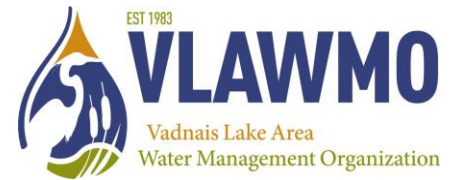


VADNAIS LAKE AREA WATER MANAGEMENT ORGANIZATION

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www.vlawmo.org



COMMUNITY BLUE GRANT GUIDANCE

Program Overview

Community Blue is an education & outreach based grant program that supports community service initiatives, and citizen engagement efforts to promote stewardship and behavior change in watershed protection.

Grant amounts: \$200 up to \$10,000

Percent Match: up to 100%. 80% disbursed upon approval of Work Plan. Remaining 20% disbursed after completion of activity/project and within 60 days after approval of final report.

Match required: in-kind

Accepts applications: monthly

Outcomes

Program outcomes

Community Blue grants are awarded to those who accomplish this goal through education, collaboration, innovation, and meaningful interactions between citizens and our local water resources. Projects must provide participatory learning and engage learners with high quality experiences.

Applicant's project outcomes

Each applicant must identify one or more distinct and measurable project outcomes that it intends to achieve with the support that would be provided by this grant. Grantees will be expected to evaluate their activities and be able to demonstrate measurable achievements related to outcomes.

Crafting meaningful project outcomes

An outcome describes change in knowledge, attitude, skill, behavior, or condition among the people a project is designed to benefit. Effective project outcomes are specific, measurable, and can be reasonably achieved by the proposed activities. Outcomes always have two parts: the first one describing the person/people who will change, and the second one describing what that change will be. An outcome in this program might look like the following:

“The program participants will demonstrate (increased empathy toward others, confidence in their own artistic ability, etc.)”

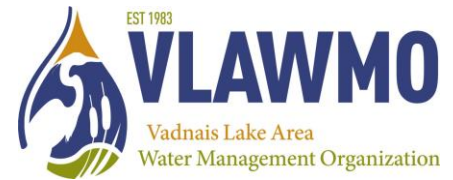
Eligibility

Anyone is eligible to receive a Community Blue grant. Activities and projects must be for public benefit and occur within VLAWMO municipalities.

Examples of applicants might include:

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- girl scouts/boy scouts/students
- community service, and service learning groups/clubs
- non-profit and faith organizations
- public entities
- artists
- business owners
- schools, teachers & educators
- neighborhood groups/associations

Activities and projects must be for public benefit, promote the goals and policies of VLAWMO, and occur within VLAWMO municipalities. Examples might include:

- community education programs/program development
- neighborhood clean ups
- activities/events/workshops/trainings
- citizen science
- demonstration projects
- monitoring/research
- educational material development
- Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) research and management projects

Expenses

Eligible expenses must be reasonable, necessary, and approved in the Work Plan. Examples of eligible expenses might include:

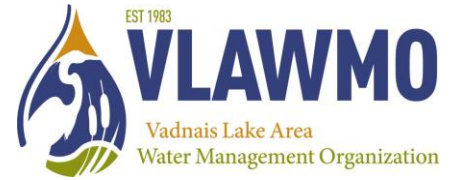
- Purchasing of supplies & materials
- Professional services
- Equipment rental
- Printing & mailing

Fees for professional services

1. The VLAWMO does not specify compensation rates. Instead, compensation for professional services (including teachers, teaching artist, and staff) contract hour rates and compensation for support services such as project management, evaluation, planning, marketing, technical work, etc. should reflect industry standards, market rates, and the skill and experience of the worker. Rates should be appropriate to the project's needs and clearly justified in application materials.

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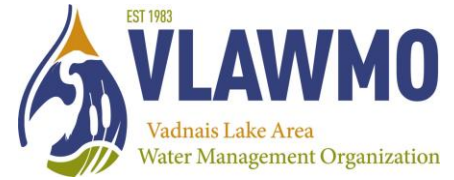
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2. For contributing professional assistance (including teachers, teaching artist, and staff) please give a brief description of qualifications or experience.

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In-kind Match

1. In-kind includes the value of goods and services donated to the project. Some examples include donated services, materials, advertising, space use, and printing.
2. The in-kind value for volunteer time is \$25/hr.

VLAWMO reserves the right to award full or partial support for proposed expenses.

*** Demonstration projects show in practice how a particular problem may be addressed. It facilitates the replication and up-scaling of an action through visible accomplishments and lessons of experience. Demonstration projects are effective mechanisms for forging partnerships between public, private and (especially) community sectors, developing new ways of working together, learning by doing, and generating visible results on the ground. All demonstration projects are projects, but not all projects are demonstrations. Demonstration projects are designed from the beginning to serve as demonstrations of new ways of doing things and hence the features to be demonstrated are explicitly featured in the design.

Publicity and Acknowledgement Requirements

- VLAWMO is happy to help you advertise your project or program. Please send information six weeks before your event so we can post it on our web site and send it via our list serve.
- All projects, publications, and publicity generated or developed as part of this project must include public acknowledgement of VLAWMO as a partner and funder.

To obtain the VLAWMO logo contact the Communications and Education Department. If signage is a part of your grant it must be approved by the VLAWMO Communications & Education Programs Manager.

Final Report Requirements

All grantees are required to track and report general information about project participation. Priority will be given to applicants who propose to also measure project impacts/benefits. This may include the measurement of meaningful actions taken, knowledge increase or changes in water quality protection behavior. Projects that receive grant funding must be complete a final report submitted to VLAWMO.