

## CAPACITY BUILDING AND PROJECT PLANNING FUNDING

### CALL FOR APPLICATIONS



#### **Purpose**

The Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) and the Nonpoint Source and Wetlands Section will award funds for capacity building and project planning purposes in areas that do not have a DEQ-accepted WRP. Projects must lead to reduction or prevention of nonpoint source pollution and must implement actions consistent with an existing state or tribal Nonpoint Source Management Plan.

The intent for these funds is to increase organizational capacity, aid in watershed planning, and/or lead to a grant application(s) for larger on-the-ground project activities that align with new EPA guidance.

## Nonpoint Source and Wetlands Section’s Capacity Building and Project Planning – Call for Applications

Example activities include:

- Preliminary data collection on a previously un-assessed waterbody
- Development of a Watershed Restoration Plan (WRP) or alternative
- Development of a Tribal Nonpoint Source Management Plan
- Demonstration projects to encourage partnerships with landowners
- Capacity building to support growth of an organization (trainings and symposiums, monitoring equipment, etc.).
- Nonpoint source pollution reduction projects that invest in/benefit traditionally underserved communities
- Pursuing creative finance partnerships to address match requirements
- Conducting a water quality investigation to help prioritize the most effective restoration options and build stakeholder buy in (this type of project will likely require a Sampling and Analysis Plan)
- Cultivating partnerships with landowners and land managers to develop future projects that could be eligible for §319 grant funding

**Total funding available:** \$80,000

**Individual awards:** Recommended \$5,000 - \$10,000 per applicant, not to exceed \$10,000 per applicant

**Funding source:** USEPA §319 federal funds

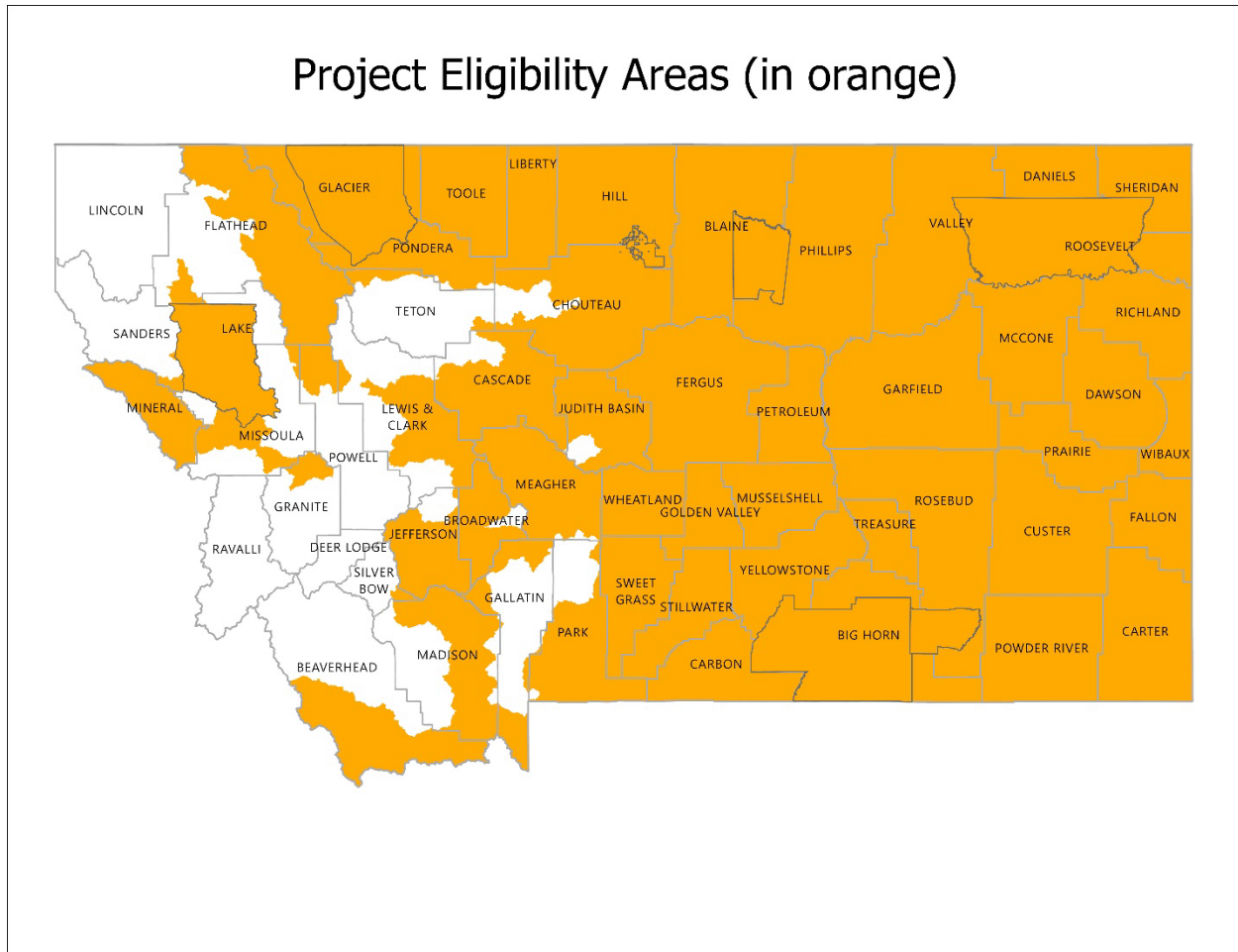
**Cost share:** Encouraged, but not required (In-kind donations or other non-federal match)

### Anticipated Schedule

June 1, 2023	Issue Call for Project Planning Applications. Please notify us as soon as possible of your intent to apply. Applicants are encouraged to reach out early on to discuss ideas.
July 10, 2023	Complete, signed applications due to Meagan Gilmore ( <a href="mailto:Meagan.Gilmore@mt.gov">Meagan.Gilmore@mt.gov</a> ) by 5:00 pm.
July 24, 2023	Applications will be reviewed and evaluated by an internal, DEQ review panel.
August 7, 2023	Notice of intent to award will be sent to successful applicants.
August 31, 2023	Letters of Agreement will be drafted and finalized in consultation with project sponsors. Upon signature, funding becomes available.
November 29, 2024	Final reports must be completed, and all funding must be expended. Final reports will be dependent on the nature of the scope of work but should be a brief (1-2 page) summary that would include how organizational capacity was built, final drafts of watershed planning documents, lessons learned, or details of project designs or proposals developed.

**Applicant Eligibility:** Government entities (including Tribes), and nonprofit organizations having a tax exempt declaration of 501(c)(3)

**Project Eligibility:** Projects must address nonpoint source pollution in areas that do not have an existing, DEQ-accepted Watershed Restoration Plan (see map).



Additionally, use the [Montana Watershed Plan Viewer](#) to determine if you are within a region without an approved WRP. If have any questions or you believe that your organization is eligible for this funding but is not included, please contact us. Current WRPs are listed on the [Nonpoint Source and Wetlands Webpage](#).

### **Application Competitiveness**

Applications will be evaluated based on the degree to which they meet the following criteria:

- The objectives for the funds, scope, and proposed activities are clearly stated.
- The proposed work is an appropriate next step for protection or improvement of water quality.

## Nonpoint Source and Wetlands Section's Capacity Building and Project Planning – Call for Applications

- The extent to which planning activities will result in sustainable increased capacity of the applicant's group.
- The proposed work will lead to the completion of a local Watershed Restoration Plan or tribal nonpoint source plan.
- The extent to which planning and proposed implementation activities help meet the goals of a Nonpoint Source Management Plan.
- The objective for the funds and proposed activities will result in an on-the-ground project.
- The project involves appropriate implementation and funding partners and has significant stakeholder support.
- Complete application that ties proposed activities with a reasonable timeline and budget.

All applications will be reviewed by an internal DEQ review team. Additional review and information may be sought from partner agencies. A scoring sheet using the above criteria will be used to rank applications and are shown on the application form. However, the final decisions are at the discretion of the DEQ internal review team based on program priorities. Project awards are also contingent upon the FY23 Section 319 grant award from EPA.

### **Unanticipated Changes**

Information in this Call may be subject to change based on unforeseen changes to DEQ priorities. If changes become necessary, DEQ will notify selectively solicited groups via email.

### **Contact Us**

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