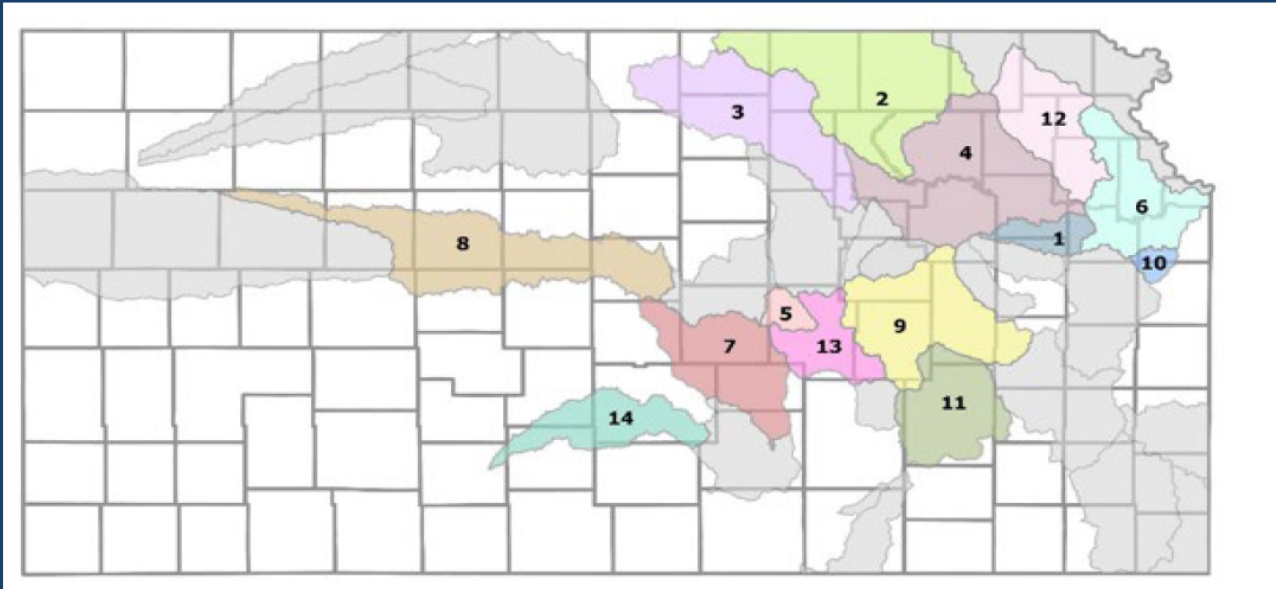


WRAPS TARGETED WATERSHED AREAS



- | | |
|------------------------|---------------------------------|
| 1. Upper Wakarusa | 8. Kanopolis |
| 2. Tuttle Creek Lake | 9. John Redmond |
| 3. Milford lake | 10. Hillsdale Lake |
| 4. Middle Kansas River | 11. Fall River and Toronto Lake |
| 5. Marion Reservoir | 12. Delaware River |
| 6. Lower Kansas River | 13. Cottonwood |
| 7. Little Arkansas | 14. Cheney Lake |

Applicants may apply for any of the fourteen prioritized watersheds or any additional gray-shaded watersheds. While the fourteen watersheds are given top priority, all applications will be reviewed and ranked based on the severity of the impaired waters.

Assessments will include the following:

- **Identification of Potential Watershed Needs:** Assess the needs related to nonpoint source (NPS) pollution or restoration efforts. This involves reviewing water quality reports, identifying pollution sources, and evaluating the ecological health of water bodies. Consider factors such as land use, population density, and proximity to water bodies.
- **Development of Partnership Agreements:** Establish working relationships with interested applicants and develop partnership agreements that outline roles, responsibilities, and expectations for WRAPS Project Coordinators.
- **Project Planning and Implementation:** Evaluate the sponsoring organizations' assessments of watershed needs to address specific challenges related to watershed management and NPS pollution. This may include reviewing water quality reports, pollution sources, and ecological health assessments.
- **Outreach and Education Activities:** Develop plans for capacity building and training to support local stakeholders, including conservation district staff, landowners, and community members. This may involve workshops, field demonstrations, and technical assistance on Best Management Practices (BMP) implementation and monitoring. Public outreach and communication efforts should include events, educational materials, and media campaigns to raise awareness about watershed issues and NPS pollution prevention.
- **Monitoring and Evaluation:** Ensure that the applicant has a framework for monitoring and evaluating the effectiveness of watershed projects. This should include plans for collecting data on water quality indicators, BMP implementation rates, and ecological outcomes to measure the success of conservation efforts.

ELIGIBILITY:

According to the Clean Water Act (CWA), EPA is mandated to award §319(h) grants to the state nonpoint source agency designated by the governor. These grants are intended to support the implementation of approved Nonpoint Source Management Programs (NPSMPs) aimed at achieving and maintaining beneficial uses of water, such as swimming and fishing. Eligible activities under these grants include both non-regulatory and regulatory programs focused on compliance and enforcement, technical assistance, financial aid, education, training, technology transfer, demonstration projects, and monitoring to assess the success of specific nonpoint source projects, particularly those related to controlling nonpoint source pollution.

WMS will award to implement specific components of their Nonpoint Source Management Program. States have the flexibility to allocate funds to a wide range of entities, including public and private organizations such as local governments, tribal authorities, cities, counties, regional development centers, schools and universities, nonprofit organizations, state and federal agencies, watershed groups, for-profit entities, and individuals, through subawards or contracts as appropriate. Recipients of funding are selected based on the state's program priorities and selection criteria, and contracts must adhere to procurement requirements outlined in Title 40 and Title 2 of the Code of Federal Regulations (CFR).

Eligible Activities under §319(h) Funds:

1. Updating and refocusing the state NPSMP and Nonpoint Source Assessments to enhance program effectiveness. This may involve refining programs to address pressing water quality issues, establishing indicators and milestones, developing Total Maximum Daily Loads (TMDLs), creating watershed plans, and improving assessment efforts (USEPA NPS, 2013).
2. Implementing groundwater protection activities identified in a state's NPSMP, Ground Water Protection Strategy, or Comprehensive State Ground Water Protection Program (CWA §319(h)(5)(D); USEPA NPS, 2013).
3. Funding urban runoff activities, provided they do not specifically pertain to final National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permits or directly implement such permits. Eligible activities include technical assistance, monitoring, best management practices (BMPs), educational programs, technology transfer, training, and developing regulations or local ordinances for stormwater management (USEPA NPS, 2013).
4. Funding abandoned mine land reclamation projects aimed at preserving water quality, if not specifically required by a NPDES permit and not directly implementing a draft or final NPDES permit. Activities may include pollution remediation, mapping, monitoring, technical assistance, education, technology transfer, training, and policy development addressing abandoned mines (USEPA NPS, 2013).
5. Protecting unimpaired or high-quality waters identified in a State NPS Management Program, using a limited amount of watershed project funds to mitigate threats and ensure water quality preservation as prioritized in the state's program (USEPA NPS, 2013).
6. Implementing Lake protection and restoration activities, excluding in-lake work like aquatic macrophyte harvesting or dredging unless pollution sources have been sufficiently addressed to prevent recurrence. States are encouraged to use §319 funds for activities that were eligible under CWA section 314 (Clean Lakes Program) in previous years (USEPA NPS, 2013).
7. Supporting the implementation of a wide range of agricultural conservation practices, including options for animal waste storage, treatment, and disposal in animal feeding operations (AFOs) that are not subject to NPDES permit requirements.

For direct implementation of best management practices (BMP), design standards common to watershed and stormwater management projects in the state are expected to be followed and more information and technical guidance will be provided in the project phase when relevant.

INELIGIBLE ACTIVITIES

The following are **ineligible** activities:

- Projects that do not comply with Clean Water Act Section 104(b)(3), which authorizes the award of assistance agreements to conduct and promote the coordination and acceleration of research, investigations, experiments, training, demonstrations, surveys, and studies relating to the causes, effects, extent, prevention, reduction, and elimination of pollution.
- Actions required to settle a formal enforcement action or included in a court order; or specified as a required mitigation measure under a state, local, or federal permit for a specific project; however, grant funding may be used to enhance or expand such projects beyond minimum requirements for compliance.
- Work involving only routine maintenance of storm water infrastructure and other facilities.
- Projects which fall under the existing planning responsibilities of an individual state or local government (e.g., development of TMDLs or MS4 permits)
- Solely “gray infrastructure” projects (e.g., installation of sewer lines)
- Construction activities that are not a part of a demonstration project. This includes, but is not limited to, preliminary planning to determine the economic and engineering feasibility of a facility; engineering, architectural, legal, fiscal, and economic investigations and studies; surveys, designs, plans, working drawings, specifications, procedures, and other actions necessary to the construction of a facility; the erection, acquisition, alteration, remodeling, improvement, or extension of a facility; and the inspection and supervision of the construction of a facility.

Additionally, the following items cannot be purchased under the potential resultant grants:

- Any purchases or activities deemed unnecessary to accomplish grant purposes as determined by KDHE WMS or EPA, including any grantee expenses that are not directly linked to the implementation of the proposed activities.
- Private ceremonies, parties, celebrations, or related expenses
- Previous obligations and/or bad debts
- Expenses related to overtly religious purposes.
- Expenses intended to influence the outcome of elections or other political processes.
- Fines and/or penalties
- Creation of endowments
- Alcoholic beverages
- Real property (land or structures)
- Leases
- Accountable personal property, including capitalized and sensitive personal property.
- Expenses for food purchases, must be included in the workplan and approved by the EPA.
- Contractual agreements and Consultant rates for professional expert services are capped at \$92.00 per hour 8hr daily max.

APPLICATION INSTRUCTIONS

The WMS aims to initiate a collaborative phase for the final development of projects with chosen partners. As part of this effort, a Phase One Application in narrative form will be collected and assessed by a workgroup. The assessment will focus on completeness, relevance, and alignment with the objectives of the EPA grant to Kansas, as well as with the broader goals of the State of Kansas that are pertinent to the application's content.

Applicants are required to create a narrative Project Implementation Plan, which must include (but is not limited to) the following components:

- Completion of form responses for pages 1 and 2 of the solicitation (these do not count towards the page limit).
- Expansion of the project summary from page 1 to provide further details on:
 - The specific issue or challenge addressed by the proposed project.
 - Overall goals and objectives of the project and their alignment with the goals of this subaward.
 - Potential impact of the project.
- Definition of the target population(s), including methods or criteria used to determine eligibility of individual end beneficiaries.
- Overview of previous institutional experience, collaborative history, or the applicant's capacity or proposed methods to enhance capacity for working with underserved farmers or farm communities.
- Summary of prior institutional experience in implementing any of the proposed project strategies.
- Identification of measurable metrics that could be employed to assess progress and achievements of the proposed project.
- Inclusion of any additional partners enlisted to support aspects of the project described above or other project components.
- Summary of experience in collaborating with the state or other funding entities through subaward arrangements, along with relevant links or references to completed projects, reports, or evaluations.

Applicants are required to provide a clear rationale for their chosen approaches in all cases. Pre-applications must adhere to the following guidelines:

The document should not exceed 5 pages using an 11-point standard font. - Any supplementary materials such as maps, tables, or figures must be submitted as separate files and referenced within the proposal. These materials should complement the core application and not substitute for the required responses detailed earlier. This ensures that the proposal remains focused on addressing the outlined requirements effectively within the specified page limit.

Additionally, each application should be accompanied by a simple budget with the following categories:

- Personnel and fringe benefits
- Travel and training
- Supplies: Including Education and outreach or media costs
- Equipment* (Must have prior approval for cost over \$5,000)
- Contractual (e.g. consultants or other Contractual agreements and service providers)
- BMPs (this includes direct financial assistance to farmers in the form of cost share)
- Overhead/indirects** (Max allowable cost will be 10% of federal funding up to \$25,000 per award)

Please ensure to include the following in your proposal:

- A clear total of all requested budget items listed separately.
- A detailed breakdown of the budget, specifying the cost per expense with a narrative explaining the purpose and justification for each charge.
- A summary outlining any local funds or proposed in-kind contributions for the project.

PRE-APPLICATION REVIEW

The WMS will collaborate with partners and a workgroup committee. Additionally, WMS-selected Technical Staff will provide scoring consultations to review technical aspects for potential inclusion. These consultations will be at the discretion of the review panel, with transparency provided to applicants if further consultation is included.

The review committee will utilize the following rubric to score applications and assess the potential subawardee's ability to meet all grant requirements through collaborative final project development:

Proposal Review Criteria	Points
Technical Approach: The technical approach must demonstrate clarity, feasibility (including cost feasibility), appropriateness, and impact in addressing the primary goals of the subaward program. It should include links to nutrient reduction, flood resilience, or source water protection outcomes that align with one or multiple State of Kansas initiatives.	40
Past Performance: Evaluation criteria include the level of previous collaboration with or programmatic focus on historically underserved farmers and farm communities, the ability to demonstrate prior conservation success in the grant focus areas, and examples showcasing broader partnership capacity with other relevant entities.	30
Communications Strategy: The proposed strategy should outline how project outcomes will be documented, communicated, and disseminated to partners and residents within the focus area, including underserved populations. This should emphasize the innovative and novel practices employed to achieve project objectives.	20
Organizational Capacity: The evaluation will assess the applicant's ability to meet compliance requirements with WMS or EPA policies and federal subaward practices, particularly in areas such as reporting and metric tracking.	10
Overall Rating (out of 100 points)	100

NOTICES

Project Applications will also be subject to a full risk assessment.

Disqualification:

The KDHE WMS reserves the right to reject and not evaluate an application based on the following reasons, which include but are not limited to:

- Failure by the Applicant to submit the Application by the specified due date and time.
- Failure by the Applicant to submit a budget proposal.
- Non-compliance of the Application with the requirements stated in the Solicitation.
- Limitations imposed on the rights of KDHE WMS by the Application.
- Failure by the Applicant to timely respond to requests from WMS for information, documents, or references.
- Absence of any required signature, certification, authorization, stipulation, disclosure, or guarantee in the full application phase of the Solicitation.
- Presentation of information in a format inconsistent with the instructions of the Solicitation or failure to comply with its requirements.
- Provision of misleading, inaccurate, or unbalanced responses.
- Determination by KDHE WMS, through verification processes, that the content is misleading or inaccurate.
- Insufficient evidence, including evidence from the Applicant or obtained by the Evaluation Committee from other sources, to demonstrate that the Applicant is properly qualified to meet the requirements of the Solicitation.

Nonmaterial Variances:

KDHE WMS reserves the right to waive or allow cure of nonmaterial variances in the Application if deemed beneficial. Nonmaterial variances are minor irregularities that do not affect responsiveness, pertain solely to form, or format, do not alter relative standing or prejudice other Applicants, do not change the meaning or scope of the Solicitation, or do not constitute a material change in Solicitation requirements. Any waiver or cure of nonmaterial variances does not alter Solicitation requirements or excuse the Applicant from full compliance if selected, with the determination of materiality solely at KDHE WMS's discretion.

Application Clarification Process:

KDHE WMS may contact Applicants post-submission to clarify Applications or ensure mutual understanding. This may involve written inquiries, interviews, site visits, review of past performance if applicable, or requests for corrective pages, all requiring responses signed by an authorized representative. Failure to comply may result in Application rejection as non-compliant.

Reference Checks:

KDHE WMS reserves the right to contact references to evaluate Application information, verify details, and assess qualifications of any named subcontractors.

Information from Other Sources:

KDHE WMS may gather information from external sources about an Applicant, including performance under previous contracts, subcontractor qualifications, financial stability, litigation history, and publicly available data.

Release of Claims:

Submission of an Application signifies the Applicant's agreement not to pursue claims against KDHE WMS or the State based on misunderstandings or failure to provide intended information.

No Minimum Guaranteed:

Submission does not guarantee Applicant selection or contract execution. KDHE WMS reserves the right to accept or reject all or parts of Applications based on its discretion.

Evaluation of Applications:

Applications meeting submission criteria undergo review as outlined in the Solicitation. Selection prioritizes suitability to grant objectives and value to KDHE WMS, not necessarily the lowest cost.

Notice of Selection and Acceptance Period:

KDHE WMS notifies timely Applicants with intent to negotiate subaward contracts. Contract negotiation and execution should align with Solicitation terms. Failure to finalize contracts by specified dates may lead to extension or cancellation of selection, with potential negotiation with other Applicants for best value.

Definition of Contract:

Full execution of a written contract formalizes subaward goods/services, with no legal or equitable rights acquired by any Applicant until a separate written contract, meeting KDHE WMS terms, is fully executed.