

# Aquatic invasive species watercraft inspection grants



Hennepin County has up to \$150,000 in grant funds available to help local units of government and organizations implement projects that prevent the spread of aquatic invasive species (AIS). Proposal activities must be located in Hennepin County.

Eligible recipients	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Local government agencies, such as cities, watershed organizations and park districts</li><li>• Nonprofit organizations</li><li>• Public companies and institutions</li><li>• Private, for-profit companies</li></ul>
Examples of projects	<p>Eligible proposals include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Proposing a new watercraft inspection program</li><li>• Supplementing or expanding an existing watercraft inspection program</li></ul> <p>Proposals must be consistent with the most recent Minnesota Department of Natural Resources Watercraft Inspection Manual, and any inspectors funded through these grants must meet training requirements set by MN DNR.</p>
Eligible expenses	Consulting fees, staff time, materials, supplies, labor, printing and promotions.
Application timeline	Applications due February 24, 2026. <a href="#">Apply via the Hennepin County supplier portal.</a> Depending on the number and quality of proposals submitted, this may be the only time the county solicits for proposals this year.
Amount of funding available	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Maximum of \$30,000 per grant per year.</li><li>• Supplemental funding proposals may request no more than 35% of the previous year's overall inspection budget or up to \$30,000, whichever is less.</li></ul>
Matching funds	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• New program proposals require 15% cash and/or in-kind match in year 1 and 35% cash and/or in-kind match in year 2. Match can be provided by project partners.</li><li>• Supplemental funding proposals must clearly demonstrate that grant funds provide additional inspection services beyond what the existing inspection program provides.</li></ul>
Project timeline	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Hennepin County review and board approval anticipated in late spring 2026.</li><li>• Project start times cannot occur before contract approval by Hennepin County.</li><li>• Final report due before December 31 of funding year.</li></ul>
Reporting requirements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Work plan and budget.</li><li>• Project design and specifications (if applicable).</li><li>• Documentation regarding expenses, such as time sheets, invoices and receipts.</li><li>• Interim and final reports as identified in the grant agreement.</li></ul>

## Contact us today

Our staff is available to answer questions and offer resources:

- Visit [hennepin.us/aisprevention](https://hennepin.us/aisprevention)
- Contact Tony Brough at 612.348.4378 or [Tony.Brough@hennepin.us](mailto:Tony.Brough@hennepin.us)