

DATE: December 3, 2018

TO: Potential Grant Applicants for the Litter Reduction & Recycling Grant Program or the Waste Reduction & Recycling Incentive Grant Program

FROM: David B. Haldeman, Administrator
Land Management Division

SUBJECT: **Important changes for new grant applications and awards affecting grant reimbursement**

Below are explanations of changes that will affect Waste Reduction and Recycling Incentive Grants or Litter Reduction and Recycling grant applications received after January 1, 2019.

1. Change of the Waste Reduction & Recycling Incentive grants from a fiscal year to a calendar year.

To provide efficiencies and streamline our grant application process, by the year 2020 the Waste Reduction and Recycling Incentive grant term will begin on January 1 and end on December 31. With this change, both the Litter Reduction and Recycling grant program and the Waste Reduction & Recycling Incentive grant program will be on a calendar year. The Waste Reduction & Recycling Incentive grant program includes applications for the following categories:

- Business Fee
- Disposal Fee
- Deconstruction of Abandoned Buildings
- Scrap Tire Collection Site Cleanup for Political Subdivisions
- Scrap Tire Partial Reimbursement of Tire-Derived Products and/or Crumb Rubber
- Scrap Tire Cost-Sharing for Civil Engineering Use

To make the transition, 2019 Waste Reduction and Recycling Incentive grant applications will be accepted between January 2 and February 13, 2019. For those applications awarded a grant, the grant term will be for a six-month period from July 1 through December 31, 2019. Funding available for 2019 will be approximately half of the normal award amounts.

All 2020 Waste Reduction and Recycling Incentive grant and Litter Reduction and Recycling grant applications will be accepted between July 3 and August 14, 2019. For those and all future applications awarded a grant, the grant term and funding amount will be for a twelve-month term from January 1 through December 31.

A chart showing future application periods and grant terms can be viewed on our website at: <http://deq.ne.gov/publica.nsf/pages/WAS074>. A list of eligible projects can be found at the end of this email.

2. Titles 133 and 199 and grant agreement document language proposal.

In response to Governor Ricketts' Executive Order 17-04, in an effort to reduce regulations, the Nebraska Department of Environmental Quality (NDEQ) proposed to remove most of the language from Title 133 – Litter Reduction and Recycling Grant Program and from Title 199 – Waste Reduction and Recycling Incentive Grant Program, and include the language in an existing grant agreement document between NDEQ and grant recipients.

This proposal received approval by the Governor's Policy Research Office in the fall of 2018, and was also approved by the Nebraska Environmental Quality Council at a public meeting on November 15, 2018. Once the changes to Titles 133 and 199 are finalized by the Governor's Office, the Secretary of State, and the Attorney General's Office, the updated regulations will be available on the Department's website.

So that potential grant applicants understand what types of projects can be funded, guidance will be provided on our website to give instructions on how to apply for grants, the types of projects that can be funded, and also to provide grant reimbursement guidance.

3. Grant Application Guidance.

In order to provide fair and equitable reimbursement of grant expenses, especially in times when grant requests far exceed the amount of grant funding available, proposed grant application guidance has been developed to set limits on how grant funds can be spent. This document can be viewed on our website at: <http://deq.ne.gov/publica.nsf/pages/WAS074>

Some of the important changes include:

- Limits on amounts that can be reimbursed toward personnel costs.
- Telephone and cell phone costs are reimbursable only if the service contract is with the grantee's organization.
- A requirement for three cost estimates/bids when purchasing equipment, contractual services, and like-kind supply items costing \$2,000 or more.
- Needed disclosures of related parties who will provide goods or services.
- For reimbursement requests for tire-derived products (e.g. artificial turf fields, running tracks, and playground surfaces) and/or crumb rubber that are already purchased/installed at the time of application: three cost estimates/bids will be required when the portion of the project containing at least 25% recycled tire rubber content exceeds \$120,000 (representing at least a \$30,000 grant request amount.)

Eligible grant projects for the upcoming 2019 Waste Reduction & Recycling Incentive Grant Program

February 13, 2019 at 4:00 p.m. CST is the deadline to apply for 2019 Waste Reduction and Recycling Incentive Grants. The program has funding available for waste management, deconstruction of abandoned buildings, and scrap tire programs and projects. Private entities, non-profit organizations, and political subdivisions can apply for most categories. All projects must benefit Nebraska. The grant term will be from July 1 – December 31, 2019, and approximately half of the normal funding amount will be available. (2020 grant awards will be for 12 months—January to December—and have the normal funding amount).

- **Waste Reduction and Recycling Programs and Projects (Business and Disposal Fees) – funding is available for, but not limited to:**
 - Recycling systems and equipment to collect and process recyclables; balers, shredders, densifiers, loaders, and trailers.
 - Food and yard waste composting: brush chippers, tub grinders, compost turners, and screens.
 - Household hazardous waste, electronic waste, and pharmaceutical collection events.
 - Market development for recyclable materials.
- **Scrap Tire Programs and Projects – funding is available for, but not limited to:**
 - 50% reimbursement of crumb rubber costs for manufacturing, landscaping, and rubber playground mulch.
 - 25% reimbursement of mats or tiles for playgrounds, poured-in-place playground surfaces, athletic track surfaces, and artificial turf football, soccer, and baseball fields.
 - 100% reimbursement of the cost of scrap tire cleanup events (political subdivisions, only).
 - 50% reimbursement of capital costs for processing, manufacturing, collection, and transporting scrap tires: tire grinders, shredders, derimmers, trailers, and equipment to collect tires or produce rubber-modified asphalt.
 - Cost-sharing for Civil Engineering Uses (at \$20/ton).
- **Deconstruction of Abandoned Buildings (available for cities or counties under 5,000 population, only).**

For more information, contact:

Toll free: 1-877-253-2603

Waste Reduction & Recycling Incentive Grants – 402-471-3457

Litter Reduction & Recycling Grants – 402-471-2436

Scrap Tire Grants – 402-471-2480

General – 402-471-0273

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