

Community Stormwater Partnership Grant Program

FY26 Request for Proposals

Introduction

Howard County acknowledges the strength in community partnerships and recognizes the importance of supporting stormwater management and water quality improvement projects on private property owned by Nonprofits and Homeowner's Associations. Likewise, Howard County recognizes the financial difficulty these organizations face in implementing projects and changes within our communities.

The Community Stormwater Partnership grant program awards nonprofit organizations and homeowner associations (HOA) up to \$50,000 for the implementation of stormwater treatment and outreach. Applicable stormwater treatment practices are BMPs found in Chapter 5 of Maryland's Stormwater Design Manual. Partial funding or full funding may be awarded.

Eligibility

Please read through the eligibility and requirements carefully to see if you are eligible to apply. Entities must be one of the following:

- Nonprofit organizations in the Nonprofit Watershed Protection Partnership
- Homeowners Associations that are within CA are eligible at Village level or smaller.

Nonprofits who are **NOT** in the Watershed Protection Partnership and are interested in applying for this grant or pursuing other opportunities should visit <https://www.cleanwaterhoward.com/what-is-your-role/nonprofit> and submit a Partnership Agreement.

Applicants must be a Howard County nonprofit or HOA in good standing with SDAT. Projects on sites **built before 2003** are prioritized. Nonprofits must install on site of their location that receives a Watershed Protection Fee bill.

Howard County reserves the right to ask for you to sign an agreement before you are awarded a grant. Howard County reserves the right to ask for additional information such as proof of non-profit status from any applicant.

Project Goals

1. Increase treatment of impervious surfaces.
 - a. Provide practices that treat impervious surfaces through stormwater best management practices (BMPs) or through other means

2. Contribute to water quality goals and improve watershed resilience.
 - a. Provide practices that improve water quality or quantity either through stormwater best management practices (BMPs) or through other means.
3. Expand on watershed outreach and educational campaigns
 - a. Engage members of the organization, a target audience, or the community through education and information sharing about the project.

Project Types

Community Projects	Small-Scale BMPs	Education and Outreach	Design and Construction
Native tree/shrub plantings	Bioretention		
Invasive removal	Micro-bioretention		
Turf conversion	Permeable Pavement	Winter Salt Reduction	Engineering Designs for small-scale BMPs
Conservation landscaping	Raingardens with underdrains	Pet Waste Reduction	Construction for small-scale BMPs
Impervious removal	Bioswales	Sustainable Landscaping	
Raingardens without underdrains	Cistern		
Rain Barrel	Other structural small-scale BMPs		

Project Tracks

This year the FY26 Community Stormwater Partnership Grant program has **two** tracks split by project type (See Project Types section above). Applicants are encouraged to apply to the track that BEST fits their community needs. Communities may apply to both tracks, but the County will partially award funds until engineering designs are completed and approved before providing construction funds. Need help deciding which path is for you? Send a brief description of your project to afarrell@howardcountymd.gov.

- Track 1: Supports Community Projects, Outreach and Education, and Designs
- Track 2: Supports Construction and Small Scale BMPs (Must submit full engineering design with application)

Timeline

Date	Description
May 5 th	First day applications are open
June 20 th	Last day to submit application
Aug. 2025 – Sept. 2025	Initial Award Selection
September 2025	Grant Award signatures due
October 2025	Earliest start date to begin project implementation
April 2026	Progress report due
Dec. 2026	Grant term closes and final report/invoices are due

Application Package

Prior to submitting an application, specifically those for an onsite stormwater installation (including tree plantings), retrofit, or conversion of surface types, applicants are encouraged to have a site visit and assessment performed by the Howard County Watershed Stewards Academy (WSA). Applications for installation projects (including trees) will be looked upon more favorably if they include a WSA assessment. Include in your application a copy of their assessment and recommendations.

Application Checklist:

- ☐ Complete application sections A-E.
- ☐ Attach Letter(s) of support
- ☐ Provide timeline and budget details in the application tables
- ☐ Provide sketch of impervious surface to be treated if applicable
- ☐ Provide map of project location
- ☐ Attach concept design
- ☐ Attach quotes or proposals
- ☐ Attach WSA report
- ☐ Attach engineering design Track 2 only (Section F)

Submission Instructions

Howard County's Office of Community Sustainability will administer the grant. If you have questions please email Avery Farrell, afarrell@howardcountymd.gov Questions about projects should be submitted no later than 2 weeks before the application deadline.

Section A: Organization Name and Contact

Section B: Project Overview and Summary

Section C: Project Narrative and Timeline

Section D: Grant Budget

Section E: Letter of Support

Section F: Complete Engineering Design (**TRACK 2 ONLY**)

Section A: Organization Name and Contact

Name of Organization:

Select whether your organization is an HOA or Nonprofit

- ☐ Homeowner Association
- ☐ Nonprofit in the Watershed Protection Partnership
- ☐ Nonprofit **NOT** in the Watershed Protection Partnership

Official Corporate Name (as listed on tax documents):

Mailing Address (If HOA, please note the address of property management):

Provide at least 2 street names that fall within or near your HOA boundaries (HOA ONLY):

Federal ID Number:

Authorized Representative (if awarded a grant, this is the individual who has signature authority to sign the Grant Agreement):

Name:

Title:

Email:

Phone:

Application Point of Contact (Individual to contact about this application):

Name:

Title:

Email:

Phone:

Organization Mission (Please provide 1-2 sentences summarizing your organization's mission):

Section B: Project Overview and Summary

Project Title:

Project Summary (100 words or less):

Select the primary project goal(s) your organization wishes to accomplish (Review *Project Goals* in the section above for description):

- ☐ Increase treatment of impervious surfaces.
- ☐ Contribute to water quality goals and improve watershed resilience.
- ☐ Expand on watershed outreach and educational campaigns.

TOTAL PROJECT BUDGET \$ _____

[illegible]

7. Did you meet with a Watershed Stewards Academy representative for a site visit/assessment regarding this proposed project? If so, please include their assessment. If not, please explain why not.
8. Provide a map with street names labeled and boundaries if HOA.

Section D: Grant Budget

Please fill in the table below. Budget items should relate to what is outlined in the Project Narrative. Please use the space under the chart to identify the source of any match and clarify any budget items as needed. Applicants who provide quotes or proposals to justify budget are favored. Please keep your requested grant funds to \$50,000 or less (highly recommended).

For design costs you are unsure of, please make sure you estimate the maximum cost of a design to not exceed budget which may require you to adjust budget items where appropriate. We will then determine if you receive partial funds, or the full amount requested.

Budget Item	Requested Grant Funds	Cash Match	In-Kind Match	Total
Budget Total:				

Section E: Letters of Support

If you have partners included in the Project Narrative, please include a letter of support from them. Any support letters should be specific in what the partner or supporter will do toward the project. Attaching support letters into this document is preferred but can be attached separately to the application email.

If applying as an HOA, you MUST provide a support letter from the HOA noting approval of this project.

Section F: Engineering Designs

If you are applying for the construction of a completed engineering design, you must a completed engineering design.

Scoring Criteria

- **Completeness of Application (up to 5 points):** What is the level of completeness and detail? Has the applicant followed the application instructions?
- **Consistency with Grant Goals (up to 10 points):** Is the project consistent with what is outlined in the goals for this grant?
- **Project Need (up to 10 points):** Does the applicant explain the need for the project and their chosen methods and practices?
- **Community Engagement (up to 15 points):** Are the proposed partnerships reasonable and are there a letters of support? Are the target audiences/impacted groups outlined? Are volunteers engaged? Is a Watershed Stewards Academy assessment included? Will this project impact vulnerable communities or reach underserved populations?
- **Likelihood of Success (up to 15 points):** What is the likelihood that the project will achieve its goals? Are there sufficient resources to complete the project? Are the approach and methodology reasonable to achieve project goals?
- **Transferability (up to 5 points):** Does the project have demonstration value and/or replicability?
- **Sustainability (up to 20 points):** Has future maintenance and sustainability of the project been explained? What will happen when the grant period or project ends?
- **Cost Effectiveness (up to 20 points):** Is the budget an appropriate use of resources and cost effective? Are the budget line items justified in the project narrative? Is there any match? (Not required but will be looked at favorably.)

You've reached the end of the application. Ensure you fill out application completely and submit to afarrell@howardcountymd.gov