

Frequently Asked Questions

Floodplains by Design 2015-2017 Budget Proposal

1. **When will funds be available?** Ecology is putting together a budget package that will ask for the funding for this program. It will be up to the legislature in the 2015 session to make a decision to fund. If funding is provided, it would become available on July 1, 2015.
2. **What is considered as match?** At this time we are still developing match criteria with an eye towards making it as easy as possible for project sponsors to provide match. The one element that will not change is match must be provided in non-state funds, i.e., federal or local funds.
3. **Who can apply?** Eligible entities include counties, cities, federally recognized Indian tribes, special purpose districts (e.g., port districts, flood control zone districts, flood control districts, and diking and drainage districts), salmon recovery lead entities, regional fisheries enhancement groups, conservation districts, and nonprofit organizations.
4. **When do the funds expire OR how long do I have to complete my project?** The funding source is proposed to be a capital budget source. As such they can be extended beyond state fiscal year boundaries and do not normally expire at the end of the biennium. We expect most projects qualifying under this program to take 2-4 years to complete, depending on timing and complexity.
5. **Can projects be partially funded, if full funding isn't available?** Yes, projects could be partially funded, or funded in phases, or both. However, we do try to provide full funding for any given project in order to maintain project integrity. Partial funding would be considered in order to fully allocate the fund source or to fund only those portions of a project considered ready to proceed.
6. **How will the funds be spread across the state?** Although most funding is likely to go towards Puget Sound area projects, we will spread the funding source around the entire state to the degree we get good projects. We strongly encourage project sponsors from outside the Puget Sound basin to submit project proposals.
7. **Are feasibility/pre-construction activities an eligible use?** Yes, pre-construction activities that help identify and consider project approaches that match the program intent are allowed and encouraged. We will likely provide at least some of the funds towards these types of activities in order to encourage further project development.
8. **Can my project be phased?** Yes, projects can be funded in phases if that is the best path forward for the project.
9. **When will I know if my application was accepted?** Once the deadline for submittals has passed we will notify project sponsors of receipt and the next steps in the process.
10. **If my project is funded when can I submit the first invoice?** The earliest any project could begin billing would be July 1, 2015, or later if agreed to by the local sponsor and Ecology.

11. **How much detail should I include in the application (i.e., is there a page limit)?** The initial preliminary proposals will be limited to 3-4 pages. Those projects selected for advancement will be asked to provide more detail by August 1, 2014.
12. **Can an entity (such as a City/County) sponsor projects that are outside their jurisdiction?** Yes, but the proponent must identify that they have landowner agreement in order for the project to be considered “ready to proceed.”
13. **Are applications for design only eligible?** Yes, design only would be considered along with other “pre-construction” activities as outlined above in question 7.