

OWEB SIA Technical Assistance Grant Applications: Things to Know 2024

General

- Next OWEB SIA grant application due date: November 14, 2024 by 5:00PM
- **Total Request:** \$125,000. At least \$25,000 should be budgeted for Monitoring. The remaining funding is for Technical Assistance and Engagement.
- Any expenses related to the SIA after July 1, 2023 will be eligible for reimbursement once the grant is funded. These funds can be requested once the Grant Agreement is in place with OWEB.
- Applicants can apply through OWEB's [online application system](#)
 - Guidance to help you fill out the application is always available in the top navigation bar of the online application. You will be applying using the "Strategic Implementation Areas" application. This grant is only available to SWCDs currently working through an SIA process and should appear in your list of grant options when you are logged in with your organization's credentials.
- **Change to Match Requirements:** OWEB will now require a minimum 5% match contribution, which may include in-kind services, for these grant types. For SIA grants, this change will occur with the next grant offering, August 2024
 - Match can be listed as 'pending' at the time of application.
 - Match must be documented as 'secured' prior to the first payment request.
 - Agency staff time, including ODA staff time, can be used as match in this grant.
- Grantee staff time from the "TA" component of the funding can be used to develop the SIA monitoring proposal (in collaboration with ODA staff and other); for example to convene the Local Monitoring Team.
- New for 2024 is the inclusion of climate considerations questions in the application.
- Admin cost can be 10% if the grantee/District chooses that rate, though they can be up to 15% if negotiated with OWEB. For thorough guidance on this, see page 19 of OWEB's budget guidance document: <https://www.oregon.gov/oweb/Documents/GoBIG.pdf>
- **Grant length:** The grant is technically on a 5-year cycle and will expire on 12/30/2028 because of OWEB funding mechanisms, but it is easy (and encouraged) to request an extension for the grant to allow the monitoring funding to be available for the 10 years of the SIA. If/when an extension is needed, the District should work with their OWEB project manager to request the extension.

Items for the applicant to consider before applying:

1. Has the SIA remote evaluation been completed?
2. Are clear objectives developed? Including an outreach strategy to engage landowners and identify how watershed uplift/ conservation can be achieved?
 - Refer either to the Regional Water Quality Specialist (RWQS) or the Agriculture Water Quality Management Area (AgWQMA) Plan for strategies and activities to develop SIA objectives.
 - If you have questions about appropriate objectives please reach out to ODA for assistance.

3. Is the funding need clearly described in the Budget section? The budget submitted with the initial TA application should reflect sufficient detail to understand what the funding will be used for; for example, staff time (salary/wages/benefits), contracted services, and materials & supplies.

SIA Monitoring

- SIA monitoring is not for compliance. The purpose is to measure water quality in areas influenced by agriculture, including baseline data prior to implementing improvements in farming practices. Results will help demonstrate whether these improvements contribute to improvements in water quality over time.
- SIA monitoring may include landscape monitoring such as, vegetation/site assessments, or instream water quality monitoring, such as, stream temperature, sediment, bacteria, nutrients, or other parameters.
- Out of the \$125,000, **at least \$25,000** must be used for monitoring.
- Districts can spend more than the \$25,000 on monitoring. For the application they will need to know a general idea of how much is for monitoring and how much is for TA/outreach, but do not need to know exactly how much until the monitoring plan is approved (typically within the first year or two)
- The monitoring proposal is **not due** at the time of the SIA Technical Assistance Grant application. Instead, you will be asked general questions, such as when do you anticipate developing your SIA monitoring proposal?
- To develop the monitoring plan, a local monitoring team (LMT), will be assembled. The local monitoring team is comprised of staff from ODA, the SWCD, DEQ, ODFW, and other interested parties (such as the local Watershed Council and tribes).
- The statewide SIA Monitoring and Assessment Group (MAG) is now a collaborative effort. You will be invited to attend the SIA MAG meeting to discuss and review your application. This has allowed the process to move forward more quickly as any questions about the monitoring plan can be asked and answered in the meeting.

Pilot SIA Restoration Grant:

- SIA Restoration grants are open to Districts with SIAs to address restoration opportunities that were identified through the SIA process.
- **Maximum request amount per grant:** \$15,000
 - An SWCD can apply for as many SIA Restoration grants as they want, there is no limit per SWCD or SIA. Phased approaches to projects are acceptable.
- Districts hosting an SIA in 2024 will be eligible for SIA Restoration grants starting in 2025 once they have landowners identified and enough information about the proposed project to apply
- **Eligible Project types:** Projects must demonstrate a clear watershed benefit to aquatic species, wildlife, or watershed health and be one of the eligible project types listed

below. These are based on OWEB Small Grant Rules OAR 695-035-0050. Priority will be given to projects intended to restore or protect agricultural water quality.

- Any agricultural property within the bounds of the SIA is eligible for SIA Restoration funds
- Cultural Resource Assessments will not be required for SIA Restoration dollars