Water Quality Improvement Project (WQIP) Program

May 2026

Program Description

The Water Quality Improvement Project (WQIP) program is a competitive, statewide reimbursement grant program that can be used to fund projects that directly improve water quality or habitat, promote flood risk, reduction, restoration, and enhanced flood and climate resiliency, or protect a drinking water source. Funding is for construction and implementation projects, not for those that are exclusively for planning. Maximum funding awards vary by project type. Program priorities and requirements are also subject to change from year to year. The typical annual funding available for the WQIP program is at least $75 million.

Application Details

- Apply through the Regional Economic Development Council Consolidated Funding Application at https://on.ny.gov/cfa.
- Submit applications by 4:00 p.m. on July 31, 2026.

Eligible Applicants

- Municipalities, including Indian Nations and municipal corporations (ECL §56-0101)
- Soil and Water Conservation Districts
- 501(c)(3) Not-for-profit corporations (land acquisition for source water protection; dam safety repair, rehabilitation, and dam removal; aquatic connectivity, marine district habitat restoration; and fish and wildlife habitat restoration and enhancement project types only)

Eligible Project Types and Activities

Wastewater Treatment Improvement

Priority Projects

- Wastewater effluent disinfection for facilities that currently do not have any disinfection.
- Upgrades to municipal systems to meet a DEC-approved watershed implementation plan's (i.e., Total Maximum Daily Load plan, Nine Element Watershed Management Plan, Harmful Algal Bloom Action Plan, or DEC Action Agenda) nutrient requirements (primarily phosphorus).
- Combined sewer overflow/sanitary sewer overflow (CSO/SSO) projects to upgrade systems to meet CSO or SSO discharge requirements.
- Municipal systems to serve multiple properties with inadequate on-site septic systems.

General Wastewater Treatment Improvement

- All other wastewater treatment projects

Non-Agricultural Nonpoint Source Abatement and Control

- Decentralized wastewater treatment facilities
- Green infrastructure practices
- Stormwater retrofits
- Streambank and shoreline stabilization
- Riparian buffers
- In-waterbody controls for nutrients
- Bathing beach restoration
- Stream culvert repair and replacement
- Programs to implement nonpoint source management within a defined geographic area

Vacuum Trucks for Areas with Municipal Separate Storm Sewer Systems (MS4s)

- Purchase of one vacuum truck to be used in an MS4 area.

Land Acquisition for Source Water Protection

- Projects or programs for land purchases to protect surface or groundwater public drinking water supplies.

Salt Storage and Road Salt Reduction

- Construction of a permanent structure to cover a salt or sand-salt mixture storage pile.
- Purchase of brine-making equipment and brine storage tanks.
- Retrofits of snowplows with live edge or segmented plow blades, plow guards, truck-mounted brine-spreading equipment, and GPS sensors.

Dam Safety Repair/Rehabilitation and Dam Removal

- Projects to improve dam safety through the repair and rehabilitation or removal of dams with a downstream hazard classification of Class C (High) and Class B (Intermediate).

Aquatic Connectivity

- Projects to improve aquatic habitat connectivity at road-stream crossings or dams.

Marine District Habitat Restoration

- Projects to improve the ecological condition of waters within the marine district with the intent to support a spawning, nursery, wintering, migratory, nesting, breeding, or foraging environment for fish, wildlife, and other biota.

Fish and Wildlife Habitat Restoration and Enhancement

- Projects to improve the ecological condition of wetlands or riparian corridors t to support a spawning, nursery, wintering, migratory, nesting, breeding, or foraging environment for fish and wildlife

Landfill Leachate Treatment

- Projects to treat landfill leachate for contaminants, including PFAS, at active municipally-owned landfills or active construction and demolition debris landfills.

Match Requirements

All grants require a local match equal to 25% of the requested grant amount. The match can include cash and/or in-kind services. Only costs eligible for this grant may be used as match. Match funds cannot come from other New York State funding sources, but may come from federal funding sources, unless noted in the WQIP Program Overview. The applicant must identify the source of the match in their application.

CONTACT INFORMATION

On the web: http://on.ny.gov/wqip

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