

2025 Request for Proposals Overview

St. Louis County Aquatic Invasive Species Prevention Aid

St. Louis County is soliciting proposals to prevent the introduction or limit the spread of aquatic invasive species (AIS) in St. Louis County. Projects are expected to begin Spring of 2025. The term of the contract will be 12 months. An application form must be completed by each applicant and is due:

Before 4:30 p.m. on Friday, November 22, 2024.

1. State Funding

St. Louis County is the recipient of County Program Aid funds for AIS prevention from the State of Minnesota as a result of 2014 Session Law Chapter 308. The purpose of these funds is to “prevent the introduction or limit the spread of aquatic invasive species at all access sites within the county” (MN Statutes 477A.19). *Please note the St. Louis County AIS Prevention Program will be available provided state funding is appropriated for the program.*

Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) are defined under Minnesota Statutes Chapter 84D as non-native species that:

- a. Cause or may cause economic or environmental harm or harm to human health, or
- b. Threaten or may threaten natural resources or the use of natural resources in the state.

St. Louis County is scheduled to receive \$709,992 in 2025. Funding is apportioned to counties using a formula based on the number of public boat accesses and the number of watercraft trailer parking spaces in each county. St. Louis County will retain a portion of annual funding to defray administrative costs.

2. Funding Priorities for 2025

St. Louis County is interested in receiving proposals related to aquatic resource (lakes, reservoirs, streams, rivers) protection and maintenance, and social and/or economic impacts of AIS. Our goal is to address AIS issues with multi-disciplinary, integrated solutions based on science, related to natural resources sustainability, and social and economic concerns.

The county will only consider supporting implementation of projects that address one or more of the seven categories and associated actions outlined in the *St. Louis County Aquatic Invasive Species Prevention Plan*:

- a. Assess county resources and risks for AIS introduction and spread.
- b. Increase resources for county-wide education and enforcement.
- c. Increase public awareness and participation in prevention.

- d. Raise available resources and leverage partnerships.
- e. Broaden knowledge of and participation in early detection and rapid response activities.
- f. Manage existing populations of AIS.
- g. Address specific pathways for AIS introduction.

Applicants need to consider and articulate how the work will prevent the introduction or limit the spread of aquatic invasive species at access sites within the county, in accordance with MN Statute 477A.19.

3. Match

While match is not required, it will help in the review process. It should be included in the project budget. Match can be monetary, or it can be in-kind. Eligible match includes those services and materials that are directly tied to the project's development and implementation can be properly documented, and, without using them, the work would have to be contracted or paid by other means. All match must be incurred within the grant period.

Match includes the direct expenditure of funds associated with the project. Match may also include the use of equipment and volunteer time. If using volunteer time, the allowable rate is \$20.00 per hour. If volunteers are professionals donating their services, their paid hourly rate is eligible.

St. Louis County strongly encourages collaboration between private business/industry, management agencies, organizations and private citizens. Business/industry and management agency support is encouraged and contributions from these sources may be used as match.

4. Eligible Costs

Proposals must include a detailed budget with sources and uses. Direct program cost will be eligible costs. Equipment may be funded on a limited basis, provided there are proper inventory controls. Applicants must demonstrate they have adequate financial controls for accepting and reporting on the state funding.

St. Louis County AIS funding cannot supplant other funding or be used for expenditures prior to the award date. Funding for boat inspection program will require inspectors to be certified trained inspectors by the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR).

5. Eligible Applicants

Eligible applicants should be located in St. Louis County or partner with an organization within St. Louis County. Eligible applicants include colleges and universities, joint powers boards, lake associations, management agencies, non-profit organizations, soil and water conservation districts, state and local governments and agencies, tribal organizations, and watershed districts. Applicants must meet minimum county contract requirements including financial controls, record keeping, insurance, and any required workers compensation. A draft contract is available for applicants to review.

6. Minimum Application Amounts

Applications must be for at least \$10,000. Collaboration with organizations and agencies is encouraged.

7. Deadlines and Timeframes

Proposals are **due by 4:30 p.m. on Friday, November 22, 2024**. Send application by mail to: St. Louis County Planning and Zoning, 320 West Second Street, Suite 301, Duluth, MN 55802 or as a PDF file by email to LaShawn Rush: rushl@stlouiscountymn.gov. *(Email is preferred)*

Proposals will be reviewed and applicants will be notified of funding decisions in January 2025.

8. Review Process

St. Louis County Planning and Zoning will review the applications and provide a funding recommendation to the County Board for final consideration.

9. Letters of Support and/or Collaboration

Specifically indicate how the supporting organization will assist in or partner on the project or what that organization supports.

10. Resolutions

Applicants must provide a resolution or demonstrate they are authorized by the agency/organization to apply for funding.

11. Reporting Requirements

A final project report will be due at the conclusion of the project. The reporting requirements will be detailed in the contract and will require performance measures.

12. Contact Information

St. Louis County Planning and Zoning
Duluth, MN 55802
(P) 218-471-7103
Toll Free 1-800-450-9777, Ext. 5039

LaShawn Rush
Land Use Planner
Email: rushl@stlouiscountmn.gov
Website: <http://www.stlouiscountymn.gov/ais>

State legislation – use of proceeds (2014)

477A.19 AQUATIC INVASIVE SPECIES PREVENTION AID, SUBDIVISION 3

Subd. 3. Use of proceeds. A county that receives a distribution under this section must use the proceeds solely to prevent the introduction or limit the spread of aquatic invasive species at all access sites within the county. The county must establish, by resolution or through adoption of a plan, guidelines for the use of the proceeds. The guidelines set by the county board may include, but are not limited to, providing for site-level management, countywide awareness, and other procedures that the county finds necessary to achieve compliance. The county may appropriate the proceeds directly, or may use any portion of the proceeds to provide funding for a joint powers board or cooperative agreement with another political subdivision, a soil and water conservation district in the county, a watershed district in the county, or a lake association located in the county. Any money appropriated by the county to a different entity or political subdivision must be used as required under this section. Each county must submit a copy of its guidelines for use of the proceeds to the Department of Natural Resources by December 31 of the year the payments are received.