

## REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

### **Sewage-Free Streets and Rivers campaign capacity-building grant program**

**Summary:** The Sewage-Free Streets and Rivers campaign seeks to fund partner organizations to conduct public outreach and education in targeted communities to educate families and small businesses on the impacts of combined sewer overflows, opportunities for community input in the development of solutions, and the benefits of green infrastructure.

**Background:** We all want sewage-free streets and rivers that keep residents healthy and allow small businesses to flourish. However, when it rains in 21 New Jersey cities and towns, raw sewage pours into rivers and backs up into basements and onto streets. This is known as a [combined sewer overflow \(CSO\)](#).

In 2015, the [New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection](#) sought to address this issue by requiring these communities to develop [Long Term Control Plans](#) by 2020 to reduce sewage in our waterways, and to submit a report by July 2019 that identifies the various options they will evaluate to achieve this goal. Implementing these plans will cost billions of dollars over the next 30 years and will have significant effects on residents and business owners for generations to come.

The people who live, work and run businesses in these cities will pay for these upgrades and should have a strong role in shaping the plans. Community voices are needed to ensure that the solutions are affordable, keep residents healthy, invest in local jobs, businesses and neighborhoods, and create more green spaces that promote climate resiliency.

Sewage-Free Streets and Rivers campaign focuses on the 21 communities with combined sewer systems: Bayonne, City of Camden, East Newark, Elizabeth, Fort Lee, Gloucester City, Guttenberg, Hackensack, Harrison, Hoboken, Jersey City, Kearny, Newark, North Bergen, Paterson, Perth Amboy, Ridgefield Park, Trenton, Union City, Weehawken and West New York.

### **Capacity-Building Grant Program**

**Eligible applicants:** Community organizations, small business owners, community leaders, located in municipalities with a combined sewer system.

**Eligible project locations:** **Projects must be focused** in a New Jersey municipality with a combined sewer system.

**Eligible expenses:** Materials, speaker honoraria, professional services, printing, mailing, advertising, supplies like paints for a catch-basin project.. For events, a maximum of \$100 from the grant is allowed toward food.

**Municipalities with combined sewer systems:** Bayonne, City of Camden, East Newark, Elizabeth, Fort Lee, Gloucester City, Guttenberg, Hackensack, Harrison, Hoboken, Jersey City, Kearny, Newark, North Bergen, Paterson, Perth Amboy, Ridgefield Park, Trenton, Union City, Weehawken and West New York.

**Ineligible expenses:** Travel or labor by local volunteers, officials or municipal staff.

**Application deadline: Wednesday, April 17, 2019, 4:30 pm.** All applications must use the format/template provided below, and be submitted to [info@sewagefreenj.org](mailto:info@sewagefreenj.org). Application length is limited, so please be concise but thorough.

**Notification of grant selections:** Sewage-Free Streets and Rivers will notify successful grantees by May 1, 2019, by email and phone.

**Grant period:** Funds must be spent by July 1, 2019.

**Grant range:** Grant amounts will range from \$500 to \$1,500.

**Suggested types of projects:**

1. Conduct a community survey on combined sewer overflows, flooding, community priorities and solutions.
2. Host a workshop on combined sewer overflows, flooding, community priorities and solutions.
3. Present at two to three community meetings on combined sewer overflows, flooding, community priorities and solutions.
4. Hand out outreach materials at community meetings and/or events.
5. Table at community events.
6. Organize community initiatives like rain barrel workshops or adopt-a-catch-basin.

**Support from the Sewage-Free Streets and Rivers Campaign**

- Proposals that include multi-lingual outreach will be prioritized.
- The campaign can provide template presentations and outreach materials that can be customized for specific communities.
- The campaign can provide technical assistance on organizing effective outreach events and surveys.

**Required grant report:** All grantees must submit a short (300 – 500 word) description of their project, ideally with photographs, that the campaign can include in its newsletter.

**Application form:** Copy the template below and paste it into a Word document; fill in responses and submit via email.

Name:

E-mail:

Phone:

Home address:

Day and cell phones:

Organization:

Municipality:

Amount being requested:

Project description (Limit 900 words):

Be sure to include the following information in your description:

1. Brief history of your organization, business or as a community leader
2. Membership/catchment area if applicable
3. Community outreach strategy
4. What will you do?
5. Who will you reach? When? How? Objectives?
6. Description of success

Please include a simple budget.