

Highlands Region Quick Guide

Navigating the 2023 MS4 Permit Changes



The new municipal separate storm sewer system (MS4) permit became effective on January 1, 2023 and introduced a number of significant changes for municipalities. Most notably, municipalities formerly classified as Tier B must now meet the same requirements as Tier A municipalities. Because meeting these requirements advances the goals and purposes of the Highlands Act and Regional Master Plan (RMP), grant funding can be made available to *any* Highlands municipality for MS4 Permit compliance work.

Step 1 :: Secure NJDEP funding

If you have not already, apply for the NJDEP funding.

- Simple one-page fillable PDF application.
- **DEADLINE EXTENDED TO June 30, 2024.**
- Funding can be used for other permit-related costs once specified deliverables (right) are submitted.

Former Tier B - \$75,000

- \$25k as soon as you submit the application.
- \$50k upon completion of Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan (SP3).

Tier A: \$25,000

- \$15k as soon as you submit the application.
- \$10k upon completion of MS4 Infrastructure Mapping.

NJDEP Stormwater Assistance Grants Information

dep.nj.gov/grantandloanprograms/municipal-stormwater-assistance-grants/

Step 2 :: Develop a timeline

Develop a timeline for the remaining components noting estimated costs and funding sources. The Highlands Council can help with this step and can fund many of the tasks.

Task	Estimated Cost	Funding Source	Year (s)
Infrastructure Mapping	\$\$	NJDEP, Highlands Council	2023, 2024, 2025
Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan	\$\$	NJDEP, Highlands Council	2023
BMP Manual, Stormwater Management Plan, New/Revised Ordinances, WIP—Phase I	\$\$	Highlands Council	2023, 2024, 2025
Inlet Labeling	\$\$	Local/Other	2023+

example

Highlands Council Stormwater Management Information

www.nj.gov/njhighlands/stormwater

Step 3 :: Access Highlands Council funding and expertise

The Highlands Council can be a valuable partner in helping meet MS4 permit requirements. Staff liaisons will work with your municipal team to help identify tasks that the Highlands Council can fund and assist with the development of an implementation timeline. Eligible activities include planning, design and engineering costs.

Highlands Council Grants

- ✓ Non competitive
- ✓ No match required
- ✓ No minimum or maximum
- ✓ Reimbursement based
- ✓ Require an approved scope (models provided)
- ✓ Priority will be given to conforming municipalities if requests exceed available funding
- ✓ Pending availability of funding from treasury

DEADLINE TO REQUEST HIGHLANDS COUNCIL FUNDING: Friday, August 30, 2024

What's due when?

Of the 58 requirements listed on the NJDEP's 2023 Deliverables Timelines for the MS4 Permit Renewal, 50 of them are new or modified for former Tier B towns, and 35 are new or modified for the legacy Tier A towns. Below is a general summary of requirements in each year. **Items in blue can be funded by the Highlands Council.**

Tier B to Tier A

Tier A

