



Federal Clean Water Act Section 604b Grant: Water Quality Management Planning

Notice of Solicitation for Applications (SFA)

Every year under Section 604(b) of the Clean Water Act (CWA) grant, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) allocates approximately 1% of Clean Water State Revolving Fund allotments (or \$100,000 if greater than 1%) to support State water quality planning activities. States are required to allocate at least 40 percent of the annual award to eligible Regional Public Comprehensive Planning Organizations and Interstate Organizations, unless EPA approves a lesser amount. Funds are used to determine the nature and extent of point and nonpoint source water pollution and to develop plans to resolve these problems.

Through this Solicitation for Applications (SFA), the New Mexico Environment Department (NMED) plans to fund subrecipients through a competitive project selection process. As such, NMED seeks detailed applications (i.e., project proposals) to conduct water quality management planning. Applicants are encouraged to submit project proposals that address the State's water quality goals to preserve, protect, and improve the water quality in New Mexico, including projects that focus on Total Maximum Daily Loads (TMDLs), Use Attainability Analyses (UAAs), or other water quality management planning activities that directly address identified water quality impairments but do not overlap with development of watershed-based plans that are eligible for funding through NMED's 319(h) program.

Applications are due no later than 5:00 pm Mountain Time on September 26, 2025 The applicant should check the NMED website <https://www.env.nm.gov/subgrants/> and for the most recent updates to this SFA, including questions and answers, and addendums.

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Attachment A: Solicitation for Applications (SFA) – Information & Instructions

Attachment B: Sample Agreement

Key Documents and Websites:

- List of New Mexico TMDLs and Prioritization Framework and 10-year Vision
<https://www.env.nm.gov/surface-water-quality/tmdl/>
- Clean Water Act 305(b)/303(d) Integrated Report and List of Impaired Waters
<https://www.env.nm.gov/surface-water-quality/303d-305b/>

1. Program overview

The New Mexico Environment Department's (NMED) Surface Water Quality Bureau (SWQB) seeks applications from **regional public comprehensive planning organizations** to conduct water quality management planning as defined under sections 205(j) and 303(e) of the CWA. While all applications focused on water quality management planning are welcomed, those that will fund activities that clearly address the State's water quality goals to preserve, protect, and improve the water quality in New Mexico are likely to be rated highest. In this respect, NMED encourages applications (i.e., project proposals) that focus on Total Maximum Daily Loads (TMDLs)¹, Use Attainability Analyses (UAAs)², or other water quality management planning activities that directly address identified water quality impairments but do not overlap with development of watershed-based plans that are eligible for funding through NMED's CWA Section 319(h) nonpoint source management program.

2. Funding

Funding for selected projects will be provided through Federal Clean Water Act Section 604(b) grant funds. Every fiscal year, EPA reserves a minimum of \$100,000 for each State water quality management agency to carry out water quality management planning. States are required to allocate at least 40% of the annual award to eligible Regional Public Comprehensive Planning Organizations and Interstate Organizations, unless EPA approves a lesser amount.

Funding is dependent on the receipt of federal grants authorized under Section 604(b). NMED anticipates being able to award up to \$65,600 to selected subrecipients in January 2026.

Match requirements

This program has no matching or maintenance of effort requirements.

3. Eligibility

Those eligible for funding include Regional Public Comprehensive Planning Organizations, which include municipal governments, county governments, conservations districts, and irrigation and/or drainage districts.

4. Application review process

Applications received by the deadline will be reviewed using a three-phase process. Late applications will not be considered for review.

Phase I – Minimum requirements review

The SWQB will determine if eligibility requirements are met. Any application found to be ineligible will be eliminated from further evaluation.

Minimum requirements:

- Complete application: Application form submitted via email as Microsoft Word or Adobe PDF document.
- Eligible applicant (meets the definition of a regional public comprehensive planning organization).
- Eligible project (a project that focuses on water quality management planning).

¹ A TMDL determines a pollutant reduction target and allocates load reductions necessary to the source(s) of the pollutant.

² A UAA is the scientific assessment of natural or human-caused conditions that affect attainment of a designated use.

Phase II – Evaluate applications

Only those applications found to pass Phase I will be considered in Phase II. The SWQB may request clarification from one or more applicants. The clarifications will be made in writing for evaluation purposes. The response to the request for clarification will be considered along with the original application for application scoring.

An Evaluation Committee will review and score project applications. Reviewers will evaluate applications using the evaluation criteria found in the grant application form.

Phase III – Select finalist(s)

After scoring, applications are ranked to determine project funding, merit, and available dollars.

Notification

The SWQB anticipates all applicants will be notified of award within approximately sixty days of the application due date. Scores and comments on the applications will be provided on the NMED website at:

<https://www.env.nm.gov/subgrants/>.

Successful applicants will be invited to enter into a Sub-Grant Agreement with NMED, following the format in the Sample Agreement (Attachment B and <https://www.env.nm.gov/subgrants/>). Grant agreements will be finalized depending on the date of receipt of the award from EPA. **NMED anticipates work may begin as early as January 2026.**

5. Application questions

Applicants who have questions regarding this SFA must email questions to Heidi.Henderson@env.nm.gov, subject line: **“604b Grant Application Questions,”** no later than **11:59 pm Mountain Time on September 10, 2025**. Applicants who submit questions will be added to a distribution list for this SFA.

A final list of all questions and answers during the open Q & A period will be posted on the NMED website <https://www.env.nm.gov/subgrants/> by **5:00 pm Mountain Time on September 17, 2025**. It is the applicant’s responsibility to check the NMED website for the most recent updates, including questions and answers and addendums.

NMED-SWQB personnel are not authorized to discuss this SFA with applicants. Contact regarding this SFA with any NMED-SWQB personnel except as described above may result in disqualification.

6. Application submission

Applications must be received electronically by the SWQB no later than **5:00 pm Mountain Time on September 26, 2025**. Email applications to Heidi.Henderson@env.nm.gov with the subject line: **“604b Grant Application.”**

The email properties header will reflect the date and time submissions are received. Application submissions received after the deadline will not be considered eligible. NMED is not responsible for any errors or delays caused by technology-related issues, even if they are caused by NMED.

Applications submitted via any other method, including but not limited to fax, mail, in-person deliveries, will not be accepted.

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NMED does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, disability, age or sex in the administration of its programs or activities, as required by applicable laws and regulations. NMED is responsible for coordination of compliance efforts and receipt of inquiries concerning non-discrimination requirements implemented by 40 C.F.R. Parts 5 and 7, including Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, as amended; Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973; the Age Discrimination Act of 1975, Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, and Section 13 of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act Amendments of 1972. If you have any questions about this notice or any of NMED's non-discrimination programs, policies or procedures, you may contact:

Kate Cardenas, Non-Discrimination Coordinator
New Mexico Environment Department
1190 St. Francis Dr., Suite N4050
P.O. Box 5469
Santa Fe, NM 87502
(505) 827-2855
nd.coordinator@env.nm.gov
<https://www.env.nm.gov/general/environmental-justice-in-new-mexico/>

If you believe that you have been discriminated against with respect to a NMED program or activity, you may contact the Non-Discrimination Coordinator identified above.
