

Solid Waste Infrastructure for Recycling (SWIFR) Grants for Political Subdivisions of States and Territories¹



Application deadline: 12/20/2024



Total funding: \$58M

Funding for disadvantaged communities: \$23.2M (40% of total)

1. The EPA also refers to the SWIFR grant for political subdivisions as "SWIFR Grants for Communities"
Source: [Solid Waste Infrastructure for Recycling \(SWIFR\) Grants for Political Subdivisions NOFO](#)

SWIFR reviews applications across six criteria using a 100-point scale



Goals and merit criteria for SWIFR grants:

Applicants are encouraged to reference the numbers and titles of the evaluation criteria in their project narratives:

- Project Summary and Approach
- Impactful Approaches and Solutions
- Environmental Justice
- Measuring and Reporting Environmental Results
- Programmatic Capability and Past Performance
- Budget and Expenditure of Awarded Grant Funds

The following **additional factors** may inform final decisions:

- Geographic Diversity
- Programmatic Priorities
- Diversity of Project Types
- Diversity of Organization Types
- “Shovel-Ready” Projects

SWIFR grants details

SWIFR funds projects to increase recycling, reduce contamination, and promote a circular economy.

Match funding requirement: 0%

Scope of work

Objectives¹

- Establish, Increase, expand, or optimize collection and materials management infrastructure and end-markets for the use of recycled commodities
- Fund creation and construction of tangible infrastructure, technology, or other improvements to reduce contamination in the recycled materials stream
- Demonstrate a significant and measurable increase in the diversion, 9 recycling rate, 10 and quality of materials collected for municipal solid waste

Direct Pay applicability: Unlikely

Materials and waste streams considered

- Municipal solid waste (MSW), including plastics, organics, paper, metal, glass, etc., electronic waste, batteries, and construction and demolition (C&D) debris
- Management pathways of source reduction, reuse, sending materials to material recovery facilities, composting, rendering, anaerobic digestion, and feeding animals

Award amounts

Minimum award	\$500K (minimum in 2023 was \$500K)
Maximum award	\$5M (maximum in 2023 was \$4M)
Period of performance	3 years
Award distribution	~ 20 - 30 assistance agreements, with at least one award per EPA Region ²

2023 awards

National awards	25 awards (~\$84.9M)
Michigan awards	0 awards (\$0)

1. Eligible projects meet one or more objective(s).
 2. Expected distribution; remains dependent on the quantity and quality of all applications

Source: [SWIFR Grants for Political Subdivisions NOFO](#)

High level requirements to apply for an SWIFR grant

Applications must indicate whether the proposed project(s) fall under Track 1 (disadvantaged communities) or Track 2 (all others)

NON-EXHAUSTIVE



Eligibility of Entities

- **Fully eligible:** counties, cities, towns, parishes, and similar units of governments that have executive and legislative functions
- **Require documentation:** Other entities (state or territorial institutions of higher education, special districts, housing authorities) must provide a documented legal opinion from the applicant's legal counsel or equivalent
- **Ineligible:** Grant recipients of EPA SWIFR grants in previous rounds of funding are not eligible for funding under this solicitation.



Key Grant Application Components

- Application for Federal Assistance (SF-424)
- Budget Information for Non-Construction Programs (SF-424A)
- EPA Key Contacts Form 5700-54
- EPA Form 4700-4 Preaward Compliance Review Report
- Project Narrative Attachment Form¹
 - Summary Information Cover Letter (1 page max)
 - Narrative Proposal (10 pages max)
 - Budget Table and Description (4 pages max or spreadsheet)

1. EPA has provided optional resources for the "Summary Information Cover Letter," the "Narrative Proposal," and the "Budget Table and Description" on [EPA's Solid Waste Infrastructure for Recycling Grants for Communities](#) webpage.

Examples of 2023 winners



Chaffee County Colorado Transfer Station and Materials Recovery Facility

Applicant: Chaffee County, Colorado

EPA Region: 8

Funding: \$3,995,000

Project Description: Chaffee County, CO will design and construct a regional transfer station for recyclables and a materials recovery facility on its landfill site outside of Salida, Colorado. The transfer station and facility will measurably increase local waste diversion and reduce process-related greenhouse gas emissions by providing drop-off options for recycling for county residents that report they cannot receive or afford commercial curbside recycling services. The construction of the MRF and transfer station is anticipated to result in ~90,000 tons of material processed per year, with at least 50% of material diverted from the landfill.



Food Scrap Collection/Compost Programs and Other Recycling

Applicant: Stamford, Connecticut

EPA Region: 1

Funding: \$2,016,941

Project Description: The City of Stamford, CT's project will create four strategically located food waste collection points, a curbside collection program for residential and commercial food waste, a recycling education and outreach program for the public, and a pilot for a food waste collection and composting program at a public high school. The city will add three new publicly available composting sites and will use the compost generated in public parks and distribute it to interested residents for personal use. This project will increase food waste diverted from landfills by 165 tons and reduce CO2 emission production by 288.4 tons. Additionally, this project will increase composting capability by 430%, from 1000lbs per day to 4300lbs per day.



Nassau County Recycling Process Enrichment Program

Applicant: Nassau County, Florida

EPA Region: 4

Funding: \$500,000

Project Description: The San Francisco Municipal Nassau County will optimize the intake stream and outflow process at its Convenience Recycling Center in Callahan and its Recycling Collection Site in Yulee. The county will also redesign containers to ensure customers deposit recyclables in the correct waste stream. Additionally, Nassau County will implement a multifaceted public education campaign to increase awareness about available recycling facilities. This project will increase capacity at the facility while reducing container overflow and minimizing incorrect disposal.