# DEQ Nonpoint Source Management Program is accepting nonpoint source projects for ARPA Competitive Grant Program

Montana Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) is the agency responsible for identifying and developing necessary water quality protection and improvement programs in Montana. The DEQ Nonpoint Source (NPS) Management Program provides technical and financial resources for projects that reduce and prevent nonpoint source pollution in impaired waterbodies while improving water quality and restoring natural stream and lake processes. This includes an annual call for proposals for Federal 319 project funding. We are typically able to fund design and implementation of projects at up to $1 million annually, which means that we are unable to fund all of the beneficial projects submitted.

The Montana DNRC recently released a call for applications for their new [Competitive Grant Program](https://arpa-mtdnrc.hub.arcgis.com/pages/competitive-grant-program) Funded through American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA). This program will fund qualifying water and sewer projects within Montana. The DEQ NPS Management Program intends to apply for this funding to implement projects that will lead to a reduction in nonpoint sources of pollution and improve water quality.

As such, DEQ NPS Management Program is seeking potential projects that meet the ARPA Competitive Grant Program criteria and goals of the [2017 Montana Nonpoint Source Management Plan](https://deq.mt.gov/files/Water/WPB/Nonpoint/Publications/Annual%20Reports/2017NPSManagementPlanFinal.pdf) and can be completed by 2026.

Guidance and application for the Competitive Grant Program can be found here: [ARPA Grant Application GuidanceFINAL\_1.pdf (mt.gov)](https://repos.dnrc.mt.gov/esri/hub/arpa/assets/ARPA%20Grant%20Application%20GuidanceFINAL_1.pdf). Please review the guidance and application carefully to understand how your project fits into the program goals.

Please contact Eric Trum ([etrum@mt.gov](mailto:etrum@mt.gov)) by July 7, 2021 with project ideas. Final project applications will be due to DNRC by July 15, 2021.