



Economic Recovery and Opportunity Alert

May 2009

Electronic Dispatch

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DEADLINE FOR THE GREEN INNOVATION GRANT PROGRAM (GIGP) QUICKLY APPROACHING

Municipalities, School Districts, Not-for-Profit organizations and even Corporations may wish to explore the Green Innovation Grant Program and respond by the May 29, 2009 deadline which has been recently extended.

I. What is the Green Innovation Grant Program (GIGP)?

The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) has authorized that not less than 20% of the economic stimulus funding provided for the State Revolving Funds go towards improving "green infrastructure".¹ The funding for the GIGP is being implemented through the Clean Water State Revolving Fund (CWSRF) and the Drinking Water State Revolving Fund (DWSRF). The GIGP is designed to preserve and create jobs, promote economic recovery, and invest in environmental protection that will provide economic benefits to New York State.² It is estimated that a minimum of \$35 million in funding will be made available to the GIGP from the CWSRF and \$3 million from the DWSRF.

The GIGP will provide funding to eligible applicants to help pay for the implementation costs of certain projects, or portions thereof. Payments of up to 90% for eligible project costs may be provided to eligible recipients with GIGP projects; however, the recipient must contribute at least 10% matching funds under this program.²

Eligible projects must demonstrate job creation and retention through the construction and implementation of sustainable, green innovation projects in New York State communities.¹ In the context of the State Revolving Fund (SRF) eligibility, green infrastructure refers to: (1) Water Efficiency, (2) Energy Efficiency, (3) Green Wet Weather Infrastructure, and (4) Environmental Innovation.²

II. What Projects are Eligible to Receive a Grant?

Pursuant to the Clean Water State Revolving Fund (CWSRF) and the Drinking Water State Revolving Fund (DWSRF), there are a variety of potential projects that meet the definitional nature of green infrastructure.

(1) Water Efficiency is accomplished by using improved technologies and practices to deliver equal or better services with less water. A few examples of projects include:

- Installation of water meters;
- Retrofit or replacement of water using fixtures, fittings, equipment, or appliances; and
- Efficient landscape or irrigation equipment; systems to recycle gray water.³

(2) Energy Efficiency is the use of improved technologies and practices to reduce the energy consumption of water quality projects, including projects to reduce energy consumption or produce clean energy. A few examples of projects include:

- Energy efficient retrofits and upgrades to pumps and treatment processes;
- Leak detection equipment for treatment works; and

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- Producing clean power for §212 treatment works on site (wind, solar, hydroelectric, geothermal, biogas powered combined heat and power).³
- (3) Green Wet Weather Infrastructure includes many practices at multiple levels that manage and treat stormwater and that maintain and restore natural hydrology by infiltrating, evapotranspiring and capturing and using stormwater. A few examples of projects include:
- Implementation of green streets;
 - Implementation of water harvesting and reuse programs where consistent with state and local laws and policies;
 - Implementation of wet weather management systems for parking areas; and
 - Hydromodification to establish or restore riparian buffers, floodplains, wetlands and other natural features.³
- (4) Environmentally Innovative Projects demonstrate new and innovative approaches to managing water resources in a more sustainable way, including projects that achieve pollution prevention or pollutant removal with reduced costs, and projects that foster adaptation of water protection programs and practices to climate change. A few examples of projects include:
- Green infrastructure/low impact development stormwater projects;
 - Wetland restoration;
 - Decentralized wastewater treatment solutions to existing deficient or failing on site systems; and
 - Water reuse projects that reduce energy consumption recharge aquifers or reduce water withdrawals and treatment costs.³

III. Who is Eligible to Apply for a GIGP Grant?

In order to apply for a GIGP grant, the applicant must meet the minimum state and federal qualifications to participate in the CWSRF and the DWSRF programs.² In addition, the applicant must own, lease, or have a conservation easement or other valid legal interest on the land where the GIGP project is proposed.² However, applicants need not be on the existing 2009 Intended Use Plan (IUP)⁴ to apply for GIGP funding, but again, they must meet the qualifications to participate in CWSRF and DWSRF program.³

Eligible applicants include any of the following: counties, cities, towns, villages, district corporations, county or town improvement districts, Indian reservations wholly within New York State, public benefit corporations or public authorities established pursuant to the laws of New York or any agency of New York which is empowered to construct and operate an eligible GIGP project, partnerships, associations, school districts, not-for-profit corporations, or any other corporations organized and existing under the laws of New York or any other state which is empowered to develop a project, or any two or more of the foregoing which are acting jointly in connection with a project.³ Eligible projects must be located in a city, town or village with a population of less than one million.

IV. How does an Eligible Applicant Apply for a GIGP Grant?

A copy of an application can be downloaded at: www.nysefc.org/greengrants. The application deadline to apply for a GIGP grant has been extended to **May 29, 2009**. All project construction contracts must be executed by **January 1, 2010** (project must be "shovel ready" by 1/1/2010), and the project must be completed and all funds disbursed by **December 13, 2013**.

Applications must, at a minimum, include:

- A completed, signed and dated application form;
- A detailed project description, rationale for undertaking the project, and a demonstration of how the project meets the evaluation criteria;

- A detailed description of the economic benefits of and the number of jobs retained or created by the proposed project;
- A detailed description and schedule indicating how the applicant will complete all the necessary environmental and State Historic Preservation Office reviews required for the proposed project to meet the January 1, 2010 deadline;
- A detailed project schedule, including construction start and end dates; and
- A listing of all other sources of funding being utilized in support of the project.³

GIGP eligible projects will be considered for funding based on demonstrated readiness, economic benefit, sustainability of project, and sustainable management/maintenance plans. Preference will be given to eligible projects that the Environmental Facilities Corporation determines are able to begin construction by June 16, 2009.

For more information about the GIGP application, selection criteria, or other program requirements, see www.nysefc.org/GreenGrants.

¹ www.nysefc.org

² “Public Notice New York State Environmental Facilities Corporation Notice of Description of Eligible Project Categories Green Innovation Grant program (GIGP)”, http://www.nysefc.org/docs/1613471442009gigp_guidance_-_public_notice_revision.pdf

³ “CWSRF Project Descriptions and Examples for Green Project Reserve”, http://www.nysefc.org/docs/1243312432009epa_guidance_attachment_7_cwsrf.pdf and “DWSRF Project Description and Examples for Green Project Reserve”, http://www.nysefc.org/docs/1243562432009epa_guidance_attachment_8_dwsrf.pdf

⁴ §606(c) of the Clean Water Act and §1452(b) of the Safe Drinking Water Act require that the States prepare a plan identifying the intended uses of the funds in the SRF and describing how these uses support the goals of the SRF.

For more information as it relates to your respective circumstances, please feel free to contact any of the following Industry or Practice Group Chairs:

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