**REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS**

**Flood and Stormwater Management Grant Program**

**New Jersey League of Conservation Voters Education Fund**

**Summary**

 New Jersey League of Conservation Voters Education Fund seeks to fund governing bodies and municipal authorities to explore and/or implement local stormwater utilities.

**Details**

* GRANT PERIOD: This grant period is one year.
* GRANT AMOUNT: $2,500 - $30,000
* DEADLINE TO APPLY: Applications are accepted on a rolling basis, until all funds are awarded.
* CONTACT INFORMATION: Please contact Kaitlin Barakat, Water Quality Coordinator at New Jersey League of Conservation Voters Education Fund, with questions on application, status or to express interest at kaitlin.barakat@njlcv.org or at 609-331-9922. In the email subject, include “Flood Defense RFP Name\_Of\_Municipal\_Entity.”

**Background on the Initiative**

 As the most densely populated state in the nation experiencing ongoing development, New Jersey’s natural systems are not adequate to filter stormwater before it makes it into our waterways. While aggressive efforts to preserve open space must continue, mitigating polluted runoff from developed land is essential to improving water quality, especially in the Delaware River Watershed. Unfortunately, New Jersey’s stormwater infrastructure is antiquated and overburdened, and communities are limited in steps they can take to fund and maintain green and gray infrastructure projects. Communities must bond or use taxes to complete any stormwater infrastructure upgrades, which is politically difficult to do as the state has the highest property taxes in the country. It is estimated to be a $16 billion problem in New Jersey. Without the funds to address flooding and polluted runoff, too many local governments are forced to ignore the issue altogether.

 Therefore, a mechanism to reliably fund green infrastructure to clean up polluted runoff is necessary. The recent Clean Stormwater and Flood Reduction Act (P.L. 2019, C.42) provides municipalities, regional authorities or counties an effective and equitable best management practices to address the major issues posed by flooding and polluted runoff.

 The governing bodies selected through this RFP will prepare for the establishment of stormwater utilities.

**Criteria**

To evaluate proposals, evaluators will use the following criteria:

* **Green Infrastructure-** Prioritize nature-based solutions and green infrastructure as a strategy to achieve stormwater management goals such as rain gardens, bioswales, permeable pavement etc. to reduce stormwater runoff.
* **Need for Financial Support-** A locality’s ability to fund this work on its own, and the marginal benefit of additional funding from this program to advance a locality’s effort.
* **Regional Effort**- Collaboration between more than one locality, with a priority on an approach that covers multiple jurisdictions (such as a county-wide authority). The bigger the geographic region, the better.
* **Public Support-** Demonstrate support for the exploration and/or establishment of stormwater utilities from local decision makers and the public.
* **Additional Considerations-**
	+ - A large amount of commercial/industrial and tax-exempt properties within the jurisdiction;
		- Severe storm water challenges, including excess impervious cover, combined sewer overflows, flooding, and poor water quality within the focus area of proposal;
		- Having taken steps to access and plan to reduce polluted runoff: Environmental Resource Inventory, Stormwater Mitigation Plan, Impervious Cover Assessment, and Reduction Plan, Feasibility Study and others;
		- Utilization of consultants, contractors and labor from local communities within New Jersey, and;
		- Received certification from Sustainable Jersey, specifically receiving points from any of the key action areas listed below. For more detailed descriptions, please follow this link to their website: <http://www.sustainablejersey.com/actions-certification/actions/#close>
* Environmental Commission
* Climate Adaptation: Flooding Risk
* Open Space Plans
* Build-Out Analysis
* Environmental Commission Site Plan Review
* Green Infrastructure Planning
* Green Building and Environmental Sustainability Element
* Sustainable Land Use Pledge
* Water Conservation Ordinance
* Habitat Conservation Ordinance
* Enhanced Stormwater Management Control Ordinance
* Green Infrastructure Implementation
* Green roofs
* Rain garden

**Requirements**

* Must be a governing body or a quasi-governing body such as a municipal utility authority with a footprint in the Delaware River Watershed. To ensure your locality falls within these boundaries, please follow this link: <https://www.state.nj.us/drbc/library/documents/maps/BasinPlan_watershedsmap.pdf>
* Have a clear, named, staff member responsible for overseeing the proposed work. This person will be responsible for reporting on the progress of the work. Reporting guidelines will be discussed upon grant approval.

**Planning Grant:**

The purpose of this type of grant is to provide localities with funds to support efforts to understand their specific stormwater management needs. The goal of this grant is to perform studies to identify contributions to stormwater runoff from the landscape, building types and amount of impervious surface which make up the locality and/or investigate the benefits of a stormwater utility. Below are example projects for which the funds can be used:

* Studies to determine key areas where stormwater needs to be managed such as Mapping, Feasibility Study, Impervious Cover Assessment and Reduction Plan, etc.
* Create a small study team of key local staff (e.g. Public Works Director) and meet with an expert such as a consultant who can explain stormwater utilities in depth.
* Review feasibility study results and examine the issue in-depth, as well as explore stormwater utilities and determine the benefits of a regional approach
* Other creative ideas are encouraged

**Implementing Grant:**

The purpose of this type of grant is to provide municipalities and regional authorities with the support needed to advance and implement a stormwater utility program. The goal of this grant is to add capacity to these bodies to further facilitate the work needed to establish a stormwater utility. Below are example projects for which the funds can be used:

* Approve and adopt a stormwater utility ordinance
* Develop credits and appeals programs
* Create a billing mechanism: develop, integrate, and test
* Train staff: customer service, billing/technical assistance
* Hold open house events for the general public to explain aspects of the utility like the proposed fee structure
	+ Other creative ideas are encouraged

**To apply:**

Complete the attached Cover Page

Provide a narrative, no longer than two pages with the following sections:

* Executive Summary (Limit 75 Words);
* Background describing how you are positioned to do the work required, including any partnerships with local nonprofits, engineering firms or other organizations which can aid in the process;
* Strategy describing the work and explaining how this work will establish stormwater utilities in your community;
* Outcomes you expect and specific goals you hope to achieve;
* If applicable, please include the percentage of land cover that is impervious and/or the number of combined sewer outfalls;
* Detailed budget, including how much funding is needed to achieve the goals of your proposal;
* Please include any outside funds or in-kind contributions that would be leveraged, and;
* OPTIONAL: Provide any collateral material in excess of the two-page limit, not to exceed 10 pages- i.e. letters of support from nonprofits or elected officials, etc.

**Flood and Stormwater Management RFP Application Cover Page**

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| **Please fill out this page to ensure all criteria are addressed. Check the box which best describes your progress.**  | **Yes** | **No** | **Not Sure** |
| Are you a governing body or quasi-governing body, such as a municipal utility authority?  |  |  |  |
| Is the governing body or quasi-governing body located within the Delaware River Watershed?  |  |  |  |
| Is there a large quantity of tax-exempt properties? |  |  |  |
| Is there a large percentage of impervious cover? |  |  |  |
| Do you experience severe flooding? |  |  |  |
| Do you experience combined sewer overflows? |  |  |  |
| Do you suffer from poor water quality? |  |  |  |
| Are you considering a stormwater utility in the future?  |  |  |  |
| Are you considering a regional stormwater utility in the future?  |  |  |  |
| Is the exploration or establishment of a stormwater utility generally supported by residents and local decision makers? |  |  |  |
| Have you taken steps to plan to reduce polluted runoff such as: Environmental Resource Inventory, Stormwater Mitigation Plan, Impervious Cover Assessment and Reduction Plan, etc.?  |  |  |  |
| If you answered yes to the previous question, did you use contractors, consultants or labor from companies within New Jersey? |  |  |  |
| Do you currently prioritize the use of green infrastructure projects to achieve stormwater management goals? |  |  |  |
| Has your locality been certified by Sustainable Jersey? If yes, please check off the action areas from which you received points: Environmental Commission Climate Adaptation: Flooding Risk Open Space Plans Build-Out Analysis  Environmental Commission Site Plan Review Green Infrastructure Planning Green Building and Environmental Sustainability Element Sustainable Land Use Pledge Water Conservation Ordinance Habitat Conservation Ordinance Enhanced Stormwater Management Control Ordinance Green Infrastructure Implementation Green roofs Rain gardens |

Contact Name:

Contact Email/Phone:

Staff Member Responsible for Overseeing Proposed Work:

Staff Member Email/Phone:

Name of Governing Body:

Address of Governing Body:

Amount Requested: