
Information below was pulled from the RFP, 12/22/11.

**Dates:** Hard copy proposals must be received by the EPA Regional Contact by **4:00 P.M. January 23, 2012.** Similar to recent federal funding opportunities, this is a two-step process: Final applications will be requested from eligible entities whose proposal have been successfully evaluated and preliminarily recommended for award.

EPA is soliciting proposals from eligible applicants for projects that will contribute to improved water quality in urban areas. The goal of the Urban Waters Small Grants is to fund research, studies, training, and demonstration projects that will advance the restoration of urban waters by improving water quality through activities that also support community revitalization and other local priorities.

The total estimated funding available nation-wide for the awards under this competition is up to approximately $3.8 million, with **$1.8 million currently available** and up to an estimated additional $2 million anticipated in FY 2012.

Applicants may not request more than **$60,000** in federal funding – proposals requesting more than $60,000 in federal funds will not be reviewed. EPA suggests applicants request at least approximately $40,000 in federal funds. A minimum non-federal cost share / match of $2,500 is required. Funded cooperative agreements will likely be for two-years.

The goal of the Urban Waters Small Grant program is to fund *research, studies, training, and demonstration projects that will advance the restoration of urban waters by improving water quality through activities that also support community revitalization and local priorities.* Projects should: promote a comprehensive understanding of local water quality issues; identify and support activities that address these issues at the local level; engage, educate, and empower communities surrounding the water body; and benefit surrounding communities including those that have been adversely impacted by the water pollution issues affecting the urban water body. Proposals therefore should address the following elements:

1. Leads to the environmental restoration of an urban water body.
2. Partnerships.
3. Benefits to Community.

**Eligible Projects:** Examples of projects that are eligible for funding under this announcement include, but are not limited to, those that:

- Foster collaboration and/or coordinate a partnership among diverse stakeholders, including industry, environmental groups, upstream and downstream interests (actors), etc., to develop a plan or study. (*Funds cannot be used to implement such a plan*).
- Develop educational programs to provide training and recognition to schools, business, and homeowners on how to implement practices that reduce the amount of water pollution and/or stormwater entering the water body, or promote low-impact design (LID) and/or green infrastructure practices.
- Map trails and other walkways along water bodies to identify gaps or areas where additional connectivity is needed (e.g., identify properties for potential acquisition or maintenance).
- Establish a baseline monitoring program for routine water quality monitoring and support and/or establish monitoring to identify areas of concern and possible places where restoration efforts can be effectively targeted.
- Provide education and training related to preparing community members for anticipated jobs in green infrastructure, water quality restoration, or other water quality improvement projects (i.e., green jobs).

**Ineligible Projects:** Examples of projects that are not eligible for funding under this announcement include, but are not limited to those that:
- Construct community access points such as overlooks, boat launches, and recreation areas;
- Implement stormwater infrastructure improvements, including installation of low-impact development and green infrastructure;
- Carry out community clean-ups;
- Construct habitat for birds and other wildlife along the water body;
- Construct connections between open space to provide corridors for birds and other wildlife;
- Restore stream banks.

The objective of EPA's Urban Waters Program is to protect and restore America's urban waterways. It is also expected that the awards under this program will help promote addressing environmental justice considerations by: addressing water quality issues in communities, such as those containing minority, low income, or indigenous populations, that have been adversely impacted by polluted urban waters; and involving these communities and others in performance of the project including the design, planning and performance of activities that contribute to water quality restoration.

Healthy and accessible urban waters can help grow local businesses and enhance educational, recreational, employment and social opportunities in nearby communities. By promoting public access to urban waterways, EPA will help communities become active participants in restoration and protection. By linking water to other community priorities, such as economic development, EPA will help to sustain that involvement. By more effectively leveraging existing programs, EPA aims to support projects and build partnerships with a variety of federal, state, tribal, and local partners that foster increased connection, understanding, and stewardship of local waterways.

In general, projects should promote a comprehensive understanding of local water quality issues; identify and support activities that address these issues at the local level; engage, educate and empower communities surrounding the urban water body; and benefit surrounding communities including those that have been adversely impacted by the water pollution issues affecting the urban water body.