



Sarah Huckabee Sanders
Governor

ARKANSAS DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

1 Natural Resources Drive, Little Rock, AR 72205
agriculture.arkansas.gov
(501) 225-1598



Wes Ward
Secretary of Agriculture

MEMORANDUM

To: State Agencies, Academic Institutions, Non-profit Organizations and Other Interested Parties

From: Blake Forrest, Water Quality Section Manager

Date: July 1, 2026

Re: Request for FFY27 Section 319(h) Grant Pre-Proposal Workplans

The Arkansas Department of Agriculture will be accepting grant pre-proposal workplans for nonpoint source pollution (NPS) management projects from July 1, 2026 through close of business, Monday, August 31, 2026. If you are not the individual responsible for making grant requests, please forward this to the proper individual in your organization.

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 STORET or WQX database.

Only complete grant pre-proposal workplans will be accepted. Furthermore, all grant pre-proposal workplans must identify a cause(s) and source(s) of nonpoint source pollution within the respective watershed's project area.

A grant pre-proposal 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 constituent(s) defined to be controlled, reduced or abated.
- a tracking mechanism to quantify results, specific timeline in which task or activities are to be completed.
- estimated budgets.

- 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.
- impacts to socially underserved communities and/or climate resilience.

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 workplan pre-proposals.

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

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

Fluctuations in federal funding levels may occur as the Department is not typically informed of EPA 319(h) allocation/funding levels until March or a later date. Project award levels may be subject to revision. Those 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% of the entire project costs. For example, for a project with 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 our example 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.

Water Quality Section – Nonpoint Source Staff:

Blake Forrest	Blake.Forrest@arkansas.gov	(501) 553-8674
Allen Brown	Allen.Brown@arkansas.gov	(501) 682-3902
Kevin McGaughey	Kevin.Mcgaughey@arkansas.gov	(501) 682-3908
Brett Galland	Brett.Galland@arkansas.gov	(501) 682-3979
Jennifer Walsh	Jennifer.Walsh@arkansas.gov	(501) 831-3243
Zoie Autrey	Zoie.Autrey@arkansas.gov	(501) 682-3909

Cc: Chris Colclasure, Director
Kyla Chandler, USEPA
James Drake, USEPA

Attachments: NPS Priority Watersheds, Eligibility Requirements, Pre-Proposal Form, and Example