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Governor

ARKANSAS DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

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Wes Ward
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Nonpoint Source Program's 319(h) Grant Eligibility and Requirements

Types of projects that are eligible for funding include, but are not limited to:

- Stream and Riparian Restoration, including aquatic organism passage
- Best Management Practices for water quality
- Urban/Low Impact Development Implementation
- Water Quality Monitoring
- Nonpoint Source Pollution Information and Awareness
- Title X Cost Share (Conservation Districts)
- Unpaved Roads

The Arkansas Department of Agriculture (Department) is always looking for novel ideas to monitor and implement best management practices (BMPs) to reduce nonpoint source (NPS) pollution in Arkansas.

Consideration will be given to project types in the following order:

- Projects implementing best management practices (BMPs) within a designated HUC-8 priority watershed, as defined by 2024-2029 approved priority watersheds, and with an EPA accepted 9-element watershed management plan (WMP).
- Projects located in under-represented 2024-2029 approved HUC-8 priority watersheds: Poteau River, Ouachita Headwaters, Lower Little, Lower Saline, Bayou Bartholomew, Lower-White Bayou Des Arc, and Cadron Creek.
- Projects located in 2024-2029 approved priority watersheds that directly impact nonpoint sources to a waterbody on the 2026 EPA approved 303(d) list.
- In-stream water quality monitoring projects that support or assist the development of a 9-element watershed plan, or capture results of implementation within a NPS priority watershed.
- NPS information and awareness, or planning projects within NPS priority watersheds that are a component of an EPA accepted 9-element WMP.

Research projects are not eligible for funding.

All monitoring projects must include a task to enter the data collected into the EPA's Storage and Retrieval (STORET) or Water Quality Exchange (WQX) database.

All grant workplans must identify a cause(s) and source(s) of NPS pollution within the respective watershed's project area.

Grant Application Checklist:

- Approved project pre-proposal form

- Completed workplan
- Map of project work area and/or watershed(s)

A grant workplan at a minimum will consist of the following:

- The identified impaired waterbody or segment targeted and the hydrologic unit code (HUC) of the targeted watershed.
- Specific NPS pollution constituent(s) defined to be controlled, reduced, or abated.
- A tracking mechanism to quantify results and a specific timeline in which task or activities are to be completed.
- Estimated cost per task, complete budgets, justifications, and financial review requirements.
- Model and/or methodology for estimating NPS pollution reduction, control, or abatement (when applicable).
- Justification of a reasonable expectation that water quality will be improved.
- An ability to conduct required reporting:
 - Semi-annual or Quarterly reports: Forms provided by Department briefly stating task completions and appropriate deliverables.
 - Annual reports: Form provided by Department to summarize project activities through the federal fiscal year (October 1 – September 30).
 - Final report: Submitted at the end of the project to encompass all activities and outcome or conclusion.
 - Financial review: Review completed by a qualified accounting professional or certified public accountant to look over all financial records at completion of the project.
- A pre-approved proposal form.

Applying for a grant does not guarantee funding of the request.

Starting July 1, 2026, Department staff will be available to work with and advise applicants in the preparation of their grant workplans. Pre-proposals must be submitted by August 31, 2026. If selected, the Department will require applicants to submit a full workplan proposal with additional project details and budget information.

Workplan pre-proposal templates are provided by staff and are available by calling (501) 682-3914 or through the Department's website at <https://agriculture.arkansas.gov/natural-resources/water-management/nonpoint-source-management/>. Electronic submittal will be accepted provided such application is submitted in Microsoft Word 2010 or later format.

Workplan proposals received after the close of business on August 31, 2026, will not be accepted.

Fluctuations in federal funding levels may occur. The Department is not typically informed of EPA 319(h) allocation/funding levels until March or a later date. Workplans approved for funding by the Department and EPA should plan to have a start date of October 1, 2027.

The Department requires that section 319(h) grant recipients provide a minimum of non-federal match in the amount of 40 percent of the entire project costs. For example, if a project has a total cost of \$100,000, the recipient will be required to provide \$40,000 in non-federal funds or in-kind services. The amount of federal funds available for the grant would be \$60,000. Funds and services used as match shall not be utilized as match for any other federal grant program and shall not in any way be paid by federal funds.

Previously approved workplans, project descriptions, presentations, annual, and final project reports may be reviewed at <https://agriculture.arkansas.gov/natural-resources/water-management/nonpoint-source-management/>. If you have questions or need additional information, please contact The Department's Water Quality Section staff.

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