

Regional Waste Authority Grant Program Questions and Answers

Financial

Q. What would be a typical amount ask under this grant?

A. The typical amount ask under this grant would be dependent on the scope of work proposed – applications may range from smaller dollar amounts for initial efforts around inventorying municipal interest in forming a RWA and performing a needs survey, to larger dollar amounts for development of governance and framework, to significant dollar amounts for infrastructure planning.

Q. What is the maximum amount ask under this grant?

A. The overall maximum funding currently available for all grants is a total of \$1.5M, therefore the maximum amount for each applicant to be awarded has not yet been determined. DEEP recommends applicants apply for what they believe they need for the scope of their proposal – if requests received total more than \$1.5M DEEP will evaluate strength of proposals and rank proposals for prioritized funding and then consider funding portions of proposals with remaining funds.

Q. Does DEEP envision long-term funding available for RWA organizational efforts?

A. That determination will be made at a later point in time.

Q. What are the budget parameters anticipated by CTDEEP (Can this be allocated over a number of years)?

A. The timeline for implementation will be dependent on the circumstances of each application. The municipality/region will be required to begin the program within 60 days of an executed contract. Final requests for reimbursement must be no later than 90 days following the expiration of the date of the contract. There will be deadlines associated with receipt of funds and the applicant will be required to provide timely progress reports on the proposed project as agreed upon with DEEP.

Q. Is there a preferred Budget form or Exhibit?

A. There is no specified place to include budgetary information on the application. Budgets may be submitted within the “Project Description” section of the application and/or as an attachment to the application. There is no preferred budget form.

Q. Are salaries permissible under the Grant?

A. Eligible expenses include administrative costs approved by DEEP to be prudent and reasonable for project implementation. If an award is granted for the funding of new staff, that funding would be for a limited time. The application would need to include a detailed description of proposed activities and specific identification of resources needed (ex. FTE or partial).

Q. There doesn't appear to be a cost-share in the Grant. Is that true? Does DEEP anticipate a cost-share at any point? If so, what %/amount?

A. If an award is granted, municipalities and COGs may contribute to the costs associated with exploration/establishing a regional waste authority. There is currently no information concerning ongoing awards from DEEP. A regional waste authority should include membership contributions from each participating municipality and those revenues will be relied upon for future administrative costs.

Application Form

Q. There is no place to indicate certain information listed as a required item to include in the narrative. Can that information be incorporated into the project description?

A. Yes, the “Project Description” section should include details on the proposed activities, how the grant will assist you in forming a regional waste authority and what activities that proposed RWA will incorporate. Additional information, such as timeline for implementation, and any other applicable background may be included in the “Project Description” section as well.

Q. How much detail should be included in the program description?

A. The “Project Description” section should be as detailed as possible at the time of submittal in order to comprehensively answer the questions posed in that section of the application and throughout the [Request for Applications](#) document. Applications will be reviewed for completeness and DEEP may request additional information following receipt of the application.

Q. To whom should letters of support be addressed?

A. Commissioner Dykes.

Eligibility

Q. Can a single municipality apply alone?

A. Yes, however the activities must fall within identified eligible activities in the request for information, recognizing that eligible proposals will support formation, or expansion, of regional waste authorities that contribute to reducing MSW generation, increasing diversion and collection/processing of recyclables and organic materials, increasing in-state solid waste disposal capacity, and providing efficient and streamlined services and administrative capacity for their member municipalities.

Q. If a single municipality can apply alone, what is the expectation for a single municipality?

A. A single municipality could: apply to lead a needs survey of neighboring towns; identify potential shared services that would be beneficial to create a regional waste authority; identify potential governance structure; or determine necessary municipal resolutions/ordinances, or other interlocal agreements that would aid in the formation of a regional waste authority.

Q. Can a municipal committee apply?

A. All grant award contracts will require signature by the chief elected official, so applications by municipal committees should include verification that the CEO is in concurrence with the application.

Q. Can MIRA be retained as a RWA in lieu of creating a new one for MIRA member municipalities?

A. With the future of MIRA uncertain, there is risk associated with this strategy.

Q. *CRCOG established CCSWA in 2010 – although it's been dormant for a bit. Could CCSWA be reconvened as the structure under which CRCOG acts as the governing authority?*

A. Yes.

Kinds of projects

Q. *Could you provide additional details on what types of "Technical Assistance" activities the RWA grant funds can be used for?*

A. Some examples provided in the Request for Applications include identifying potential services provided by the regional waste authority or providing inventory and evaluation of infrastructure and service needs in the region. Additional activities may include hiring consultants to conduct planning projects or feasibility studies related to materials management services in the region.

Q. *What kind of projects would be acceptable for a municipal transfer station?*

A. Eligible proposals will support formation, or expansion, of regional waste authorities. Funding is generally intended for planning purposes. Regional waste authorities may plan projects which may involve municipal transfer station locations, explore whether other municipalities would be willing to share services at municipal transfer stations, determine what kind of services may be needed, or consider feasibility of establishing services.

Environmental Justice

Q. *What is DEEP asking for in reference to environmental justice on the application?*

A. Applicants should identify which, if any of the municipalities included in the proposal are distressed municipalities or indicate environmental justice block groups.

How should applicants identify environmental justice communities?

A. The [Environmental Justice map shared in the Request for Applications](#) is intended to be inclusive of environmental justice communities as defined by the Connecticut General Statutes. The map depicts the 2022 Environmental Justice Census Block Groups, which are areas where 30% of the population is living below 200% of the federal poverty level, and [distressed municipalities](#), as designated by the Connecticut Department of Economic and Community Development. Additional information can be found by clicking on the locations on the map that are identified as environmental justice block groups or distressed municipalities. If you need additional assistance or data, please contact edith.pestana@ct.gov.

Other Questions

Q. *Will the results of the SMM Grant Program pilot projects be a factor in considering the RWA grant applications?*

A. Municipalities that have received SMM grant awards for pilot projects may be evaluated based on progress as well as their applications. For those applicants who have previously received funding

through DEEP, past performance will be a factor considered in the approval process. However, applicants will not be penalized for not participating in an SMM Grant Program pilot project or any other materials management grant program.