

FY22-23 Clean Water Legacy Partners Grant Program (Pilot)

Policy

From the Board of Water and Soil Resources, State of Minnesota

Effective Date: 10/26/2022

Approval: Board Decision #22-49

Duration: Availability and use of funds appropriated by Laws of Minnesota 2021, 1st Special Session, Chapter 1, Article 2, Section 6 (n).

Policy Statement

This policy provides expectations for activities conducted via the Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR) Clean Water Fund (CWF) Clean Water Legacy Partners Grant program as defined by the Clean Water Fund appropriation under Laws of Minnesota 2021, 1st Special Session, Chapter 1, Article 2, Section 6 (n). Activities must align with the purpose of Minnesota's CWF and expand partnerships for clean water in Minnesota.

The CWF was established to implement part of Article XI, Section 15, of the Minnesota Constitution, and Minnesota Statute §114D with the purpose of protecting, enhancing, and restoring water quality in lakes, rivers, and streams and to protect groundwater and drinking water sources from degradation.

Reason for the policy

A total of \$1,000,000 was allocated to this program for the FY22/23 biennium. BWSR will use grant agreements for assurance of deliverables and compliance with appropriate statutes, rules and established policies. Willful or negligent disregard of relevant statutes, rules and policies may lead to imposition of financial penalties or future sanctions on the grant recipient. The associated FY 22/23 Request for Proposal (RFP) for these funds identifies additional requirements.

Program Requirements

1. Eligible Applicants

Non-governmental organizations and tribal governments are eligible for this funding.

- Non-governmental organization are defined as an organization that is a nonprofit, also known as a charitable organization, that is formed for the purpose of fulfilling a mission to improve the common good of society rather than to acquire and distribute profits. The organization meets the definition

in Minn. Stat. §309.50 Subd. 4 and meets the definitions defined in the Internal Revenue Service code, with the most common type being a 501 (c) (3), (Policy 08-06 Minnesota Office of Grants Management).

- Minnesota Tribal Governments refers to the federally recognized sovereign tribal nations that share geography with Minnesota (MINN STAT. 10.65).

2. Match Requirements

A non-state match equal to at least 10% of the amount of the grant received is required. Match can be provided by landowners, land occupiers, private organizations, local governments, or other non-state sources and can be in the form of cash or in-kind for services or materials contributed to the accomplishment of grant objectives. Funds used for match for this program cannot be used as match for any other state grant program.

3. Requirements for Eligible Activities

Eligible activities can consist of structural and non-structural practices; project development (feasibility study, subwatershed assessment, etc.); program and project support (e.g. education, outreach, marketing, staff time); technical and engineering assistance necessary to implement grant activities; and grant management and reporting.

The FY22/23 Clean Water Legacy Partners Grant Request for Proposal contains information on activities that are considered ineligible for use of these grant dollars.

4. Technical Expertise

Grantees must identify the technical assistance provider(s) for the practice or project and their credentials for providing this assistance. BWSR staff may review the qualifications of all persons providing technical assistance and review the technical project design, particularly if a recognized standard is not available.

5. Grant Agreement

BWSR staff may review grant applicant's financial records to establish capacity to successfully manage state grant funds, develop grant agreements, including requirements and processes for work plans, project outcomes reporting, closeouts, and fiscal reconciliations.

The grant agreement provides information about expectations and terms. Grant work plans are developed as part of the grant agreement. Regular reporting of grant expenditures, technical assistance and accomplishments are required.

History

This policy may be reviewed annually and updated as needed.

Description	Date
This policy was originally created in 2022.	10/26/2022