

AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN ACT - STORMWATER INFRASTRUCTURE PROGRAM (ASIP) FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS



Q. Who is eligible to apply?

A: Units of General Local Governments (UGLGs) and Tribal Nations from all 46 counties in the state may apply.

Q. What if my entity does not own the infrastructure but would like to apply for a grant? (Example: Stormwater infrastructure in SC DOT right-of-way).

A: An applicant must be the owner or operator of the infrastructure. An entity may apply for an infrastructure project to improve DOT owned infrastructure, but the applicant will have to agree to maintain the infrastructure following completion of the project. All necessary DOT permits must also be acquired.

Q. Can a Council of Government (COG) apply on behalf of a county or municipal government?

A: No, the county or municipality must apply.

Q. If my entity has an open grant through SCOR's CDBG-MIT or Revolving Fund, can they apply for another SCOR grant?

A: Yes, the entity may apply for an ASIP grant.

Q. What is the application deadline? Will SCOR consider extending the deadline?

A: The application window will open on September 1, 2022 and close on October 31, 2022. At this time, SCOR does not anticipate extending the application deadline.

Q. Can I get help with the application?

A: Yes. SCOR staff is available to provide assistance. SCOR also has a partnership with a non-profit called SBP that may be available to provide application assistance. For assistance from SBP please contact Olivia Barone at obarone@sbpusa.org.

Q. Is there a maximum amount an entity can apply for?

A: No, there is not a maximum amount. Projects will be considered based on scoring criteria and available funds.

Q. Will SCOR award partial funds?

A: SCOR reserves the right to modify the funding request if available funds are limited. SCOR will discuss any modification with the applicant in advance of a grant award to ensure the project will still be feasible.

Q. Is SCOR's stormwater infrastructure program different than Rural Infrastructure Authority (RIA)'s SCIIP program?

A: Yes, the two programs are different. SCOR can fund stormwater infrastructure projects through their ASIP program. RIA can fund stormwater projects under the Community Impact Grants. Please check with RIA to determine eligibility for their funding programs.

Q. Is there a local cost share requirement?

A: No, there is not a local cost share requirement. but, any entity that would like to identify a local match funds is encouraged to do so.

Q. Can local ARPA funds be used for local match investments?

A: Yes. An entity can use their local ARPA funds as a local match share if they choose to identify a local match on the application.

Q. Should an entity with multiple projects submit a separate application for each project?

A: An entity can submit one application for multiple projects so long as the proposed scope of work, the project area, BCA, LMI service area, project schedule, and project budget for each project are clearly defined in the application. If an applicant is submitting multiple projects, SCOR encourages the applicant to identify the entity's preferred project priority in the application.

Q. Will SCOR reimburse for project costs incurred prior to an ASIP grant award?

A: No, pre-award costs are not eligible for reimbursement.

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Q. Is a stormwater study eligible for an ASIP grant?

A: A study is eligible if the application includes the study to identify a stormwater project, as well as the design and construction of the project. However, a project that includes study, design, and build must be able to demonstrate that it can be completed in its entirety before December 31, 2026. A standalone study that does not lead to the construction of a stormwater infrastructure project is not eligible for ASIP funds.

Q. Does the project have to be designed to Construction Document level to be eligible?

A: No. SCOR will consider projects that are not designed to Construction Document level. However, eligible projects must be able to demonstrate that the project can be designed and constructed prior to December 31, 2026.

Q. If the project requires land and/or easement acquisition, will it be eligible for an ASIP grant?

A: Yes, projects that require land and/or easement acquisition are eligible for ASIP funds as long as the project can be constructed and completed prior to December 31, 2026.

Q. What is Subrecipient vs. State Run?

A: A state-run project will be run by SCOR staff with input from the applicant. In a state-run project, SCOR pays all project costs directly.

A subrecipient-run project is run by the applicant with compliance and procurement oversight by SCOR. In a subrecipient-run project, SCOR reimburses for approved project costs on a quarterly basis.

Q. What is required to be a Subrecipient?

A: An applicant that wishes to be a Subrecipient must complete a subrecipient application. The subrecipient application will be reviewed by SCOR. SCOR reserves the right to deny a subrecipient application and approve a project application as state-run.

Q. How does the BCA need to be calculated?

A: SCOR requests that applicants use the FEMA BCA Toolkit 6.0 and all associated FEMA guidance to calculate project BCAs. Guidance on BCA calculations, including guidance on displacement and relocation costs for commercial buildings, is available on FEMA's website: <https://www.fema.gov/grants/guidance-tools/benefit-cost-analysis/resources>.

Q. If a community pays for engineering services, can they select the firm?

A: If the project is awarded through the SCOR ASIP program, either in part or in whole, the project will need to comply with federal and state procurement requirements. Engineering services will need to be procured, either through small professional services procurement, or through the RFQ process. For more specific questions, please reach out to Pam Kendrick at pam.kendrick@scor.sc.gov.

Q. Can a community utilize their own staff?

A: An applicant can apply as either a "state-run" or a "subrecipient run" project. For a state-run project, SCOR will utilize SCOR staff to administer the day-to-day project activities and fund the project expenses. For a subrecipient run project, the applicant (community) will utilize their staff to administer the day-to-day project activities and front the project expenses. SCOR will provide technical assistance, compliance oversight, procurement oversight, and quarterly reimbursements for approved project expenses. If the applicant (community) applies to be Subrecipient, a subrecipient application must also be completed and submitted to SCOR along with the ASIP project application. For additional questions, please reach out to Pam Kendrick at pam.kendrick@scor.sc.gov.

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Q. Please provide more detail on the project scoring matrix.

A: Information about the scoring matrix is available on the SCOR ASIP information packet available on our website and linked above. For specific questions about scoring criteria please reach out to Pam Kendrick at pam.kendrick@scor.sc.gov.

Q. What is the environmental review requirement? Who completes the environmental review?

A: SCOR ASIP grant recipients will be required to follow all federal and state environmental laws and regulations. A NEPA environmental review and a Section 106 review must be completed and submitted to SCOR for review and approval. The environmental review must be completed by a qualified professional. The cost of procuring a qualified professional to complete the environmental review is an eligible project expense.

Q. What permits will be required? Who does the permitting?

A: The permits required will vary by project. The applicant will be responsible for acquiring all necessary permits on subrecipient run projects. SCOR will be responsible for acquiring all necessary permits on state run projects. An engineering firm may be procured to assist with design, bid documents, environmental and permitting as needed.

Q. If the projects must be executed and closed out by December 31, 2026, how much of this time must be allocated to compliance and close out?

A: The ARPA federal expenditure deadline of December 31, 2026 requires that all ASIP funds be expended by this date. Additional clarification will be provided to grantees regarding the compliance and close out requirements as it is provided to the state/SCOR. Applicants should be able to demonstrate that the ASIP funds can be expended, and the project completed by this federal expenditure date.

Q. What are the procurement requirements?

A: ASIP grant recipients must comply with all applicable federal, state and local procurement laws that are consistent with the standards of 2 CFR 200 including those outlined in 2 CFR 200.317 through 2 CFR 200.327.

Q. If my entity has a master agreement with an engineering firm, can we hire them to do the project?

A: If a project has been granted ASIP funds, all contracts must be procured in accordance with federal, state, and local procurement regulations.

Q. Is green infrastructure design required to be eligible for ASIP funding?

A: Green, or nature-based, stormwater infrastructure is encouraged but it is not required to be eligible for ASIP funding.

Q. What costs are eligible for ASIP funding?

A: Post-award eligible project costs include engineering fees, environmental review fees, permitting fees, acquisition, and construction costs.