

**Important Facts
for Requesting / Administering
State and Tribal Assistance Grants
(STAG's)**

1. Unless otherwise specified in the Appropriations or Conference Report language, these grants will be limited to 55% of the eligible project cost. Any exceptions to the 45% match requirement will be based on financial hardship and must be approved by EPA Headquarters. How do you plan to fund the necessary 45% match?
2. Providing the necessary match is your responsibility. However, the following major Federal programs can be used to provide all or part of the match for STAG's under certain circumstances: Dept of Agriculture, Rural Development Program (RDA); Dept of Housing and Urban Development, Community Development Block Grant program (CDBG); Appalachian Regional Commission grants (ARC); and, in some cases Clean Water or Drinking Water State Revolving Loan Fund programs (CWSRF, DWSRF). Check with these and other agencies for up to date eligibility rulings.
3. These grants do not come directly to you in a lump sum, but are administered by EPA and/or a state agency on EPA's behalf, in accordance with established federal grant regulations. Grantees generally have to incur costs prior to receiving reimbursement from EPA.
4. Your Congressman may not be successful in obtaining funds for your project as quickly as you would like and you may have to move ahead by utilizing alternative financing. Ask that the project be described in general terms in the appropriations language. For instance, "water infrastructure improvements" can mean drinking water, wastewater, stormwater or combined sewer overflow. Language similar to this will allow you to fund a variety of water related projects should you need to substitute one project for another.
5. Once approved for grant funding by Congress, you will be contacted by EPA and/or your State agency and advised of the *application* and program requirements.
6. Certain pre-award costs may be determined eligible for inclusion in your application. These are *generally* limited to costs incurred after the start of the fiscal year in which the funds were appropriated. Your State or EPA project officer can provide additional details.
7. Since these are Federal grants, a host of Federal Laws and Executive Orders apply. It is important to understand these requirements prior to incurring project related expenses for which you may want reimbursement. Your State or EPA project officer can provide additional details.
8. In addition to #7 above, the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) applies to all STAG projects. Your particular project may or may not require an EA (or even a permit) from your State Agency, but it will require an environmental review by EPA.
9. Aside from construction costs, other eligible project related costs may include planning, design and administrative activities, and the cost of land. Federal procurement regulations also apply to engineering services. Special conditions apply to land purchases. Only in very limited cases would the repayment of an existing loan be determined eligible. Your State or EPA project officer can provide additional details.
10. In addition to publicly owned facilities, grants may also be awarded to certain Nonprofit and For-Profit Entities under certain circumstances.