

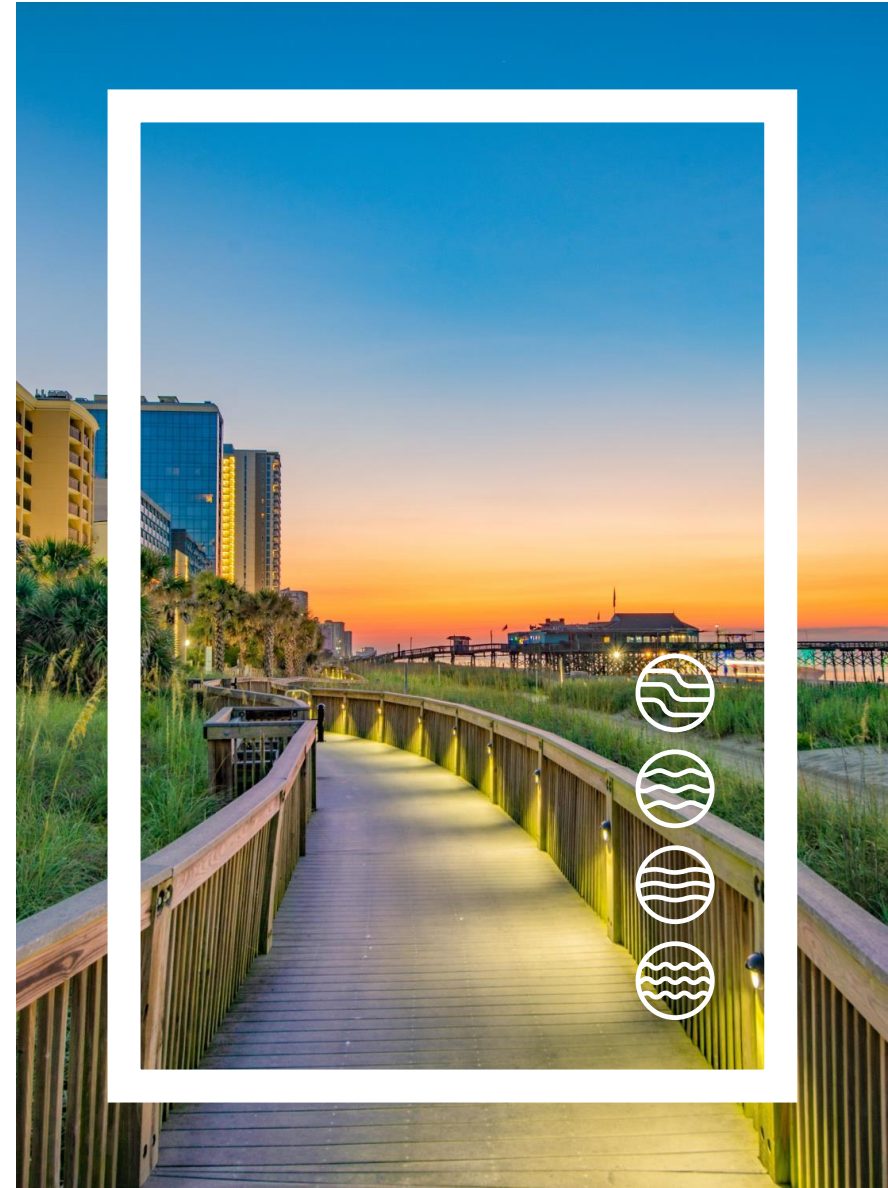


SC DEPARTMENT *of*
**ENVIRONMENTAL
SERVICES**

SFY25 Dam Repair Assistance Grant

Please submit questions at any time to
DESresponse@des.sc.gov

April 9, 2025





Outline

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Grant Program Overview



SFY25 Dam Repair Assistance Grant Program

Senate Budget Proviso 55.24 (DES: Dam Repair Assistance): *Of the funds appropriated for system upgrades, there is established within the Department of Environmental Services a Dam Repair Assistance Grant Program. The funds shall be utilized for cost-sharing grants to correct dam deficiencies identified by the Department for high and significant hazard dams regulated under the Dams and Reservoir Safety Act. A grant of up to seventy-five (75%) of the total cost to correct the dam deficiency identified by the department may be provided. Funds may also be used by the department to administer and manage the grant program. System upgrades funds shall be carried forward and expended for the same purpose. The department shall draft policies, criteria, and guidance for the grant program by October 15, 2024, which shall be posted on the department's website.*



SFY25 Dam Repair Assistance Grant Program

- SFY25 Funding Available: \$1.5 million
- Grant funding is limited to
 1. eligible activities on
 2. eligible dams carried out by
 3. eligible applicants.



Program Objectives

The SFY25 Dam Repair Assistance Grant Program aims to:

1. Reduce or eliminate risk associated with dams;
2. Improve accessibility of financial assistance to dam owners who may not be eligible to apply for other dam safety grants; and,
3. Provide financial assistance for the rehabilitation or removal of HIGH and SIGNIFICANT hazard dams that fail to meet minimum dam safety standards and pose an unacceptable risk to life and property.



Dam Eligibility



Dam Eligibility

To be considered eligible for funding, a dam must:

- Be regulated by the SC Dam Safety Program
- Have a hazard classification of HIGH or SIGNIFICANT
- Have a condition assessment rating of POOR or UNSATISFACTORY as identified by SCDES, or a dam safety deficiency that has been identified by an engineer that was not revealed in a department inspection



Ineligible Dams

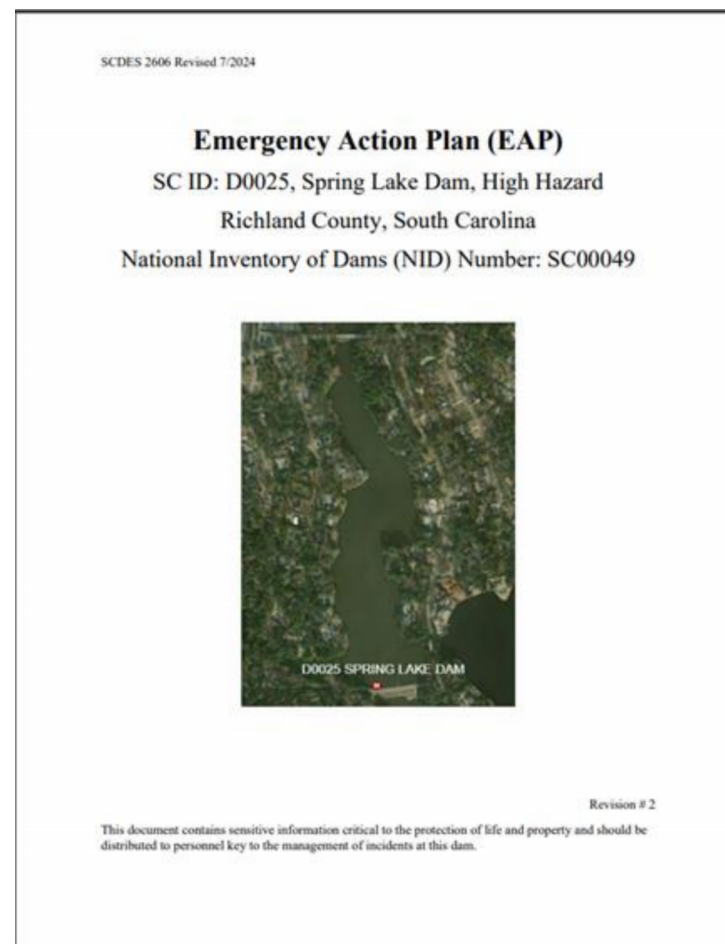
The following types of dams are not eligible for funding:

- Licensed hydroelectric dams
- Federally owned dams
- Dams built under the authority of the Secretary of Agriculture (e.g., [PL-566](#) watershed conservation district dams)
- Dams that create a direct source of revenue (e.g., hydropower, drinking water supply)
- Dams where the owner has taxing authority AND does not share ownership with an eligible entity.
- Low Hazard Dams



EAP Requirement

- Must have a current Emergency Action Plan (EAP) or provide assurance that an EAP will be developed within 12 months of award acceptance.
- For Planning/Engineering/Design projects the EAP must be developed and approved prior to the final Request for Reimbursement.
- For Construction projects, no work on the project may commence until an EAP has been developed and approved by SCDES.



Applicant Eligibility



Applicant Eligibility

Applicants must meet any one of the following criteria in order to be considered eligible to receive grant funds:

- Private entity/corporation
 - Must be in good standing with SC Sec of State
- Individual
- Non-profit organization (non-governmental)



Applicant Eligibility (cont'd)

All applicants must be able to:

- Demonstrate clear ownership of dam (SCDES to make ownership determination, may require use of outside legal counsel)
 - Community associations (such as HOAs), must provide covenants and/or by-laws with their grant application
- Demonstrate not delinquent on any state or federal taxes



Please submit questions to DESresponse@des.sc.gov

Applicant Eligibility (cont'd)

- Multiple Owner Dams
 - Grant can only be awarded to one owner of multiple owner dams
 - Multiple owners must either form a partnership or decide who will be applicant/recipient
 - All dam owners must demonstrate support for project, even if only one or some are funding the project
 - Multiple applications for the same dam will be taken as a sign that all owners are not in agreement and result in rejection of all applications for said dam
 - Grants will not be awarded if only a part of dam is addressed – must correct deficiencies of entire dam



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Eligibility Cutoff

- The cutoff date to establish eligibility will be December 31 of each year. Applicants/Dams that do not meet the eligibility requirements by this date will not be considered for funding during the current funding cycle.
- Your dam's most recent preliminary inspection letter is the official date of determination for eligibility criteria.



Eligible Activities



Eligible Activities

Eligible activities under this grant fall into the following categories:

- Preparedness Planning (e.g., Emergency Action Plans/Emergency Operations Plans)
- Project Planning/Operation and Maintenance Plans
- Preliminary Engineering
- Engineering Design
- Outreach and Risk Communication
- Construction
 - Repair/Rehabilitation/Removal
 - Instrumentation
 - Addressing dam deficiencies as a result of deferred maintenance (at reduced cost %)



Main Category	Sub-Category	Activity
Non-Construction	Preparedness Planning	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Development of Emergency Action Plans (EAPs), evacuation plans, plans for flood fighting, or community response plans to include in the floodplain management plan •Coordination of Emergency Action Plans (EAP) and Emergency Operations Plans (EOP) for different release conditions
	Project Planning	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Activities and studies that determine risks associated with eligible dams (for future construction project) •Development of operation and maintenance plans
	Preliminary Engineering	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Dam risk and consequence assessments •Feasibility studies •Preliminary engineering studies •Alternatives analysis •Mapping, engineering survey, and inundation modeling
	Engineering Design	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Final design •Development of drawings and specifications •Permitting
	Outreach and Risk Communication	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Public education and awareness of flood risks associated with the eligible dam project
Construction	Construction	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Bid services •Repair or rehabilitation of the dam (including tree removal) •Construction oversight and monitoring •Project Management (capped at 5%)
	Removal	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dam removal
	Instrumentation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sensors and early warning systems for monitoring conditions with dam and reservoir

Ineligible Activities

The following activities are considered ineligible under this grant:

- Routine Operation and Maintenance (O&M)
- Purchase of equipment that is not an integral part of the funded project
- Establishment of a reserve fund
- Activities that increase the hazard classification and/or risk (e.g., increase to dam height or storage capacity)
- Perform work that would result in duplicative data that is publicly available from the State or other source (i.e., geotechnical investigation where past geotechnical investigation already exists and remains valid), unless previously approved by the State



Ineligible Activities (cont'd)

- Payment of principal or interest on existing debt, or any interest payments associated with project financing
- Costs associated with bid protests
- Litigation costs, including, but not limited to, appeals of SCDES decisions
- Activities that do not serve to facilitate repair or risk reduction
- Activities that do not serve a public benefit (i.e., driveway paving, private docks, boat ramps, etc.)
- Costs associated with activities that have not been approved by the State
- Construction of new dams



Selection Criteria



Selection Process

Two-Part Selection Process:

- Eligibility Screening
- Technical Ranking



Eligibility Screening

The initial screening aims to identify and advance applications that:

- Meet all dam, applicant, and activity eligibility criteria
- Meet all grant application requirements
- Correct deficiencies for the entire dam
 - If multiple owners, cannot address issues on only one owner's portion – must be a "whole-dam solution"



Ranking Applications

- Applications that pass screening will be reviewed by the Dam Safety Program and evaluated on technical merits of dam and proposed project using a points-based system.
- The score will be based primarily on risk and risk reduction as a result of project implementation



Ranking Tool

- The ranking tool will be published to the SCDES Dam Safety Program website as an attachment to the Notice of Funding Opportunity once the application period has opened.
- Using this tool, you will be able to view the questions that will be used to rank applications, as well as the point values for each answer, as you develop your grant application.



Ranking Criteria

Some examples of criteria that will be used to rank applications include:

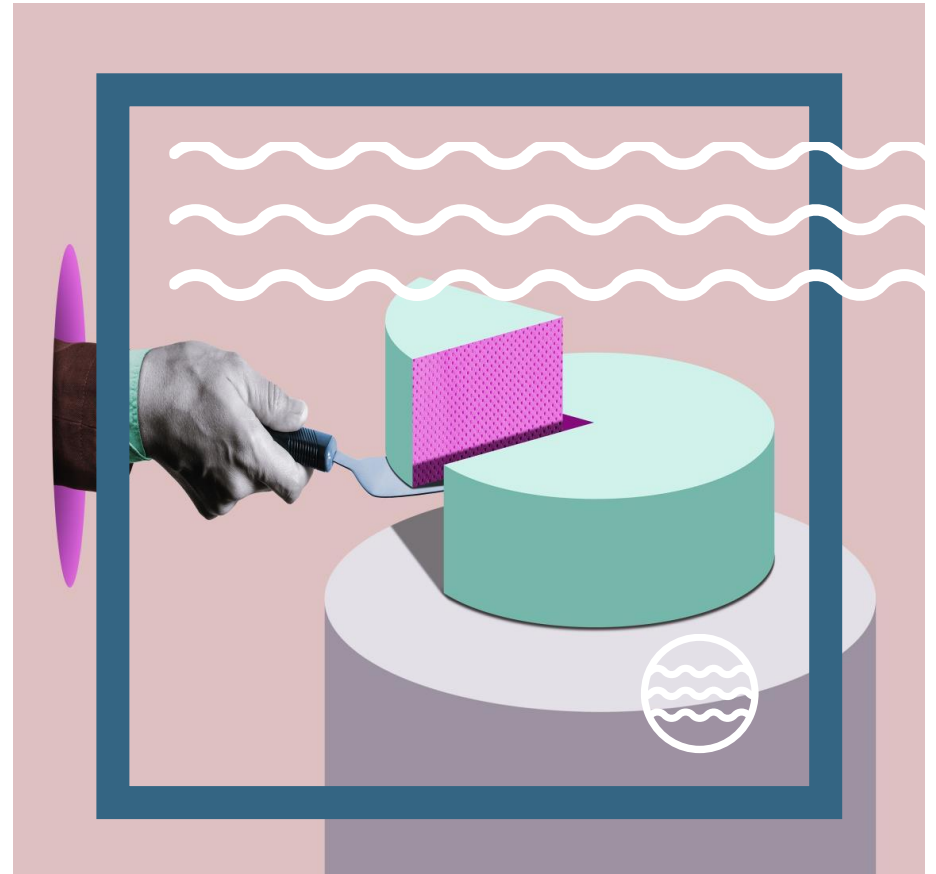
- What is the Hazard Classification of the dam?
- What is the condition rating of the dam?
- What impacts would there be in the event of a dam failure?
- Does the project decrease the dam's hazard potential?
- Will the project provide a spillway capacity that meets or exceeds regulations?
- Is the dam currently under a State-issued Emergency or Inspection and Repair Order?
- Is there a HIGH or SIGNIFICANT hazard dam downstream that could potentially be impacted from a dam breach?

Cost Share



Cost Share

- Default for grants: 50% State Funds, 50% Recipient Match
- 50% match requirement may be met in the form of cash (i.e., your own funds) and/or in-kind services
- State match can increase based on demonstration of financial need
- Activities to address dam deficiencies that are the result of deferred maintenance are eligible for maximum 50% cost share (e.g., tree removal)



Financial Hardship

- If applicants have made a self-determination of financial hardship in their application, upon SCDES verification, the recipient match requirement will be reduced from 50% to 25% (75% state match).



Financial Hardship: How to Qualify

- Applicants making a self determination of financial hardship must provide the past three years of tax returns and a bank statement with their application.

Please submit questions to DESresponse@des.sc.gov

In-Kind Match

In-Kind Match may include:

- Donated Services
- Materials
- Labor
- Equipment



Application Timeline

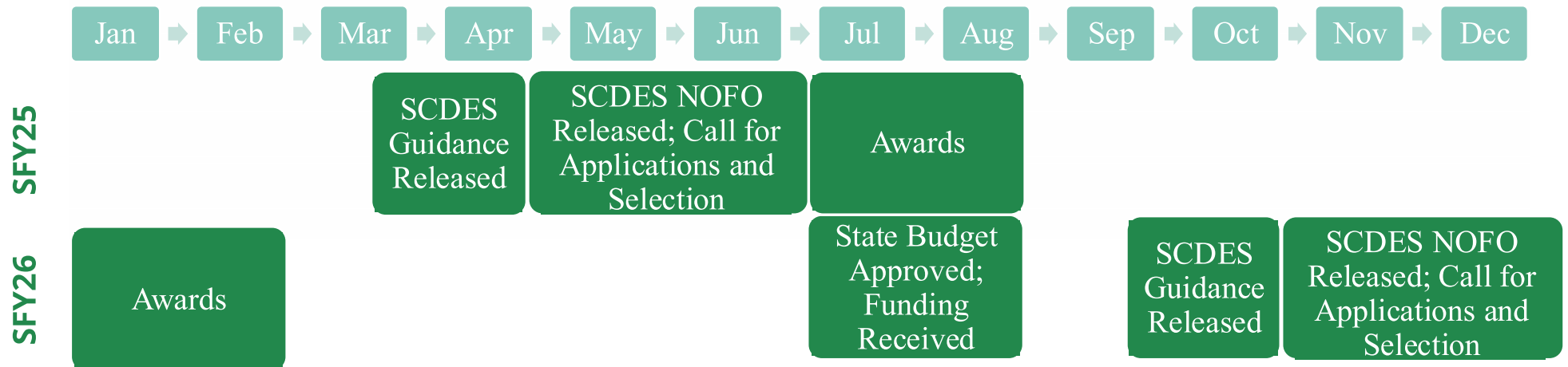


Notice of Funding Opportunity

- The Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) for this grant program will be released no later than Thursday, May 1, 2025.
- Application Period Opens: Thursday, May 1, 2025
- Application Period Closes: July 1, 2025
- Awards announced ~two weeks after the application period closes.

Please submit questions to DESresponse@des.sc.gov

Application Timeline



Period of Performance



Period of Performance (POP)

- 1 Year for Planning and Engineering Projects
- 3 Years for Construction Projects



POP Extensions

- Extensions to the POP are allowable but cannot be guaranteed.
- POP extension requests should be submitted in writing to SCDES at least 90 days prior to the Period of Performance end date.



Application Requirements



Application Requirements

- Applications for Construction activities must be prepared with the assistance of a Professional Engineer licensed in the state of SC and must contain a cost estimate prepared by the engineer
- However, applications for Planning, Engineering, and Design only are not required to be prepared with the assistance of a licensed PE.

Please submit questions to DESresponse@des.sc.gov

Application Requirements

- Completed Application Form
- Eligibility Narrative
- Project Narrative
- Project Milestones for Proposed Scope of Work
- Detailed Budget for Proposed Scope of Work
- Match Commitment Letter/Description of Match
- Cost Estimate
- Copy of Property Deed
- Covenants and by-laws (for HOAs)
- Emergency Action Plan (EAP) OR plan to develop an EAP within 12 months of the award date

Additional Requirements for Construction

- Engineer Statement (i.e., engineer helped prepare)
- Cost Estimate certified by Engineer (for construction projects)



Procurement



Procurement Overview

- Unless otherwise approved or specified by SCDES, all state procurement requirements must be followed.
 - However, engineering services may be procured without the need for a formal procurement process
- For construction contracts SCDES plans to offer grant recipients a list of pre-qualified contractors to simplify the procurement process. Those who opt not to use the list must still adhere to state procurement guidelines.
- Procurement training for grant recipients will be provided at a later date.



Procurement

- Licensed contractors for construction
- Not debarred or suspended
- Less than \$10K only requires 1 quote from a single vendor
- Between \$10K-\$100K, requires 3 written quotes from 3 qualified vendors
- Greater than \$100K, formal competitive bidding process required

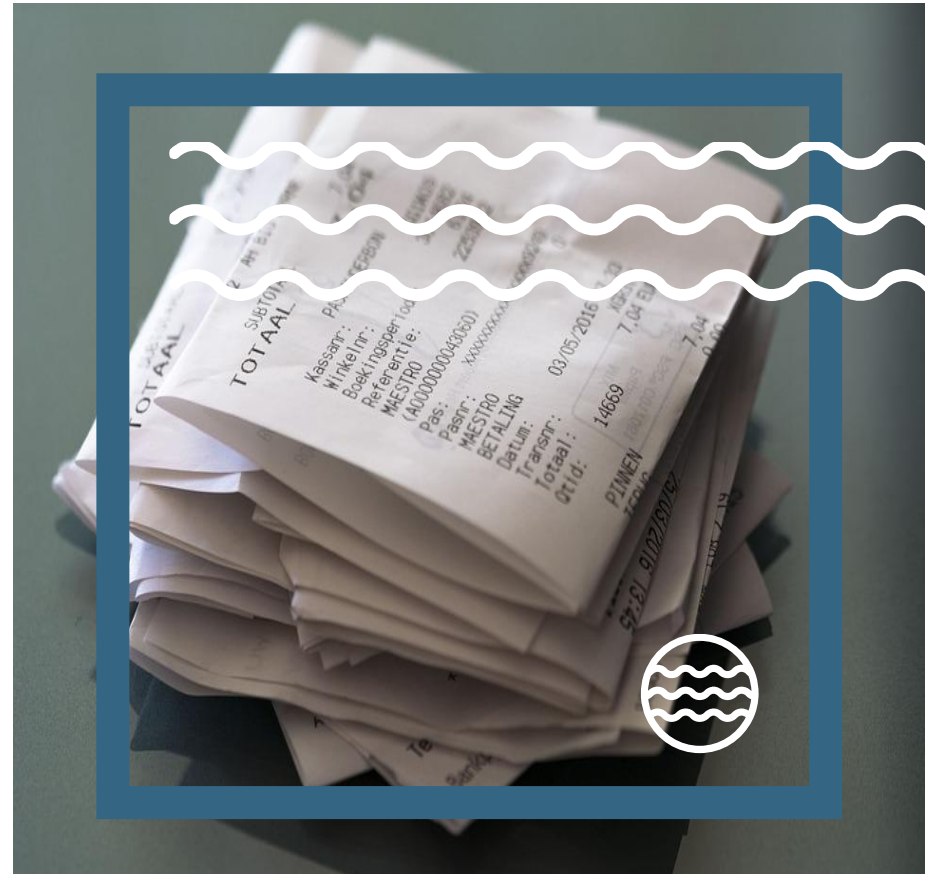


Payments



Payments

- Funding will only be provided via reimbursement.
- To receive funds, recipients must prepare and submit a Request for Reimbursement (RFR) to SCDES for review and processing
- No more than 80% of the grant funds will be paid before the Final RFR for construction projects, and no more than 90% for all other projects.



Recordkeeping and Monitoring



Recordkeeping and Monitoring

- The recipient must retain grant records, including documentation of costs and supporting documents, for a period of 3 years
- Office visits, site visits, and/or document requests by SCDES for the purpose of monitoring compliance may occur at any time during the Period of Performance
- SCDES will perform construction monitoring visits at set intervals



Reporting

- Recipients will be required to submit Quarterly Progress Report summarizing activities that occurred during the quarter that advanced the project toward completion.



Appeals and Non-Compliance



Appeals Process

- Process for recipients to appeal any staff-made decisions regarding this grant
- Appeals will be made to the ALC



Remedies for Non-Compliance

- Recipients that are found to be out of compliance with grant program policies and procedures will be given an opportunity to return to compliance
- If that cannot be accomplished remedies may include: immediate termination of grant agreement, cost recovery, disqualification from future grant consideration



Amendments



Amendments

- The Grant Award Agreement will be considered a legal contract, and as such, an Amendment Process is required for budget, scope of work, and period of performance changes.
- Recipient must formally request amendment to award agreement at least 90 days prior to the end of the POP
- SCDES approves or denies request



Future Webinars



Future Webinars

- Future webinars will cover more in-depth topics including:
 - Procurement Guidelines
 - Post-Award Grant Management
 - EAP Development
- Suggestions for future webinars can be submitted via the survey linked at the end of this presentation.
- You can also email your suggestions to DESresponse@des.sc.gov



Q&A

Please submit questions to DESresponse@des.sc.gov





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Thank you!

Contact Us!

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SC Dam Safety Program
Brittany.Felder@des.sc.gov

Please complete our
interest survey



SCDES Dam Repair Assistance
Grant dedicated webpage

<https://des.sc.gov/programs/bureau-water/dams-reservoirs/dam-repair-assistance-grant>



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