

# Built for Well-Being: Reducing Exposure to Toxic Substances in Building Materials

To align with DEQ's 2050 Vision and Framework for Action, the Reduce, Reuse, Reimagine Grant Program previously adopted a dedicated funding priority for each grant cycle. The 2026 grant cycle will have up to \$2 million available to disburse across eligible projects. The funding range for each application is from \$25,000 to \$225,000. The 2026 annual funding area is: Built for Well-Being: Reducing Exposure to Toxic Substances in Building Materials.

Many building materials — such as carpet, paint, furniture, insulation, and contract textiles — contain toxic chemicals that are harmful to people and to the environment. The 2026 grant cycle will fund projects that help reduce exposure to these toxic chemicals. A helpful framework for identifying chemicals of concern is the Six Classes approach. Projects can focus on other chemicals and methods of reducing exposure to toxics in building materials with compelling rationale.

For more information, visit the [Materials Management Grants Program web page](#).

## Submission instructions

Submit your pre-application via [WebGrants](#) by **April 30, 2026**.

Qualified applicants will be notified of their invitation to the second round on **June 22, 2026**.

## Pre-application questions

### 1. Organization description

Introduce your organization and describe its key activities and areas of focus. Include a brief overview of the programs or projects your organization supports. Please show how they relate to the RRR 2026 focus.

**Limit your response to 250 words or less.**

#### Criteria

- Clearly describes the organization's key activities and primary areas of focus in a way that provides reviewers with a solid understanding of the organization's identity and purpose.
- Provides a description of current programs or scope of work.
- Organization's work is aligned with the RRR grant program's funding area of "Reducing Exposure to Toxic Substances in Building Materials" and/or shows capacity or relevant experience to carry out work in this area.

## 2. Project description – up to 50 points

Provide a high-level overview of how your proposed project aligns with this year's focus, "Reducing Exposure to Toxic Substances in Building Materials" by addressing the following:

- a. What environmental issue are you addressing, and what are the associated human health impacts? Please specify which toxic substance(s) and building material(s) are being targeted.
- b. What are your project's primary goals?
- c. Why did your organization choose to pursue this project?

**Limit your response to 500 words or less.**

### Criteria

- Clearly describes the project and the environmental issue it addresses. Specifies which toxic substance(s) and building material(s) are being targeted and explains their environmental impacts.
- Clearly describes the project's impact on human health by specifying which toxic substance(s) and building material(s) are being targeted and explaining their associated health effects.
- Project goals are clearly defined, realistic, and in alignment with the focus area.
- Explains the organization's reason for pursuing this project, demonstrates why this work is important, and connects the proposed project to organization's existing work and expertise.
- Explains how the project fits the grant program's focus on "Reducing Exposure to Toxic Substances in Building Materials" through activities or outcomes that will reduce toxic exposure.

## 3. Community need, impact, and participation - up to 25 points

Describe which communities will benefit from your project and how they will be engaged by addressing the following:

- a. What specific community need will your project address or fill?
- b. How have impacted community members been involved in shaping this project?
- c. How will community members be involved during implementation of the project?

**Limit your response to 500 words or less.**

### Criteria

Impacted communities are the specific geographic area and population that experiences direct effects of the project, whether positive or negative. and the input from the impacted community has been specifically sought out and considered.

- Clearly identifies which communities will benefit from the project, including relevant demographic, geographic, or other defining characteristics that explain who the intended community or audience is.
- Describes the specific community need(s) or gap(s) that the proposed project will address, explains why this need exists, and shows how toxic substances in building materials impact the community or audience.

- Shows how the proposed project will address or positively impact the identified community need. Solutions may be short-term or long-term, direct or indirect, but the connection between project activities and community benefit should be clear.
- Shows meaningful community involvement in shaping and designing the project, with examples of how community members were consulted or involved in project planning—this could include surveys, focus groups, interviews, community meetings, or input based on lived experience.
- Project design is responsive to community feedback and reflects community priorities rather than assumptions. Response describes plans for ongoing community participation, feedback mechanisms, or decision-making roles throughout the project implementation and evaluation phases.

## 4. Diversity, equity, inclusion and environmental justice – up to 25 points

Describe how your project promotes diversity, equity, inclusion, and environmental justice by addressing environmental burdens, health impacts, or the disparities that affect impacted communities your project serves.

**Limit your response to 250 words or less.**

### Criteria

- Explains how the project will advance diversity, equity, inclusion, and/or environmental justice for the communities being served.
- Describes the environmental burdens, health impacts, or disparities the project addresses, and provides specific examples of the inequities being addressed (such as toxic exposure in substandard housing, lack of access to safer housing and schools, or historical disinvestment).
- Describes project activities that address burdens or disparities (for example: replacing toxic materials in affordable housing, educating about safer alternatives, or making non-toxic materials more accessible or affordable).
- Shows past experience with these issues or demonstrates genuine commitment to advancing DEI and environmental justice principles.
- Explains how the project will reduce disparities or address historical inequities (for example: prioritizing buildings with highest risks, providing materials in multiple languages).

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## Non-discrimination statement

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