

Illinois Environmental Protection Agency
Section 319(h) – Nonpoint Source Pollution Control Financial Assistance Program

Notice of Funding Opportunity
Summary Information

	Data Field	
1.	Awarding Agency Name:	Illinois Environmental Protection Agency (Illinois EPA)
2.	Agency Contact:	Scott Ristau epa.bowgrants@illinois.gov 217-782-3362
3.	Announcement Type:	<input type="checkbox"/> Initial announcement <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Modification of a previous announcement
4.	Type of Assistance Instrument:	Grant
5.	Funding Opportunity Number:	2017 Section 319 NPS
6.	Funding Opportunity Title:	Section 319(h) – Nonpoint Source Pollution Control Financial Assistance Program
7.	CSFA Number:	532-60-0378
8.	CSFA Popular Name:	319 Grant
9.	CFDA Number(s):	66.460
10.	Anticipated Number of Awards:	Approximately 10 to 18 grant awards per year
11.	Estimated Total Program Funding:	Approximately \$3.5 to \$4.5 million per year
12.	Award Range	Not applicable. No set maximum or minimum amount.
13.	Source of Funding:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Federal or Federal pass-through <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> State <input type="checkbox"/> Private / other funding
14.	Cost Sharing or Matching Requirement:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
15.	Indirect Costs Allowed Restrictions on Indirect Costs	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No If yes, provide the citation governing the restriction:
16.	Posted Date:	05/10/2016
17.	Closing Date for Applications:	5:00 p.m. (CST) on August 1, 2016
18.	Technical Assistance Session:	Session Offered: <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No Session Mandatory: <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No

Illinois Environmental Protection Agency
Section 319(h) – Nonpoint Source Pollution Control Financial Assistance Program

Notice of Funding Opportunity
Detailed Information

A. Program Description

The Illinois Environmental Protection Agency (Illinois EPA) is seeking proposals for nonpoint source (NPS) pollution control projects (projects). The Illinois EPA receives federal funds through Section 319(h) of the Clean Water Act ([33 U.S.C 1329](#)) to help implement [Illinois' Nonpoint Source Management Program](#) (Illinois EPA, 2013). The requirements of the United States Environmental Protection Agency's (U.S. EPA) [Nonpoint Source Program and Grants Guidelines for States and Territories](#) apply to all recipients of grants made with funds appropriated by Congress under Section 319 of the Clean Water Act.

Illinois EPA's Section 319(h) Nonpoint Source Pollution Control Financial Assistance Program (a.k.a. Section 319(h) Grant Program) is designed to provide grant funds for projects that prevent, eliminate, or reduce water quality impairments caused by nonpoint source pollution. Performance measures for the program are outlined in Chapter 7 (Short- and Medium-Term Objectives and Milestones) of [Illinois' Nonpoint Source Management Program](#) (Illinois EPA, 2013).

Nonpoint source (NPS) pollution, unlike pollution from industrial and sewage treatment plants, comes from many diffuse sources. NPS pollution is caused by rainfall or snowmelt moving over and through the ground. As the runoff moves, it picks up and carries away natural and human-made pollutants, finally depositing them into lakes, rivers, wetlands and even our underground sources of drinking water. It has been determined that over 60% of the (national) documented water pollution problem can be traced to nonpoint sources.

NPS pollution control project types include:

- Implementation of an approved Watershed-Based Plan;
- Development of a watershed-based plan;
- Development of a Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) implementation plan;
- Best Management Practice (BMP) Implementation;
- Information and Outreach;
- Technical Assistance; and
- Monitoring.

Examples of best management practices (BMPs) and activities that have been funded through the Section 319(h) Grant Program are provided below. The list is not all-inclusive. See also the [Illinois' Nonpoint Source Management Program](#) (Illinois EPA, 2013) for a list of potential BMPs. Inclusion of a BMP, here or in the *Illinois' Nonpoint Source Management Program* does not equate to automatic eligibility for the Section 319(h) Grant Program.

Streams (Rural and Urban)

- Stream channel and bioengineered bank stabilization
- Meandering a channelized stream
- Levee removal or modification
- In-stream habitat restoration
- Reconnecting stream to floodplain

Wetlands (Rural and Urban)

- Wetland restoration or enhancement
- Wetland area protection
- New wetland development

Lakes (Rural and Urban)

- Lakeshore stabilization
- Detention practices (sediment and nutrient)
- Aeration\destratification

Agricultural

- Nutrient management
- Erosion and sediment control
- Livestock waste management
- Livestock exclusion
- Buffers and filter strips

Urban

- Rain gardens and rain barrels
- Permeable and porous pavements
- Green roofs
- Bioswales

For more Urban BMP information, go to [Urban BMPs – Supplemental Guidance For Funding Eligibility](#).

Resource Extraction (abandoned mine land)

- Acid mine drainage control
- Soil erosion and sediment control

Riparian Zone (Rural and Urban)

- Warm season grass planting
- Tree and shrub planting
- Riparian wetland restoration

Monitoring for Environmental and/or Social Indicators

- Environmental and social indicator monitoring to help document the need for NPS pollution control or to validate the accomplishments of ongoing and completed NPS pollution control projects.

Education and Outreach Activities

- Education and Outreach projects to promote awareness and implementation of activities that may help to restore degraded waters or protect waters from degradation due to NPS pollution. Projects could include statewide or community-based efforts such as training, displays, and workshops.

B. Funding Information

This grant award is utilizing federal pass-through funds received from U.S. EPA and distributed by Illinois EPA under Section 319(h) of the Clean Water Act. Illinois EPA expects to award a total of approximately **\$3.5 million of federal funds** per year and anticipates distributing this amount across approximately six (6) to twelve (12) awards, or projects, per year. The actual amount depends upon the final U.S. EPA budget approved by Congress and the allocation awarded to Illinois by U.S. EPA. The Section 319(h) Grant Program does not have a set maximum or minimum total project cost or

grant amount. However, in the past, federally funded projects have had total project costs that generally ranged from \$80,000 to \$2,000,000 and federal grant assistance has generally ranged from \$48,000 to \$1,200,000.

This grant award is also utilizing state funds received from repayment of loans issued under the Water Pollution Control Loan Program (WPCLP). Illinois EPA expects to award a total of approximately **\$1 million of state funds** per year and anticipates distributing this amount across approximately four (4) to six (6) awards, or projects, per year. The Section 319(h) Grant Program does not have a set maximum or minimum total project cost or grant amount. However, state funded projects have total project costs that generally range from \$50,000 to \$450,000 and state grant assistance generally range from \$30,000 to \$270,000.

This is a reimbursement program. Grant recipients must perform the work, pay project costs, and submit an invoice with supporting documentation before Illinois EPA will reimburse grant recipients for any approved costs. Illinois EPA will only make reimbursements to the grant recipient and will reimburse the grant recipient no more frequently than monthly.

The maximum funding award is 60 percent of the total project cost. The remaining 40 percent is the responsibility of the grant recipient and constitutes the local match. This local match may include money spent or in-kind services utilized to complete the approved project tasks but cannot be federal funds or funds used to match another federal program. Local match can be provided by the grant recipient, sub-contractor, or project partners (including state programs, private foundations, land owners, etc.). Greater than 40 percent local match is allowed.

The anticipated start date for approved projects is **July 1, 2017**. Project length is two years (24 months) unless otherwise approved. Costs incurred prior to the execution of the grant agreement or after the project period ends are ineligible as match or for reimbursement unless otherwise approved as match by Illinois EPA.

It may be difficult for projects that include BMP design, engineering and permitting, BMP implementation and monitoring to be accomplished under a single application. Applications for renewal or supplementation of existing projects are eligible to compete with applications for new grant awards. Contact the NPS Unit at (217) 782-3362 to discuss application options for long-term projects.

As part of a complete application, the applicant must describe how the grant project will be implemented and include necessary detail to enable the Illinois EPA to manage the proposed grant agreement activity against planned project performance.

The application must propose specific, quantifiable outputs or accomplishments, such as best management practices (BMPs) to be installed (i.e., 1,000 feet of streambank stabilization), workshops to be held, or training materials to be developed, which will produce the desired consequences. Interim milestones for implementing the outputs or accomplishments (i.e., design specifications) must also be identified along with an associated schedule for completion.

The application must also describe the expected or desired outcomes of the project. The outcomes are the important changes that are to be set in motion or supported by the project. These changes may be environmental or social, and may be expected to appear on different time scales. Short term outcomes can include things such as improved knowledge or reduced pollutant loads (i.e., 300 tons of sediment, 300 lbs of phosphorus, and 600 lbs of nitrogen) from the project area. Intermediate term outcomes can include things such as increased local interest/investment in clean water and improved water quality in the watershed. Long term outcomes can include removal of a waterbody from the list of impaired waters or the local benefits of clean water.

Successful applicants will be required to execute a formal grant agreement and adhere to all requirements of the Section 319(h) Grant Program and other state and federal contractual requirements.

C. Eligibility Information

1. *Eligible Applicants*

Section 319(h) Grant Program funds are available to any entity that has legal status to accept funds from the State of Illinois. This can include: local watershed groups; land conservancies or trusts; public and private profit and nonprofit organizations and institutions; units of county, municipal, township, and state governments; universities and colleges; park districts and other local land managing agencies; soil and water conservation districts; conservation organizations; and others.

Section 319(h) Grant Program applicants must have the financial ability to initiate the project, pay expenses, and then request reimbursement from the Illinois EPA, while continuing to finance their normal operating expenses.

Applicants must have the authority and ability to implement the proposed project, or propose to subcontract portions of the project to the appropriate entities for implementation.

Applicants may apply for a grant but will not be eligible for a grant award until the applicant has pre-qualified through the Grant Accountability and Transparency Act (GATA) Grantee Portal, www.grants.illinois.gov. During pre-qualification, Dun and Bradstreet verifications are performed including a check of Debarred and Suspended status and good standing with the Secretary of State. The pre-qualification process also includes a financial and administrative risk assessment utilizing an Internal Controls Questionnaire. If applicable, the applicant will be notified that it is ineligible for award as a result of the Dun and Bradstreet verification. The applicant will be informed of corrective action needed to become eligible for a grant award.

2. *Cost Sharing or Matching*

The maximum funding award is 60 percent of the total project cost. The remaining 40 percent is the responsibility of the recipient and constitutes the local match. This local match may include money spent or in-kind services utilized to complete the approved project tasks but cannot be federal funds or funds used to match another federal program. Local match can be provided by the recipient, sub-contractor, or project partners (including state programs, private foundations, land owners, etc.) Greater than 40 percent local match is allowed.

3. *Indirect Cost Rate*

In order to charge indirect costs to a grant, the applicant must have an annually negotiated indirect cost rate agreement (NICRA). There are three types of NICRAs:

- a . Federally Negotiated Rate. Organizations that receive direct federal funding may have an indirect cost rate that was negotiated with the Federal Cognizant Agency. The State of Illinois will accept the federally negotiated rate. The applicant must provide a copy of the federally NICRA.
- b . State Negotiated Rate. The applicant must negotiate an indirect cost rate with the State of Illinois if they do not have Federally Negotiated Rate or elect to use the De Minimis Rate. The indirect cost rate proposal must be submitted to the State of Illinois within 90 days of the Notice of State Award.

- c. De Minimis Rate. An organization that has never received a Federally Negotiated Rate may elect a de minimis rate of 10% of modified total direct cost (MTDC). Once established, the de minimis rate may be used indefinitely. The State of Illinois must verify the calculation of the MTDC annually in order to accept the de minimis rate.

4. **Other Eligibility Criteria**

The following are not eligible for Section 319(h) Grant Program funds:

- Activities that do not control, prevent, or address NPS pollution;
- Any activity or project required by state or federal law or state or federal permit, including activities required or anticipated to be required by National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) regulations, including Phase 1 and Phase 2 stormwater permit requirements;
- Routine maintenance or repair of existing on-site systems, such as culvert replacement, street sweeping, catch-basin cleaning;
- Projects to principally protect wildlife habitat, control flooding, or protect infrastructure;
- Ineligible activities based on current U.S. EPA guidelines for Section 319(h) grants.

An applicant's failure to meet an eligibility criterion will not result in the Illinois EPA returning the application without review but will preclude the Illinois EPA from making a Section 319(h) Grant Program award for that application.

There is no limit on the number of applications an applicant may submit under this announcement.

D. **Application and Submission Information**

1. **Content and Form of Application Submission**

Illinois EPA employs an electronic application that allows the applicant to download the files, enter and save data on their own computer, and return the completed documents to Illinois EPA in an electronic format (Adobe pdf and Microsoft Office compatible files).

A complete application includes the following:

- a. [Uniform Application for State Grant Assistance](#)
- b. [Section 319 Application – Project Details Section](#)
- c. [Uniform Grant Budget Template](#)

It is recommended that applications also include appropriate supporting documentation (i.e., photos, maps, pollutant reduction worksheets, designs, letters of support, etc.).

The Section 319(h) Grant Program Application is available at Illinois EPA's website at www.epa.illinois.gov/topics/water-quality/watershed-management/nonpoint-sources/grants/index.

Paper copies of the Section 319(h) Grant Program Application are available upon request by contacting the Nonpoint Source Unit at (217) 782-3362.

Applications must be submitted electronically. Electronic submissions can be submitted either:

- a. on a CD or flash drive that is mailed or hand-delivered to

US Postal Service Mailing Address:

Illinois Environmental Protection Agency
Bureau of Water, Nonpoint Source Unit #15
P.O. Box 19276
Springfield, Illinois 62794-9276

Attention: Scott Ristau

Delivery Service Address:

Illinois Environmental Protection Agency
Bureau of Water, Nonpoint Source Unit #15
1021 North Grand Avenue East
Springfield, Illinois 62702

Attention: Scott Ristau

or

- b. sent by email to epa.bowgrants@illinois.gov. Use the [Illinois.Gov File Transfer tool](#) to send files that are up to 2 GB. Include the project title and applicant name in the "Message to Recipient" box. Contact the NPS Unit at (217) 782-3362 regarding any file size limitations or other firewall issues.

2. *Dun and Bradstreet Universal Numbering System (DUNS) Number and System for Award Management (SAM)*

Each applicant (unless the applicant is an individual or Federal or State awarding agency that is exempt from those requirements under 2 CFR § 25.110(b) or (c), or has an exception approved by the Federal or State awarding agency under 2 CFR § 25.110(d)) is required to:

- a. be registered in SAM before submitting its application. If you are not registered in SAM, this link provides a connection for SAM registration: <https://www.sam.gov/>;
- b. provide a valid DUNS number in its application; and
- c. continue to maintain an active SAM registration with current information at all times during which it has an active Federal, Federal pass-through or State award or an application or plan under consideration by a Federal or State awarding agency.

The Illinois EPA may not make a Federal pass-through or State award to an applicant until the applicant has complied with all applicable DUNS and SAM requirements and, if an applicant has not fully complied with the requirements by the time the Illinois EPA is ready to make a Federal pass-through or State award, the Illinois EPA may determine that the applicant is not qualified to receive a Federal pass-through or State award and use that determination as a basis for making a Federal pass-through or State award to another applicant.

3. *Submission Dates and Times*

Section 319(h) Grant Program applications are accepted by Illinois EPA by August 1st of each year. The electronic copy of the application must be complete and be received at Illinois EPA's Springfield office by 5:00 p.m. (CST) on August 1st to be considered for funding.

Incomplete applications or applications received after the deadline will not be considered for funding.

The Illinois EPA will use the date of the submittal email or the date-stamp applied by Illinois EPA to mailed or hand-delivered applications when received to determine whether an application has

been submitted before the deadline.

Within approximately one month after the closing date for applications, the Illinois EPA will mail a letter to the applicant acknowledging receipt of the application.

4. **Intergovernmental Review**

This funding opportunity is subject to Executive Order 12372, "Intergovernmental Review of Federal Programs."

5. **Funding Restrictions**

Federal funding may not make up any part of the grant recipient's share (match) of the total project cost and the grant recipient's share must be used exclusively for the project. The grant recipient's share for the project may not be used to match or financially qualify for any other federal grant.

Costs incurred prior to the effective date of the grant agreement or after the grant agreement term ends are ineligible for reimbursement. Costs incurred prior to the effective date of the grant agreement or after the grant agreement term ends are ineligible as match unless otherwise approved as match by Illinois EPA.

E. **Application Review Information**

1. **Criteria**

Upon receipt, all Section 319(h) Grant Program applications will be reviewed for completeness, technical merit, and adherence to the Clean Water Act, U.S. EPA Section 319(h) program guidance, and the competitive grant evaluation criteria described in this Notice of Funding Opportunity. Applications found to be complete will undergo a comprehensive, merit-based review performed in compliance with Grant Accountability and Transparency Act (GATA) Legislation 30 ILCS 708 and 2 CFR 200 Uniform Requirements. The merit-based review is designed to evaluate applications against the following criteria:

- **Quality of Proposal.** Under this criterion, applications will be evaluated based on the extent and quality to which they describe the project(s). Applications will be evaluated as to whether the approach is technically/scientifically sound, if the methods are appropriate, and whether there are clear project goals and measurable objectives. The level of project development (i.e., the readiness of the project, technical merit, and expected environmental improvements) will be considered.
- **Anticipated Outputs and Outcomes.** Under this criterion, applications will be evaluated based on the extent and quality to which an application clearly articulates a set of performance and progress measures and the extent and quality to which the application demonstrates a sound plan for measuring progress toward achieving the expected outputs and outcomes.

Priority will be given to applications that show that the project is to be designed, implemented, and monitored to show measurable environmental results such as quantifying water quality improvements, estimating or modeling pollutant load reductions, or documenting social results, "such as increased awareness and knowledge or changes in behavior resulting from educational efforts that lead to improved water quality". Please note, the Section 319(h) Grant project length may not be long enough to accomplish all phases required to measure environmental results. Illinois EPA does not necessarily

expect a project to complete the design, implementation and monitoring under a single Section 319(h) grant. **Please note that environmental or social indicator monitoring is not required in order to qualify for Section 319(h) grant funds.**

Examples of measurable environmental results could include:

- In-stream monitoring data indicating post-project sediment and nitrogen levels were less than pre-project levels.
 - Recovery of aquatic species through the use of biological monitoring to measure the effects of best management practices (BMP) on the ecologic health of a stream community.
 - Implementation of BMPs that have prevented a quantifiable amount of pollutants, such as sediment or nutrients, from entering surface waters, with documentation providing measured, modeled, or estimated load reductions (e.g., 200 tons\year of sediment).
- **Cost effectiveness.** Under this criterion, applications will be evaluated based on the cost of the project relative to the environmental benefit achieved by the project. (i.e., a \$20/square foot permeable pavement project is potentially better than a \$50/square foot permeable pavement project or a project that achieves a \$1/pound of nitrogen load reduction is potentially better than a project that achieves a \$100/pound of nitrogen load reduction.)
- **Need and Environmental Significance.** Under this criterion, applications will be evaluated based on the extent and quality to which the application demonstrates relevance to solving an important environmental problem. (i.e., Does the proposed best management practice address the causes and sources of impairment identified by Illinois EPA for the receiving waterbody?) Applications will be evaluated based on how well the facts and evidence presented in the application demonstrate that the proposed project supports the Section 319(h) Grant Program's purpose.

The Section 319(h) Grant Program prioritizes projects addressing Illinois waters for which NPS pollution is a significant cause of water quality impairment. Assessment information for Illinois' waterbodies can be found in the most recent [Integrated Water Quality Report and Section 303d List](#). Appendix B-2 and B-3 have specific assessment information and Appendix A-2 has 303(d) list details.

NPS pollution control projects with the potential to eliminate such impairments and restore impaired waters will rank higher in the review process and receive more favorable consideration than general NPS pollution control projects that are not linked to a specific waterbody or do not address a waterbody's current impairments. However, the Illinois EPA also recognizes the importance of preventing currently unimpaired waters from becoming impaired.

- **Financial Integrity.** Under this criterion, applications will be evaluated based on the adequacy of the budget information provided and whether it is reasonable and clearly presented. The degree to which local match funds have been secured will also be considered.
- **Programmatic Capability, Technical Experience, and Qualifications of the Applicant.** Under this criterion, applications will be evaluated based on the applicant's ability to successfully complete and manage the proposed project, taking into account a) experience and plan for timely and successfully achieving the objectives of the proposed

project; b) staff expertise/qualifications, staff knowledge, and resources or the ability to obtain them, to successfully achieve the goals of the project; and c) applicant's prior performance with Section 319(h) grants.

- **Relationship to an approved watershed-based plan.** Priority will be given to those projects that implement components of an Illinois EPA approved watershed-based plan. A watershed-based plan must include, at a minimum, nine specific elements required in U.S. EPA guidance. These elements are listed as items a. through i. in Appendix C of the [Nonpoint Source Program and Grants Guidelines for States and Territories](#) (April 12, 2013). NPS pollution control projects that are identified as being within an approved watershed-based plan that eliminate impairments and/or restore impaired waters will receive higher consideration than projects submitted without the support of such a plan. Implementation of a watershed-based plan to address NPS pollution could include installation of BMPs that have been identified for specific critical areas by the watershed-based plan; NPS water quality modeling, environmental and social indicator monitoring, and outreach activities that are specifically identified in the watershed-based plan.

To a lesser degree, priority will be given to those projects that propose to develop or update a watershed-based plan to address NPS pollution. For additional information on watershed-based planning, please refer to the [Guidance for Developing Watershed Action Plans in Illinois](#) (Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning, 2007).

Illinois EPA considers projects that address NPS pollution control that are not identified in or supported by a watershed-based plan as low priority projects. These projects can include BMP implementation, BMP demonstrations, environmental monitoring, social indicator monitoring, and outreach efforts that are not yet identified for implementation in a watershed-based plan. Individual BMPs, treatment systems or outreach efforts are eligible for funding but will not be prioritized as highly as those projects specifically identified in a watershed-based plan.

- **Relationship to an approved TMDL Implementation Plan.** Priority will be given to those projects that implement components of an Illinois EPA approved total maximum daily load (TMDL) implementation plan. A TMDL is the maximum amount of a specific pollutant loading a waterbody can tolerate and still support all of its intended uses.

Lesser priority will be given to those projects that propose to develop a TMDL implementation plan to address NPS Pollution. The proposed TMDL implementation plan to be developed must be related to a 303d listed waterbody that is being impaired by NPS pollution. [Click here](#) for additional information about TMDL requirements as defined in U.S. EPA guidance. A TMDL implementation plan must also meet the requirements of a watershed-based plan. The TMDL implementation plan will spell out the actions necessary to achieve the goals of the approved TMDL. The plan specifies limits for point source and NPS discharges and recommends specific BMPs for nonpoint sources. It also estimates associated costs and lays out a schedule for implementation. [Click here](#) for additional information about Illinois EPA's TMDL Program and consult with the Planning Unit at (217) 782-3362 before applying for the development of a TMDL.

- **Relationship to Illinois EPA Priority Watersheds.** Priority will be given to those projects that are located within Illinois EPA [Priority Watersheds](#) for nonpoint source (NPS) pollution control implementation or planning, as applicable. Illinois has 51 basins; all 51 basins will be a priority for watershed-based planning or plan implementation at least once every five years. Each year, a subset (8 – 11) of the basins will be a priority for planning. Two-years later those same basins will be a priority for plan implementation. Waterbody segments,

with the exception of main-stem waters, that are not attaining their designated water quality uses due to NPS pollution impairments are the priority waterbodies within the priority basins. The main-stem waterbodies have greater priority once NPS components of a watershed-based plan for their headwater areas have been developed and implemented. The 10 to 12 digit hydrologic units (HUC) that contain these impaired waterbody segments are the priority watershed. A higher priority for assistance will be given to those watersheds that have multiple NPS impaired waterbody segments. Priority will also be given to those projects that are located within a NPS Priority Watershed to Reduce Nutrient Loss. [Click here](#) to see a set of maps that depict the 5-year priority watershed rotation and the priority watersheds for nutrient reduction

2. Review and Selection Process

Applications will be received by the Illinois EPA, Bureau of Water, Watershed Management Section, Nonpoint Source Unit.

Illinois EPA's Watershed Management Section will solicit comments on the applications from peers external to the Illinois EPA. A copy of each application along with a request for comments is sent to the Illinois Department of Agriculture, Illinois Department of Natural Resources, and the U.S. Department of Agriculture - Natural Resources Conservation Service. Illinois EPA's Watershed Management Section generally requests that these entities return their comments by September 1st.

Illinois EPA's Watershed Management Section will solicit comments on the applications from peers within the Illinois EPA regional office (Des Plaines, Springfield, or Marion) in which the project is located. Illinois EPA's Watershed Management Section generally requests that they return their comments by September 1st.

Each application will be reviewed in-depth by at least one member of Illinois EPA's Nonpoint Source Unit (Principal Reviewer).

By mid to late September an evaluation panel consisting of members of Illinois EPA's Watershed Management Section will be convened. The Principal Reviewer will present to the panel a description of the application, the findings and recommendations of the Principal Reviewer, peer review comments, and other relevant information. Applications will be discussed by the panel. Each member of the panel will individually score the application on a scale of 1 (worst) to 10 (best). These individual scores will be converted into a composite average score for each application and ranked accordingly.

By early to mid-October, Illinois EPA's Watershed Management Section will present a summary of all the applications to the Chief of the Bureau of Water and to the Director of the Illinois EPA. This summary will include the findings and recommendations of the evaluation panel.

Based on eligibility criteria, merit criteria, the evaluation panel's scoring, and input from the Chief of the Bureau of Water and the Director of the Illinois EPA, Illinois' Section 319 Nonpoint Source Work Plan (Work Plan) will be prepared and submitted to U.S. EPA for approval. The Work Plan identifies the selected applications (projects) proposed for funding by Illinois EPA. The Work Plan includes a budget spreadsheet, a short narrative summary of each selected project, and a copy of the selected project applications. Submittal of the Work Plan to U.S. EPA generally occurs by November 1st.

Generally by early to mid-January, U.S. EPA issues comments on the detailed Work Plan to the Illinois EPA. Illinois EPA will then respond to U.S. EPA's comments to answer their concerns and questions.

Generally by early February, the Illinois EPA will send written notice to each applicant whose project was not included in the Work Plan informing them that their application was not selected for funding.

Once U.S. EPA has approved Illinois EPA's Work Plan, the Illinois EPA will submit a grant application to U.S. EPA to request Section 319 funding to implement the Work Plan. The Illinois EPA will also provide a "Notice of State Award Finalist" to selected applicants.

In anticipation of U.S. EPA approval of the grant application, the Illinois EPA will provide a "Notice of State Award" to selected applicants and begin preparing draft agreements for selected projects.

Generally by June, U.S. EPA will award the grant to the Illinois EPA. Illinois EPA will then issue grant awards by sending agreements to the recipients for signature to formally initiate the projects.

3. Anticipated Announcement and State Award Dates

Anticipated Date	Illinois EPA Action
September 1, 2016	Notify applicants that their application was received.
February 1, 2017	Notify unsuccessful applicants that their application was not selected for funding.
March 1, 2017	Provide a "Notice of State Award Finalist" to selected applicants.
April 1, 2017	Provide a "Notice of State Award" to selected applicants.
June 1, 2017	Provide a grant agreement to selected applicants.

F. Award Administration Information

1. State Award Notices

Notice of State Award Finalist

Illinois EPA will distribute a "Notice of State Award Finalist" to inform selected applicants that their application is a finalist for a grant award.

The "Notice of State Award Finalist" is not an authorization to begin work on the project. Costs incurred by the applicant at this stage are not eligible for reimbursement or as match.

The "Notice of State Award Finalist" will identify outstanding requirements that must be completed prior to grant award, such as:

- Grantee pre-qualification (via the Grantee Portal)
- Conflict of Interest and Mandatory Disclosures
- Fiscal and Administrative Risk Assessment

Notice of State Award (NOSA)

The Illinois EPA will issue a Notice of State Award (NOSA) to those finalists that satisfactorily complete all grant award requirements, including those identified in the "Notice of State Award

Finalist”.

The NOSA authorizes the issuance of an award by means of a grant agreement but the NOSA is not an authorization for the grant recipient to begin work on the project. Costs incurred prior to the effective date of the grant agreement or after the agreement term ends are not eligible for reimbursement.

Grant Agreement

The Illinois EPA will send a grant agreement to the grant recipient for signature and processing. The grant recipient must return the grant agreement, with the recipient’s signature, to the Illinois EPA. A copy of the grant agreement will be returned to the recipient once the grant agreement is fully executed by Illinois EPA and filed with the State of Illinois Comptroller. A fully executed grant agreement is authorization for the grant recipient to begin work on the project.

2. Administrative and National Policy Requirements

The terms and conditions of the award will be specified in the NOSA and the grant agreement.

In the grant agreement, the grant recipient will be required to certify that it does and will comply with all provisions of the Federal Internal Revenue Code (26 USC 1), the Illinois Revenue Act (35 ILCS 5), and all rules promulgated thereunder, including withholding provisions and timely deposits of employee taxes and unemployment insurance taxes.

In the grant agreement, the grant recipient will be required to certify that it does and will comply with the reporting requirements of the Federal Funding Accountability and Transparency Act of 2006 (P.L. 109-282) (FFATA) with respect to Federal Awards greater than or equal to \$25,000. A FFATA sub-award report must be filed by the end of the month following the month in which the award was made.

In the grant agreement, the grant recipient will be required to certify that it shall adhere to the applicable Uniform Administrative Requirements, Cost Principles, and Audit Requirements, which are published in Title 2, Part 200 of the Code of Federal Regulations, and are incorporated herein by reference. See 44 Ill. Admin. Code 7000.30(b)(1)(A).

In the grant agreement, the grant recipient will be required to certify that it and its sub-grantees shall: (i) be registered with the Federal SAM if seeking an Award that is partially or fully paid by Federal funds, and registered with the State equivalent of SAM; (ii) be in good standing with the Illinois Secretary of State; and (iii) have a valid DUNS number. It is Grantee’s responsibility to remain current with these registrations and requirements. If Grantee’s status with regard to any of these requirements change, or the certifications made in and information provided in the Uniform Grant Application changes, Grantee must notify the Grantor in accordance with ARTICLE XVIII.

3. Reporting

All projects require quarterly reporting of progress and a final project evaluation and report.

All projects involving BMP implementation require the development of designs and [“BMP Application Forms”](#) for all BMPs to be implemented. Unless the grant recipient obtains a waiver of this certification requirement from Illinois EPA, the design must be certified by a registered or licensed professional engineer of Illinois, U.S. Department of Agriculture - Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) staff, or a NRCS certified Technical Service Provider (TSP). The designs must be approved by the Illinois EPA’s NPS Unit prior to the start of BMP construction or implementation. Costs associated with development of BMP designs are eligible for Section 319(h)

grant funds as long as the costs are incurred within the term of the grant agreement and conform to the budget incorporated into the grant agreement.

All projects involving BMP implementation are required to obtain all applicable state and federal permits for all BMPs to be implemented.

Unless the grant recipient obtains a waiver of this requirement from Illinois EPA, all projects involving BMP implementation require the development and implementation of an operation and maintenance plan (O & M Plan) for all the BMPs installed during the project period. This includes BMPs installed with match funds or Section 319(h) funds. O & M Plans must be approved by the Illinois EPA's NPS Unit and are for a minimum of ten (10) years starting from the completion of the implementation of the BMP, unless otherwise agreed to by Illinois EPA.

Environmental or social indicator monitoring is not required in order to qualify for Section 319(h) grant funds. However, all projects that include a monitoring component will be required to have a Quality Assurance Project Plan (QAPP) approved by Illinois EPA. U.S. EPA guidance for QAPPs can be found at: <http://www.epa.gov/quality/qapps.html>.

Reports must be submitted to the Illinois EPA in both paper and electronic formats.

G. State Awarding Agency Contact(s)

If you have any questions regarding the Section 319(h) Grant Program, this Notice of Funding Opportunity, or the [Section 319\(h\) Grant Program Application](#), contact the Illinois EPA's Nonpoint Source Unit staff at:

Illinois Environmental Protection Agency
Bureau of Water
Watershed Management Section
Nonpoint Source Unit
1021 North Grand Avenue East
P.O. Box 19276
Springfield, Illinois 62794-9276
Email: epa.bowgrants@illinois.gov
Phone: (217) 782-3362

H. Other Information

Additional information about [Illinois' Nonpoint Source Management Program](#) can be found on Illinois EPA's website, including the [Section 319 Biannual Report](#), which describes the projects that have been funded under the Section 319(h) Grant Program and includes links to examples of final reports and other grant award products.

The Illinois EPA has the right to use (including, but not limited to, citing to, circulating, displaying, and reproducing) all products that result from the grant recipient receiving financial assistance under the grant agreement whether the product is developed by the recipient or a sub-recipient.

The Illinois EPA is not obligated to make any grant award as a result of this Notice of Funding Opportunity.