

Water Quality Restoration Grants to Prevent, Mitigate and/or Control of Freshwater Harmful Algal Blooms (HABs)

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THERE ARE TWO RFPS

RFP#1 - Grants to Prevent, Mitigate and/or Control Freshwater Harmful Algal Blooms (HABs) – TODAY'S PUBLIC SESSION

RFP#2 - 2019 Water Quality Restoration Grants for Nonpoint Source Pollution – Public Session January 9 (Pequest); January 15 (NJDEP)

<https://www.nj.gov/dep/wms/bears/npsrestgrants.html>

HAB RFP Funding Priorities

- Fund shorter term “action now” projects that are “innovative or proven methods to prevent, mitigate and/or control freshwater HABs within the State”
- \$2,500,000 in grant funding available
- Grants of up to \$500,000 per applicant
- 33% match to any DEP funding
- Monday January 13, 2020 5pm EST deadline and must be emailed to NPSgrants@dep.nj.gov

HAB RFP Funding Priorities

Projects may be conducted within any freshwater waterbody, including lakes, reservoirs and other surface waterbody types, provided the applicant demonstrates the project will **prevent**, **mitigate** and/or **control** freshwater HABS within the State.

Prevention shall include projects designed to avoid the occurrence of HABs or reduce their intensity and duration including best management practices that reduce nutrient input; Projects designed for HAB prevention may focus on addressing the root causes of the blooms through nutrient management, including internal and external loadings, using a wide variety of approaches.

HAB RFP Funding Priorities

Mitigation shall include projects designed to minimize HAB impacts on human and animal health, aquatic resources, and local economies when they do occur; Projects designed to mitigate and control HAB impacts may include short-term bloom reduction techniques such as simple installation (barley straw), physical treatment structures like aeration systems, mechanical skimming, water column mixing, aeration, biological treatment, chemical algaecides, and/or chemical additions such as alum and other flocculation techniques.

Control shall include projects that directly reduce or contain a HAB. Applicants shall address the need for the development of long-term operation and maintenance plans including funding of long-term maintenance where appropriate for any funded project.

HAB RFP Funding Priorities

Projects shall be capable of completion within three (3) years of the date of award.

Projects may include water quality monitoring only to the extent necessary to fill information/data gaps or for specific assessment of project success and, if included, shall follow DEP-approved sampling protocols – see Appendix C.

Eligible projects shall be scored and ranked in accordance with the Water Quality Restoration Grants Project Evaluation Criteria contained in Appendix B.

HAB RFP Funding Priorities

- Well designed, viable, readily implementable projects
- Completed in 3-year timeframe
- Able to obtain permits and approvals
- Strong letters of resource commitment: Staff and resources to complete the project (partners, match, resource commitment)
- Public property vs. private property with an executed agreement with the property owner

Format for Project Proposals (Appendix A - 10 page limit)

1. Application cover sheet (revised in 2018 – Vendor ID #, Federal DUNS #, Financial Officer info, RFP Category)
2. Brief project background summary information
3. Brief summary of the overall project goals and objectives
4. Applicant description – must demonstrate experience and expertise

Format for Project Proposals (cont'd)

5. Project Goal, objectives, tasks (under each objective), and corresponding task deliverables (required for each task)
6. Implementation schedule by objective - required table format in RFP
7. Budget Tables - required table format in RFP
8. Budget Justification – brief summary

Proposal Evaluation Criteria (Appendix B)

1. Project Applicability (up to 25 points)

- the proposal addresses the RFP, impairment, leverage positive environmental outcomes, integration with federal, state and local programs including EO23, magnitude of water quality, public health, and environmental benefits associated with the proposal.

Proposal Evaluation Criteria (Appendix B cont'd)

2. Project Readiness (up to 25 points)

- Project feasibility; Proposed design completion date; Readily implementable (shovel ready); Consistent with existing local, state and federal requirements and are able to attain permits needed to implement the project; The degree of public engagement and support for the proposed concept.

Proposal Evaluation Criteria (Appendix B cont'd)

3. Likelihood of Success (up to 30 points)

- Technical merit; Past performance of the applicant and/or partners; Ability to complete the project; Qualifications of the proposed personnel (in-house and contracted); Letter of resource commitment; Ability to garner approval of property owners and long term maintenance agreements; Ability to deliver measurable outcomes and long term sustainable benefits

Proposal Evaluation Criteria

(Appendix B cont'd)

4. Cost Share/Matching Funds/Leveraging of other Funding Sources (up to 10 points)

- Level of matching funds (minimum 33% match is required directly from the applicant); Leverage funding by combining with other funding sources (e.g. Farm Bill, Hazardous Discharge Remediation Fund); Budget detail (funding source allocation per project component); and Cost effectiveness

Proposal Evaluation Criteria (Appendix B cont'd)

5. Monitoring and Evaluation Information (up to 10 points)
 - How attainment of project objectives will be measured or demonstrated.

Timeline

- Issue RFP – December 12, 2019
- Public Information Session – December 20, 2019
- Deadline for Submission of Proposals – 5pm EST Monday January 13, 2020 to NPSgrants@dep.nj.gov
- Staff Review Period, Staff Funding Recommendations for Management Review and Approval, Notification Letters – on or about Friday February 14, 2020
- Contract Execution Forms – April 1, 2020