

## **GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE GRANT PROGRAM FOR THE COMBINED SEWER AREA POLICY**

### **I. PURPOSE**

The Green Infrastructure Grant Program for the Combined Sewer Area (Program) is a funding program provided by the Northeast Ohio Regional Sewer District (District) to support the strategic implementation and long-term maintenance of Green Infrastructure (GI) projects that reduce stormwater runoff entering the combined sewer system within the District's combined sewer service area. These projects help restore natural hydrologic functions, enhance infrastructure resiliency, reduce wet-weather impacts, and support healthy, vibrant communities.

### **II. ELIGIBILITY**

#### **A. Eligible Entities**

The District member communities within the District's combined sewer service area and other governmental entities and nonprofit 501(c)(3) organizations. Privately-owned businesses may also be eligible if they partner with an Eligible Entity, serving either as an applicant or co-applicant.

#### **B. Eligible Projects**

Eligible Projects must be located in the District's combined sewer service area and remove stormwater runoff from the combined sewer system. Projects include but are not limited to stormwater source control measures or water resource projects that store, filter, infiltrate, or evapotranspire runoff.

#### **C. Requirements**

- **GI Grant Program Agreement (Project Agreement)**

The District requires all entities awarded Program funds to enter into a Project Agreement for implementation and long-term maintenance of the GI Project. A draft Project Agreement is provided in the Request for Proposal. Both the applicant and co-applicant must demonstrate the ability to meet all terms and obligations outlined in the Project Agreement. The initial Project Agreement must be fully executed by April 1 of the award year. Failure to meet this deadline may result in the withdrawal of the funding offer.

- **The District's Good Standings**

The applicant and the property associated with the GI Project must be in good standing with all District bills.



- **The District's Title IV**  
The applicant must demonstrate compliance with Title IV (Combined Sewer Code) of the District's Code of Regulations as outlined in the *Submittal Requirements for Connections to the Combined Sewer System*. Applicants are responsible for funding the portions of a project that are necessary to meet the minimum requirements of Title IV.
- **Permanent Control**  
The applicant must demonstrate permanent control or ownership of the entire project site at the time of application.
- **Long-Term Maintenance**  
Applicants must commit to the long-term maintenance of the GI practices installed at the Project Site for their full design life.

### **III. FUNDING**

Subject to available funding and annual District Board of Trustee approval, the District anticipates funds will be available annually through a competitive process. The District will annually review the terms and conditions of the GI Grant Program and may modify these terms and conditions based on lessons learned from previous funding rounds.

All entities awarded Program funds are required to enter into a Project Agreement for implementation and long-term maintenance of the GI Project. All available GI Grant funds will be provided by the District to Grantees for direct project costs, conditioned on the District's prior approval of the Project and Grantee's compliance with this Policy and the executed Project Agreement. If a Grantee fails to maintain a project funded through the GI Grant in accordance with applicable agreements executed with the District, it shall be liable for the full amount of GI Grant funds paid for the Project.