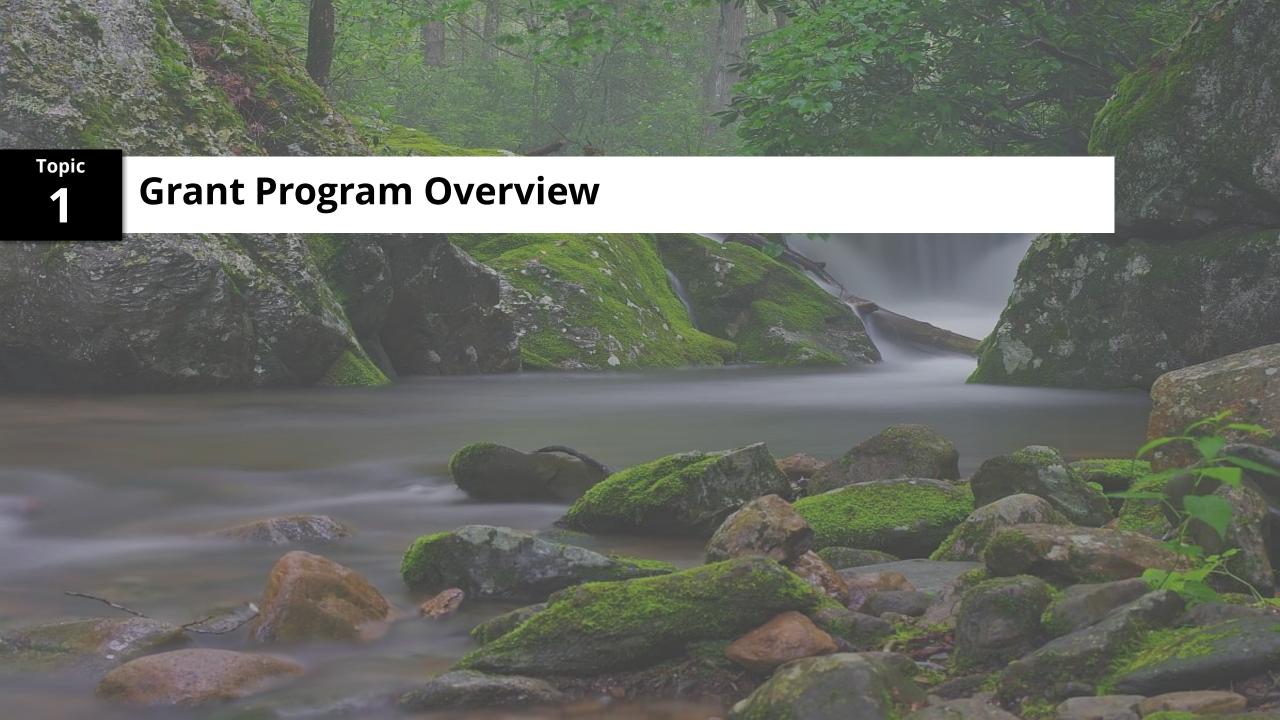


ARP COMPETITIVE GRANT WORKSHOP SERIES: RESOURCE PROTECTION

Agenda

- Competitive Grant Program Overview
- Resource Protection Grant Information
- Application Submission and Evaluation
- Grant Implementation
- GMS Walkthrough
- Closing





Grant Program Overview



TDEC is allocating **\$200 million** in the form of **competitive grants**, with **\$50 million** for **resource protection** grants



Applicants must meet **technical requirements** and demonstrate a **co-funding** commitment

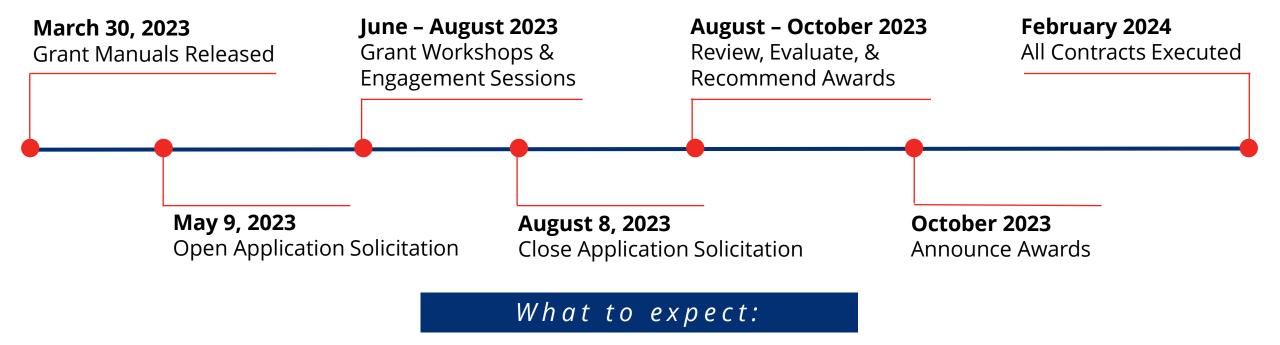


These funds will be distributed for eligible stormwater management, stream/wetland rehabilitation, and infrastructure resilience projects



Awards will be granted based on a **scoring system** that determines suitability of funding

Timeline and Expectations



- Applicants cannot modify an application once submitted
- TDEC is unlikely to engage with grant applicants before the announcement of awards
- Incomplete applications may not be considered for funding

- Each contract will be individualized based on the proposed scope of work and project timelines
- Awardees should anticipate project management discussions with TDEC prior to contract execution
- Awardees may be able to modify their application between award announcement and contract execution

General Grant Program Rules

- 1 Each application should include only **one project**
- For proposals with partners, a **lead applicant** must be identified; TDEC will enter a grant contract with the lead applicant to execute all activities
- Applicants may submit **multiple proposals** as lead applicant; this is **unique to** the **resource protection** grant
- Applicants may submit a **proposal for all three grant programs**, if an eligible entity; this will not affect the ranking and evaluation of each application
- Non-competitive grant funds cannot be used as match funding for competitive grant projects and vice versa





Resource Protection Grant Overview

Resource protection is defined as projects that improve water infrastructure resilience to extreme weather events, improve stormwater management or water quality, and/or restore natural landscape features for improved hydrology.

Project Eligibility

- Stormwater Management: Management of wet weather to maintain and restore natural hydrology by infiltrating, evapotranspiring, harvesting, and reusing stormwater
- **Stream or Wetland Rehabilitation:** Improving the current stream or wetland function and returning the feature to a more stable state, therefore providing improved resource values
- **Infrastructure Resilience:** Projects that reduce vulnerability of facilities and assets to manmade or natural disasters, such as extreme weather events

Project Award Types:

- Investigation and Planning
 Planning, Design, and Construction
- Investigation, Planning, and Design
- Construction Only

Applicant Eligibility

- Counties and Cities
- Water Utility Districts
- Water Utility Authorities
- For-profit water infrastructure systems, if in partnership with one of the eligible entities as lead grant applicant
- 501(c)(3) Non-Profits

Ineligible Projects

Projects that result in an appreciable permanent loss of water resource value and require stream or wetland compensatory mitigation

Resource Protection Definition Cont.

Resource Protection projects should focus on green infrastructure while minimizing components of gray infrastructure.



Practices should be eligible <u>Clean Water State Revolving Fund (CWSRF)</u> activities



Refer to the EPA's 2012 Clean Water State Revolving Fund 10% Green Project Reserve: Guidance for Determining Project Eligibility, section 1.0 for additional eligibility information



The use of grey infrastructure for protection efforts may be a SRF eligible activity, but applicants should consider alignment with the intent of the grant program



TDEC does not require a specific percentage of green vs. grey infrastructure



Eligible Activities: Stormwater Management

Stormwater Management Definitions

Efforts that focus on management of wet weather to maintain and restore natural hydrology by infiltrating, evapotranspiring, harvesting, and reusing stormwater

- Regional Scale: Preservation and restoration of natural landscape features
- **Local Scale**: Site and neighborhood-specific practices such as bioretention, trees, green roofs, permeable pavements, and cisterns
- Flood control projects are not an eligible activity, but resource projection projects often provide flood mitigation co-benefits
- Stormwater reuse activities are eligible under this resource projection grant, **not** the water reuse grant

Applicants Should:

- Demonstrate either how the project measurably improves infiltration, capture, or stormwater reuse rates; or measurably changes land use cover within a specific catchment or basin
- Identify pollutants of concern and the positive water quality benefits because of the stormwater management practices
- Quantify stormwater management and water quality benefits using the <u>Tennessee</u> Runoff Reduction Assessment Tool (TNRRAT) or other approved assessment methodology

Eligible Activities: Stream or Wetland Rehabilitation

Definitions

- Stream or wetland rehabilitation projects include enhancement and restoration of streams or wetlands, streambank stabilization, or lowhead dam removal projects
- Projects should focus primarily on improving the current stream or wetland function and returning the feature to a more stable state, therefore providing improved resource values
- Any natural resource rehabilitation project must maintain or improve aquatic connectivity and be designed such that there is an overall improved resource value

Applicants Should:

- 1 Determine the Restoration Potential
- **2** Describe **site selection** methods
- 3 Determine project-specific function-based goals and objectives
- 4 Describe the potential for **functional lift** at a site
- 5 Detail success criteria
- **6** Develop a **monitoring** plan
- 7 Complete these steps using a quantitative assessment tool or approved scientific method



Stream or Wetland Rehabilitation Project Requirements

Project Requirements

- Applicants must provide a rehabilitation plan, including a schedule for completion of all construction and monitoring measures
- Natural resource rehabilitation projects often require an individual Aquatic Resource Alteration Permit (ARAP)
- Some projects may require long-term inspection, maintenance, and management following construction applicants should include this process information if applicable

Reporting

- Projects focused on stream and wetland restoration, rehabilitation, or bank stabilization will have application and reporting requirements that may differ from traditional infrastructure projects
- Pre- and post-project requirements may be similar to reporting requirements found in the TDEC Stream Mitigation Guidelines or TN Rapid Assessment Methods for wetlands, depending on the project scope and complexity
 - Applicants may utilize the <u>TN Stream Quantification Tool</u> or reach out to SWIG for additional guidance



Eligible Activities: Infrastructure Resilience

Infrastructure Resilience Definitions

Projects that reduce vulnerability of drinking water and wastewater facilities and assets to manmade or natural disasters

Infrastructure Resilience projects can aim to...

- Prevent interruption of services
- Maintain the integrity of the system
- Preserve and protect the facility or assets
- Enhance community resilience through improved stormwater management
- Secure and conserve local water supplies through water reuse and conservation

...in the event of a flood, drought, or natural disaster

These projects often work in alignment with system capacity projects, coordination of emergency response activities, and asset management planning efforts

Applicants Should:

- Demonstrate that project outcomes will result in improved facility or asset performance following manmade or natural disasters
- Leverage existing resources such as the EPA's pages on <u>Drinking Water</u> and <u>Wastewater Resilience</u>, <u>Resilient Strategies Guide for Water</u> <u>Utilities</u>, and the <u>Climate Resilience</u> <u>Evaluation and Awareness Tool</u> (CREAT)

Resource Protection Grant Funding

\$50 million total in funding will be awarded to resource protection grants

Maximum Proposal Budgets per Project Award Type:

Project Award Type	Proposal Budget Max
Investigation and Planning	\$1 Million
Investigation, Planning and Design	\$2 Million
Planning, Design and Construction	\$5 Million
Construction Only	\$5 Million

The proposal budget maximums represent a proposal's total project budget, which includes the grant amount (reimbursable) and applicable co-funding.

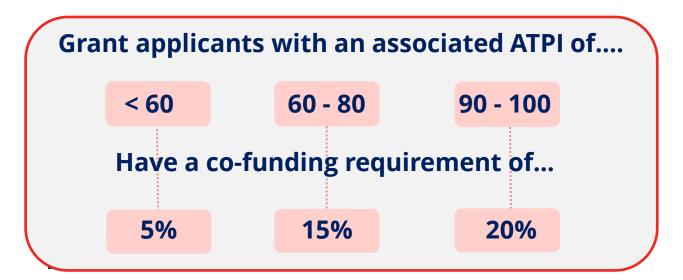


Co-Funding Requirements

Co-funding is a requirement of the Competitive Grant Program

Co-funding amounts:

- Co-funding amounts are based on the 2022 Ability to Pay Index (ATPI) for the project area served
- The required co-funding percentage will be based on the ATPI of the grant applicant
- No co-funding reductions





Applicants may submit a written request for an **ATPI exemption** if they believe the specific population served by the **project differs from** the overall **city/county ATPI**.

- Email tdec.arp@tn.gov by June 16th
- TDEC will assess and respond by July 7th

Co-Funding Sources*

Cash Reserves

Cash may consist of local ARP funds, SRF loans, financial assistance loans, cash reserves, revenue bonds, and public-private partnerships or sponsors. Other cash value contributions include engineering plans developed on or after March 3, 2021.

Third-Party Funds

Third-party in-kind may include project owner labor, equipment services, or material contributions. TDEC will consider using in-kind co-funding contributions if an individual accountability report is completed and submitted with the application.

*Note Treasury Rule

Treasury's Final Rule allows for the use of ARP funds as a match for other grant programs where the costs are eligible under both programs. The entire project is subject to the requirements of those grant programs. Local or state ARP funds cannot be used as match for grant programs that restrict the use of federal funds to meet match requirements.



Resource Protection Funding Eligible Activities

Eligible Activities for Grant Funding Requests:

Professional Fee, Grant, and Award	Capital Purchase	
Planning for restoration of permanent riparian buffers, floodplains, or wetlands	Land Purchase for Easement	
General Grant Admin	Construction	
Acquisition Services for Land/Easement	Equipment Purchase	
Review & Legal Fees	Construction Admin, Inspection, & Long-term Monitoring	
Engineering Design/Other Engineering Services		
Survey	Permits/Easement	
Bidding Services		

Administrative Use of Funds:

Up to 6% of a grant applicant's total grant contract may be used for reasonable and allocable administrative expenses.

Administrative Expense Examples	
Project and proposal development and submittal	
Reporting	
Compliance assurance	
Monitoring of grant funds	
Direct or indirect costs associated with administering the grant award	



Example Application Scenario #1

Scenario: King County is challenged by streambank erosion and flooding, which leaves its wastewater system and infrastructure vulnerable to failure. To address these concerns, King County seeks to assess its wastewater system and streambanks to understand vulnerable weak points, consider mechanisms to stabilize streambanks, slow erosion, and enhance flood resiliency. This qualifies as an **infrastructure resilience** project.

Project Application Example:

- King County submits a \$2 million proposal for the Investigation, Planning, and Design award type
- King County has an ATPI of 50
- King County has a co-funding requirement of 5% (\$100,000)

Funding Scenario:

- Total project budget: \$2 million
- Co-funding percentage: 5%
- Required co-funding: \$100,000
- Allowable administrative expenses: \$120,000 (6% of \$2 million)
- Total grant dollars requested: \$1.8 million



Example Application Scenario #2

Scenario: The City of Williamsburg is interested in partnering with a local non-profit to undertake green and gray infrastructure upgrades to their managed stormwater system. The proposed activities are expected to enhance the water quality of their watershed and reduce risks posed by extreme weather events such as flooding. This qualifies as a **stormwater management** project.

Project Application Example:

- The City of Williamsburg submits a \$5 million proposal under the Planning, Design, and Construction award type
- Williamsburg serves as lead applicant with the local non-profit as a partner
- The City has an ATPI of 100
- Williamsburg has a co-funding requirement of 20% (\$1 million)

Funding Scenario:

- Total project budget: \$5 million
- Co-funding percentage: 20%
- Required co-funding: \$1 million
- Allowable administrative expenses: \$300,000 (6% of \$5 million)
- Total grant dollars requested: \$4 million



Application Submission Guidance



Alignment with the definition of resource protection is critical in determining suitability for funding

 Grant applicants must demonstrate that their proposal aligns with the definition of resource protection and meets all activity eligibility requirements



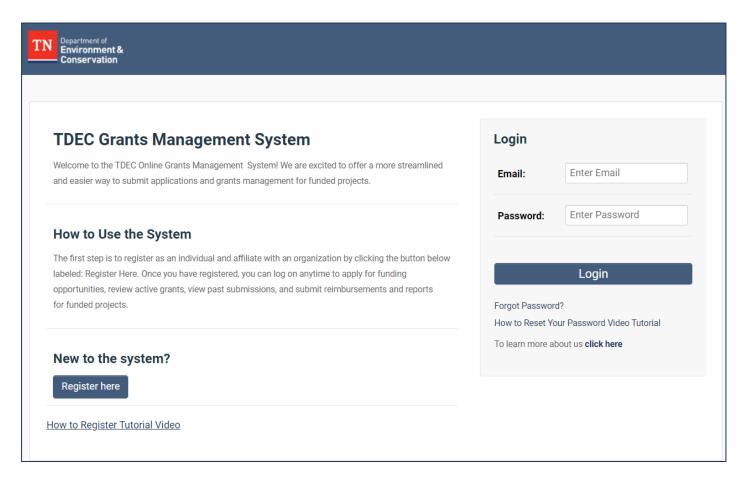
While specific **activities may be eligible** under the resource protection grant, applicants should consider whether the respective project would make a **compelling and competitive case** in comparison to other proposals



When determining which project(s) and grant program(s) to apply for, applicants should view the proposal scoring rubrics and **select the path that would give the application the most points**



Grants Management System



- All components of the application are housed within GMS. It is designed to ensure that only complete applications may be submitted for TDEC review and approval
- GMS allows grants administration partners to affiliate with the grant applicant to prepare the application for the legally authorized representative's review and electronic signature
- GMS will also serve as the portal for submitting the required Title VI Pre-Audit Survey, Supplier Direct Deposit Authorization (SDDA), and future invoices for reimbursement requests and state approvals



Note: Long-term access to the GMS is possible with user login and affiliations.

Application Submission Components

Every grant application must contain the following components:



Designated grant applicant and partners (if applicable)

• Includes demonstration of conservation easement or other protective covenant for stream and wetland restorations, bank stabilization, or dam removal projects



Description and narrative of proposal

• Project award type, scope, timeline, budget, funding sources, ATPI, partnership



Overall grant budget



Co-funding requirements



Proposal details – 250-word responses to specific questions



Technical project information – varies by project award type

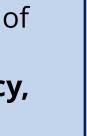


Application Evaluation Methodology

TDEC will form a panel of three subject matter experts for each grant to review applications.



TDEC will conduct an administrative review of each application for completeness, accuracy, and eligibility before initiating the technical evaluation.



Proposals will be evaluated using a **scoring rubric** based on a 100-point system. Proposals will be ranked relative to other proposals based on the suitability of funding.

The scoring rubric consists of **Community/ System** Considerations and **Proposal** Considerations.

Proposals with the highest total points at the end of scoring for each grant will be considered for funding. TDEC may not award funds to proposals that score below a 70.

TDEC may not engage with grant applicants during the **application evaluation period**. Grant applicants are not allowed to revise or add to applications following submission. Incomplete applications may not be eligible for funding.



Evaluation Criteria

Community/System Considerations – 45 Points

Criteria	Max Points
Investment in a disadvantaged community- ATPI	10
Historical demonstration of successful resource protection projects	10
Historical demonstration of enhanced public education and outreach	10
Project is on an impaired stream or within the HUC 12 of a stream(s) not supporting all its designated uses and project activities are directly connected to designated use support and actions will measurably improve water quality	15

Proposal Considerations – 55 Points

Criteria	Max Points
Alignment with definition of resource protection – inadequate, adequate, or exceptional	10
Demonstration of the need for resource protection – none, minor, or major need	20
Demonstrated project outcomes (options on next slide)	20
Plan for enhanced public education and outreach – no, adequate, or exceptional	5



TDEC aims to dedicate 70% of funding to proposals involving construction and 30% of funding to non-construction proposals.

Evaluation Criteria: Demonstrated Project Outcomes

Project Type	Criteria
Stormwater Management	 Option 1: Expected increase in pervious land cover at the site through native vegetation, stream buffers, stream or wetland rehabilitation or the like Measured by % increase in scale
Stormwater Management	 Option 2: Anticipated increase of runoff captured and treated through infiltration, evapotranspiration, or reuse on-site in a 1 year, 24-hour storm event. Measured in inches
Stream or wetland restoration, bank stabilization, or dam removal projects	 Restoration Potential – minimal, moderate, high Activities considered: buffer zone restoration, a conservation easement, and taking a wetland or stream from a not-functioning to a minimum of functioning-at-risk condition
Infrastructure Resilience	 Prediction of enhanced resilience to flooding or other weather-related disasters and positive impacts on infrastructure operations No, minimal, moderate, or high prediction



Application Evaluation Considerations



TDEC may consider **feasibility** of project/proposal completion and **diversity** of project types, applicants, geographic distribution in making final funding recommendations.



Applicants must demonstrate how they will meet **co-funding requirements** and validate the feasibility of project completion within the performance period.

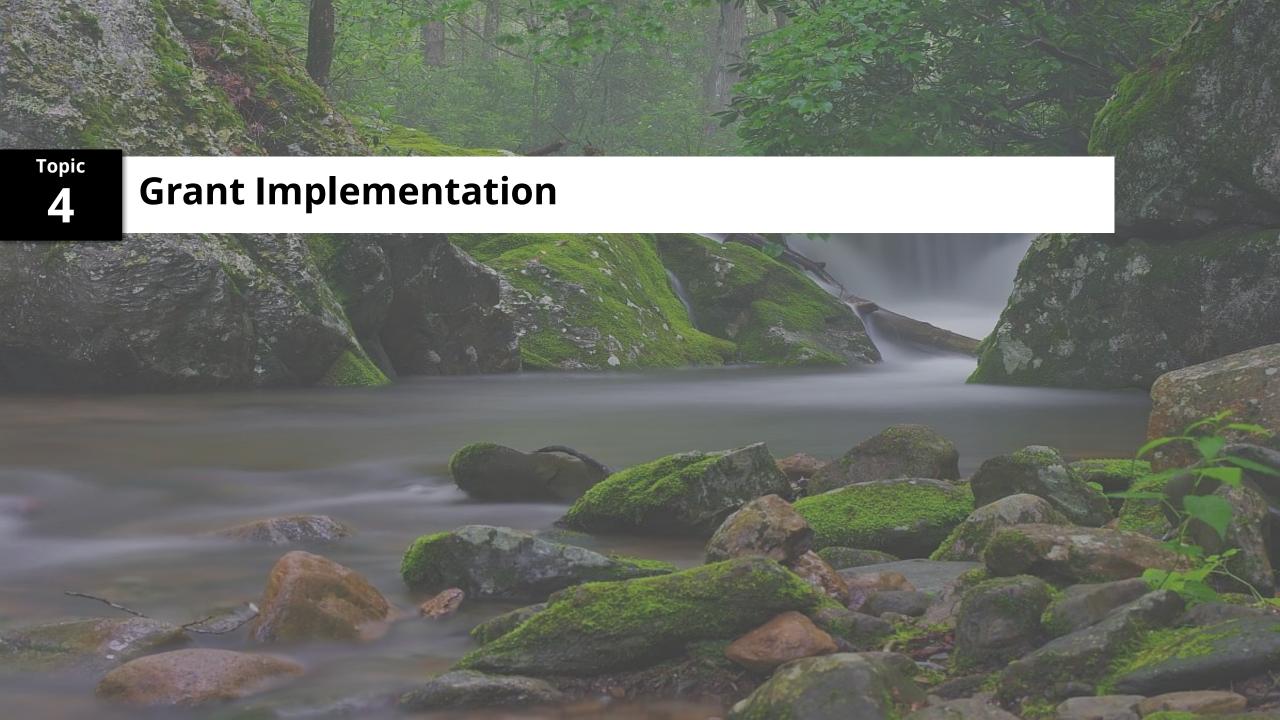


Please note that **TDEC may select parts of a proposal for funding** and may offer to fund less than the eligible grant amounts or a smaller amount than requested in the application.



Applications will not be reviewed before the deadline; there is no incentive to submit applications early. We advise applicants to take any extra time to review the application for accuracy before submitting, as revisions or additions are not allowed following submission.





Grant Schedules and Requirements

GRANT SCHEDULES

The American Rescue Plan was signed into law on **March 11, 2021**.

- All grant contracts will have an effective date of March 3, 2021.
- Proposal schedules must establish the grant contract term with end date of September 30, 2026.
- All grant contracts will end by September 30, 2026.
- Proper close-out of all activities must be completed prior to **December 30, 2026**.

TDEC is federally required to provide monitoring and oversight for its subrecipients; grantees should have the proper monitoring and oversight controls in place for its contractors and subcontractors.

Construction Requirements

- TDEC will require the submission of an authority-to-award (ATA) bid package from grant recipients before commencing construction
- Grantees must receive TDEC approval for preliminary engineering reports, construction documents, and other common materials before project close-out
- Site inspections will occur at the start, during, and completion of construction

Procurement

Any procurement using competitive SWIG funds must be consistent with **state procurement standards** and **Uniform Guidance 2 CFR Part 200.D**, as applicable.

As subrecipients, grantees must also comply with 2 CFR 200.318-200.327.

Procurement must be made on a **competitive basis**, including using competitive bidding procedures, if purchases are above the Simplified Acquisition Threshold (\$50,000). Local policy must be followed if more stringent.

Instances where competitive procurement is not practical must provide supporting documentation including a **written justification** of the decision and process.



Further procurement guidance can be found in TDEC's <u>American Rescue Plan Grant Implementation Guide</u>

Reimbursement

Grantees may request reimbursement only for costs incurred during the grant contract term.

Requests shall be for reasonable & necessary expenditures required in the delivery of service described in the contract and identified in the project budget.

Supporting documentation
will be required to
substantiate the costs
requested for reimbursement.
This may include purchase
orders, pay requests, invoices,
and/or proof of payment.



Significant adjustments to a grant award budget will **not be possible** given the federal deadlines.

Up to **20%** of the total budget may be **redirected** from one line item to another budgeted line item; no-cost modification.



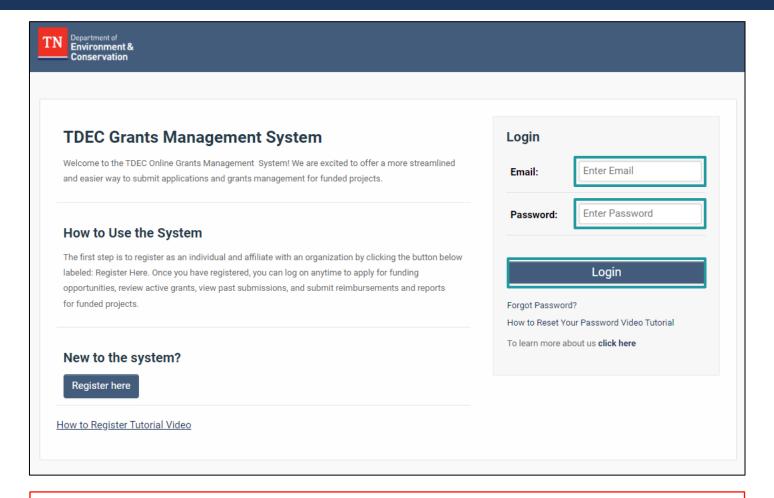




TDEC Grants Management System (GMS) Overview

Like the Non-Competitive Grant Program, applicants will use GMS to access the Competitive Grant application(s). GMS was outfitted with a few improvements:

- Required components, like the budget attachments, are more simplified and user-friendly
- Applicants are only required to input necessary information – the questions and prompts will change based on the project and award types selected



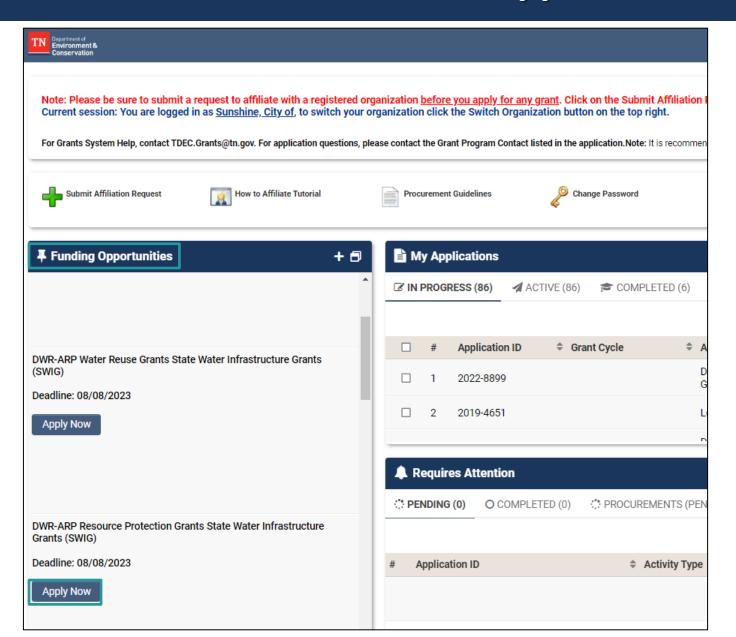
Tip: If accessing the <u>GMS</u> for the first time, please register. Click on the "Register here" button and review the <u>registration tutorial video</u> for additional support.



GMS Tip #1: Creating a new Resource Protection Application

Once logged in, navigate to the **Funding Opportunities** tab and identify the grant application associated with **Regionalization**

 Select "Apply Now" to begin a new grant application



GMS Resource Protection Application Tabs

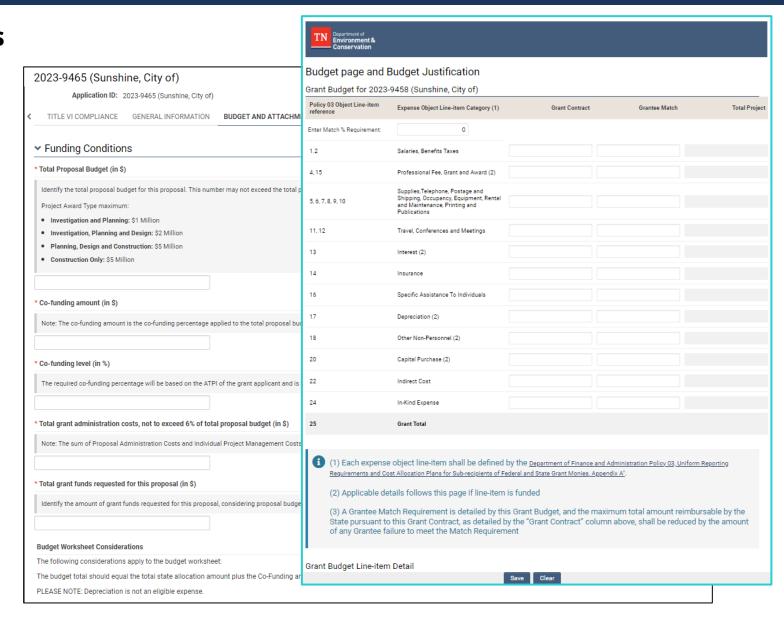
Below are the tabs you will find in GMS for resource protection grant applications:

1. Purpose & Overview	10. Narrative Questions
2. Timeline, Eligibility & Funding	11. Stormwater Management
3. Selection Criteria	12. Stream or Wetland Rehabilitation
4. Resources & Contact	13. Infrastructure Resilience
5. Title VI Compliance	14. Authorization
6. General Information	15. Self Debarment Verification
7. Budget & Attachments	16. Pre-Application Submission Authorization
8. General Proposal Information	17. Applicant Acknowledgments
9. Partner Information	18. Application Summary

Budget and Attachments Tab

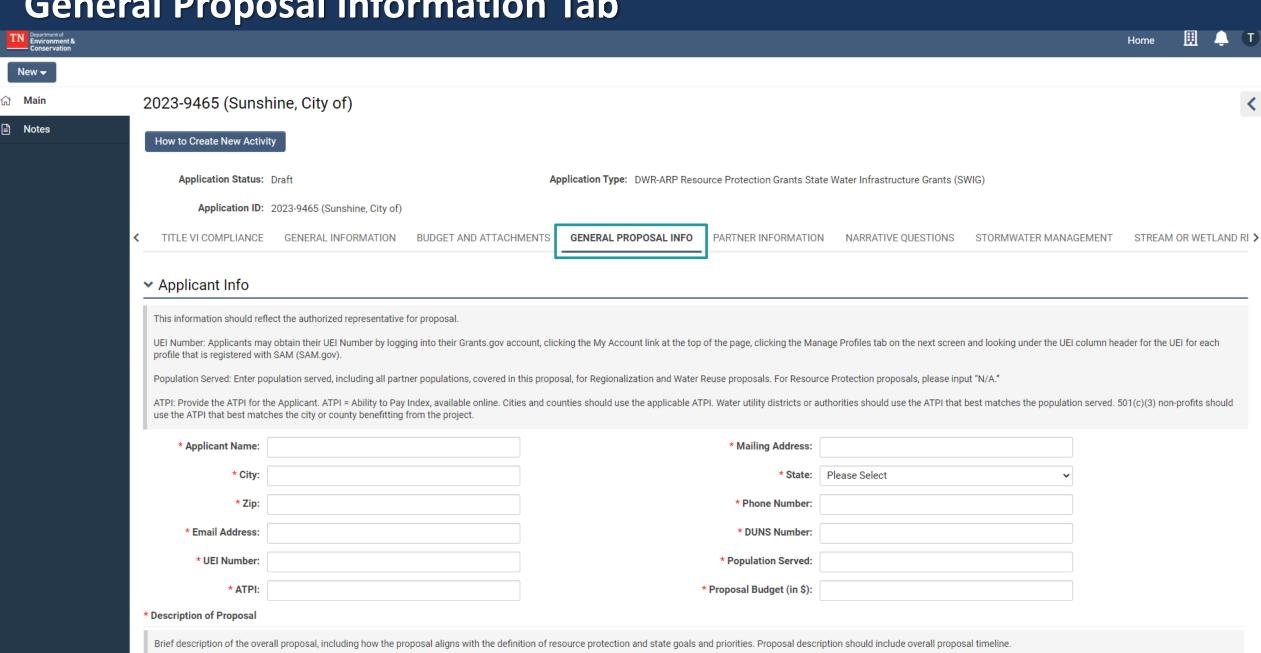
The Budget and Attachments Tab is now simpler

- The questions and required inputs have been cleaned up
- The Budget Justification
 Worksheet is now a pop-up
 tab within GMS, rather than
 an Excel worksheet



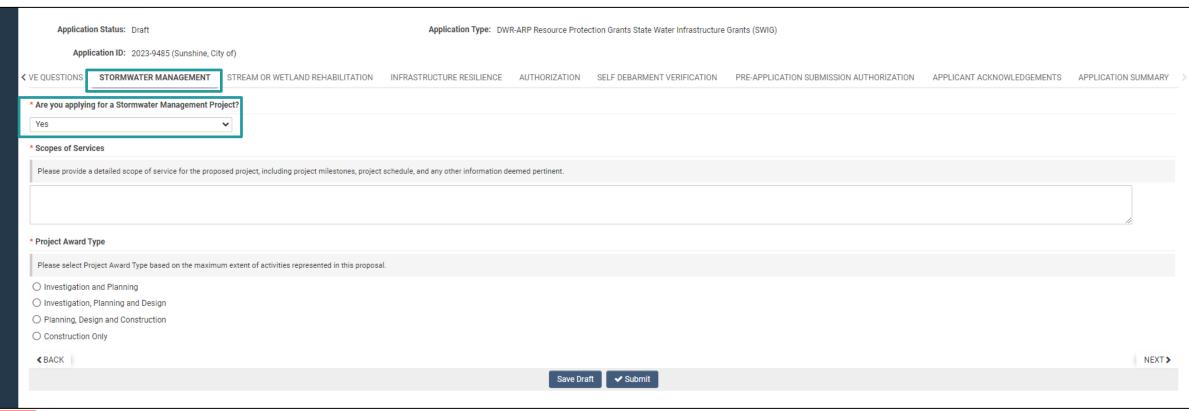


General Proposal Information Tab



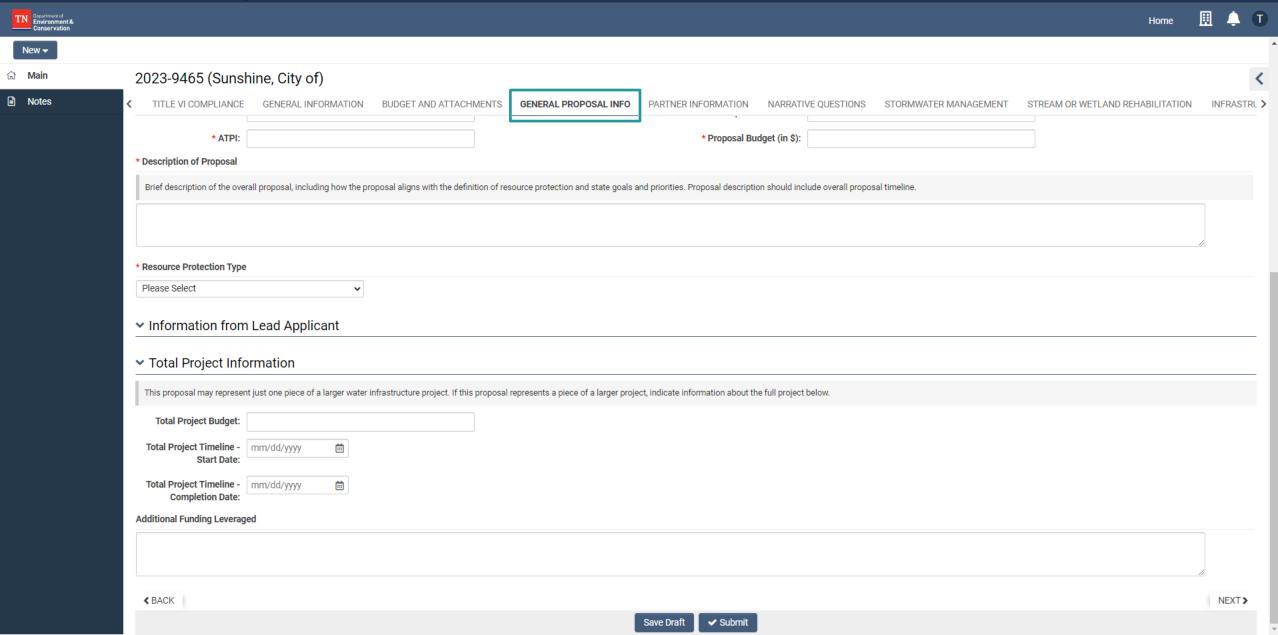
Stormwater Management, Stream or Wetland Rehabilitation, and Infrastructure Resilience Tabs

The Stormwater Management <u>OR</u> Stream or Wetland Rehabilitation <u>OR</u> Infrastructure Resilience tab will need to be completed based on applicant response to the "Resource Projection Type" question on the General Proposal Info tab.

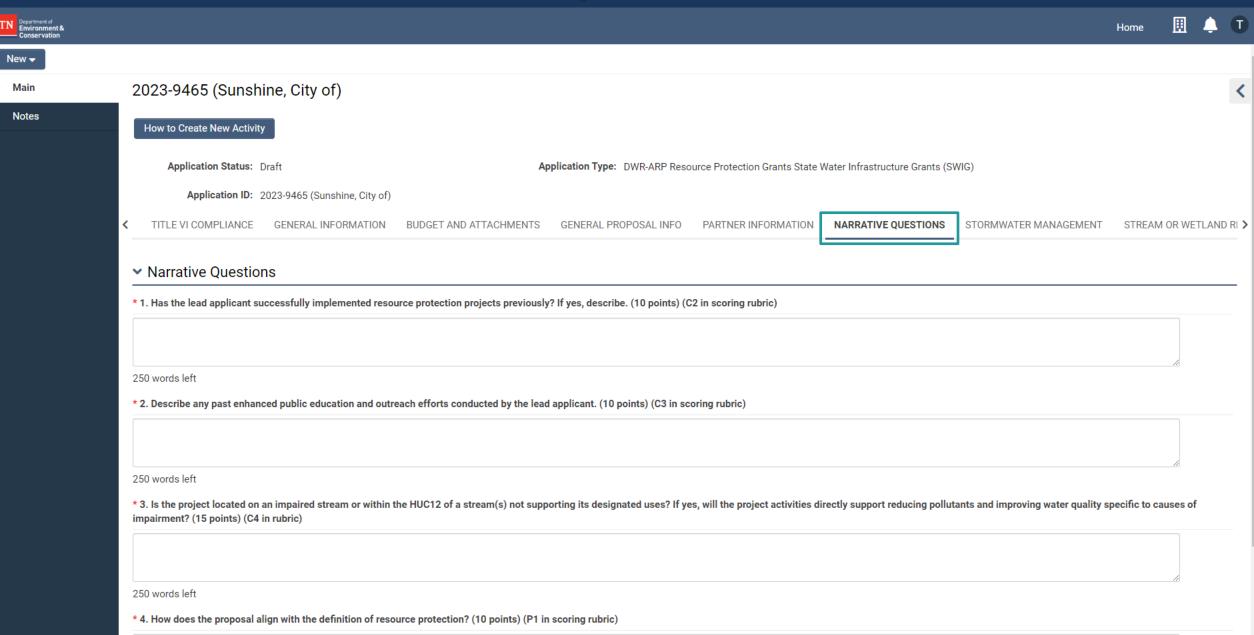




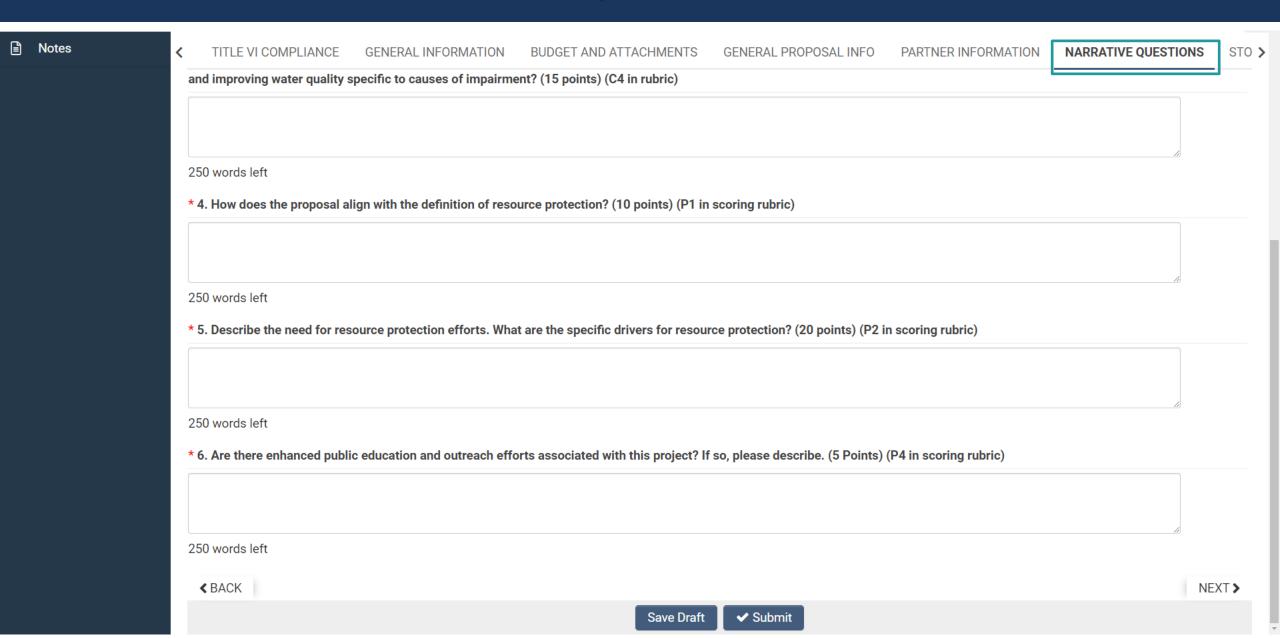
General Proposal Information Tab Cont.



Resource Protection Narrative Questions Tab



Resource Protection Narrative Questions Tab Cont.



GMS Best Practices

- 1 Upon opening your application, be sure to **affiliate the application** with an organization or entity
- Be sure to click "Save Draft" frequently to ensure progress is not lost
- Only **one person** may have the application open **at a time**; the other user(s) will be locked out
- The system can be **slow** at times; try **refreshing** if the save button buffers for an extended period
- Ensure you upload the correct documentation as documents **cannot be deleted** after upload
- Utilize the <u>TDEC GMS Resources page</u> and reach out to the <u>TDEC</u> <u>GMS email</u> with any questions

Resources

- Resource Protection Grant Manual
- TDEC Grants Management System
- Competitive Grant Program
 Frequently Asked Questions
- State Strategic Projects Framework
- TDEC ARP Website





Feedback Survey

- Thank you for attending today's workshop!
- Please take 5 minutes to complete the <u>feedback form</u>.
- Your feedback helps us to plan for additional workshops and provide you with the most relevant resources and information.
- Contact our team with any specific questions at <u>TDEC.ARP@tn.gov</u>



https://forms.office.com/g/LLE0BcRxbY

