



# To the Rescue

## Virginia's American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Investment in Septic Assistance

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# Outline

Developing the Septic Local Partner Program (SLPP)

Soliciting Projects

Implementing Projects

Gazing Optimistically into the Future

# About the Clean Water Financing and Assistance Program

Mission: We provide cost effective **funding solutions** and technical assistance to localities, organizations, and citizens to protect and enhance **water quality** in the Commonwealth

“Funding solutions” – we provide low and no interest loans and grants from five funds:

- Virginia Clean Water Revolving Loan Fund
- Stormwater Local Assistance Fund
- Water Quality Improvement Fund
- Combined Sewer Overflow Fund
- **American Rescue Plan Act Wastewater Funds**

# A bit about ARPA

## ARPA signed into Law

- **March 2021**
- Support to state and local governments “in responding to the economic and public health impacts of COVID-19 and in their efforts to contain impacts on their communities, residents, and businesses.”

## General Assembly appropriates \$\$ to DEQ

- **Summer 2021 and 2022**
- General Assembly directed DEQ to use for “septic, straight pipe, and sewer collection system repair, replacement, and upgrades.”

## DEQ develops Implementation Plan

- **Summer/Fall 2022**
- \$5 million for SLPP
- Funding solution that could fill in those eligibility gaps, like community septic systems, like those at a trailer park, or a business.

# Implementation Plan

## Program Design

Outlines how the local partner will administer the program

- 50-100% cost share for septic repair/replacements or connection to public sewer
- Assigns or approves contractor; verifies permits

## Applications

Local partner administers cost-share funds

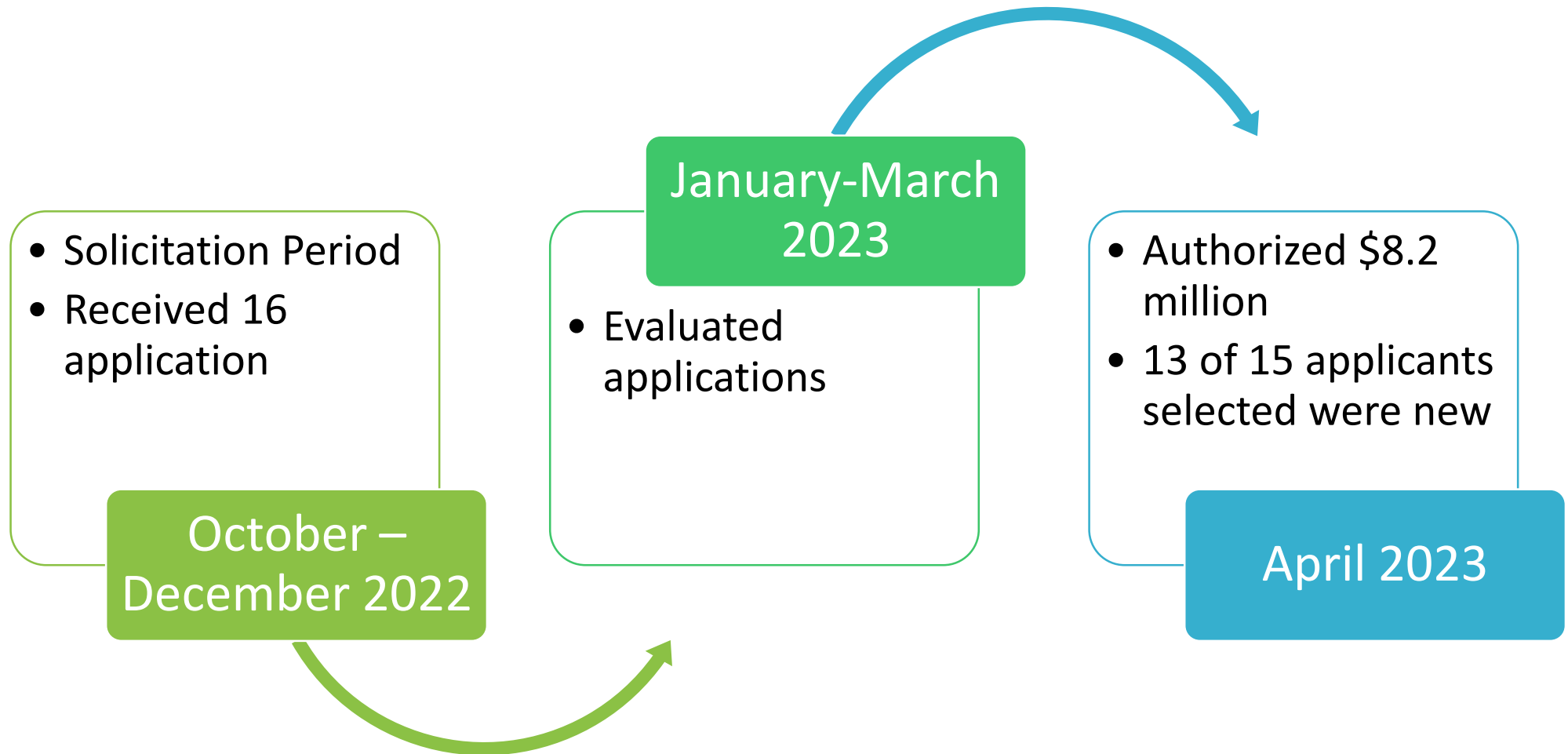
- Local partner accepts and evaluates applications; approve/deny projects

## Reimbursement

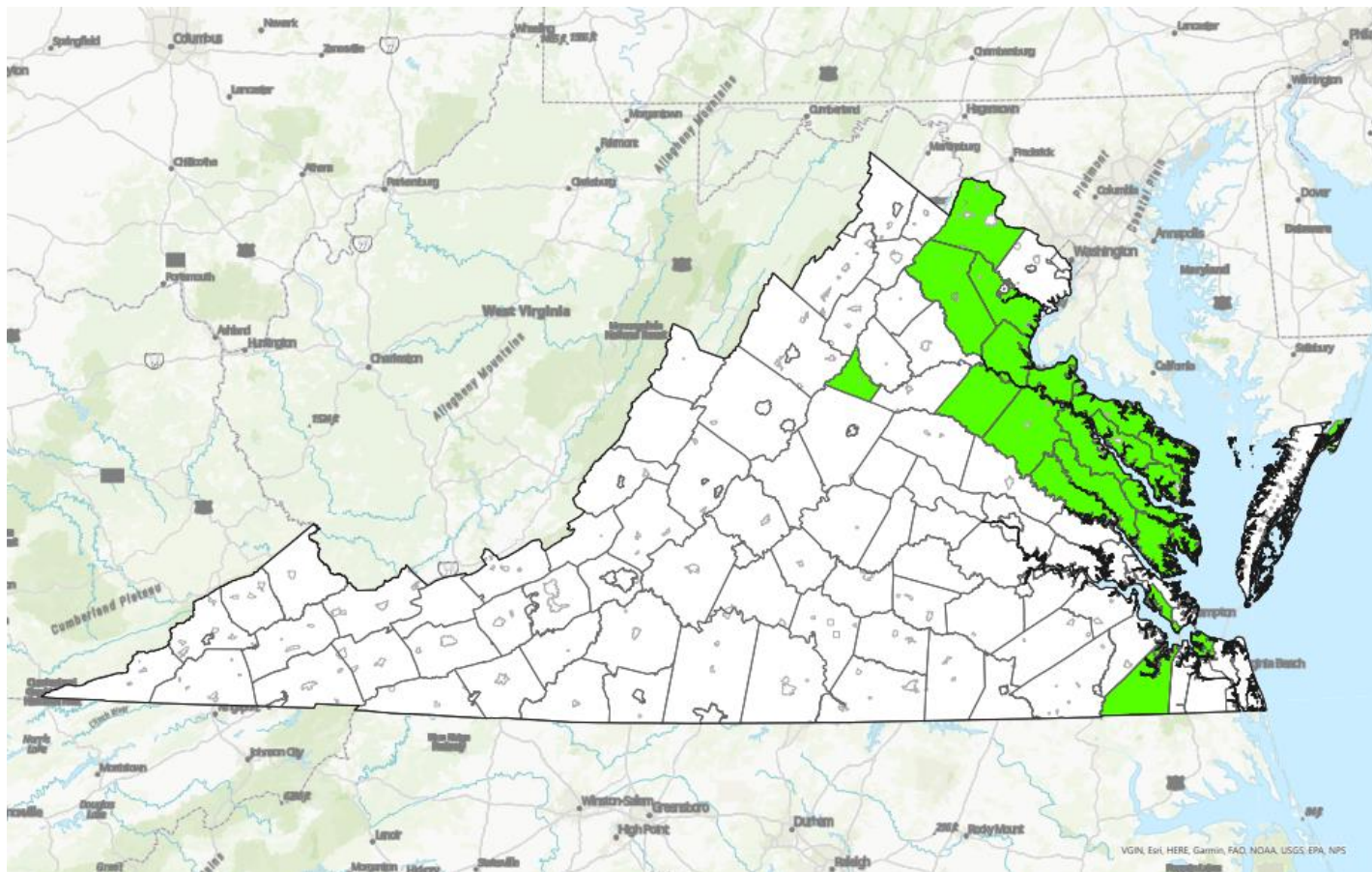
Local partner provides cost-share for approved project

- Participant requests reimbursement for pre-approved project
- Local partner issues cost-share payment (to participant or to contractor)

# Solicitation Overview



# Map of Selected Applicants



Middlesex County  
City of Norfolk  
Town of Middleburg  
George Washington Regional  
Commission  
City of Suffolk  
Green County  
Prince William County  
Town of Hillsboro  
City of Newport News  
Middle Peninsula Planning  
District Commission  
Town of Chincoteague  
Town of Warrenton  
Northern Neck Planning District  
Commission

# Implementation

SLPP Grant Deadlines	
<u>Milestone</u>	<u>Deadline</u>
Submit Program Design documents	9/30/2023
Execute grant agreement	3/31/2024
Disburse first septic BMP dollar(s)	3/31/2025
Disburse 50% of grant amount	12/31/2025



# Implementation

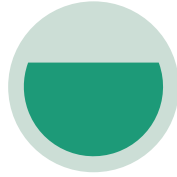


## Initial Meetings

May-June 2023

Meetings with  
each applicant

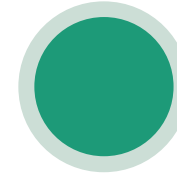
Program Design



## Program Design

June-September  
2023

Must submit  
Program Design  
by 9/30/2023



## Grant Agreement

Now – March  
2024

Meets other  
requirements and  
execute grant  
agreement

## Implementation Status - Today

- 2 program designs approved (GWRC & City of Newport News)
- Expect multiple program designs and grant agreements complete by end of 2023
- Implementation felt at local level – 2024-2026
- All funding must be spent by end of 2026
- Programs will stop soliciting applications in early/mid 2026

# How can you help?

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- Direct folks to the programs or their local health districts
- Visit <https://www.deq.virginia.gov/our-programs/water/clean-water-financing-and-assistance/american-rescue-plan-act-arpa>





# Things to be Optimistic About...

- VCWRLF Loan Funds
- Technical Assistance from EPA
- Clean Watersheds Needs Survey
- Commonwealth Wastewater Needs Assessment
- Commonwealth Wastewater Policy: **UNIVERSAL ACCESS**

# Questions?

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