

**Illinois Environmental Protection Agency
Section 604b – Water Quality Management Planning**

**Notice of Funding Opportunity
Summary Information**

	Data Field	
1.	Awarding Agency Name:	Illinois Environmental Protection Agency (Illinois EPA)
2.	Agency Contact:	Scott Ristau epa.bowgrants@illinois.gov 217-782-3362
3.	Announcement Type:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Initial announcement <input type="checkbox"/> Modification of a previous announcement
4.	Type of Assistance Instrument:	Grant
5.	Funding Opportunity Number:	2020 Section 604b WQMP
6.	Funding Opportunity Title:	Section 604b –Water Quality Management Planning
7.	CSFA Number:	532-60-0376
8.	CSFA Popular Name:	Section 604b Grant Program
9.	CFDA Number(s):	66.454
10.	Anticipated Number of Awards:	Approximately 3 grant awards per year
11.	Estimated Total Program Funding:	Approximately \$375,000 per year
12.	Award Range	Not applicable. No set maximum or minimum amount.
13.	Source of Funding:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Federal or Federal pass-through <input type="checkbox"/> State <input type="checkbox"/> Private / other funding
14.	Cost Sharing or Matching Requirement:	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
15.	Indirect Costs Allowed Restrictions on Indirect Costs	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No If yes, provide the citation governing the restriction:
16.	Posted Date:	November 19, 2019
17.	Closing Date for Applications:	5:00 p.m. (CST) on January 15, 2020
18.	Technical Assistance Session:	Session Offered: <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No Session Mandatory: <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No

Illinois Environmental Protection Agency
Section 604b – Water Quality Management Planning

Notice of Funding Opportunity
Detailed Information

A. Program Description

The Illinois Environmental Protection Agency (Illinois EPA) is seeking proposals for water quality management planning projects (projects). The Illinois EPA receives federal funds under Section 604(b) of the federal Clean Water Act (CWA) to carry out water quality management planning activities under Sections 205(j) and 303(e) of the CWA. Grant funds are used to determine the nature, extent, and causes of point and nonpoint source water pollution; develop water quality management plans; develop technical and administrative guidance tools for water pollution control; develop preliminary designs for best management practices (BMPs) to address water quality problems; implement administrative water pollution controls; and educate the public about the impact and importance of water pollution control. The requirements of the United States Environmental Protection Agency's (U.S. EPA) Guidance for Management of Section 205(j)(1) and Section 604(b) Funds apply to all recipients of grants made with funds appropriated by Congress under Section 604b of the CWA.

Illinois EPA's Section 604b Water Quality Management Planning grant program (a.k.a. Section 604b Grant Program) is designed to implement the [*Illinois Water Quality Management Plan*](#) and [*Illinois' Nonpoint Source Management Program*](#) (Illinois EPA, 2013). Nonpoint source (NPS) pollution, unlike pollution from industrial and sewage treatment plants, comes from many diffuse sources. NPS pollution is caused by rainfall or snowmelt moving over and through the ground. As the runoff moves, it picks up and carries away natural and human-made pollutants, finally depositing them into lakes, rivers, wetlands and even our underground sources of drinking water.

Examples of projects and activities that have been funded through the Section 604b Grant Program include:

- Development of a watershed-based plan;
- Development of a Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) implementation plan;
- Development of design specifications for nonpoint source (NPS) pollution control BMPs;
- Technical assistance for water pollution control;
- Environmental and social indicator monitoring to help document the need for water pollution control or to validate the accomplishments of ongoing and completed pollution control projects; and
- Education and Outreach to promote awareness and implementation of activities that may help to restore degraded waters or protect waters from degradation due to pollution.

The list is not all-inclusive.

B. Funding Information

This grant award is utilizing federal pass-through funds received from U.S. EPA and distributed by Illinois EPA under Section 604b of the Clean Water Act. Illinois EPA expects to award a total of approximately **\$375,000 of federal funds** per year and anticipates distributing this amount across approximately two (2) to three (3) awards, or projects, per year. The actual amount depends upon the final U.S. EPA budget approved by Congress and the allocation awarded to Illinois by U.S. EPA. The Section 604b Grant Program does not have a set maximum or minimum total project cost or grant amount. However, in the past, projects have had a federal grant assistance amount that generally ranged from approximately \$50,000 to \$350,000.

This is a reimbursement program. Grant recipients must perform the work, pay project costs, and submit an invoice with supporting documentation before Illinois EPA will reimburse grant recipients for any approved costs. Illinois EPA will only make reimbursements to the grant recipient and will reimburse the grant recipient no more frequently than once per month.

There is no matching requirement for this grant program.

The anticipated start date for approved projects is **October 1, 2020**. Project length is two years (24 months) unless otherwise approved. Costs incurred prior to the execution of the grant agreement or after the project period ends are ineligible for reimbursement.

Applications for renewal or supplementation of existing projects are eligible to compete with applications for new grant awards.

As part of a complete application, the applicant must describe how the grant project will be implemented and include necessary detail to enable the Illinois EPA to manage the proposed grant agreement activity against planned project performance.

The application must propose specific, quantifiable outputs or accomplishments. Interim milestones for implementing the outputs or accomplishments must also be identified along with an associated schedule for completion.

The application must also describe the expected or desired outcomes of the project. The outcomes are the important changes that are to be set in motion or supported by the project. These changes may be environmental or social and may be expected to appear on different time scales. Short term outcomes can include things such as improved knowledge. Intermediate term outcomes can include things such as increased local interest/investment in clean water and improved water quality in the watershed. Long term outcomes can include removal of a waterbody from the list of impaired waters or the local benefits of clean water.

Successful applicants will be required to execute a formal grant agreement and adhere to all requirements of the Section 604b Grant Program and other state and federal contractual requirements.

C. Eligibility Information

1. *Eligible Applicants*

Section 604b Grant Program funds are available to any entity that has legal status to accept funds from the State of Illinois. This can include: local watershed groups; land conservancies or trusts; public and private profit and nonprofit organizations and institutions; units of county, municipal, township, and state governments; universities and colleges; park districts and other local land managing agencies; soil and water conservation districts; conservation organizations; and others.

Section 604b Grant Program applicants must have the financial ability to initiate the project, pay expenses, and then request reimbursement from the Illinois EPA, while continuing to finance their normal operating expenses.

Applicants must have the authority and ability to implement the proposed project, or propose to subcontract portions of the project to the appropriate entities for implementation.

All applications that include a monitoring component will be required to have a Quality Assurance Project Plan (QAPP) approved by Illinois EPA. The QAPP must be completed and approved by Illinois EPA **before** the applicant may apply for a grant that includes a monitoring component. U.S. EPA guidance for QAPPs can be found at: <http://www.epa.gov/quality/qapps.html>.

Applicants **may not apply** for a grant until the applicant has pre-qualified through the Grant Accountability and Transparency Act (GATA) Grantee Portal, www.grants.illinois.gov. During pre-qualification, Dun and Bradstreet verifications are performed including a check of Debarred and Suspended status and good standing with the Secretary of State. The pre-qualification process also includes a financial and administrative risk assessment utilizing an Internal Controls Questionnaire.

2. **Cost Sharing or Matching**

There is no matching requirement for this grant program. However, local match is allowed. Local match may include money spent or in-kind services utilized to complete the approved project tasks but cannot be federal funds or funds used to match another federal program. Local match can be provided by the recipient, sub-contractor, or project partners (including state programs, private foundations, land owners, etc.).

3. **Indirect Cost Rate**

In order to charge indirect costs to a grant, the applicant must have an annually negotiated indirect cost rate agreement (NICRA). There are three types of NICRAs:

- a. **Federally Negotiated Rate.** Organizations that receive direct federal funding may have an indirect cost rate that was negotiated with the Federal Cognizant Agency. The State of Illinois will accept the federally negotiated rate. The applicant must provide a copy of the federally NICRA.
- b. **State Negotiated Rate.** The applicant must negotiate an indirect cost rate with the State of Illinois if they do not have Federally Negotiated Rate or elect to use the De Minimis Rate. The indirect cost rate proposal must be submitted to the State of Illinois within 90 days of the Notice of State Award.
- c. **De Minimis Rate.** An organization that has never received a Federally Negotiated Rate may elect a de minimis rate of 10% of modified total direct cost (MTDC). Once established, the de minimis rate may be used indefinitely. The State of Illinois must verify the calculation of the MTDC annually in order to accept the de minimis rate.

An applicant has the discretion not to claim payment for indirect costs. Applicants that elect not to claim indirect costs cannot be reimbursed for indirect costs.

4. **Other Eligibility Criteria**

The following are not eligible for Section 604b Grant Program funds:

- Activities that do not address water quality or water pollution control;
- Implementation activities such as the construction of best management practices for water pollution control;
- Ineligible activities based on current U.S. EPA guidelines for Section 604b grants.

An applicant's failure to meet an eligibility criterion will not result in the Illinois EPA returning the application without review but will preclude the Illinois EPA from making a Section 604b Grant Program award for that application.

There is no limit on the number of applications an applicant may submit under this announcement.

D. **Application and Submission Information**

1. **Content and Form of Application Submission**

Illinois EPA employs an electronic application that allows the applicant to download the files, enter and save data on their own computer, and return the completed documents to Illinois EPA in an electronic format (Adobe pdf and Microsoft Office compatible files).

A complete application includes the following:

- a. [Uniform Application for State Grant Assistance](#)
- b. [Section 604b Application – Project Details Section](#)
- c. [Uniform Budget Template](#)

It is recommended that applications also include appropriate supporting documentation (i.e., photos, maps, letters of support, etc.).

The Section 604b Grant Program application is available at Illinois EPA's [Water Quality Management Planning Grants web page](#).

Paper copies of the Section 604b Grant Program application are available upon request by contacting the Nonpoint Source Unit at (217) 782-3362.

Applications must be submitted electronically. Electronic submissions can be submitted either:

- a. on a CD or flash drive that is mailed or hand-delivered to

US Postal Service Mailing Address:

Illinois Environmental Protection Agency
Bureau of Water, Nonpoint Source Unit #15
P.O. Box 19276
Springfield, Illinois 62794-9276

Attention: Scott Ristau

Delivery Service Address:

Illinois Environmental Protection Agency
Bureau of Water, Nonpoint Source Unit #15
1021 North Grand Avenue East
Springfield, Illinois 62702

Attention: Scott Ristau

or

- b. sent by email to epa.bowgrants@illinois.gov. Use the [Illinois.Gov File Transfer tool](#) to send files that are up to 2 GB. Include the project title and applicant name in the "Message to Recipient" box. Contact the NPS Unit at (217) 782-3362 regarding any file size limitations or other firewall issues.

2. ***Dun and Bradstreet Universal Numbering System (DUNS) Number and System for Award Management (SAM)***

Each applicant (unless the applicant is an individual or Federal or State awarding agency that is exempt from those requirements under 2 CFR § 25.110(b) or (c), or has an exception approved by the Federal or State awarding agency under 2 CFR § 25.110(d)) is required to:

- a. be registered in SAM **before** submitting its application. If you are not registered in SAM, this link provides a connection for SAM registration: <https://www.sam.gov/>;
- b. provide a valid DUNS number in its application; and
- c. continue to maintain an active SAM registration with current information at all times during which it has an active Federal, Federal pass-through or State award or an application or plan under consideration by a Federal or State awarding agency.

3. ***Submission Dates and Times***

Section 604b Grant Program applications are accepted by Illinois EPA by January 15th of each year. The electronic copy of the application must be complete and be received at Illinois EPA's Springfield office by 5:00 p.m. (CST) on January 15th to be considered for funding.

Incomplete applications, applications received after the deadline, or applications submitted by applicants not pre-qualified in the GATA Grantee Portal will not be considered for funding.

The Illinois EPA will use the date of the submittal email or the date-stamp applied by Illinois EPA to mailed or hand-delivered CD or flash drive applications when received to determine whether an application has been submitted before the deadline.

Within approximately one month after the closing date for applications, the Illinois EPA will mail a letter to the applicant acknowledging receipt of the application. Applicants will be notified, at this time, if their application was not considered for funding due to an incomplete or late application submittal or if they were not pre-qualified in the GATA Grantee Portal by the application deadline.

4. ***Intergovernmental Review***

This funding opportunity is subject to Executive Order 12372, "Intergovernmental Review of Federal Programs."

5. ***Funding Restrictions***

Section 604(b) funds are awarded under Section 205(j)(2) by U.S. EPA to Illinois EPA to carry out water quality management planning. Pursuant to Section 205(j)(3) of the CWA, as amended, States are required to allocate at least 40 percent of funds awarded under 205(j)(2) to eligible Regional Public Comprehensive Planning Organizations (RPCPOs) and Interstate Organizations (IOs). U.S. EPA may approve a State's request to pass through less than 40 percent if, after consultation with its RPCPOs and IOs, the Governor determines that pass through of at least 40 percent will not: (1) result in significant participation by RPCPOs and IOs in WQM planning; and (2) significantly assist in development and implementation of the state's water quality management plan. In Illinois,

RPCPOs include the Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning (CMAP - formerly Northeastern Illinois Planning Commission), the Southwestern Illinois Metropolitan and Regional Planning Commission (SIMRPC), and Greater Egypt Regional Planning and Development Commission (GERPDC).

Costs incurred prior to the effective date of the grant agreement or after the grant agreement term ends are ineligible for reimbursement.

E. Application Review Information

1. Applicant Eligibility

If the answer to **any** of the following Applicant Eligibility questions is no, the application will not be considered for funding.

Criterion	Yes	No
Was a complete application that met all of the following requirements received at Illinois EPA's Springfield office by 5:00 p.m. (CST) on January 15 th ?		
	Yes	No
Submitted electronically		
Included a Uniform Application for State Grant Assistance		
Included a Section 604b Application – Project Details Section		
Included a Uniform Grant Budget Template		
Included an Illinois EPA approved QAPP, if applicable		
Criterion	Yes	No
Did the applicant meet all of the following pre-qualification requirements through the Grant Accountability and Transparency Act (GATA) Grantee Portal, www.grants.illinois.gov , by 5:00 p.m. (CST) on January 15 th ?		
	Yes	No
Have a valid DUNS number		
Have a current SAM.gov account		
Not on the Federal Excluded Parties List		
Not on the Illinois Stop Payment list		
Not on the Department of Healthcare and Family Services Provider Sanctions list		

2. Criteria

Upon receipt, all Section 604b Grant Program applications will be reviewed for completeness, technical merit, and adherence to the Clean Water Act, U.S. EPA Section 604b program guidance, and the competitive grant evaluation criteria described in this Notice of Funding Opportunity. Applications found to be complete will undergo a comprehensive, merit-based review performed in compliance with Grant Accountability and Transparency Act (GATA) Legislation 30 ILCS 708 and 2 CFR 200 Uniform Requirements. The merit-based review is designed to evaluate applications against the following criteria:

- **Quality of Proposal.** (Point Range 0.1 – 1.0) Under this criterion, applications will be evaluated based on the extent and quality to which they describe the project(s). Applications will be evaluated as to whether the approach is technically/scientifically sound, if the methods are appropriate, and whether there are clear project goals and

measurable objectives. The level of project development (i.e., the readiness of the project, technical merit, and expected environmental improvements) will be considered.

- **Anticipated Outputs and Outcomes.** (Point Range 0.1 – 1.0) Under this criterion, applications will be evaluated based on the extent and quality to which an application clearly articulates a set of performance and progress measures and the extent and quality to which the application demonstrates a sound plan for measuring progress toward achieving the expected outputs and outcomes.
- **Cost effectiveness.** (Point Range 0.1 – 1.0) Under this criterion, applications will be evaluated based on the cost of the project relative to the environmental benefit achieved by the project.
- **Need and Environmental Significance.** (Point Range 0.1 – 1.0) Under this criterion, applications will be evaluated based on the extent and quality to which the application demonstrates relevance to solving an important environmental problem. Applications will be evaluated based on how well the facts and evidence presented in the application demonstrate that the proposed project supports the Section 604b Grant Program's purpose.

The Section 604b Grant Program prioritizes projects addressing Illinois waters for which NPS pollution is a significant source of water quality impairment. Assessment information for Illinois' waterbodies can be found in the most recent [Integrated Water Quality Report and Section 303d List](#). Appendix B-2 and B-3 have specific assessment information and Appendix A-2 has 303(d) list details.

- **Financial Integrity.** (Point Range 0.1 – 1.0) Under this criterion, applications will be evaluated based on the adequacy of the budget information provided and whether it is reasonable and clearly presented. The degree to which local match funds can be leveraged will also be considered.
- **Programmatic Capability, Technical Experience, and Qualifications of the Applicant.** (Point Range 0.1 – 1.0) Under this criterion, applications will be evaluated based on the applicant's ability to successfully complete and manage the proposed project, taking into account a) experience and plan for timely and successfully achieving the objectives of the proposed project; b) staff expertise/qualifications, staff knowledge, and resources or the ability to obtain them, to successfully achieve the goals of the project; and c) applicant's prior performance with Section 604b grants.
- **Minimum Cut Score.** Application points for the criterion listed above will be summed to arrive at a preliminary composite average score. A minimum cut score of 3.0 will be used to determine if points for the additional criterion listed below will be applied. Applications that score ≤ 2.9 will not be given any additional points for the criterion listed below, regardless if they apply.
- **Watershed-based planning.** (Point Range 0 or 1) Priority will be given to those projects that will develop, update, or implement a watershed-based plan. A watershed-based plan must include, at a minimum, nine specific elements required in U.S. EPA guidance. These elements are listed as items a. through i. in Appendix C of the [Nonpoint Source Program and Grants Guidelines for States and Territories](#) (April 12, 2013).

Priority will be given to those projects that propose to develop or update a watershed-based plan to address NPS pollution. For additional information on watershed-based planning, please refer to the [Guidance for Developing Watershed Action Plans in Illinois](#) (Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning, 2007).

Also, projects that are identified as being within an approved watershed-based plan will receive higher consideration than projects submitted without the support of such a plan. Implementation of a watershed-based plan to address nonpoint source pollution could include water quality modeling, environmental and social indicator monitoring, and outreach activities that are specifically identified in the watershed-based plan.

Illinois EPA considers projects that address nonpoint source pollution control that are not identified in or supported by a watershed-based plan as lower priority projects. These projects can include environmental monitoring, social indicator monitoring, and outreach efforts that are not yet identified for implementation in a watershed-based plan. Such efforts are eligible for funding but will not be prioritized as highly as those projects specifically identified in a watershed-based plan.

- **Total maximum daily load (TMDL) implementation planning.** (Point Range 0 or 1) Priority will be given to those projects that will develop, update, or implement a total maximum daily load (TMDL) implementation plan. A TMDL is the maximum amount of a specific pollutant loading a waterbody can tolerate and still support all of its intended uses.

Priority will be given to those projects that propose to develop a TMDL implementation plan to address nonpoint source pollution. The proposed TMDL implementation plan to be developed must be related to a 303d listed waterbody that is being impaired by nonpoint source pollution. You can [view additional information about TMDL requirements](#) as defined in U.S. EPA guidance. A TMDL implementation plan must also meet the requirements of a watershed-based plan. The TMDL implementation plan will spell out the actions necessary to achieve the goals of the approved TMDL. The plan specifies limits for point source and nonpoint source discharges and recommends specific best management practices for nonpoint sources. It also estimates associated costs and lays out a schedule for implementation. You can [view additional information about Illinois EPA's TMDL Program](#) and consult with the Planning Unit at (217) 782-3362 before applying for the development of a TMDL.

- **Relationship to Illinois EPA Priority Watersheds.** (Point Range 0 or 2) Priority will be given to those projects that are located within Illinois EPA [Priority Watersheds](#) for nonpoint source (NPS) pollution control implementation or planning, as applicable. Illinois has 51 basins; all 51 basins will be a priority for watershed-based planning or plan implementation at least once every five years. Each year, a subset (8 – 11) of the basins will be a priority for planning. Two-years later those same basins will be a priority for plan implementation. Waterbody segments, with the exception of main-stem waters, that are not attaining their designated water quality uses due to NPS pollution impairments are the priority waterbodies within the priority basins. The main-stem waterbodies have greater priority once NPS components of a watershed-based plan for their headwater areas have been developed and implemented. The 10 to 12-digit hydrologic units (HUC) that contain these impaired waterbody segments are the priority watershed. A higher priority for assistance will be given to those watersheds that have multiple NPS impaired waterbody segments. Priority will also be given to those projects that are located within a NPS Priority Watershed to Reduce Nutrient Loss. You can [view a set of maps](#) that depict the 5-year priority watershed rotation and the priority watersheds for nutrient reduction.

3. Review and Selection Process

Applications will be received by the Illinois EPA, Bureau of Water, Watershed Management Section, Nonpoint Source Unit.

Illinois EPA's Watershed Management Section will request that Illinois EPA's Fiscal department perform a fiscal and administrative review of all applications and provide it with comments resulting from that review.

The Illinois EPA will form an evaluation panel composed of Illinois EPA, Bureau of Water (BOW), Watershed Management Section staff. Each application will be reviewed in-depth by each member of the evaluation panel.

By mid to late February a meeting of the evaluation panel will be convened. Applications, peer review comments, and other relevant information will be discussed by the panel at this meeting. Using the merit-based review criteria, each member of the panel will individually score the application on a scale of 0.6 (worst) to 10 (best) independently of the whole committee. These individual scores will then be shared with the whole committee and recorded on a summary score sheet that shows the comparative scores. Any significant or substantial variance between evaluator scores will be reviewed and documented, including revision of individual scores. The individual scores will then be converted into a composite average score for each application and ranked accordingly.

Illinois EPA's Watershed Management Section will present a summary of all the applications to the Chief of the Bureau of Water and to the Director of the Illinois EPA. This summary will include the findings and recommendations of the evaluation panel.

Based on eligibility criteria, merit criteria, the evaluation panel's scoring, and input from the Chief of the Bureau of Water and the Director of the Illinois EPA, Illinois' Section 604b Water Quality Management Planning Work Plan (Work Plan) will be prepared and submitted to U.S. EPA for approval. The Work Plan identifies the selected applications (projects) proposed for funding by Illinois EPA. If the amount of available grant funding is not anticipated to be sufficient to fund a higher-ranked application in its entirety, the Illinois EPA will select for inclusion in the Work Plan the next highest-ranked application that Illinois EPA would anticipate to be able to fund in its entirety based on the grant funding level anticipated from U.S. EPA. The Work Plan includes a budget spreadsheet, a short narrative summary of each selected project, and a copy of the selected project applications. Submittal of the Work Plan to U.S. EPA generally occurs by March 1st.

Generally by mid-April, U.S. EPA issues comments on the detailed Work Plan to the Illinois EPA. Illinois EPA will then respond to U.S. EPA's comments to answer their concerns and questions.

Generally by early May, the Illinois EPA will send written notice to each applicant whose project was not included in the Work Plan informing them that their application was not selected for funding.

Once U.S. EPA has approved Illinois EPA's Work Plan, the Illinois EPA will submit a grant application to U.S. EPA to request Section 604b funding to implement the Work Plan. By early May, in anticipation of U.S. EPA approval of the grant application, the Illinois EPA expects to begin preparing draft agreements for selected projects.

By July, U.S. EPA should award the grant to the Illinois EPA and the Illinois EPA expects to send a "Notice of State Award" to the successful grant applicants for signature. The Notice of State Award (NOSA) will specify the funding terms and specific conditions resulting from the pre-award risk assessments. The NOSA must be signed and returned by an authorized representative of the grantee organization. The NOSA is not an authorization to begin performance or incur costs.

By September, Illinois EPA expects to send a grant agreement to the grant recipients for signature.

By October, Illinois EPA expects to provide a fully executed grant agreement to the grant recipients.

A merit-based evaluation appeal process is available to applicants and other interested parties, but grant appeals are limited to the evaluation process. Evaluation scores may not be protested. Only the evaluation process is subject to appeal. An appeal must be submitted in writing to Illinois EPA and must be received within 14 calendar days after the date that the grant award notice has been published by the Illinois EPA to Grants.Illinois.gov. The written appeal shall include at a minimum the following: the name and address of the appealing party, identification of the grant, and a statement of reasons for the appeal. Illinois EPA will acknowledge receipt of an appeal within fourteen (14) calendar days from the date the appeal was received. When an appeal is received, the execution of all grant agreements that Illinois EPA intends to make under this NOFO shall be stayed until the appeal is resolved, unless the Illinois EPA determines the needs of the State require moving forward with execution of the grant agreements. The State need determination and rationale shall be documented in writing. Illinois EPA will respond to the appeal within 60 days or supply a written explanation to the appealing party as to why additional time is required. The appealing party must supply any additional information requested by Illinois EPA within the time period set in the request. The Director of the Illinois EPA may appoint one or more Appeal Review Officers (ARO) to consider the grant-related appeal and make a recommendation to the Director of the Illinois EPA or designee for resolution. The ARO shall make a recommendation to the Director of the Illinois EPA or designee as expeditiously as possible after receiving all relevant, requested information. In determining the appropriate recommendation. The ARO shall consider the integrity of the competitive grant process and the impact of the recommendation on the Illinois EPA. The Illinois EPA will resolve the appeal by means of written determination, which shall include, but not be limited to: review of the appeal, appeal determination, and rationale for the determination.

4. Anticipated Announcement and State Award Dates

AnticipatedDate	Illinois EPA Action
February 1, 2020	Notify applicants that their application was received.
May 1, 2020	Notify unsuccessful applicants that their application was not selected for funding.
July 1, 2020	Send a "Notice of State Award" to selected applicants for signature.
September 1, 2020	Send a grant agreement to selected applicants for signature.
October 1, 2020	Provide a fully executed grant agreement to the grant recipient.

F. Award Administration Information

1. *State Award Notices*

Notice of State Award (NOSA)

The Illinois EPA will issue a Notice of State Award (NOSA) to the successful grant applicants. The NOSA will specify the funding terms and specific conditions resulting from the pre-award risk assessments. The NOSA must be signed and returned by an authorized representative of the grantee organization. The NOSA is not an authorization to begin performance or incur costs

The Illinois EPA will send a grant agreement for signature and processing to the grant recipient. The grant recipient must return the grant agreement, with the recipient's signature, to the Illinois EPA.

A fully executed grant agreement is authorization for the grant recipient to begin work on the project.

2. *Administrative and National Policy Requirements*

The terms and conditions of the award will be specified in the NOSA and the grant agreement.

In the grant agreement, the grant recipient will be required to certify that it does and will comply with all provisions of the Federal Internal Revenue Code (26 USC 1), the Illinois Revenue Act (35 ILCS 5), and all rules promulgated thereunder, including withholding provisions and timely deposits of employee taxes and unemployment insurance taxes.

In the grant agreement, the grant recipient will be required to certify that it does and will comply with the reporting requirements of the Federal Funding Accountability and Transparency Act of 2006 (P.L. 109-282) (FFATA) with respect to Federal Awards greater than or equal to \$25,000. A FFATA sub-award report must be filed by the end of the month following the month in which the award was made.

In the grant agreement, the grant recipient will be required to certify that it shall adhere to the applicable Uniform Administrative Requirements, Cost Principles, and Audit Requirements, which are published in Title 2, Part 200 of the Code of Federal Regulations, and are incorporated herein by reference. See 44 Ill. Admin. Code 7000.30(b)(1)(A).

In the grant agreement, the grant recipient will be required to certify that it and its sub-grantees shall: (i) be registered with the Federal SAM if seeking an Award that is partially or fully paid by Federal funds, and registered with the State equivalent of SAM; (ii) be in good standing with the Illinois Secretary of State; and (iii) have a valid DUNS number. It is Grantee's responsibility to remain current with these registrations and requirements. If Grantee's status with regard to any of these requirements change, or the certifications made in and information provided in the Uniform Grant Application changes, Grantee must notify the Grantor in accordance with ARTICLE XVIII.

3. *Reporting*

All projects require quarterly reporting of progress and a final project evaluation and report. Quarterly progress reports will include both a [Periodic Financial Report](#) and a [Periodic Performance Report](#).

Reports must be submitted to the Illinois EPA in both paper and electronic formats.

G. State Awarding Agency Contact(s)

If you have any programmatic questions regarding the Section 604b Grant Program, this Notice of Funding Opportunity, or the [Section 604b Grant Program Application](#), contact the Illinois EPA's Nonpoint Source Unit staff at:

Illinois Environmental Protection Agency
Bureau of Water
Watershed Management Section
Nonpoint Source Unit
1021 North Grand Avenue East
P.O. Box 19276
Springfield, Illinois 62794-9276
Email: epa.bowgrants@illinois.gov
Phone: (217) 782-3362

If you have any fiscal and administrative questions regarding the Uniform Grant Budget Template, Indirect cost rates, Internal Controls Questionnaire (ICQ), or pre-qualifying through the GATA Grantee Portal, contact the Illinois EPA's Fiscal staff at:

Illinois Environmental Protection Agency
Fiscal
1021 North Grand Avenue East
P.O. Box 19276
Springfield, Illinois 62794-9276
Email: Max.Paller@illinois.gov
Phone: (217) 558-3386

H. Other Information

Additional information about [Illinois' Water Quality Management Planning Program](#) can be found on Illinois EPA's website, including the [Section 604b Biannual Report](#), which describes the projects that have been funded under the Section 604b Grant Program.

The Illinois EPA has the right to use (including, but not limited to, citing to, circulating, displaying, and reproducing) all products that result from the grant recipient receiving financial assistance under the grant agreement whether the product is developed by the recipient or a sub-recipient.

The Illinois EPA is not obligated to make any grant award as a result of this Notice of Funding Opportunity.