



Southeast New England Program **2023 Stormwater and Natural Infrastructure Grant** **Frequently Asked Question**

- 1. Could an annual, regional exposition/conference be funded as a part of a proposal in addition to a planning and/or implementation project?**

Yes, with sufficient justification as to how the exposition/conference would support the overall project goals and objectives in relation to the priority topics.

- 2. Can federal funds be used to show leverage?**

Yes, federal funds can be used as leverage. Funds from other Federal awards are considered “other leveraged funds” and cannot be used for voluntary cost share. Accordingly, these funds should not be included in your budget or grant forms and need not be allowable or eligible, though their inclusion can strengthen a proposal.

Leveraged funds used for voluntary cost share may only be used for eligible and allowable costs, must be verifiable from the recipient’s records, may not be included as contributions for any other Federal award, are necessary and reasonable for accomplishment of the project or program objectives, and are not paid by the Federal Government under another Federal award. Per 2 CFR 200.403(h), to be allowable, leveraged “cost[s] must be incurred during the approved budget period”.

- 3. Can multiple stages of a project (e.g., design/permitting and implementation/construction) be included in a proposal? Or would SNEP prefer single-phase submissions?**

Multi-stage projects, including both planning and implementation, are eligible. However, applicants should take the overall project period of up to five years into consideration when deciding how many phases to include. If the applicant cannot complete the proposed work within the five-year project period, a phased approach may be best.

- 4. Are there any sample grants or templates available as a guide?**

There are no templates or samples specific to this Request for Applications (RFA). EPA’s grant website contains resources that may be of help to the applicant:
<https://www.epa.gov/grants/epa-grants-overview-applicants-and-recipients>.





Additionally, the RFA itself contains guiding questions and a potential application structure in Section IV.G.

5. Can an application build upon an existing SNEP funded project?

Yes, building up previous SNEP funded work is broadly encouraged. But the work funded by the two grants needs to be sufficiently distinct and separate. In other words, the same work cannot be funded by two grants.

6. Does the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law signage requirement mean a permanent sign must be in place before construction? Or can a temporary sign be in place until a permanent sign is ready?

EPA is still developing guidance related to Bipartisan Infrastructure Law signage. Specific requirements will be included in the terms and conditions of any award made under this RFA. Signs related to the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law must be up before work is started and present for the duration of the grant. Permanent signage for project sites with public visibility is encouraged. Permanent signage information will also be included in the terms and conditions of any award made under this RFA. Please include the cost of any signage in your grant application.

7. Can funding for supporting administration/coordination be included in a proposal?

Yes, as long as the proposal addresses at least one priority topic, and the addition of administration/coordination is sufficiently justified and will support the overall objectives of the RFA.

8. How will applications that have been submitted to both this RFA and the SNEP Watershed Implementation Grants (SWIG) program be treated?

The proposals will be reviewed separately under each funding opportunity. If a proposal is selected for one funding source, it cannot be funded by the other.

9. Can an applicant apply to both this RFA and SWIG for separate projects that are a part of a broader restoration strategy?

Yes, as long as the two projects are distinctly separate. In other words, the same work cannot be funded by two grants.

10. Will there be any awards for less than \$400,000

Applicants may submit a proposal valued at less than \$400,000. This will not make the proposal ineligible. However, the smaller scope may make the proposal less competitive.





11. Can an application be for multiple, spread-out projects within a watershed or region?

Yes, this is allowable.

12. If I have not yet received my UIE number after registering with SAM.gov and Grants.gov, am I eligible to submit my application via email to avoid missing the deadline?

Unfortunately, no. As is stated in the Submission Instruction section of the RFA, "Failure of an applicant to submit prior to the application submission deadline date because they did not properly or timely register in SAM.gov or Grants.gov is **not** an acceptable reason to justify acceptance of an application outside of Grants.gov."

13. Can organization can submit multiple applications as the lead applicant. Is submitting multiple applications allowed for the 2023 Stormwater and Natural Infrastructure Grant Program?

Yes, an organization can submit multiple applications for different projects under the 2023 Stormwater and Natural Infrastructure RFA. Each will be evaluated independently.

