



Maine Healthy Soils Program Soil Health Implementation Grant Questions and Answers Summary

Questions Deadlines	April 18, 2025 no later than 5:00 p.m., local time Submit all questions via online submission
Application Deadline	May 16, 2025 , no later than 5:00 p.m., local time. To apply, visit our program webpage.

The below Question and Answer Summary includes all questions asked and answered during the Live Webinar held on March 21, 2025 and all written questions submitted through the on-line form as of 3:30 p.m. on April 11, 2025.

- Are the funds available for this grant through federal sources or state sources?
 - These are state funds.
- Does eligibility extend to private companies?
 - Yes, so long as that company offers services that meet the definition of an ag service provider in the RFA. Eligibility is one of the few inquiries that you may email me directly to inquire further about.
- I am collaborating with a farmer on my project proposal. Do I have to include funds in the request to compensate farmers?
 - No, such funds are not required, but you will be scored lower for not offering that compensation.
- Are scientific instruments used to measure things like soil temperature and moisture allowable costs?
 - Yes.
- Is it possible that you offer a lower award amount than what was requested.
 - Yes.
- Can I submit other supplemental files besides those explicitly listed in the RFA?
 - No. Any files you submit that we determine do not fit the types of files listed in the RFA will not be included in your application package.
- Will you accept late submissions?
 - No. The Microsoft Form must be submitted by 5 pm on May 16. The form will close and not allow submissions even if you already opened the form. If you try to submit the form after 5 pm, it will not be allowed. Supplemental files emailed to me with a time stamp after 5 pm on May 16 will be accepted so long as we see an application

in the Microsoft Forms system, but it will be noted in your application package that they were late and this will count against you in scoring. **We highly encourage you to complete your application well in advance of the deadline in case you run into any technical issues.**

- Can you save your progress on the Microsoft Form and come back to it later?
 - No. **We highly encourage you to download the application questions, answer them in a word processor, and copy/paste your responses into the form when you are finished.**
- Can an institution submit more than one application?
 - Yes, you can have multiple project proposals from a single institution, but an individual can only be the project lead on one project.
- Can a project lead for one proposal be a collaborator on another proposal?
 - Yes.
- How many awards are you planning to offer this cycle?
 - We will offer a maximum of 2 awards this cycle.
- Do you have guidance about the actual performance period that we should be aiming for?
 - Contract start dates for awardees are flexible, we are aiming to encumber contracts by September, and the 3-year performance period would be 3 years from the date we land on once we get to that stage.
- How many letters of support from farmers will you accept.
 - 3. We will not include ANY letters of support in your application package if you provide more than 3.
- When assessing project impact, is the proposal assessed by the number of farmers involved in the project or the number of farmers that are likely to be positively impacted by the project outcomes?
 - Technically both, but greater weight between the two will be put on the number of farmers that are likely to be positively impacted by the project outcomes.
- Synthetic fertilizers are not an allowable expense, are other soil amendments allowable?
 - Yes.