

319(h) Nonpoint Source Grant

Kentucky Division of Water

General Grant Questions

Question: What is the Section 319(h) Grant Program?

Answer: The 319(h) Grant Program is a competitive financial assistance grant program established to help control nonpoint source (NPS) pollution. Under Section 319 of the Clean Water Act, federal funds are allocated to state agencies. These funds are used to support state NPS management programs. The 319(h) grant is a reimbursement grant, meaning 60% of the funds spent in each invoice will be reimbursed. A 40% non-federal match is required. Kentucky's Section 319(h) Grant Program offers financial assistance for the following type of projects:

- Development of an EPA-approved Watershed Based Plan
- Implementation of an EPA-approved Watershed Based Plan
- Nonpoint Source Education and Statewide Outreach
- Demonstration Projects

Question: How much Section 319(h) Grant Program funding is available in Kentucky?

Answer: Based on allocation of federal funding in the past years, the Kentucky Division of Water (KDOW) estimates that approximately \$1,000,000* will be available in Kentucky for Section 319(h) Grant Program Funded projects in an average year. *This allocation is subject to change each year.

The \$1,000,000 is split into two categories: Programmatic and Implementation funds. More funding is available for implantation, which can only be utilized if a project is proposed within a watershed with an approved Watershed Plan. Programmatic funds are used for all other NPS projects, such as developing a Watershed Plan, Nonpoint Source Education and Statewide Outreach, and Demonstration Projects.

Question: What is the average budget and timeline per project?

Answer: Total project budgets range from \$75,000 to \$300,000, depending on the type of project. This includes a minimum 40% non-federal cash or in-kind match. Applicants considering a request outside this range, or projects unable to meet the match requirements are encouraged to contact [Michaela Lambert](#) prior to submitting a 319(h) Grant application.

Project periods typically range from 24-36 months following finalization of the grant agreement. At the end of the project period, a portion of the funding will be withheld until a final grant report is submitted and approved.

Question: How many Section 319(h) Grant applications are funded each year?

Approximately 10 projects per year under the Section 319(h) Grant Program. This number is dependent upon the

grant funds available, the number of applications received and the amount that is requested by the applicants. [Review past funded projects.](#)

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Question: What is the selection process to determine if my application gets funding?

Answer: All applications are ranked based on set criteria, found in our [resource section](#).

There are three types of projects associated with 319(h) funding, therefore each type of project has a different set of criteria:

- **Implementation Funding:** These projects are associated with an EPA approved Watershed Plan and the application details how the organization intends to implement that watershed plan.
- **Programmatic Funding:** These projects are designing and developing Watershed Plans for a specified HUC12 or implementing a demonstration project. These projects are not associated with an EPA Approved Watershed Plan.
- **Statewide Education Programs:** These projects cover a specific educational topic for the entire state. These projects are not associated with an EPA Approved Watershed Plan.

Eligibility Questions

Question: Who is eligible to apply for 319(h) funding?

Answer: Applicants may include communities, citizen groups, government agencies, colleges or universities and nonprofits. Although government agencies may apply, 319(h) funds cannot be used to fulfill a federal permit, or use federal funds as match. For additional information contact your [Basin Coordinator](#).

Question: What is not eligible for 319(h) funding?

Answer: Section 319(h) funds projects that address nonpoint source pollution. Projects that attempt to control pollution from point source discharges, which are subject to Kentucky Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (KPDES) permitting requirements, are ineligible for 319(h) funding.

- Section 319(h) funds cannot be used for research, faculty salaries, and development of college credit courses or tuition.
- Section 319(h) funds cannot be used for developing or purchasing promotional paraphernalia (e.g. T-shirts, bumper stickers, mugs, etc.)
- Projects are not allowed to sell products produced or make loans with Section 319(h) funds.

Contact your [Basin Coordinator](#) or email [Michaela Lambert](#) to discuss project eligibility.

Question: Can 319(h) funds be spent in an MS4 area?

Answer: Since the 319(h) and Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4) program have the same overall goal - to improve water quality- there are several opportunities for partnership. Citizen groups are encouraged to work with local municipalities and MS4 entities to identify opportunities.

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Federal rules prohibit the use of 319(h) grant funds in meeting NPDES permit requirements, including those listed in MS4 permits. Each MS4 permit contains a list of activities and/or best management practices (BMP) that the MS4 entity is required to implement to control stormwater. The 319(h) funds cannot be used to construct BMPs or carry out any activities required by the permit, unless those BMPs or activities are above and beyond the requirements of the MS4 permit. Even in these allowed instances, MS4 permittees are forbidden from using 319(h) funded activities/BMPs as a means of compliance with permit requirements.

Application Process Questions

Question: Where can I find assistance with the Section 319(h) Grant Application?

Answer: For assistance with the 319(h) Grant Program application, please contact the Kentucky Division of Water – Nonpoint Source and Basin Team Section:

NPS & BT Section Supervisor: [Michaela Lambert](#)

If you know your state river basin, contact your [Basin Coordinator](#).

Question: How do I find more information about my watershed for the application?

Answer: The [319 Watershed & Report Viewer](#) allow interested partners to run a report that includes all necessary data for the 319(h) applications, including the HUC12 numbers.

If you cannot locate the information needed or need assistance with the viewer, please contact your [Basin Coordinator](#).

Question: What makes a project stand out during application ranking?

Answer: Successful projects are those that implement Best Management Practices (BMPs) or those that produce educational material that result in significant reduction of NPS to impaired waterbodies that would likely be removed from the [State's List of Impaired Waters](#). In evaluating applications, preference is given to projects that maximize 319 funds spent for actual, on-the-ground work.

Projects that limit the amount of 319(h) grant funds allocated to both salaries and benefits of employees of the grantee and all sub-contracted personnel charges to 25% or less of total 319 funds requested will be much more competitive when evaluated for funding.

Approved Project Questions

Question: What is the definition of in-kind match?

Answer: In-kind match is a non-cash contribution of value provided by the contracted organization or by non-Federal third parties. In-kind match includes materials and services, space and utilities, equipment and technical assistance provided by the contracted organization and volunteer time associated with the project or activity.

The volunteer hour in-kind match rate is \$28.54 ([Independent Sector Releases New Value of Volunteer Time of \\$28.54 Per Hour — Independent Sector](#)) for the FFY23 Grant Cycle.

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Student's and children's time cannot be used as an in-kind match for the project.

Question: Will I be responsible for water quality monitoring?

Answer: In most cases, the Division of Water can provide the necessary water quality monitoring needed for the development

of an EPA Approved Watershed Plan. The NPS and Basin Coordinator Section will work with applicants to assess your

needs for the project.

If you are interested in developing a watershed plan and have questions about water quality monitoring, contact your [Basin Coordinator](#) for additional guidance.

Question: What are the required reporting documents for a 319(h) grant?

Answer: All projects will need to submit an Invoice and Progress Report at least quarterly. Implementation projects are required to submit an Annual Report spreadsheet which details BMPs implemented throughout the year. The last commitment is to complete and submit a Project Final Report. The purpose of these documents are to provide accountability for dollars spent and to offer an analysis of activities undertaken.

A [resource section](#) on our website includes all necessary templates for required documents. If you are in need of these resources in a different format, or do not see the resources needed to complete your application, contact [Michaela Lambert](#).

Question: What kinds of projects might need 401 Certification?

Answer: Placement of dredged or fill material into waters and/or wetlands Structural fill such as culverts or bridge supports Road or utility crossings In-stream basins

- Dredging, excavation, channel widening or straightening
- Bank sloping; stabilization
- Stream channel relocation
- Water diversions
- Divert, obstruct or change the natural flow or bed stream and/or wetland

See the [Water Quality Certification Website](#) for complete information