



State of Ohio Environmental Protection Agency

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Dear Local Official:

Are tight budgets cramping your environmental agenda? Is your vision for improving river conditions and water quality within your community being tarnished by a lack of funding? Ohio EPA may be able to help. Local stream restoration and water quality projects targeted at nonpoint source pollution may qualify for up to \$400,000 in grant funding.

Many problems with Ohio's rivers and streams can be traced to man-made modifications to stream flow, alteration of streamside habitat and contaminants from nonpoint sources – such as runoff from construction sites, urban areas and agricultural lands. In 1987, the federal Clean Water Act amendments created a national program to control nonpoint source pollution, established under Section 319 of the Clean Water Act. The cornerstone of Ohio's 319 program is providing assistance to local governments, park districts and others who are implementing locally developed watershed action plans or restoring surface waters impaired by nonpoint pollution by implementing recommendations within total maximum daily load (TMDL) studies conducted in their area.

Ohio EPA's 319 grant program provides both a simplified application and a streamlined grant reporting process that allows you to spend more time where it counts – working on restoration. Up to \$400,000 or 60 percent of a project's cost may be funded using a 319 grant. Information meetings and application workshops are scheduled across the state at Ohio EPA district offices on the following dates; all meetings start at 10:00 AM and will conclude by noon:

January 28, 2009—Ohio EPA's Northwest District Office, Bowling Green  
January 29, 2009—Ohio EPA's Southeast District Office, Logan  
February 2, 2009—Ohio EPA's Southwest District Office, Dayton  
February 4, 2009—Ohio EPA's Central District Office, Columbus  
February 5, 2009—Ohio EPA's Northeast District Office, Twinsburg

More information about the 319 program, the types of projects that are funded, application deadlines, and how to apply may be found on the Web at <http://www.epa.state.oh.us/dsw/nps/319Program.html>. You can also contact Ohio EPA's District Offices or you can contact Russ Gibson, NPS Program Manager at (614) 644-2020.

Sincerely,

George A. Elmaraghy, P.E., Chief  
Division of Surface Water

cc: Russ Gibson / Martha Spurbeck, Division of Surface Water  
Ohio EPA District Offices/DSW

Ted Strickland, Governor  
Lee Fisher, Lieutenant Governor  
Chris Korleski, Director