

# Clean Water Initiative Program (CWIP) Partnership Block Grant - Pilot

Release Date: Monday, October 29, 2018

Proposals Due: Monday, December 10, 2018 by 4:00pm

## Request for Proposals (RFP) Question & Answer Responses

**1. The Scope of Work, items h, j and k, all allude to completed projects, project implementation, and requiring Operations and Maintenance agreements for 10 years on completed projects, etc. Since this is a project development block grant and does not fund project implementation, can you clarify why and how this would be included in the Scope of Work?**

This RFP includes funding for project development only, not implementation. The Scope of Work included in the application would not include implementation. The vision is that projects developed from this RFP will move forward for implementation through some funding mechanism; if that occurs through other Ecosystem Restoration funding opportunities, items h, j and k would apply. These items were included in this RFP to provide an understanding to partners of our requirements over the life of a project.

**2. Can the block grant be used for project identification, prioritization and development that would expand water quality improvement projects into a sector? Please clarify whether project implementation is a requirement of this block grant.**

These funds should be used for getting landowners, municipalities and other partners “on board” with projects to improve water quality. This may include project identification, project planning and project development. These funds are not intended for assessment and prioritization. Project implementation is not a requirement of this block grant.

**3. Is project development and prioritization considered a Program Delivery Costs such that essentially 85% of the grant must be used on the ground project implementation?**

This block grant does not fund implementation projects. This block grant is for getting landowners, municipalities and other partners “on board” with projects to improve water quality. *Project development* includes project identification, project planning and getting landowners’ support. *Program delivery* costs (up to 15% of the overall project costs) are for managing the block grant contract.

**4. Many of the proposal guidelines do not fit the type of work expected for project development including the items listed for program delivery costs. Can you clarify?**

The bulleted list of eligible program delivery costs are standard items included in DEC block grant agreements, some but not all items may apply to the RFP. *Program Delivery* (e.g., managing the contract, reporting, financial oversight) cannot exceed 15% of the overall project cost. If an applicant has questions regarding if an expenditure is an eligible program delivery cost, please email [ANR.WSMDERP@vermont.gov](mailto:ANR.WSMDERP@vermont.gov).

**5. Can you clarify under the procurement section that this is meant for groups receiving subawards? In that case, it would make sense for the sub-awardees to follow their own procurement policy, not that of the awardee. Correct?**

DEC requires that organizations receiving funds from DEC follow their procurement policy (and all organizations receiving grants awards directly from us must have a procurement policy). If the Grantee elects to sub-award or sub-contract work, they need to determine what the procurement/insurance requirements are of the sub-awardee/sub-contractor (DEC does not impose requirements on sub-awardees/sub-contractors, however, note that if the Grantee wishes to sub-award/sub-contract, a Sub-approval Form must be submitted/approved by DEC before any contracts/payments are put in place with the sub-awardee/sub-contractor). It is in the Grantee’s best interest to have a granting plan or policy to assure that sub-awardees/sub-contractors use funds efficiently and to protect them from liability issues.

**6. Do the groups receiving the subawards all need to meet the insurance requirements?**

That is up to the Grantee (DEC does not impose Certificate of Insurance requirements on sub-awardees/sub-contractors; however, note that if the Grantees wishes to sub-award/sub-contract, a Sub-approval Form must be submitted/approved by DEC before any contracts/payments are put in place with the sub-awardee/sub-contractor). It is in the Grantee's best interest to have a granting plan or policy to assure that sub-awardees/sub-contractors use funds efficiently and to protect them from liability issues.

**7. The RFP states that "Award dollars may be subject to change based on funding limitations or if additional dollars become available," do you anticipate any changes in the funds available for this project?**

Yes, we will be adding funds to this project. *Total available dollars are now \$138,501.*