# **Fact Sheet**

# Sewer Overflow and Stormwater Reuse Municipal Grants Program

The Department of Environmental Quality awards grants for eligible projects that are on the Clean Water State Revolving Fund Intended Use Plan or identified by the DEQ Stormwater Permitting program. DEQ reviews projects from interested organizations annually between Nov. 1 and March 1. Funds can be used for planning, design, and construction of stormwater management projects, green stormwater infrastructure, and to address combined stormwater and sanitary sewer overflows.

## **Project information**

Managing runoff remains a complex environmental challenge for local communities across Oregon. The grant program provides funding for stormwater infrastructure projects to communities facing financial challenges in efforts to correct these issues. Urban stormwater is a significant source of water pollution that can create a public health concern if it collects pollutants (including trash, chemicals, oils, and dirt/sediment) and conveys them to nearby waterways. When mixed with domestic and industrial wastewater in combined sewers, stormwater can also contribute to combined sewer overflows during heavy storm events.

## Frequently asked questions

General information about the Sewer Overflow and Stormwater Reuse Municipal Grant funds can be found in the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's <u>OSG guidance</u>. Additional questions can be addressed to the contact at the end of this document.

Eligible organizations must be a federally recognized Indian Tribal Government or Public Agency. Public agencies include:

- A state agency, incorporated city, county, sanitary authority or district, school district, county services district, metropolitan service district, or other special district authorized or required to construct water pollution facilities.
- An intergovernmental entity created by local government under <u>ORS 190</u>.

#### What can these funds be used for?

The program funds can be used for the planning, design, or construction of projects to address and prevent combined sewer overflows, sanitary sewer overflows, and other stormwater management projects. All selected projects will have clearly identified timelines for completion prior in the work plan prior to receiving an award. Some specific eligible project types include:

- Updating stormwater master plans
- Stormwater system improvements to aging infrastructure.
- Green infrastructure such as bioswales and green runoff areas like rain gardens.
- Structures to capture, store and direct runoff such as gutters and downspouts.

#### Translation or other formats

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#### What is the application process?

All projects for DEQ's OSG funds are selected from applications that have been approved for the Clean Water State Revolving Fund Intended Use Plan or identified through DEQ's Stormwater Permitting program. There is no additional application required, however projects requesting OSG funding must identify distinct stormwater components and submit an Organization Information Form between Nov. 1 and March 1 annually to receive funding the following state fiscal year.

#### How much funding is available for each stormwater project?

Funding amounts for OSG grants are based on community needs, funds available, and project scope. Because of these variables, the total number of awards and the grant amount will vary each award cycle.

#### Are matching funds a requirement?

Matching funds may be required depending on the community and project. This program uses <u>EPA's screening</u> tool to assess whether a project requires match funds. The maximum required match for OSG funds is 20%.

#### What parts of a stormwater project does the program fund?

These program funds can be used for all identified stormwater components of a qualified project and may be used in part or whole to cover qualified costs. DEQ will work with grant recipients to identify which portions of the project can be funded with these grants.

#### Can property be purchased for our stormwater project?

Yes, property can be purchased under the Treatment Works definition of land purchase for construction of a stormwater management facility. If the land purchased with program funds is later converted for other use, the recipient may be required to repay funds to the EPA.

#### Do Build America Buy America Act rules apply to these projects?

Construction portions of OSG projects are required to follow the Build America Buy America Act rules as well as other flow down requirements for hiring, lobbying and other rules. There may be exceptions for BABA rules for individual projects, and those waiver requests must be completed by the recipient, and results reported to DEQ.

### **Resource links**

- OSG Program Guidance
- ORS 190
- <u>Clean Water State Revolving Fund green criteria</u>
- Oregon Stormwater Permitting information
- BABA information

## Contact

Megan Hendrickson Community and Program Assistance Email: <u>wqgrants.info@deq.oregon.gov</u> Phone: 503-539-3295

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