

Surface Water Education Grants



Education projects reach people with information about how surface waters work, their importance, and how we can protect them. Eligible projects might focus on the quality of aquatic ecosystems, their beneficial uses, ecological condition, and the threats or challenges they face. Projects often contribute data and other products to planning efforts. Funding is available for lakes, rivers, wetlands and watersheds. In addition, funding is available to support the formation and development of river management organizations.

Prerequisites

Eligible organization

Applicants must submit their pre-proposal by September 2, applications are due November 1.

Funding

Grants may be awarded for up to 67% of total project costs, up to \$5,000.

The maximum combined annual amount of all education and planning grants per waterbody is \$50,000.

Reimbursements

One grant advance is available for up to 75% of the total grant award.

25% of the grant award is retained until approval of deliverables and reimbursement documentation.

Eligible projects

[Surface Water Information & Education projects](#) collect data to better understand waterbody condition and disseminate that information to broaden public understanding. Projects may also focus on surface water condition, quality, protection and restoration.

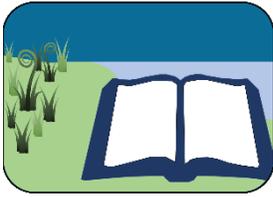
[Aquatic Invasive Species Information & Education projects](#) often collect data on AIS populations, focus on AIS identification, communicate information about threats and effects, and how to prevent spread or control existing populations.

[Training & Skill Development projects](#) can help a grantee fund workshops or other training programs for volunteers or other participants involved in another lake or river planning or management project.

[Organization Development projects](#) help an organization develop the capacity to carry out planning or management work. An organization may build capacity by growing its membership, enhancing relationships with partners and building skills and resources. Projects may also assist an organization to formulate goals and objectives for other surface water planning or management projects.

[River Management Organization Formation projects](#) can be used to provide programs and materials to assist in forming a river management organization. Eligible activities include training, facilitated planning programs and workshops, development, printing and dissemination of information, surveys or other materials designed to understand or attract members.

Surface Water Planning Grants



Surface water planning grants can be used to assess surface water quality or to create a plan outlining future management actions for the benefit of surface water. Planning projects must lay the groundwork to protect or improve surface water, prevent pollution, prevent aquatic invasive species, or protect or improve aquatic ecosystems, including biological populations and habitat. For more details, see program guidance [Appendix B: Management Planning](#).

Prerequisites

Eligible organization

Applicants must submit their pre-proposal by September 2, applications are due November 1.

Funding

Grants may be awarded for up to 67% of total project costs, up to \$10,000.

No more than 20% of the funding for a planning project may support education and outreach activities.

The maximum combined annual amount of all education and planning grants per waterbody is \$50,000.

Reimbursements

One grant advance is available for up to 75% of the total grant award.

25% of the grant award is retained until approval of deliverables and reimbursement documentation.

Eligible projects

[Preparing to Plan projects](#) take the first steps toward a comprehensive management plan. Eligible projects inventory and identify data gaps, collect new data, conduct condition assessments following the [Wisconsin Consolidated Assessment and Listing Methodology \(WisCALM\)](#), identify management problems, inventory historical management, or assess planning needs to scope and scale a project.

[Management Plans & Plan Update projects](#) write a focused management plan to address a management challenge or update a focused or comprehensive management plan when necessary. Updates to management plans that have been implemented will have priority over those that have not. Required elements for management plans can be found in program guidance [Appendix B: Management Planning](#).

[Organization & Community Assessment projects](#) focus on the social dimensions of collaborative planning projects. See program guidance [Appendix C: Social Science Tools](#). Projects may identify stakeholders, assess a community's capacity, identify values or define management goals or objectives.

[Water Quality, Watershed, or Aquatic Life Assessment projects](#) attempt to understand ecological condition and contribute to planning and management. These projects often collect or assemble and analyze data on waterbodies, biological populations, or watersheds. Eligible projects might conduct WisCALM assessments, conduct field surveys, inventory stressors, or predict (model) the outcome of management actions.

[Pre-Implementation projects](#) provide a transition between planning and implementation. Design work may be required before a project is 'shovel-ready'. A pre-implementation project might result in engineering plans, site assessments, modelling or design plans. Projects should contribute to the implementation of projects that will benefit surface water. Projects related to dredging feasibility must focus on evaluating alternatives, determining sources, and finding long-term water quality solutions.

Comprehensive Management Planning for Lakes & Watersheds



A strategic plan can lay the foundation for good management decisions for years to come. A comprehensive management planning project will take a hard look at a waterbody or watershed to determine condition and quality. It will identify threats, problems and causes, while providing strategic direction and timeline for implementation of management objectives. The plan will strive to understand your community, its goals, and suggest actions to accomplish them. Funding is available for writing new plans and updating existing plans. For more details, see program guidance [Appendix B: Management Planning](#).

Prerequisites

Eligible organization

Applicants must submit their pre-proposal by September 2, applications are due November 1.

Funding

Grants may be awarded for up to 67% of total project costs, up to \$25,000.

Phased projects may be undertaken simultaneously or in succession.

The maximum combined annual amount of all education and planning grants per waterbody is \$50,000.

Reimbursements

One grant advance is available for up to 75% of the total grant award.

25% of the grant award is retained until approval of deliverables and reimbursement documentation.

Eligible projects

[Comprehensive Management Planning](#) projects will result in a new or updated comprehensive management plan. A management plan is a dynamic document that presents baseline information, explores management challenges, defines management goals and objectives, and provides strategic direction for selecting management actions and planning activities to accomplish plan objectives. The plan should present a set of recommended management actions, and include a plan for implementation, progress assessment, and future updates. Comprehensive plans will address in-water, shoreline, and watershed conditions. See program guidance [Appendix B: Management Planning](#).

Conditions

A description of the public review process, a summary of comments, and the steps the grantee will take to adopt the plan must be submitted along with the plan at the same time the grantee requests final payment for the planning project.

Plans must contain the core elements identified in program guidance [Appendix B: Management Planning](#).

The department will review submitted plans and may require modifications prior to final payment.

Plan recommendations must be approved in order to be eligible for implementation under the surface water management grant program. A grantee may request a determination of eligibility of one or more recommendations for a management grant at the time the grantee requests final payment on the planning grant.