**State Natural Resources Conservation Council**



# 2025 Clean Water Project Enhancement Design and Implementation

# Block Grant Application

**Application Due date: April 3, 2025**

*Please provide the following information about your project. In addition to reviewing the RFA, it is strongly recommended that you review the* [Project Types Tables](https://vacd.wpenginepowered.com/wp-content/uploads/2024/09/CWIPProject-Types.xlsx) *and complete the* [Project Eligibility Screening Form](https://vacd.wpenginepowered.com/wp-content/uploads/2024/09/Project-Eligibility-Screening-Form.pdf) *before filling out this application form.*

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| **APPLICANT INFORMATION** |
| Organization name: |
| Organization type (conservation district, non-profit watershed group, *municipality, etc.*): |
| Point of contact Name and Title: |
| Mailing Address (address for sub-grant agreement): |
| Telephone: |
| Email: |

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| **PROJECT READINESS AND ELIGIBILITY FORM** |
| **Please submit the** [Project Eligibility Screening Form](https://vacd.wpenginepowered.com/wp-content/uploads/2024/09/Project-Eligibility-Screening-Form.pdf) **with your application:** |

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| **PROJECT INFORMATION** | |
| Is this project non-regulatory Yes  No  Project Name:  Watersheds Project Database Number(s):  Project Location Town:  Project GPS coordinates:  Project Location Watershed:  Is the proposed project located in the Champlain or Memphremagog Basins? Yes No  (If yes, Water Quality Restoration Formula Grants my apply, please contact NRCC)  Is the project on private land?  Yes  No  (If so, please include contact information and letters of interest or commitments to implement with this application)  Project Type: (please see the [Project Types Tables](https://vacd.wpenginepowered.com/wp-content/uploads/2024/09/CWIPProject-Types.xlsx) for details:  Lake Shoreland  Rivers – Floodplain/Stream Restoration  Forestry  Wetlands  Stormwater  Roads Project  Roads/Stormwater Gully  Agricultural Pollution Preventions  *Project Step (Choose* Preliminary/Final design or Implementation only not all three)  Preliminary Design  Final Design  Implementation  Total leveraging/matching funds (if applicable): $    Total Project Cost (including leverage): $  Amount Requested: $ | |
| Please submit a budget sheet with your application [Project Budget Template](https://vacd.wpenginepowered.com/wp-content/uploads/2024/01/NRCC-DIBG-2023-Project-Budget-Template-12-5-2023-1.xlsx)  **All project funds must be utilized by February 1, 2027** | |
| **PROJECT DESCRIPTION** | |
| Please provide a detailed description of your project: | |
| A brief summary of the project and work proposed: | |
| What metrics will the project accomplish (please check the [Project Types Tables](https://vacd.wpenginepowered.com/wp-content/uploads/2024/09/CWIPProject-Types.xlsx)  for eligible reporting metrics specific to each project type and associated benefits: | |
| What entity will provide maintenance/sign an O&M agreement for the project: | |
| Any necessary details on how your project meets the associated criteria found in [Project Types Tables](https://vacd.wpenginepowered.com/wp-content/uploads/2024/09/CWIPProject-Types.xlsx)  and FY 2023 CWIP Funding Policy. | |
| Are you seeking funding from other sources? Please explain. | |
| Please briefly describe if and how your project will support an Environmental Justice Focus population or an otherwise historically under-represented group. | |
| **PROJECT NEED AND IMPORTANCE** | |
| Applicants need to demonstrate the priority and importance of proposed projects. This is typically done through the project’s identification as a priority project and/or in an assessment or plan (Tactical Basin Plan, Stormwater Master Plan, etc.). However, in some cases (when a plan does not exist for an area, or when a plan does not include recent events, such as flooding or storm damage, etc.), priority can  be demonstrated through recommendations from DEC staff. Please provide details on the project’s priority including:  What plans identify the project as a priority and its ranking, if applicable: | |
| Please explain why the project is high priority (including the primary benefit and any secondary benefits): | |
| Other details relevant to the project’s prioritization and feasibility (including staff recommendations): | |

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| **PROJECT PURPOSE** | |
| **For a project to be eligible for this funding, it must meet at least one of the 5 listed statutorily-defined purposes for the Enhancement Grant Program. Please check the project purposes that apply to your project and complete the narrative section corresponding to the project purpose (Could be more than one)**  Protect High Quality Waters  *High Quality Water:* Per the 2017 Vermont Water Quality Standards (§ 29A-105 (c)) “high quality waters” are waters the existing quality of which exceeds any applicable water quality criteria. The VTDEC uses monitoring and assessment data to assess individual surface waters in relation to Vermont Water Quality Standards as outlined in the 2016 DEC Assessment and Listing Methodology. The four categories currently used to assess Vermont’s surface water are full support, stressed, altered and impaired. Waters that currently exceed or support designated and existing uses and meet water quality standards are placed into the full support or stressed categories. Waters that do not support uses and do not meet standards are placed into the altered or impaired category. All altered and impaired water bodies are clearly listed in the relevant Tactical Basin Plan or one can find the list of impaired and altered waters here: <https://www.epa.gov/sites/default/files/2019-02/documents/2018-vt-303d-list-report.pdf>. For the purposes of the EDDIBG sub-initiative, “high quality waters” are defined as any waters not listed as altered or impaired in the relevant Tactical Basin Plan. Any eligible clean water project located upstream of a “high quality water” body is considered to have the potential to protect “high quality waters.”  How does your proposed project fit into the definition of high-quality waters? | |
| Maintain or Improve Water Quality  How beneficial do you expect this project to be in terms of maintaining or improving water quality? | |
| Restore degraded or stressed waters  See the list of impaired waterways in Vermont to determine whether or not your project is in the area with degraded or stressed waters: <https://dec.vermont.gov/watershed/map/assessment> (list of impaired waters is mid page).  How will this project restore degraded or stressed waters? | |
| Create resilient watersheds and communities  Projects that assist with a community’s resilience against the ecological responses to a changing climate (e.g., extreme droughts or rains, excessive heat, biodiversity decline, etc.) are eligible as long as they meet all other eligibility criteria.  How beneficial do you expect your project to be in creating a resilient watershed and community? | |
| Support the public's use and enjoyment of the State's waters  Signage, condensed access, and/or targeted outreach and education surrounding a specific project are all considered eligible project components and primary project benefits to  “support the public’s use and enjoyment of the State’s waters.” Other restoration-focused activities may also de facto “support the public’s use and enjoyment of the State’s waters” by making the waters more swimmable, fishable, and/or drinkable.  How will this proposed project support the public’s use and enjoyment of the State’s waters? | |
| **PERMITS** | |
| All projects must go through VDHP review under this grant unless exempted under guidelines on page 28 of the [FY23 CWIP Funding Policy](https://vacd.wpenginepowered.com/wp-content/uploads/2023/08/SFY23-CWIP-Funding-Policy.pdf)  See [VDHP Project Review Form](https://dec.vermont.gov/sites/dec/files/WID/CWIP/Updated12.14_CWIP%20VDHP%20Review%20Form.pdf) **The cost of VDHP should be included in your budget**  See guidance in the Grant RFA for Implementation Projects:  Have all permits been secured for this project?  Yes  No  If so, please list:  Please list the anticipated permits for this project, if potential permits have not been explored yet as part of the design process: | |
| **Submitting your application:**  Please submit your application in 2 separate documents.   1. The [Budget Sheet](https://vacd.wpenginepowered.com/wp-content/uploads/2024/09/NRCC-DIBG-Project-Budget-Template.xlsx) in excel. 2. All other documentation as a single pdf.  * Completed Application Form * Completed [Project Eligibility Screening Form](https://vacd.wpenginepowered.com/wp-content/uploads/2024/09/Project-Eligibility-Screening-Form.pdf) * Project Locator Map * Any additional materials that will help clarify/support the project, including photos, letters commitment from landowners, site plans, project feasibility studies etc. * Quotes or bids received from contractors if applicable   **Email: Completed Application to** [**lina.smith@vacd.org**](mailto:lina.smith@vacd.org) | |