

**Illinois Environmental Protection Agency
Illinois Green Infrastructure Grant Program for Stormwater Management (IGIG)
Request for Proposals**

Program Title	Illinois Green Infrastructure Grant Program for Stormwater Management (IGIG)
Project Types	Implementation of green infrastructure stormwater management best management practices (BMPs)
Eligible Entities	Any entity that has legal status to accept funds from the state of Illinois, including state and local governmental units, nonprofit organizations, citizen and environmental groups, individuals and businesses
Application Deadline	Illinois EPA must receive completed applications by close of business on December 15 th each year. In years that December 15 th is a Saturday or Sunday, the deadline is the close of business on the preceding Friday.
Category Cost Share Rates (Match Requirement)	<p>Combined Sewer Overflow (CSO) Rehabilitation Category Maximum IGIG amount is \$3,000,000 or 85 percent of the eligible project cost, whichever is lower. Minimum local match requirement is 15 percent.</p> <p>Stormwater Retention and Infiltration Category Maximum IGIG amount is \$750,000 or 75 percent of the eligible project cost, whichever is lower. Minimum local match requirement is 25percent.</p> <p>Green Infrastructure Small Projects Category. Maximum IGIG amount is \$75,000 or 75 percent of the eligible project cost, whichever is lower. Minimum local match requirement is 25 percent.</p>
Typical Grant Range	<p>Combined Sewer Overflow (CSO) Rehabilitation Category \$300,000 - \$3,000,000 of IGIG funds (total available \$3 million)</p> <p>Stormwater Retention and Infiltration Category \$100,000 - \$750,000 of IGIG funds (total available \$1.8 million)</p> <p>Green Infrastructure Small Projects Category. \$15,000 - \$75,000 of IGIG funds (total available \$200,000)</p>
Project Length	<p>Combined Sewer Overflow (CSO) Rehabilitation Category 6-36 months</p> <p>Stormwater Retention and Infiltration Category 6-36 months</p> <p>Green Infrastructure Small Projects Category. 6-24 months</p>
Administered by	Illinois EPA – Bureau of Water, Watershed Management Section – (217) 782-3362
Website	http://www.epa.state.il.us/water/financial-assistance/igig.html

Contact the Watershed Management Section at (217) 782-3362 with questions

The Illinois Environmental Protection Agency (Illinois EPA) is seeking proposals for the implementation of green infrastructure best management practices (BMPs) for stormwater management to protect or improve water quality in Combined Sewer Overflow (CSO) areas and Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4) areas in Illinois. Go to www.epa.state.il.us/water/permits/storm-water/2000-urbanized-area-list.pdf for a list of areas delineated by the 2000 Bureau of Census that may require coverage under the MS4 permit in Illinois. Illinois EPA will accept proposals for the following three program categories (1) Combined Sewer Overflow (CSO) Rehabilitation Category; (2) Stormwater Retention and Infiltration Category; and (3) Green Infrastructure Small Projects Category.

Green Infrastructure means any stormwater management technique or practice employed with the primary goal of preserving, restoring, mimicking, or enhancing natural hydrology. Green infrastructure includes, but is not limited to, methods of using soil and vegetation to promote soil percolation, evapotranspiration, and filtering or the harvesting and reuse of precipitation.

The total amount of expected funding available under this announcement is approximately \$5 million, depending on Illinois EPA funding levels and other applicable considerations. Illinois EPA anticipates awarding:

- 1 to 10 CSO Rehabilitation grants ranging in value from \$300,000 to \$3,000,000 in state funds
- 2 to 18 Stormwater Retention and Infiltration grants ranging from \$100,000 to \$750,000 in state funds, and
- 2 to 13 Green Infrastructure Small Projects grants ranging from \$15,000 to \$75,000 in state funds.

Illinois EPA reserves the right to increase or decrease (including to zero) the total number of grants for each category, or change the ratio of category agreements it awards. Such change may be necessary as a response to the quality of proposals received by Illinois EPA, the amount of funds granted to the selected applicants, or budget availability.

Project Eligibility

IGIG proposals must address one, and only one, of the three categories described below. Applicants may submit more than one complete proposal package (including project narrative, forms, etc.) under this announcement. However, each complete proposal package must address only one category. **The cover page of each proposal package should clearly indicate which category is addressed.** Illinois EPA reserves the right to shift applications from one category to another, based on staff evaluation of the application's merits.

CSO Rehabilitation Category

Proposals under this category must focus on corrective actions in CSO areas that are designed to improve local water quality through the control of stormwater runoff. Targeted will be those communities with active CSO problems. **Priority will be given to those applicants that provide a proposal that will remediate overflows, are discharging to an impaired waterway, and are implementing an Illinois EPA approved Long Term Control Plan.** Separation and disconnection activities will be eligible, as can be piping to or from BMPs for short distances (5 percent of the project total cost or less). Additional conveyance activities will be considered for use in meeting the required match obligation.

Potential BMPs eligible for the CSO Rehabilitation Category grant funding include:

- Bio retention swales
- Stormwater wetlands
- Vegetated swales/bio-swales
- Wetland detention basins
- Porous/permeable pavements
- Infiltration basins/trenches
- Floodplain restoration
- Stream restoration
- Downspout and illicit inflow disconnections (from CSOs and SSOs)
- Cisterns
- Stormwater reuse systems

Applicants submitting a proposal under the CSO Rehabilitation Category must demonstrate in the proposal that there is an active CSO problem and how the project will remediate overflows.

Proposals will be evaluated based on the criteria in the Application Review Procedures section and Attachment 1 including how well and thoroughly CSO rehabilitation is addressed. Illinois EPA anticipates funding approximately 1 to 10 CSO Rehabilitation grants.

Stormwater Retention and Infiltration Category

Proposals under this category must focus on the implementation of stormwater retention and infiltration BMPs to reduce stormwater flows and “cleanse” stormwater before entering surface waters or infiltrating to groundwater. Priority will be given to applicants that provide a wide range of activities designed to reduce stormwater effects on a large scale (e.g., watershed, municipality, county). Priority will be given to projects that are in impaired watersheds and have the greatest potential for water quality improvement. Projects will be required to be in an Illinois EPA-identified MS4 area and targeted applicants will be municipalities, sanitary districts, townships, drainage districts and watershed groups. Approvable projects can be projects identified in an MS4 permit but are not required to be. Conveyance activities will be eligible for funding for short distances to or from BMPs (5 percent of the project total cost or less); longer conveyance projects will be considered for use in meeting match requirements.

Potential BMPs eligible for the Stormwater Retention & Infiltration Category grant funding include:

- Green roofs
- Green walls
- Trees and tree boxes
- Infiltration planters
- Rain gardens
- Bio-retention swales
- Vegetated swales/bio-swales
- Stormwater wetlands
- Vegetated filter strips
- Porous/permeable pavements
- Wetland detention basins
- Detention basin retrofits
- Infiltration basins/trenches
- Sand filters
- Wetland/prairie restoration
- Floodplain restoration
- Riparian zone restoration
- Downspout disconnections (from CSOs and SSOs)
- Rain barrels
- Cisterns
- Stormwater reuse systems

Proposals can include administration of a sub-grant program to implement one or more BMPs at multiple sites within the project area.

Proposals will be evaluated based on the criteria in the Application Review Procedures section and Attachment 1 including how well and thoroughly stormwater retention and infiltration is addressed. Illinois EPA anticipates funding approximately 2 to 18 Stormwater Retention and Infiltration grants.

Green Infrastructure Small Projects Category

Proposals under this category must focus on demonstration projects, projects not part of a bigger project/program and neighborhood best management practices (BMPs) that reduce stormwater flows, increase infiltration and “cleansing” of stormwater and improve water quality. Priority will be given to project sites that have high visibility and public access. Projects must be within an Illinois EPA-identified MS4 area to be eligible.

Potential BMPs eligible for the Green Infrastructure Small Projects Category grant funding include:

- Green roofs
- Green walls
- Trees and tree boxes
- Infiltration planters
- Rain gardens
- Bio-retention swales
- Pocket wetlands
- Wetland detention basins
- Vegetated filter strips
- Vegetated swales/bioswales
- Porous/permeable pavements
- Detention basin retrofits
- Infiltration basins/trenches
- Sand filters
- Wetland/prairie/riparian restoration
- Floodplain restoration
- Riparian buffers
- Downspout disconnections (from CSOs and SSOs)
- Rain barrels
- Cisterns
- Stormwater reuse systems

Proposals can include administration of a sub-grant program to implement one or more BMPs at multiple sites within the project area.

Proposals will be evaluated based on the criteria in the Application Review Procedures section and Attachment 1. Illinois EPA anticipates funding approximately 2 to 13 Green Infrastructure Small Projects grants.

Eligible Entities

IGIG 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. Grant 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.

Project Length

Costs incurred prior to the execution of the financial assistance agreement, or after the project period ends are ineligible as match or for reimbursement unless otherwise approved as match by Illinois EPA.

Combined Sewer Overflow (CSO) Rehabilitation Category - It is anticipated that the project periods for grants under this category will be 6 months to 3 years.

Stormwater Retention and Infiltration Category -

It is anticipated that the project periods for grants under this category will be 6 months to 3 years.

Green Infrastructure Small Projects Category - It is anticipated that the project periods for grants under this category will be 6 months to 2 years.

Project Costs, Reimbursement Requirements and Match Requirements

The total amount of funding expected to be available under this announcement is approximately \$5 million depending on Illinois EPA funding levels and other applicable considerations.

Illinois EPA reserves the right to partially fund proposals/applications under this announcement by funding discrete activities, portions, or phases of proposed projects. If Illinois EPA decides to partially fund a proposal/application, it will do so in a manner that does not prejudice any

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applicants or affect the basis upon which the proposal/application, or portion thereof, was evaluated and selected for award, and that maintains the integrity of the competition and selection process. Illinois EPA also reserves the right to make no grants, or fewer grants than expected under this announcement.

Illinois EPA reserves the right to make additional grants under this announcement consistent with Illinois EPA policy, if additional funding becomes available.

Selected recipients will enter into a financial assistance agreement with the Illinois EPA. Although Illinois EPA will negotiate precise terms and conditions relating to the award process, financial assistance agreements allow substantial involvement between the Illinois EPA project manager and the selected applicant in the performance of work supported by program funds. State involvement for projects selected may include close monitoring of the recipient's performance; collaboration during the performance of the scope of work; review of proposed procurements; reviewing qualifications of key personnel; and/or review and comment on the content of publications (printed or electronic) prepared.

IGIG 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 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 monthly.

Illinois EPA requires applicants to demonstrate in their proposal how they will provide the minimum match of the total cost of the proposal. In addition to money spent, matching funds can come from in-kind contributions, such as the use of volunteers and/or donated time, equipment, expertise, etc., consistent with the matching fund requirements. Local match can be provided by the recipient, sub-contractor, or project partners (including state programs, private foundations, land owners, etc.).

Combined Sewer Overflow (CSO) Rehabilitation Category

It is anticipated that total state funding per grant will range from approximately \$300,000 to \$3,000,000 depending on the amount requested and the overall size and scope of the project(s). The local match requirement for the CSO Rehabilitation Category is a minimum of 15 percent. Illinois EPA will provide up to 85 percent of the approved eligible project cost. Up to 25 percent of the project cost can be used for design.

Stormwater Retention and Infiltration Category

It is anticipated that total state funding per award will range from approximately \$100,000 to \$750,000 depending on the amount requested and the overall size and scope of the project(s). The local match requirement for the Stormwater Retention and Infiltration Category is a minimum of 25 percent. Illinois EPA will provide up to 75 percent of the approved eligible project cost. Up to 20 percent of the project cost can be used for design.

Green Infrastructure Small Projects Category

It is anticipated that total state funding per grant will range from approximately \$15,000 to \$75,000 depending on the amount requested and the overall size and scope of the project(s). The local match requirement for the Green Infrastructure Small Projects Category is a minimum of 25 percent. Illinois EPA will provide up to 75 percent of the approved eligible project cost. Up to 20 percent of the project cost can be used for design.

Funding Restrictions

Illinois EPA has chosen to declare certain projects or activities ineligible for funding or match. These ineligible activities include monitoring, education/outreach efforts, the construction of buildings or other major structures not integral to the BMP, and the purchase of major equipment or machinery. If proposals are submitted that have ineligible projects or activities, those projects or activities in the proposals will not be considered for funding.

All recipients of funding must agree not to use grant funds for lobbying, fund-raising, or political activities (i.e., lobbying state or federal officials, or lobbying for other state or federal grants, cooperative agreements, or contracts).

Application and Submittal Process

Applicants must submit their proposal using the method outlined below. All proposals must be prepared and include the information as described in the Content of Application Submission section.

Two hard copies of the complete proposal package as described below in the Content of Application Submission section, and a Compact Disc (CD) of the complete proposal package, are required to be received at Illinois EPA's Springfield office by 5:00 p.m. (CST) on December 15th to be considered for funding. If December 15th falls on a Saturday or Sunday, then applications are due at Illinois EPA by 5:00 p.m. (CST) on the Friday preceding December 15th.

Postal Service Mailing Address:

Illinois Environmental Protection Agency
Watershed Management Section #15
P.O. Box 19276
Springfield, Illinois 62794-9276

Attention: Amy Walkenbach

If using a Delivery Service, send to:

Illinois Environmental Protection Agency
Watershed Management Section #15
1021 North Grand Avenue East
Springfield, Illinois 62702

Attention: Amy Walkenbach

The electronic copy on CD may be in Adobe Portable Document Format (.pdf) or Microsoft Word (.doc or .docx). Any additional materials submitted with the application need to be submitted as part of the CD. Pictures and/or computer generated maps may be included as separate files using .jpg or .tif format.

Faxed applications will not be accepted.

The following IGIG application forms are available at Illinois EPA's website at <http://www.epa.state.il.us/water/financial-assistance/igig.html>

- Project Cost Summary Form
- Illinois Green Infrastructure Grant Program for Stormwater Management - Attachment 1
- Illinois EPA Organization Certification and Grant Conditions
- Taxpayer Identification Number Form

Paper copies of the IGIG application forms are available upon request by contacting the Watershed Management Section at (217) 782-3362.

Content of Application Submission

Apart from the Project Cost Summary Form, Attachment 1, Illinois EPA Organization Certification and Grant Conditions and Taxpayer Identification Number Form, the remaining parts of the proposal package (comprised of items 1 - 3 below) must not exceed 12 pages in length and should use a 12-point font. **Pages in excess of 12 will not be reviewed.** All materials including the project narrative, budget, tables, timeline, maps, and pictures must be included within the 12 pages. Applicants are responsible for the contents of their proposals.

Each proposal package must contain all of the components listed in this section. Failure to submit any of the seven components will result in disqualification and removal from the selection process.

1. Proposal Narrative.
 - a. Cover page. The cover page should include:
 - i. The project name along with the designated 10-digit Hydrologic Unit Code(s) (HUCs) in which the project is located;
*HUCs (also known as USGS Cataloging Units) can be found at <http://maps.epa.state.il.us/website/wqinfo/> or www.rmms.illinois.edu/.
 - ii. Identification of the funding category; and
 - iii. Identification of the impaired waters that will be positively impacted by proposed activities, such as any degraded stream segments and lakes that are on the state's 303(d) list.

Assessment information and state 303(d) listings for Illinois' water bodies can be found at:

Streams:

<http://www.epa.state.il.us/water/tmdl/303-appendix/2008/appendix-b2-streams.pdf>

Lakes:

<http://www.epa.state.il.us/water/tmdl/303-appendix/2008/appendix-b3-lakes.pdf>

- iv. Applicant contact information (i.e., name, affiliation, address, telephone, and email of the person with whom the Illinois EPA should correspond);
 - v. Internet Web site (i.e., URL) of the applicant, if available.
- b. Abstract. Provide a brief (approximately 150-word) summary of the proposal. This should include a brief description of the perceived need for the work, the nature of the proposed work, and the anticipated outputs and outcomes.
- c. Project Narrative. The narrative description of the proposed tasks and activities must include the following sections:
- i. Characterization of the CSO or MS4 area. Describe the area, including any critical or significant natural resources, such as wetlands. Include a description of the physical, chemical, biological, ecological, and socioeconomic characteristics of the area. Briefly describe the environmental problems and threats facing the local waterbodies, adopted watershed plans and current planning efforts addressing the problems and threats.
 - ii. Project need. Describe the water quality significance of the project, that is, the problem to be addressed and why it is a priority. The objectives of the proposed activity and the immediate and long-term desired outcomes should be described relative to the overall water quality conditions. An assessment of the natural resource and environmental conditions and evidence of problem sources, along with the prioritization of the threats and impairments facing the watershed, should be included. The prioritization should focus on those threats and impairments that will be addressed by the proposed activity.
 - iii. Project plan. Describe the work that will be done using Illinois Green Infrastructure Grant Program for Stormwater Management funding. Identify the specific deliverables and the anticipated outcomes (i.e., quantifiable results) associated with the major project components.
 1. Project components: Describe in detail the tasks and schedule for the project. Include milestones and timelines for accomplishing tasks for the project period. Explain how the project benefits the local water resources and if it is ready for implementation (i.e., feasibility). Include in this section why the proposal will work and, if appropriate, what makes it innovative.
 2. Partnering: If appropriate, describe how you will engage partners and other stakeholders in your project.
2. Financial Integrity/Budget: Explanations of the costs associated with each project should be included. Description of costs should correspond to figures presented in the Project Cost Summary Form.

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- a. Anticipated Outputs and Outcomes. Applicants must include specific statements describing the anticipated environmental results of the proposed project in terms of well-defined “outputs” and to the maximum extent practicable, well-defined “outcomes”.
 - b. Programmatic Capability/Technical Experience. Provide information on your organizational experience and plan for timely and successfully achieving the objective of the proposed project, including your staff expertise/qualifications, staff knowledge, and resources (or the ability to obtain them), to successfully achieve the goals of the proposed project. Note: The proposal narrative should also include any additional information to the extent not otherwise addressed above, that addresses the selection criteria found in Attachment 1.
3. Attachment 1. For areas that are not applicable, enter “na” in the space provided.
4. Map(s). A map of the project location and the proposed work areas must accompany the narrative text.
5. Project Cost Summary Form. In addition to the narrative text, applicants must provide a detailed breakdown of cost by budget category for each project on the Project Cost Summary Form. All project costs including grant administration costs, BMP implementation cost and matching funds should be included.
6. Signed Illinois EPA Organization Certification and Grant Conditions.
7. Signed Taxpayer Identification Number Form.

Application Review Procedures

All proposals will be evaluated based on eligibility and the following criteria. Projects will be ranked based on how well each evaluation criterion and sub-criterion is addressed.

1. Quality of Proposal. Under this criterion, proposals will be evaluated based on the extent and quality to which they describe the project(s). Reviewers will evaluate whether the approach is technically/scientifically sound, if the methods are appropriate, and whether there are clear project goals and measureable objectives. Under this criterion, reviewers will focus on the following component:
 - a. Feasibility. The extent and quality to which the applicant demonstrates an understanding of stormwater management and water quality issues, has substantially completed planning and has initiated design work. Illinois EPA will consider the level of project development (i.e., the readiness of the project, technical merit, and expected environmental improvements).
2. Anticipated Outputs and Outcomes. Under this criterion, proposals will be evaluated based on the extent and quality to which a proposal clearly articulates a set of performance and progress measures and the extent and quality to which the proposal demonstrates a sound plan for measuring progress toward achieving the expected outputs and outcomes including those identified in this announcement.

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Note: In evaluating applicants under this factor, Illinois EPA will consider the information provided by the applicant and may also consider relevant information from other sources including Illinois EPA files and prior/current grantors (to verify and/or supplement the information supplied by the applicant). Applicants with no relevant or available past performance reporting history will receive a neutral comment for this factor.

3. Environmental Significance. Under this criterion, proposals will be evaluated based on the extent and quality to which the proposal demonstrates relevance to solving an important environmental problem in the CSO or MS4 area.
4. Financial Integrity. Under this criterion, proposals will be evaluated based on the adequacy of the budget information provided, whether it is reasonable and clearly presented, and the extent to which the applicant can demonstrate ability to supply the required local match.
5. Programmatic Capability (Technical Experience) and Qualifications of the Applicant. Under this criterion, applicants will be evaluated based on their ability to successfully complete and manage the proposed project taking into account the following factors:
 - a. Experience and plan for timely and successfully achieving the objectives of the proposed project; and
 - b. Staff expertise/qualifications, staff knowledge, and resources or the ability to obtain them, to successfully achieve the goals of the project.

Note: In evaluating applicants under this factor, the Illinois EPA will consider the information supplied by the applicant and may also consider relevant information from other sources including Illinois EPA files and prior/current grantors (i.e., to verify and/or supplement the information supplied by the applicant). Applicants with no relevant or available past performance information or reporting history will receive a neutral comment for each of those elements.

Grant Notices

All applicants, including those who are not selected for funding, will be notified by mail.

Illinois EPA expects to announce its selections early in calendar year 2011. The exact amount of funds to be granted, specific activities, duration of the projects, and role of the Illinois EPA project manager will be determined in the pre-grant negotiations between the selected applicant(s) and Illinois EPA.

Illinois EPA reserves the right to negotiate and/or adjust the final grant amount and project content prior to award, as appropriate and consistent with Illinois EPA policy.

A listing of successful proposals will be posted on <http://www.epa.state.il.us/water/financial-assistance/igig.html> at the conclusion of the competition. This Web site may also contain information about this announcement including information concerning deadline extensions or other modifications.

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Reporting

In general, recipients are responsible for managing the day-to-day operations and activities supported by the grant to assure compliance with applicable state requirements, and for ensuring that established milestones and performance goals are being achieved. Performance reports must be submitted quarterly and are due the 15th of January, April, July and October throughout the project period. The format for these reports will be identified during the project period, and will include reporting on established performance measures indicated in the project description (i.e., goals, outputs and outcomes).

Other Important Information

- The recipient, or its approved designee, is responsible for the development of designs and application for all applicable state and federal permits for all BMPs to be implemented. These designs must be approved by the Illinois EPA Watershed Management Section prior to the start of BMP construction or implementation.
- The recipient, or its approved designee, is responsible for the development and implementation of an operation and maintenance plan (O & M Plan) for all the BMPs installed during the project period. O & M Plans must be approved by the Watershed Management Section and cover a minimum of ten (10) years starting from the point of BMP implementation, unless otherwise agreed to by Illinois EPA. Failure to implement the O & M Plan could cause the Illinois EPA to require the recipient to reimburse the Illinois EPA part or all of the grant funds the recipient previously received for the project(s).
- Recipients may subcontract portions of their IGIG grant or local matching funds for technical or other services associated with implementation of the proposed project.
- The recipient may utilize subcontractors to complete project components. However, any subcontracts must be approved in writing by Illinois EPA prior to the start of the subcontracted work.

Application Support and Questions

We appreciate your interest in IGIG and look forward to working with you to help Illinois meet important water quality goals. The Watershed Management Section staff is available to discuss project ideas and to answer IGIG application questions. Please contact us by phone at (217) 782-3362 or send an email to epa.bowgrants@illinois.gov.