Mid-America Regional Council (MARC), on behalf of the Water Quality Public Education Committee, requests proposals from community groups and nonprofits to implement events, education activities or projects promoting actions to improve water quality in Greater Kansas City. Based on results from a citizen survey, the Committee will continue its work on educating citizens on how stormwater contributes to water pollution in area lakes, rivers and streams; and how residents can reduce such pollution.

In addition, proposals may be submitted for use of native species in landscaping to improve air and water quality, and to reduce excess water use. Demonstration projects should include an establishment and maintenance plan, as well as educational signage.

Overview
This grant program, overseen by the MARC Water Quality Public Education Committee, funds nonprofits and community groups to develop educational activities, events and projects. Government entities are not eligible to apply for funding. Grant funds must be used to support activity and/or event planning, project implementation and associated costs. Selected proposals must address at least one of the water quality education goals set out below:

- Provide public education about the adverse impacts of stormwater runoff and water pollution.
- Promote policies and management practices to reduce stormwater runoff and water pollution.
- Implement best management practices to reduce stormwater runoff and water pollution in area creeks and streams.

Additional information about activities, events and projects funded through this program in previous years can be found on MARC’s website at http://www.marc.org/Environment/Water-Resources/Water-Quality-Grants/Overview.

Funding Levels
Project funding varies, but will not exceed $5,000 per project. Awards have typically ranged from $2,000-$3,000. This grant is a reimbursement grant.

Grant funds may not exceed 50 percent of the total project cost (a cash or in-kind match representing 50 percent of the costs is required from the applicant). Grant submission involving multiple partners must be accompanied by letters of commitment from partners detailing their role in the grant project. The Committee reserves the right to partially fund projects. Past grant recipients are not guaranteed funding in this grant program. Grant recipients will be required to furnish evidence of general liability insurance and other insurance as determined by MARC to be appropriate for the project.

Grant awards are limited to projects performed in MARC Water Quality Public Education Committee member cities and counties:

- Blue Springs, Missouri
- Clay County, Missouri
- Excelsior Springs, Missouri
- Peculiar, Missouri
- Platte County, Missouri
- Kansas City, Missouri
- Lake Lotawana, Missouri
- Liberty, Missouri
- Lenexa, Kansas
- Lee’s Summit, Missouri
- Overland Park, Kansas
- Independence, Missouri
- Jackson County, Missouri
- Johnson County, Kansas
- Raymore, Missouri
- Raytown, Missouri
- Unified Government of Wyandotte County / Kansas City, Kansas
Only one proposal may be submitted per organization. Applicants must have a 501(c)(3) nonprofit designation. Grant recipients are required to give a short presentation of their finished project at a time to be determined by the grant committee.

**Timeline**

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<tr>
<td><strong>Proposals Due:</strong></td>
<td><strong>4 p.m. CST, Wednesday, Jan. 8, 2020</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Project Completion and Written Report Due:</strong></td>
<td><strong>Monday, Dec. 4, 2020</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Project Presentation:</strong></td>
<td><strong>TBA</strong></td>
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**Proposal Submission and Selection Process**

Proposals for funding should be submitted electronically using the [online form](#) by **4 p.m. CST, Wednesday, Jan. 8, 2020**.

Upon receipt of proposal, MARC will reply with a confirmation e-mail. Applicants are responsible for ensuring that proposals are received by MARC.

A review committee comprised of Water Quality Education Committee members will evaluate proposals and recommend recipients to the full Committee for final approval. Previous grant performance, including reporting history, will be taken into consideration for those applicants who are past grant recipients. Committee members will use the proposal evaluation criteria outlined in the online submission form in the selection process.

**Final Report**

Upon execution of the grant award contract, MARC staff will provide a final grant report template with an outcomes and measurements section. Applicants will be required to submit a final report following project completion that includes:

1. Synopsis of event
2. Digital photos of activities
3. Description of lessons learned (challenges)
4. Number of participants/volunteers
5. Evaluation of project’s success
6. Receipts and expense records including staff timesheets with rates

For additional information regarding this request for proposals, please contact Alecia Kates at akates@marc.org or **816-701-8233**.