

DuPage County ARPA Grant Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

1. Is the grant available to park districts or just municipalities?

- a. Per page 2 of the *DuPage County ARPA Project Proposal Packet*, as stated in #9 of the Project Compliance Criteria section, "...funding is only being made available to DuPage County municipalities under a mutually agreed upon IGA. Local governments may partner with non-profits, businesses or other entities to complete the project. However, DuPage County is only able to reimburse the local municipal grantee."

2. What is the timeline for finding out if a project is receiving funding?

- a. Per page 1 of the *DuPage County ARPA Project Proposal Packet*, "DuPage County...anticipates notifying grantees following the DuPage County Stormwater Management Committee meeting in June."

3. Are buying and removing structures from the floodplain eligible under this grant?

- a. While not explicitly unallowed, page 1 of the *DuPage County ARPA Project Proposal Packet* under #2 of the Project Compliance Criteria section states "Funding requests are only being accepted for construction of flood control and water quality projects." Further, please reference the Project Prioritization Criteria section beginning on page 2 of the packet to learn how grant applications will be scored.

4. We plan to start construction of a project in 2023. With this kind of timeframe, is this project a good candidate for ARPA grant funding?

- a. Per page 1 of the *DuPage County ARPA Project Proposal Packet*, "...funded projects must be completed within 24 months from the IGA date, no later than December 31, 2024." Further, please reference the Project Prioritization Criteria section beginning on page 2 of the packet to learn how grant applications will be scored.

5. Is a project eligible for ARPA funds if it has also received a DuPage County Water Quality Improvement Program (WQIP) grant? And would being awarded a WQIP grant reduce our potential to receive ARPA funds?

- a. Per page 1 of the *DuPage County ARPA Project Proposal Packet* as stated in #3 of the Project Compliance Criteria section, "Applicants shall cost-share at least 50%...Several entities may combine resources to meet the applicant cost share requirement, or individual applicants may propose Federal or State or other grant resources to meet the applicant cost share requirement." Further, please reference the Project Prioritization Criteria section beginning on page 2 of the packet to learn how grant applications will be scored.

6. What are the requirements of this grant? Could it include software needs and services?

- a. The full requirements can be found in the *DuPage County ARPA Project Proposal Packet*. Per page 1 of the grant packet as stated in #2 of the Project Compliance Criteria section, "Funding requests are only being accepted for construction of flood control and water quality projects."
- 7. We would like to apply for funding to replace deteriorated storm sewers. Would this be an eligible project in that failed storm sewers cause flooding, making this a flood control project?**
- a. The Project Prioritization Criteria section on Page 2 of the *DuPage County ARPA Project Proposal Packet* lists, in order of importance, how applications will be reviewed. In that section, #3 states projects will be reviewed on "Structural Damage Reduction – Mitigate residential and/or commercial structural damages due to floods and other stormwater related causes with consideration of the number of structures affected and/or otherwise protecting buildings from future danger of flood damage or structural damage related to flood-induced erosion." Per this criterion, the review panel will consider how projects will protect structures from current and future floods.
- 8. Understanding that costs incurred prior to the award of funds from DuPage County for this grant cannot be reimbursed or counted towards an applicant's 50% cost share; are projects that begin work/construction prior to funding award (expected June/July 2022) still eligible for funding?**
- a. Per page 1 of the *DuPage County ARPA Project Proposal Packet* as stated in #3 of the Project Compliance Criteria section, "Expenses incurred or activities occurring prior to approval of funding by DuPage County are not eligible for reimbursement or to meet cost-share requirements." However, this language does not disallow reimbursement for post-award construction costs of eligible projects currently underway.
- 9. If a project is expected to be underway prior to the award of funds, should the applicant omit the portion of costs that will be incurred prior to award from the "total project cost" on the application?**
- a. As stated in the previous question #8, per page 1 of the *DuPage County ARPA Project Proposal Packet* as stated in #3 of the Project Compliance Criteria section, "Expenses incurred or activities occurring prior to approval of funding by DuPage County are not eligible for reimbursement or to meet cost-share requirements." Therefore, anything spent prior to the project award will be deemed ineligible. Applicants should use best judgement in ensuring cost estimates and associated funding requests are for eligible construction costs and that all match requirements are met.
- 10. Can an applicant use its own ARPA funds (specifically State and Local Coronavirus Fiscal Recovery Funds - SLFRF) for the local match under this grant?**
- a. Per page 1 of the *DuPage County ARPA Project Proposal Packet* as stated in #3 of the Project Compliance Criteria section, "Applicants shall cost-share at least 50%...Several entities may combine resources to meet the applicant cost share requirement, or individual applicants may propose Federal or State or other grant resources to meet the applicant cost share requirement."

11. If an applicant cannot provide Project Design Plans with its application, does that disqualify the project from consideration for this grant?

- a. Per page 1 of the *DuPage County ARPA Project Proposal Packet*, "...shovel-ready projects, defined as projects that have adequate design, permitting, land acquisition and other considerations to break ground in a timely manner, will be given the highest consideration for funding recommendations." However, Project Design Plans are not a required file in the *DuPage County American Rescue Plan Act Grant Proposal Application*.

12. On page 3 of the application packet, the scoring matrix indicates the "Maximum Possible Weight" for the scoring criteria. Are these the final weights for scoring applications or is there a possibility these change?

- a. The Project Prioritization Criteria rankings on page 3 of the *DuPage County ARPA Project Proposal Packet* are final.

13. Per Project Compliance Criteria #3, "Applicants shall cost-share at least 50%." One of the available Bonus Credits is for projects proposing "Greater than 50% non-DuPage County ARPA cost-share." If I understand these two statements correctly, technically all eligible projects would also be eligible for this bonus credit. Is the intent to do a sliding scale based on how far above the 50% the match is?

- a. As stated on page 3 of the *DuPage County ARPA Project Proposal Packet*, "Incremental bonus credit will be given for the following: a) Projects that reduce flooding to critical facilities. b) Projects that have a greater than 50% non-DuPage County ARPA cost-share. c) Projects within Environmental Justice Areas. d) Measure recommended in a DuPage County-adopted watershed plan and/or local planning document." Also on page 3, under "Bonus Credit," the "Maximum Possible Points" for each is 5.

14. Some of our attachments have larger than the 25 MB file size. Is the 25 MB a hard ceiling?

- a. The 25MB limit is a browser limit that cannot be changed. If files are cumulatively above the 25MB limit, applicants may upload a link to a file sharing site containing the files. Applicants should ensure the contents of the link are viewable by the review panel and should provide any necessary passwords or permissions before uploading.