Grant Opportunity Notice

Prepared by Hancock Engineering, October 6, 2026

Grant Title: *Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago* ***(MWRD) Stormwater Partnership Programs***

Sponsoring Agency: The Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago

Eligible Applicants: **Municipalities**, townships, county agencies, park and school districts, and other government organizations within MWRD's corporate boundaries that can enter into an Intergovernmental Agreement (IGA) with the MWRD.

Eligible Activities/Projects (examples):

There are four categories of MWRD partnerships:

1. Stormwater Partnership Program – Provides assistance for projects that manage stormwater or mitigate flooding via **detention, drainage improvements**, and/or stream channel improvements
    - Example projects include stormwater detention vaults and reservoirs and creek restorations.
    - Eligible projects must **submit a preliminary plan set with the pre-application** and the applicant must own the site or have a permanent easement.
    - Projects are ineligible if they have adverse impacts on downstream stormwater conditions, have already been advertised for bid, or are being constructed to comply with the requirements of the MWRD Watershed Management Ordinance (WMO) or other local, state or federal requirements.
    - Applicants must contribute **10%** of the total project cost.
    - **Affirmative action goals apply** to the portion of the project funded by the MWRD.

2. Green Infrastructure (GI) Partnership Program – Provides assistance for projects that manage stormwater via **green infrastructure**, such as permeable pavement with underground storage
    - Example projects include **permeable paver parking lots and alleys.**
    - Eligible projects must **submit a preliminary plan set with the pre-application** and the applicant must own the site (or have a permanent easement).
    - Projects are ineligible if they have adverse impacts on downstream stormwater conditions, have already been advertised for bid, or are being constructed to comply with the requirements of the MWRD Watershed Management Ordinance (WMO) or other local, state or federal requirements.
    - Maximum MWRD contribution is calculated using a set rate per gallon of stormwater storage, or a set percentage of green infrastructure construction costs, whichever is lower. **Typical MWRD contribution is between 35 and 60% of total construction cost**.
    - **Affirmative action goals apply** to the portion of the project funded by the MWRD.

3. Technical Assistance Program – Provides **engineering and design support** to investigate and address local flooding issues.

- Projects are ineligible if they have already been advertised for bid or are maintenance projects

4. Voluntary Flood-Prone Property Acquisition Program – Provides assistance for **acquisition of privately-owned flood-prone property**
    - Eligible properties must contain structures that are at risk of damage or destruction due to flooding and must be sold voluntarily.
    - **Applicants are responsible for demolition, conversion of the parcel to permanent open space for public use, and long-term maintenance.**
    - MWRD will reimburse between **75% and 100% of the appraised value** of the flood-prone property, based on median household income of the municipality. Associated costs (e.g. real estate closing expenses, demolition, construction, and maintenance) will **not** be reimbursed by the MWRD.

Grant Schedule:

- **December 15, 2026**: pre-applications due online for the Stormwater, GI, and Technical Assistance Partnership Programs
- **December 16, 2026 - March 4, 2027:** MWRD will review pre-applications and provide additional comments/direction to applicants
- **March 5, 2027:** Applications due online for the Voluntary Flood-Prone Property Acquisition Partnership Program. Final applications due for the Stormwater, GI, and Technical Assistance Partnership Programs (links/additional directions for final submissions to these programs will be provided by the MWRD)

Evaluation Criteria:

- Documented severity of existing flooding or erosion
- Proposed benefit (e.g. number of structures benefitted, volume of stormwater storage)
- Benefit-cost analysis of the project
- Economic needs of the community and previous assistance received from the MWRD

More Information:

- Please reach out to stormwater@mwrd.org with additional questions.