
SEMCOG Community Green Infrastructure Grant Program Frequency Asked Questions (FAQ)

Overview

What is the SEMCOG Community Green Infrastructure Grant Program?

The SEMCOG Community Green Infrastructure Grant Program is a competitive grant program, offered by SEMCOG through the EPA Great Lakes Restoration Initiative (GLRI). It funds the implementation of green infrastructure projects that specifically reduce stormwater runoff volume, improve stormwater quality, and help build and connect Southeast Michigan's green infrastructure network.

Who is eligible to apply?

Eligible applicants include counties, cities, villages, townships, intermediate school districts, and community colleges in Southeast Michigan. All applications must include the signature of the Chief Elected Official from the community seeking funding.

Are nonprofits eligible to apply?

Non-profit organizations are not eligible to serve as direct applicants; however, they may participate in the grant process by acting as fiduciary agents on behalf of eligible entities. In this role, a non-profit may receive and manage grant funds, ensure compliance with financial and reporting requirements, and support administrative oversight, while the primary applicant remains the qualifying organization responsible for program implementation and accountability.

What projects are eligible?

The primary goal of the program is to reduce stormwater runoff through the implementation of green infrastructure best management practices.

To be eligible for this funding opportunity, projects must:

- Be consistent with the [Great Lakes Restoration Initiative Action Plan IV](#);
- Reduce untreated stormwater runoff through the implementation of green infrastructure practices;

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- Be implemented on public property;
- Demonstrate they are meeting community need(s); and
- Be complete and report results by June 30, 2030.

Projects may also result in:

- Great Lakes shoreline and riparian corridors restored or protected; or
- Coastal wetland, nearshore, and other habitats restored, protected, or enhanced.

Additional factors contributing to an application’s likelihood of being selected for funding include:

- Projects that address [Lakewide Area Management Plans](#) and Regional Plans (e.g., [Water Resources Plan for Southeast Michigan](#), [Green Infrastructure Vision for Southeast Michigan](#), [State of Michigan Domestic Action Plan for Lake Erie](#), [Strategic Framework for Growing our Resilience, Equity, and Economy with Nature \(GREEN\)](#));
- Projects that demonstrate feasibility of timely implementation (evaluation of level of design, permits required, timing for completion within the budget requested);
- Applications that include a detailed schedule including milestones and deliverables;
- Projects that include partners/stakeholders and meaningful community engagement in the design and implementation of the project;
- Cost-effective projects that will deliver large annual reductions in stormwater relative to the funding amount.

How will proposals be evaluated?

The evaluation process will consist of two phases:

1) Technical SEMCOG Review

SEMCOG staff will review applications to ensure eligibility, completeness, and consistency with regional and state plans. Inclusion of supporting documents, such as maps, photographs, resolutions, and plans that support the project, if applicable (letters of support are welcome but not required). Complete applications must be submitted by the application deadline. SEMCOG staff may request additional information to ensure an accurate review. SEMCOG staff will also coordinate with outside stakeholders not directly connected to applications for support in project selection.

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2) Regional Review Committee

Following review by SEMCOG staff, SEMCOG's [Regional Review Committee](#) will issue final approval for funding based on staff recommendation.

Funding

How much funding is available through SEMCOG's Community Green Infrastructure Grant Program?

\$3,240,000 million will be available.

What is the maximum subgrant request?

The maximum grant request is \$300,000 per project. The minimum is \$50,000, and this program will prioritize funding for projects that have a significant impact in reducing stormwater runoff. SEMCOG intends to award funds to several projects of varying amounts and scope. In addition, due to funding limitations, awarded projects may receive less than the requested amount.

Is there a supplemental funding requirement?

No, cost-share, matching, and leveraged funding are not required; however, projects that leverage other funding sources are welcome.

My community does not have staff capacity to apply for or administer this grant. What options exist?

SEMCOG has engineering consultants on contract with this grant program for those applicants that demonstrate limited staff capacity or funding to support engineering design. If you are interested in this option, please indicate in this section and provide an explanation of your staff capacity and/or financial limitations for consideration. Note that any local agency that receives funding must have capacity to advertise, bid the project and select the construction contractor in accordance with all EPA requirements.

Timeline

What is the application deadline?

The application deadline is August 21st, 2026, at 5 p.m. Complete applications should be submitted by this deadline, but SEMCOG staff may request additional information to ensure an accurate review. We anticipate the funds will be available in November 2026 and projects must be complete by June 30th, 2030.

Additional Information

Administrative Requirements

- Projects must adhere to all requirements for subaward recipients outlined in the grant [agreement between SEMCOG and EPA](#). Please be sure to review this agreement in its entirety.
- Each subgrantee will be required to sign a pass-through agreement.
- Quarterly status reports, using the reporting template, are required to be submitted to SEMCOG. SEMCOG staff will compile reports from all subgrants and submit the required quarterly status report to EPA.
- Applicants are required to estimate pollutant load and annual runoff reduction using established calculators such as EPA's [PLET](#) (formerly STEPL), [SEMCOG's Eco Planning Tool](#), that emulates PLET with a runoff reduction component or other generally recognized runoff reduction estimate methodologies.

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