2025-27 Biennium Municipal Stormwater Capacity-Building Grants

Funding Guidelines

Publication Information

This document is available on the Department of Ecology's website at:
https://apps.ecology.wa.gov/publications/summarypages/2510053.html

Contact Information

Water Quality Program

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To request an ADA accommodation, contact Ecology by phone at 360-628-4791 or email at sarah.zehner@ecy.wa.gov. For Washington Relay Service or TTY call 711 or 877-833-6341. Visit Ecology's website for more information.

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[1] www.ecology.wa.gov/contact

Department of Ecology's Regional Offices

Map of Counties Served
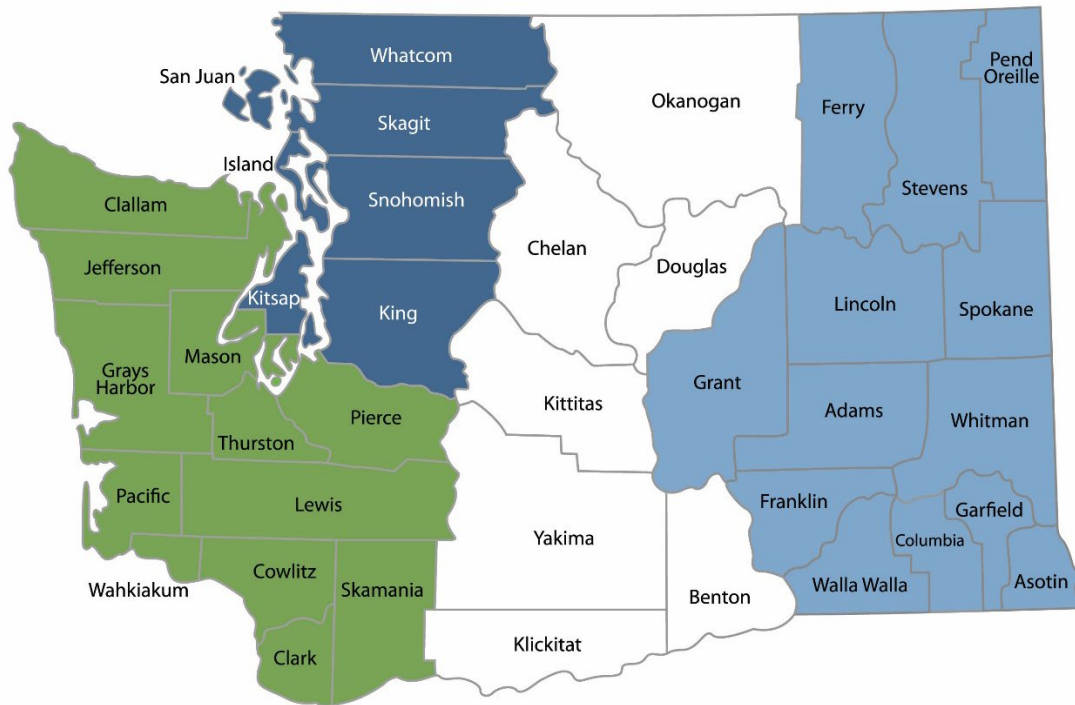
Southwest Region 360-407-6300	Northwest Region 206-594-0000	Central Region 509-575-2490	Eastern Region 509-329-3400

Region	Counties served	Mailing Address	Phone
Southwest	Clallam, Clark, Cowlitz, Grays Harbor, Jefferson, Mason, Lewis, Pacific, Pierce, Skamania, Thurston, Wahkiakum	PO Box 47775 Olympia, WA 98504	360-407-6300
Northwest	Island, King, Kitsap, San Juan, Skagit, Snohomish, Whatcom	PO Box 330316 Shoreline, WA 98133	206-594-0000
Central	Benton, Chelan, Douglas, Kittitas, Klickitat, Okanogan, Yakima	1250 W Alder St Union Gap, WA 98903	509-575-2490
Eastern	Adams, Asotin, Columbia, Ferry, Franklin, Garfield, Grant, Lincoln, Pend Oreille, Spokane, Stevens, Walla Walla, Whitman	4601 N Monroe Spokane, WA 99205	509-329-3400
Headquarters	Across Washington	PO Box 46700 Olympia, WA 98504	360-407-6000

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Water Quality Program

Washington State Department of Ecology

Olympia, WA

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Funding Program Purpose

The Washington Department of Ecology (Ecology) is soliciting requests for funding assistance for the implementation of the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Municipal Stormwater General Permits in Washington state including:

- Phase I Municipal Stormwater General Permit
- Western Washington Phase II Municipal Stormwater General Permit
- Eastern Washington Phase II Municipal Stormwater General Permit

This non-competitive grant program will provide financial assistance to cities and counties covered under the NPDES Municipal Stormwater General Permit for projects that benefit stormwater management programs and implementation of their municipal stormwater permit programs.

NOTE: Capital construction projects are not eligible for funding through this grant program.

Applicant eligibility

This is a non-competitive grant program open to cities or counties in Washington State covered by a Phase I or Phase II Municipal Stormwater General Permit. Each permitted city or county is eligible to receive a maximum of one funding award per biennia.

Ports, universities, school districts, drainage districts, state agencies, or other secondary permittees are not eligible to apply directly for this funding program but may partner with a permitted city or county. For information on local governments covered by the permits and permit requirements, please refer to Ecology's [Municipal Permit webpage](#)[i].

Eligibility may be suspended for communities that have not spent capacity funding awarded in prior biennia. This ensures that:

1) Ecology has sufficient funding available to reimburse grant expenses.

2) Ecology water quality dollars are maximized over the biennia and do not remain obligated to projects that will not be requesting reimbursements for the full value of the grant award.

Local governments receiving funding under other Ecology stormwater grant programs are not precluded from receiving these capacity-building funds. Applicants who have not successfully closed out SFY2023-25 Capacity Grants may apply for funding. However, *Ecology may elect to withhold final funding authorization until applicants have provided all deliverables, including close-out reports, for the SFY2023-25 Municipal Stormwater Capacity-Building Grants.*

Grant award and match

Ecology has set grant funding limits at $120,000 per eligible recipient. There are no match requirements, and grant awards will cover 100 percent of eligible costs up to the grant award amount. Payments for eligible expenses will be made on a reimbursement basis.

Program Schedule

Table 1 Key program dates

Date	Action Item
July 1, 2025	Application for funding opens in EAGL
September 3, 2025, **5:00 pm**	Applications close
Prior to December 31, 2025	Deadline for recipient signatures
January 30, 2026	First Progress report due
March 31, 2027	Closeout Reports Due Last day to incur eligible expenses
Prior to April 30, 2027	Final payment request must be submitted in EAGL

Eligible project expenses

Recipients may be reimbursed for expenses related to implementation of municipal stormwater National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit requirements. This may include staff time, equipment, supplies, training or other expenses.

The following is a list of elements Recipients' projects may include.

1. Public education and outreach activities, including stewardship activities.
2. Public involvement and participation activities.
3. Illicit discharge detection and elimination (IDDE) program activities, including:
   a. Mapping of municipal separate storm sewer systems (MS4s).
   b. Staff training.

     c. Activities to identify and remove illicit stormwater discharges.

     d. Field screening procedures.

     e. Complaint hotline database or tracking system improvements.

4. Activities to support programs to control runoff from new development, redevelopment, and construction sites, including:

     a. Development of an ordinance and associated technical manual or update of applicable codes.

     b. Inspections before, during, and upon completion of construction, or for post-construction long-term maintenance.

     c. Training for plan review or inspection staff.

     d. Participation in applicable watershed planning effort.

5. Pollution prevention, good housekeeping, and operation and maintenance program activities, such as:

     a. Inspecting or maintaining the MS4 infrastructure.

     b. Developing or implementing policies, procedures, or stormwater pollution prevention plans at municipal properties or facilities.

6. Annual reporting activities.

7. Establishing and refining stormwater utilities, including stable rate structures.

8. Water quality monitoring to implement permit requirements for a Water Cleanup Plan (TMDL). Note that any monitoring funded by this program requires submittal of a Quality Assurance Project Plan that Ecology must approve prior to awarding funding for monitoring. Monitoring must be directly meeting a Phase I or II permit requirement.

9. Stormwater Management for Existing Development (Phase I & Western Washington Phase II permit requirement).

10. Source control for existing development (Phase I & Western Washington Phase II permit requirement), including:

     a. Inventory and inspection program.

     b. Technical assistance and enforcement.

     c. Staff training.

11. Equipment purchases that result directly in improved permit compliance. Equipment purchases must be specific to implementing a permit requirement (such as a Vactor truck) rather than general use (such as a pick-up truck). *Equipment purchases over $5,000 must be pre-approved by Ecology.*

For projects seeking reimbursement for a Stormwater Management Action Plan (SMAP), please note that facility/BMP designs beyond a conceptual level are not eligible. An Ecology Cultural Resources Review is required for any above or below ground activities.

Please note that Stormwater Financial Assistance Program (SFAP) funding is available through the Water Quality Combined Financial Assistance Program for the planning, design, and construction of retrofit projects.

Ecology will require recipients to provide documentation of the work performed with these funds. Common forms of documentation include:

- Field reports
- Dates and number of inspections conducted
- Dates of trainings held and participant lists
- Number of illicit discharges investigated and removed
- Summaries of planning
- Stormwater utility or procedural updates
- Annual reports
- Copies of approved QAPPs
- Summaries of structural or source control activities, or summaries of how equipment purchases have increased or improved permit compliance.

All monitoring projects will require an Ecology-approved Quality Assurance Project Plan (QAPP), and all data must be submitted to Ecology. All receiving water data must be submitted via Ecology's Environmental Information Management System (EIM).

Ineligible project expenses

Ineligible projects or project components include, but are not limited to:

- Capital construction projects.
- Projects that do not support Municipal NPDES permit implementation.
- Give-a-ways or incentives.
- Grant application preparation.
- TAPE review process for proprietary treatment systems.

How to apply for funding

Step 1: Ensure you have access to Ecology's grant and loan management system, EAGL.

New users will need to create a Secure Access Washington account to access the EAGL system. Links and detailed instructions are available on [Ecology's grant and loan webpage](https://ecology.wa.gov/About-us/How-we-operate/Grants-loans)[2].

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[2] https://ecology.wa.gov/About-us/How-we-operate/Grants-loans

Step 2: Check the status of your last Municipal Stormwater Capacity Grant.

If your agreement for last biennia (SFY2023-25) is still active, work with your team to provide Ecology with all deliverables, including the EAGL Recipient Closeout Report (RCOR). If you have questions about closeout requirements, contact Kyle Graunke at Kyle.Graunke@ecy.wa.gov or 360-628-3890 or email capacitygrants@ecy.wa.gov.

If your previous grant is not closed out, you may still apply for the current grant program, however Ecology may delay or deny activation of your new grant.

Step 3: Fill out the application forms for the 2025-27 Municipal Stormwater Grants.

This application is very short. Most of the application fields will be auto filled, including the scope of work. Funding for this program is not awarded competitively, and the application will not be scored. The information provided in the application will be used to develop the application with the appropriate contact information.

Please note that your project manager, financial manager, and authorized signatory must all have a SAW account and EAGL access. You will have another opportunity to update these names prior to signing the agreement.

Step 4: Submit the application.

Many applicants fill out the application and fail to submit. To submit the application, you must change the status to "submitted." Only an authorized official may submit an application on behalf of your agency.

Application Tip: An AUTHORIZED OFFICIAL is someone that works for the city or county and will handle administrative tasks such as providing updated contact information and submitting requests for payment. Applicants may not assign the role of AUTHORIZED OFFICIAL to a consultant or contractor.

An AUTHORIZED SIGNATORY is the person who has the legal authority to enter into an agreement, the mayor, for example. They will still need to have a SAW account, but they do not need to be assigned the role of Authorized Official. If this person changes after the application is submitted, but before the agreement is signed, you will be able to change this person at any time after the agreement is ready for signature.

More information about using the EAGL system is available in the EAGL Users Guide[3].

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[3] https://apps.ecology.wa.gov/publications/documents/1701015.pdf

Grant Management

The following terms and conditions play a role in the day-to-day decisions made on grant projects. A listing of the administrative requirements for all grants and loans administered by Ecology is provided in the [Administrative Requirements for Recipients of Ecology Grants and Loans Managed in EAGL](#)[4].

Administration

Applicants may request up to $5,000 of the total grant award for TASK 1 GRANT AND LOAN MANAGEMENT in the project application. This task will include the cost of preparing quarterly and final reports, payment requests, and maintaining project documentation. Applicants may include an overhead charge of up to 30 percent of salaries and benefits for employees for time spent specifically on the project. Overhead is only available for permittee staff time and may not be charged for purchases or contracts.

The funding agreement is the formal written contractual arrangement signed by authorized signatories of the recipient and Ecology. The agreement will include an approved scope of work, total project costs, a budget, a performance schedule, and Ecology General Terms and Conditions. Ecology assigns a staff member to provide project and financial management to each funded project.

Payment requests and project reporting

Recipients must submit a progress report via the EAGL system quarterly, even if they are not requesting reimbursement that quarter. If the grant recipient fails to submit two or more consecutive quarterly reports via the EAGL grant management system, Ecology may consider this failure to provide progress reports as non-performance and initiate actions to amend or terminate this agreement.

All grant payments are made on a reimbursement basis. Failure to provide adequate progress reports and expense documentation will result in denied payment requests and may result in project termination or other actions.

Grant recipients may elect to complete projects prior to March 31, 2027. Recipients that close out projects by successfully submitting all deliverables, the RCOR, and a final payment request to Ecology will not be required to submit additional quarterly reports.

Equipment purchase eligibility

Equipment purchased must be of a specialized nature specific to stormwater program implementation to be eligible for reimbursement. Tools, vehicles, and other equipment for general facility or vehicle maintenance are not eligible. Recipients are encouraged to contact

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[4] https://fortress.wa.gov/ecy/publications/publications/1401002.pdf.

the Ecology Project Manager for written pre-approval prior to purchasing equipment. Ecology may require additional documentation to determine the eligibility of equipment purchased.

Project completion dates and extensions

Applicants may incur project costs on and after the effective date published in the Final Offer List, but Ecology cannot reimburse expenditures until the agreement has been signed by Ecology's Water Quality Program Manager. While applicants can incur eligible costs before the agreement is signed, they do so at their own risk.

Projects must be completed no later than March 31, 2027. Ecology may approve extensions for extenuating circumstances by formal amendment. Ecology will not authorize extensions for projects that have not diligently pursued project completion or have not provided adequate and timely progress reports. In no case will extensions be approved beyond June 30, 2027.

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[i] http://www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/wq/stormwater/municipal/index.html