered for funding.

The State Nonpoint Source Management Plan identifies funding priorities for the Section 319 program. Applicants are particularly encouraged to read the section on Ranking Categories, which is available at the following website, prior to submitting a grant application:

<http://www.in.gov/idem/nps/3136.htm>

Any questions on eligible activities and funding priorities should be addressed to Bonny Elifritz, Watershed Planning and Restoration Section Chief, at 317-308-3082 or email at belifrit@idem.IN.gov.

GRANT MATCH REQUIREMENTS FOR SECTION 319 PROJECTS

IDEM provides sixty percent (60%) of an approved project's total cost with grant funds. A grant recipient must provide the remaining forty percent (40%) of the total project cost as match. This match is required for all approved projects. For example, if the proposed project has a TOTAL cost of \$250,000, the maximum amount of grant funds this project could receive would be \$150,000 and the project sponsor would have to provide a match of \$100,000. Match may be cash or in-kind services. Match cannot come from any federal funding sources or in-kind services of federally-funded positions. For guidance on match and match eligibility see <http://www.in.gov/idem/nps/3403.htm#match>.

ACTIVITIES UNSUPPORTED BY SECTION 319 FUNDING IN INDIANA

Although there are many ways to address nonpoint source pollution, there are limitations on what Section 319 funds can be used for as a part of a funded project. The following is a list of activities that cannot be funded with Section 319 funds in Indiana and, unless noted otherwise, cannot be counted as match for a Section 319 grant. Read the list carefully before preparing a grant application, but note that it is not comprehensive and there may be other items that come to our attention that are not eligible.

- Any practices, equipment, or supplies used to fulfill the requirements of a Federal permit, such as an MS4 or other NPDES permit, or to comply with a State rule or permit, such as IDEM's Confined Feeding Operations rule (<http://www.in.gov/idem/4994.htm>), or to meet enforcement
- Permit fees
- Practices at a Concentrated Animal Feeding Operation (CAFO)
- Wetland compensatory mitigation sites
- Dredging
- Any project which is directed at water quantity rather than water quality, such as drainage/flood control or channelization
- Purchase of land or land easements (administrative costs are allowable)
- Incentive payments of any kind
- Yield losses
- Purchase of large agricultural equipment or other large pieces of equipment - (equipment modifications and leasing are allowable)
- Practices not sanctioned by IDEM or a partner agency of IDEM
- Practices not installed in accordance with standards and specifications developed by IDEM, NRCS, IDNR or other acceptable standards
- Sales tax
- Log jam removal

- Low flow plumbing
- Invasive species removal (unless removal is needed to implement a BMP)
- Sediment traps, basins, or ponds within a Water of the State
- Construction of dry detention ponds (adding infiltration capacity to an existing dry pond is acceptable)
- Permeable weirs
- Regional water quality features
- Ordinance revision or development
- Well capping (oil/gas and water)
- Installation/repair/maintenance of septic systems, including demonstration septic systems. These activities can be counted as match provided load reductions are ensured and a clear link is documented between the activity and the NPS problem that will be addressed.
- Food/beverages/entertainment for events
- Office furniture

OTHER IMPORTANT INFORMATION

1. Selected projects will be executed through grant agreements and may begin when the agreement is fully signed by the State, likely in the last quarter of 2014.
2. Applications are evaluated on a number of criteria:
 - a. Completeness and accuracy
 - b. Project addresses one or more of the core priorities
 - c. Project demonstrates a clear understanding of the NPS issues within the watershed
 - d. Project demonstrates a clear and technically feasible plan to address the NPS issues within the target watershed
 - e. Clear demonstration of partnerships and partnership commitments
 - f. Project will result in water quality benefits that extend beyond the life of the project
 - g. Budget for the proposed project demonstrates fiscal responsibility
 - h. Success with previously funded projects, if applicable
 - i. Sponsor/group made satisfactory progress in previous implementation of an approved watershed management plan
 - j. Education and outreach efforts are designed to bring about behavioral changes that will lead to reduced nonpoint source pollution in the watershed and, for implementation projects, are focused on promoting cost share and implementing BMPs.
3. Consult these websites for project planning information:
 - For more information on Indiana's Section 319 Grant Program, including specific information and guidance about project requirements:
<http://www.in.gov/idem/nps/3378.htm>
 - For more information on the National Section 319 Program:
<http://water.epa.gov/polwaste/nps/cwact.cfm>

- Watershed Management Plan Guidance and the Watershed Management Plan Checklist (2009) may be found at:
<http://www.in.gov/idem/nps/3429.htm>
- The Draft 2012 Indiana 303(d) List of Impaired Waters may be found at:
<http://www.in.gov/idem/nps/2647.htm>
- Information on the Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) Program, including TMDL reports and other documentation may be found at:
<http://www.in.gov/idem/nps/2652.htm>
- The Region 5 Pollutant Load Estimation Model may be used to provide load estimations and may be found at:
[http://it.tetrattech-ffx.com/steplweb/models\\$docs.htm](http://it.tetrattech-ffx.com/steplweb/models$docs.htm)
- Quality Assurance Project Plan guidance may be found at:
<http://www.in.gov/idem/nps/3383.htm>

SUBMIT YOUR NOTICE OF INTENT

Send an email to your IDEM [Watershed Specialist](#) by June 1, 2013, with the following information:

- Name of project
- Name of sponsoring organization
- Watershed name and HUC
- Type of project (planning, implementation, other)
- If you are interested in IDEM conducting baseline water quality monitoring for your planning project
- Committed partners
- Anticipated partners

GET STARTED ON YOUR APPLICATION

1. IDEM recommends that you start early on your application! The pool of proposals is competitive.
2. You can obtain an application and application instructions from the following website:
<http://www.in.gov/idem/nps/3388.htm>

Do not use forms from previous years – they will not be accepted.

3. In order to be considered for funding under IDEM's Nonpoint Source Grant Program you must complete all of the following steps by the noted deadline.

A. Email a copy of the completed application by the deadline to:

NPSGRANTS@idem.IN.gov

B. Mail an original, signed, and completed application to:

Indiana Department of Environmental Management
Office of Water Quality
Watershed Assessment and Planning Branch
MC65-44 Shadeland
100 North Senate Avenue
Indianapolis IN 46204-2251

Your electronic submittal must be received by IDEM by the close of business on **August 30, 2013**, AND your mailed copy must be postmarked no later than **August 30, 2013**. Applications submitted after this date will not be considered.

4. There are several IDEM staff members who can provide guidance on project development, however, we recommend that you first contact the [Watershed Specialist](#) serving your region of the state.

Name	Position	Telephone	Email
Joshua Brosmer	Watershed Specialist-SW	317-308-3190	jbrosmer@idem.in.gov
Kathleen Hagan	Watershed Specialist-SE	317-308-3197	khagan@idem.in.gov
Joseph Schmees	Watershed Specialist-NE	317-308-3194	jschmees@idem.in.gov
Leanne Whitesell	Watershed Specialist-NW	317-308-3119	lwhitese@idem.in.gov
Angie Brown	Senior Watershed Planner	317-308-3206	abrown@idem.in.gov
Laura Crane	Senior NPS Project Manager	317-308-3186	lcrane@idem.in.gov
Betty Ratcliff	QAPP Manager	317-308-3135	bratcliff@idem.in.gov
Bonny Elifritz	Section Chief	317-308-3082	belifrit@idem.in.gov