

Green Infrastructure Grant for the Combined Sewer Area Program Policy

The Northeast Ohio Regional Sewer District (District) supports the strategic implementation and long-term maintenance of green infrastructure that protects, preserves, enhances, and restores natural hydrologic function. The Green Infrastructure Grant's (GIG) for the Combined Sewer Area Program (Program) focus is the funding of green infrastructure projects to remove stormwater runoff from the combined sewer collection system within the District's combined sewer service area. Green infrastructure refers to stormwater source control measures, or water resource projects, that store, filter, infiltrate, or evapotranspire stormwater runoff to increase resiliency of infrastructure by reducing stress on wet-weather drainage and collection systems, thereby supporting healthy environments and strong communities.

The GIG Program is open to member communities, governmental entities, non-profit 501(c)(3) organizations, or businesses working in partnership with their community in the combined sewer area interested in implementing water resource projects that remove stormwater runoff from the combined sewer system and in ensuring the long-term maintenance of the green infrastructure practices. GIGs are awarded through a competitive funding process with final recommendations approved by the District Board of Trustees. The availability of GIG Program funds in any calendar year is at the discretion of the Board of Trustees.

The District recognizes that construction can cause an increase in impervious surface at the site. For grant consideration, applicants 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. The District will consider project funding above Title IV requirements, provided the following conditions are met to the satisfaction of the District:

- Project meets all grant eligibility requirements, as will be set forth in a Request for Proposal document issued by the District
- Applicant provides cost details for compliance with Title IV
- Applicant provides cost details for the water resource project components that exceed Title IV compliance

All entities awarded a GIG will enter into a grant agreement for the implementation and long-term maintenance of the GIG project. GIG Program funds will be provided by the District on a reimbursement basis for project costs, including design, construction, and the first-year maintenance expenses, in accordance with the District's GIG Program Reimbursement Policy. The Grantee may use 100% of the District's grant funds for activities and/or expenses related to the green infrastructure components of the project (i.e., design, construction, materials, first-year maintenance (including self-performed), and signage specifically related to the green infrastructure components, as approved by the District. Funds must be used in accordance with the grant agreement. Any funds not expended for the purposes contained in the applicable grant agreement and approved by the District shall remain with the District.

A GIG Program project must be maintained for the design life expectancy of the green infrastructure components of the project, as determined by the District. The Grantees are required to attend a mandatory GIG O&M Workshop provided by the District. If the GIG project fails to be maintained by the

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Grantees in accordance with applicable grant agreements executed with the District, the full amount of GIG Program funds expended for the water resource project shall be returned to the District.

REIMBURSEMENT POLICY

The Green Infrastructure Grant for the Combined Sewer Area Program funds shall be provided by the District on a reimbursement basis directly to the Grantees for Project costs, conditioned on the District's prior approval of the design and construction, including first-year maintenance of the Project. Request for reimbursement related to project first-year maintenance costs must be submitted no later than one (1) year after the date of substantial completion, as determined by the District and provided to the Grantee in writing. Under no circumstance shall grant funds be used for compliance under Title IV of the District's Code of Regulations. District staff members, selected by the District, shall be a permanent part of the Project team dedicated to design review and construction inspection, and first year maintenance oversight throughout the duration of the Project. Funds must be used in accordance with the authorized amount indicated. Any funds not expended for the purposes agreed to by the Grantee and the District shall remain with the District.