



CLEAN WATER ACT 604(B) GRANT PROGRAM

What is the Clean Water Act 604(b) Grant Program?

Section 604(b) of the Clean Water Act requires the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency to reserve each year for each State 1% or \$100,000, whichever is greater, of its share of Title II funds for statewide water quality management planning. In the case of New Mexico, the annual amount reserved is anticipated to be \$101,000. Section 205(j)(3) of the CWA provides, with certain exceptions, that 40%, or \$40,400, of these funds be allotted to regional public comprehensive planning organizations for water quality management planning activities that will contribute to the State water quality management program.

Who is eligible to apply?

Clean Water Act 604(b) funds are allotted to regional public comprehensive planning organizations. Regional public comprehensive planning organizations are defined as regional planning agencies, councils of governments, conservation districts, irrigation districts, counties, cities and towns, and other non-federal or non-state public planning agencies. Such organizations must be chartered with appropriate powers as a unit of New Mexico local government, an independent sub-state agency, or an interstate organization under an interstate agreement of which New Mexico is a party. Organizations operating as an arm of the state or federal government are not eligible.

What projects are eligible?

Any water quality management planning activities, as defined in sections 205(j) and 303(e) of the Clean Water Act, are eligible. Eligible projects include water quality management planning activities that will contribute to the State water quality management program. Applications submitted for this funding should focus on water quality management planning activities outside of those eligible for funding by the annual SWQB 319(h) Non-Point Source Management Program RFP process. Recently funded projects include lake and river water quality monitoring, watershed planning, and GIS/socioeconomic analysis for a watershed stormwater permit.

What is the timeline?

The 30-day submission period for the 604(b) Request for Quote process is generally initiated annually in January. Any potential offeror is invited to submit questions related to the RFQ during the submission period and NMED-SWQB staff will publicly post the answer to those questions before the end of the submission period. NMED-SWQB staff will review any submitted proposals and contact the offerors by the end of the March. Projects are funded on an annual basis from July 1-June 30.

How can I receive notifications about the 604(b) process?

Public notices are published in newspapers statewide, but the most efficient way to receive 604(b) program updates is to join the SWQB email list from the main SWQB website. <https://www.env.nm.gov/surface-water-quality/>