Please note that the application window for this program has been extended: Friday, January 29, 2027 by 11:59pm Eastern.

State Funded Mitigation Program Webinar Q&A

If the applicant requests SCOR to manage the approved project, what does the evolvement and decision-making allowances look like for the applicant throughout the grant project administration process?

SCOR will closely coordinate with the awardee. Ultimately, responsibility for the project upon completion lies with the awardee. Thus, the awardee will be involved in public meetings, contract negotiations with consultants and vendors, and decision-making throughout the project. SCOR simply takes on the burden of project management and procurement in the state-run project management model.

Can the same local government agency submit multiple applications from different departments or divisions?

Yes, multiple applications may be submitted. Each eligible entity will need to register once on the funder portal and then submit multiple project applications.

Do all the different program categories require a recipient application? For example, the Stormwater Restoration does not include the recipient application in the SCOR portal.

The Recipient Application is a separate application for relevant project types. When submitting a project application, this will be an attachment for that is filled out separately. All Voluntary Buyouts and Stormwater Restoration projects will be state-run.

How many projects does SCOR anticipate awarding?

We do not have a predetermined number of projects to award. The number will depend on the applications received, their eligibility and competitiveness, and the amount of funding requested. Applications will be reviewed after the application period closes, and awards will be based on the available program funding.

Is there a grant minimum or grant maximum?

There is no grant minimum or grant maximum for an individual project, except that a grant award amount cannot exceed the funds available.

If there are not enough funds for all applications, would an applicant be given the opportunity to reduce their grant request for partial funding?

Yes, SCOR may consider a partial award if funding is not available to fully fund the applicant's funding request. When a partial award is a possibility, SCOR will work with the applicant to determine if the applicant has additional funds to put towards the project, or if a scope modification is feasible.

Do recipient-led projects get more favorable consideration?

No, projects submitted with a recipient application will not receive more favorable consideration.

Is there an anticipated quota or funding allocation anticipated between the state-run projects and recipient-run projects?

No, there is no set amount of funds available for either state-run or recipient-run projects.

What would be the advantage of recipient-run project management? Why are two options being offered?

SCOR offers the recipient-run project management model for entities that have capacity for project management and a vested interest in handling their own procurement and payments. The Agency recognizes that not every entity has this capacity, which is why it offers a state-run project management model to alleviate the administrative burden of project management when needed.

We are in process of obtaining a 501(c)(3). Can we still apply or does not having this designation prevent us from applying?

Nonprofits must have a 501(c)(3) designation when applying to this program. Applicants must enter the Unique Entity Number (UEI) at the time of registration on the funder portal.

If we are already in a Brownfields Grant, or have other funding appropriated for our project, will that disqualify us from receiving funds from this program?

Not necessarily. It would be helpful to identify funding from other sources in your application.

Is there a rating criteria for the selection of projects and can that be shared with the applicants?

Rating criteria and weighting for each program are outlined in the Policy and Procedures Manual.

If a vendor helps with estimated costs of plans or projects, are they to be excluded from bidding?

While not an immediate disqualification, SCOR will review these instances case-by-case to ensure that competitive procurements of services are being carried out.

Can you complete the ER process while your application is under review?

The environmental review is only required for funded projects, but we can provide a copy of the Environmental Guidance and checklists to any interested applicants.

For recipient-run projects, can grant funding be used for capacity or technical support from private contractors selected by the recipient?

The recipient's responsibilities cannot be transferred to another entity. However, it is expected that, through a competitive procurement process, a private contractor's services will be procured to help carry out a project's identified scope.

Is a Benefit Cost Analysis and Benefit Cost Ratio required in an application for Plans & Studies or Project Scoping?

Benefit Cost Analysis (BCA) and/or Benefit Cost Ratio is not a required application component for Plans & Studies and Project Scoping. In some instances, development of a BCA/BCR may be funded as part of these grant awards.

We are a smaller city, and our County manages our stormwater issues. Our project is on a city owned piece of property. Would we be required to submit an application together (City and County)?

Collaboration between the City and County would be ideal, but ultimately the entity that will take ownership of the finished product should submit the project application.

Plans & Studies

Does the status of a jurisdictions Hazard Mitigation Plan affect eligibility to apply for this grant program?

The status of a jurisdiction's Hazard Mitigation Plan does not impact eligibility for the State Funded Mitigation programs through SCOR.

Is there a requirement to conduct monitoring or evaluation to ensure the plan or study leads to mitigation outcomes?

For the Plans & Studies program, SCOR will not require the awardee to track, monitor, and report whether the awarded plan or study leads to mitigation outcomes.

Is septic drain field mapping an eligible activity?

Eligibility would be determined based on the proposed scope and intended use of the mapping data. While GIS development and mapping are eligible activities, we will consider whether it directly supports assessing flood risk and developing flood mitigation strategies. Mapping activities primarily intended to address wastewater management, septic system conditions, or water quality concerns would fall outside the program objectives for this funding opportunity.

If a locality does not currently have a Resilience Plan in place that would include elements in addition to stormwater, can they apply for a Resilience Plan, and would that be competitive? Additionally, because they would want SCOR to administer the project, what does SCOR consider to be reasonable cost for a Resilience Plan?

Both Comprehensive Plans with the required Resilience Element and stand-alone Resilience Plans are eligible activities for the State Funded Mitigation Plans & Studies program. A stand-alone Resilience plan should have similar elements to the Resilience element required by the state of SC, in reference to and in coordination with the Statewide Resilience Plan, but may have a larger or smaller scope to meet community needs.

For the State-Run model where SCOR administers the project on behalf of the awardee, SCOR will procure the services and negotiate the costs based on the agreed upon scope of work. The cost of those services would depend on several factors including, but not limited to, the size of the entity, the number of jurisdictional participants, and the level of complexity associated with the planning scope.

Please see the following question for more on the question of reasonable cost.

Is there a guide on how much a plan or study should cost?

There is not a standard guide that SCOR requires an applicant to utilize to determine the cost of a plan or study. The schedule, scope, and fee components are optional within the Plans & Studies application and not weighted as heavily as most prioritization categories for the program area - it is just helpful to have any information available to the applicant to indicate feasibility considerations by the applicant in the application process. For example, if an applicant has received recent cost proposals for this plan or study (that was not procured or completed and cannot be submitted by a consultant on behalf of the

applicant), those proposals can inform your award request and/or can be included in the supplemental documentation of your application.

Could this grant fund work to establish and validate a single baseline source for jurisdictional boundaries and drainage ditch ownership? Because we have a patchwork of jurisdictions, residents frequently ask who maintains specific ditches, and a clear, authoritative baseline would help align local coordination and planning.

Deliverables such as GIS mapping and drainage infrastructure inventories are eligible activities when the scope resolves boundary and ownership discrepancies, map known flooding or drainage concerns, identify gaps in maintenance responsibility, and prioritizes locations to tackle restoration or improvements.

Applicants should explain how the proposed mapping will help their community better understand flooding, coordinate drainage improvements, or plan future flood mitigation projects. Final eligibility will be determined through SCOR's review of the proposed scope of work.

Voluntary Buyouts

Must eligible buyout properties be located in the mapped Special Flood Hazard Area?

Not necessarily, a residential parcel may also be located in a Disaster Risk Reduction Area, characterized by repetitive flooding or the future potential for repetitive flooding.

If the home was not able to successfully complete a FEMA FMA grant, does this negatively impact their changes at a voluntary buyout?

No, this does not negatively affect a Voluntary Buyout application.

Are commercially-owned parcels eligible for a Voluntary Buyout?

No, currently we are only conducting Voluntary Buyouts of residential parcels. This could change in future funding cycles.

Can the property be converted to natural space, but also include passive recreation?

Yes, parcels must be maintained in perpetuity as green space but can be used for passive recreation purposes.

Why does SCOR conduct Voluntary Buyouts on vacant parcels that may not have structures?

The purpose would be to protect that land from future development so as to provide flood mitigation benefits to adjacent property owners through the preservation and maintenance of its natural flood risk reduction function.

If the cost of the land is more than the $400,000 maximum, can a local government still get the funding if they add the additional funding needed to purchase the property?

Yes, leverage funds can be used in the buyout program to offset program costs.

Project Scoping

Is property owned by an HOA considered private property?

Applicant eligibility centers on the scope of the needed mitigation and its underlying circumstances, established through a review of the applicant's critical infrastructure needs, projected public safety improvements, and enhanced community resilience. Considering the overall circumstances of a project, an HOA property may be eligible based on the general public benefit derived from the project as a whole and is therefore not excluded simply because of HOA ownership.

As stated in our State Funded Mitigation Program Policy and Procedures, projects for the sole benefit of privately owned property(ies) or developments are ineligible.

If we are an MS4 municipality and the state requires us to have GIS mapping of all our outfalls, is that something this funding would cover?

Potentially. This could be considered an existing survey & assessment eligible activity.

If a firm previously completed a study for the project that the scoping working will be done for, are they still eligible to be considered through the procurement process for the project scoping project?

SCOR recognizes that there are benefits to maintaining the continuity of the same consultant planning and scoping a stormwater project. Working on the study for a project does not disqualify a consultant from bidding on scoping that project; conversely, it would not allow the consultant to bypass the competitive procurement of scoping services.

Stormwater Improvements

Will you require a letter of commitment to cover the potential of overrun?

Potentially, yes. If the project cost estimate is close to the total available funds, or the cost estimate is out of date, we may require this commitment.

Would a creek restoration project addressing severe erosion be a good fit for this grant?

In addition to evaluating the flood risk reduction outcomes of the project SCOR would also consider water quality and environmental improvements, floodplain function restoration, and other outcomes outlined in the policy and procedure manual.

Stormwater Restoration

Does the local agency have to have maintenance easements for restoration activities or can activities be performed without easements on private property?

Not necessarily. If easements are already acquired, this should be noted in the project application. If not, SCOR will discuss with the awardee how to acquire easements. State funds cannot be used for work on private property unless permission is explicitly given.

Could this fund maintenance of drainage systems in the city that are owned by SCDOT?

Yes, potentially. This would require coordination with SCDOT to secure permission to work on one of their systems.

Can the scope of work include other items not associated with stormwater? For example, if the application is for restoration, can the scope include a trail or sidewalk?

Potentially. If, for example, restoring (or improving) a stormwater system requires opening a road or sidewalk, the project scope will include restoration of those public facilities. For nature-based projects such as stormwater parks, scope elements that provide co-benefits alongside flood risk reduction, such as trails, may be eligible.