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# COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA

## 2026 Grant Manual for the Virginia Dam Safety, Flood Prevention and Protection Assistance Fund *2026 Grant Funding*

*Applications due: 4:00 p.m. EST, March 31, 2026*

Developed by the Department of Conservation and Recreation  
in cooperation with the Virginia Resources Authority

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# Part I: Introduction and Overview

## Purpose of this Manual

The purpose of this manual is to provide guidance regarding the policies, criteria, conditions, and procedures for determining project eligibility and awarding grants from the Virginia Dam Safety, Flood Prevention and Protection Assistance Fund to local governments and private entities for specified dam safety and floodplain management issues pursuant to [§10.1-603.16 et seq. of the Code of Virginia](#).

## Dam Safety, Flood Prevention and Protection Assistance Fund (Fund) Overview and Authority

The Fund was established to:

1. Provide matching grants to local governments (including Soil and Water Conservation Districts) and to private entities owning existing regulated dams to improve dam safety. This includes matching grants to local governments for orphan dams that are within their jurisdiction. State-owned and federally-owned dams, or dams not regulated pursuant to the Dam Safety Act ([§10.1-604 et seq. of the Code of Virginia](#)), are ineligible.
2. Provide matching grants to any local government for the purpose of assisting the local government with improvements to flood prevention or protection. *Applicants interested in pursuing this category of the grant should now pursue funding from the Community Flood Preparedness Fund (CFPF). Additional information can be found [here](#).*

The Fund consists of monies appropriated by the General Assembly, assessments made on flood insurance premium income pursuant to [§38.2-401.1 of the Code of Virginia](#), funds returned in the form of interest and loan principal by recipients of funding, income from the investment of monies contained in the fund, and other public and private funds eligible for deposit.

The Fund is permanent and non-reverting and is administered and managed by the Virginia Resources Authority (VRA) in cooperation with the Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR). Section [10.1-603.19 F of the Code of Virginia](#) specifies that “[t]he total amount of expenditures for grants in any fiscal year shall not exceed 50 percent of the total non-interest or income deposits made to the Fund during the previous fiscal year, together with the total amount collected in interest or income from the investment of monies in the Fund from the previous fiscal year as determined at the beginning of the fiscal year.”

The Director of the Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) is authorized to make this grant available to communities, as outlined in §10.1-603.19:

§10.1-603.19 A. The Director may make grants or loans to any local government for the purpose of assisting the local government in the development and implementation of flood prevention or protection projects, or for flood prevention or protection studies.

§10.1-603.19 C. The Director may, in order to protect public safety and welfare, make ...  
(ii) grants to local governments and private entities for the determination of the hazard classification for impounding structures (dams), dam break analysis, the mapping and digitization of dam break inundation zones, incremental damage analysis, and other engineering requirements such as emergency action plan development and inspection reports.

Grant match requirements are identified in §10.1-603.19 G as follows:

- any grants made from the Fund pursuant to clause (i) of subsection C [design, repair, and safety modifications] shall require a 30 percent project match by the applicant
- any grants made from the Fund pursuant to clause (ii) of subsection C [determination of hazard classification, dam break analysis, mapping and digitization of dam break inundation zones, incremental damage analysis, and other engineering requirements, such as emergency action plan development and inspection reports] shall require no more than a 10 percent project match by the applicant, or a minimum of \$5,000, whichever is greater.
- Any loans made from the Fund shall require a minimum of a 10 percent project match by the applicant.

The Director of DCR will determine the type and amounts of funding available prior to each funding period and will specify the categories that will be considered for grant assistance. The Director is authorized to make expenditures in accordance with [§10.1-603.16 et seq. of the Code of Virginia](#) and the terms of this grant manual following approval of funding recommendations by the Virginia Soil and Water Conservation Board (Board). *While flood prevention and protection is eligible, no funding is allocated in the 2026 Grant Manual for this purpose. Interested applicants may seek funding under the Community Flood Preparedness Fund (CFPF) for flood prevention and protection activities. Additional information can be found [here](#). The Resilient Virginia Revolving Loan Fund (RVRLF) also has funding available for flood prevention and protection activities.*

## Funding Sources

**A total of \$5,000,000 is available for grants during this grant cycle. Funding available during this grant cycle consists of the following:**

**Dam Safety, Flood Prevention and Protection Assistance Fund (Fund):** \$5,000,000. Per Section 10.1-603.19 F of the *Code of Virginia*, “[t]he total amount of expenditures for grants in any fiscal year shall not exceed 50 percent of the total non-interest or income deposits made to the Fund during the previous fiscal year, together with the total amount collected in interest or income from the

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investment of monies in the Fund from the previous fiscal year as determined at the beginning of the fiscal year.”

- Up to \$1,000,000 is available for dams of regulatory size, including:
  - Private or local government-owned dams
  - Project Type 1: Engineering studies
  - Unknown Hazard Dams will receive priority for funding
- Up to \$4,000,000 is available for dams of regulatory size, including:
  - Private or local government-owned dams
  - Project Type 2: Design, Repair, Removal, and Safety Modifications
  - High Hazard Dams will receive priority for funding.

*Note: After the grant application deadline expires and pending Board approval, funding may be shifted between these two funding categories to adapt to the funding demands of the grant applications received.*

## Definitions

Some of the terms used in this grant manual and in §10.1-603 of the *Code of Virginia* have specific meanings that may vary from other contexts. For the purposes of this manual and the Fund:

- “Cost” means the total of all costs incurred by the local government or private entity as reasonable and necessary for carrying out all works and undertakings necessary or incident to the accomplishment of any project. It includes, without limitation, all necessary developmental, planning and feasibility studies, surveys, plans and specifications; hydrologic and hydraulic studies and analyses; architectural, engineering, financial, legal or other special services; mapping; the cost of acquisition of flood-prone land and any buildings and improvements thereon, including the discharge of any obligations of the sellers of such land, buildings or improvements; site preparation and development, including demolition or removal of existing structures; construction and reconstruction; labor; materials, machinery and equipment; the reasonable costs of financing incurred by the local government or private entity in the course of the development of the project; carrying charges incurred before placing the project in service; necessary expenses incurred in connection with placing the project in service; the funding of accounts and reserves that the Authority may require; and the cost of other items that the Authority determines to be reasonable and necessary.
- “Formal administrative enforcement” means that a Notice of Deficiency have been issued for a dam that is operating under unsafe conditions.
- “Local government” or “Locality” means any county, city, town, municipal corporation, authority, district, commission, or political subdivision created by the General Assembly or pursuant to the Constitution or laws of the Commonwealth, or any combination of two or more of these entities.
- “Private entities” means dam owners, whether individuals, partnerships, corporations, or other nongovernmental entities. This additionally includes, but is not limited to, homeowners’ associations, planned unit developments as defined in [§15.2-2201](#) of the *Code of Virginia*, and common interest communities as defined in [§54.1-2345 of the Code](#)

of Virginia when recognized as dam owners.

- “Project” for the Dam Safety program means the design, repair, and safety modifications of a dam or impounding structure, as defined in §10.1-604, and identified in dam safety reports generated pursuant to §10.1-607 or §10.1-609, or the mapping and digitization of dam break inundation zones. The term includes, without limitation, the construction, modification, or repair of dams, levees, flood walls, channel improvements, or diversions.
- “Project Completion” is achieved when an inspection, emergency action plan, dam break inundation study, alteration permit, or record report has been submitted to the Department and received approval.
- “Routine maintenance” means activities regularly performed to prevent deterioration of the dam and its structures. These activities include mowing, removal of immature woody vegetation such as saplings and bushes, reseeding grass patches that have minor erosion, and conducting minor repairs of concrete structures. If these activities are not conducted regularly, the safety and structural integrity of the dam or its structures may be compromised. In those instances, an alteration permit may be required prior to the maintenance activity being conducted.

## **Virginia Dam Safety Program**

Provisions of the Virginia Dam Safety Act (Act) (§10.1-604 et seq. of the *Code of Virginia*) and its attendant regulations (4 VAC 50-20-10 et seq.) promulgated by the Virginia Soil and Water Conservation Board and administered on behalf of the Board by DCR’s Division of Dam Safety, promote the proper and safe design, construction, operation, and maintenance of dams in the Commonwealth. The Act applies to dams that are twenty-five feet or higher and that create a maximum impoundment capacity of fifteen acre-feet or greater and dams that are six feet or higher and a maximum impoundment capacity of fifty acre-feet or greater. Exceptions are dams operated primarily for agricultural purposes which are less than 25 feet in height or which create a maximum impoundment capacity smaller than 100 acre-feet, dams owned or licensed by the United States government, dams licensed by the State Corporation Commission that are subject to a safety inspection program, water or silt retaining dams approved pursuant to [§45.2-618](#) or [§45.2-1301](#) of the *Code of Virginia* (mining or quarry dams permitted by Department of Mines, Minerals, and Energy), and obstructions in a canal used to raise or lower water. The Virginia Dam Safety Program’s goal is to enhance public safety and the protection of property by ensuring that dams meet mandatory regulatory requirements and assisting dam owners and their licensed engineers in the proper construction, maintenance, and operations of their dams.

## Part II: General DCR Grant Eligibility Criteria and Application Procedures

### DCR Conditions and Limitations for Making Grants

- Per §10.1-603.19 G of the *Code of Virginia*, any grants for Project Type 1 (engineering studies) shall require no more than a 10 percent match or a minimum of \$5,000, whichever is greater. Any grants for Project Type 2 (Design, Repair, Removal, and Safety Modifications) require a 30 percent match. This match may be from a combination of funding sources, including federal dollars, so long as the Fund does not contribute more than the maximum allowable percent of total costs.
- Projects commencing **after** July 1, 2025, are eligible:
  - Owners pursuing projects prior to grant approval do so at their own risk. There is no guarantee of matching funds prior to grant approval by the Soil and Water Conservation Board (Board). Matching funds are subject to limitations of the total funding amount, funding source purpose as designated by law, and grant application competitiveness based on the scoring criteria.
- Grant assistance will be awarded by category on a competitive scoring basis for eligible projects that meet the general conditions of this section and the eligibility criteria set out in the project category descriptions. The scoring criteria values for each project category are contained in Appendix B.
- Grant funds will be disbursed on a reimbursement basis and only after the completion of the approved project.
- For dams applying under Project Type 1: Engineering Studies must have submitted a Regular or Conditional Operation and Maintenance Certificate Application and associated fee or regular or conditional general permit registration statement and associated fee no later than the grant application deadline.
- For dams seeking funding for Project Type 2: Design, Repair, Removal, and Safety Modifications, the dam owner(s) must have submitted a Regular or Conditional Operation and Maintenance Certificate Application and associated fee or regular or conditional general permit registration statement and associated fee no later than the grant application deadline. A current professional engineer's inspection must be submitted to DCR at the time of the grant application submittal.
- No analysis or study will be approved if the methodology used to conduct any analysis or study fails to meet applicable Dam Safety Regulations.
- Dam owners having or pursuing an Agricultural Exemption are not eligible for grants in this program. If the dam is to be repurposed as a non-agricultural dam, it would be eligible.

- Dam owners under formal administrative enforcement are not eligible for grants in this program, unless otherwise determined eligible by the Board.
- Dam owners ultimately claiming size-exempt status are not eligible for grants in this program.

*All dam safety applications and supporting documentation must be submitted through the online Dam Safety Inventory System (DSIS). DSIS forms and data are located at*

<https://www.dcr.virginia.gov/dam-safety-and-floodplains/ds-dsis>. New users to DSIS are required to register through DSIS prior to application.

- *All successful “private entity” applicants will be required to provide identifying tax information (SSN/EIN) at the time of acceptance of award. All grant reimbursements are taxable and reportable to the IRS. DCR does not provide advice regarding the tax implications of grants; the grantee should seek any necessary guidance from a tax professional.*
- Each application submitted must be for a discrete project that commenced on or after July 1, 2025 and ends not later than **24 months** of an executed agreement. These specified dates constitute the required “project completion date.” Reimbursement requests must be submitted within 90 days following the project completion date. **Projects completed prior to July 1, 2025 ARE NOT eligible for funding.**
- No project or portion thereof identified in a previously awarded and reimbursed application is eligible for funding. For Dam Safety projects, this does not prohibit grant awards to a dam owner for an eligible, separate, and discrete project on the same dam.
- DCR, VRA, and the Board, at their discretion, reserve the right to provide funding at a level less than requested by the applicant or to refuse to fund an applicant’s request. Reasons for such determinations include but are not limited to, incomplete applications, project ranking, the attainability of the proposal, creditworthiness of the applicant, total funding determined to be necessary to complete the project, failure to complete the project by the specified completion date, and total available funding.
- Should ownership of the dam change during the lifespan of the grant, the grant does not transfer. This does not include legal name changes where the new name remains clearly tied to the grant recipient.
- **Applications will be accepted beginning December 31, 2025 and ending at 4:00 p.m. (EST) on March 31, 2026.**
- In order for a grant to be authorized, an eligible project shall satisfy the following general conditions to DCR within the specified application period.
  - Where applicable, the applicant [if a locality or entity (for example, a corporation or homeowner’s association)] has formally adopted a resolution requesting assistance from the Fund or a statement indicating that a resolution will be proposed, and once



- approved, will be forwarded to DCR **prior to the close of the application period.** Resolutions not received prior to the close of the application period will cause the application to be disqualified.
- The applicant has provided satisfactory assurances of funding availability to **fully** fund the project through completion. This must include signed, written verification as outlined in the requirements for the Dam Safety Budget Narrative.
  - Project maintenance and management plans are required when applying for funding for Repairs or Safety Modifications. A maintenance plan for repair and safety modification projects must be provided, demonstrating how the dam will be maintained for the expected lifetime of the impounding structure or at least 50 years. No maintenance plan is required for dam removals.
  - **All legal dam owners must sign the grant application. If only one owner applies, the applicant owner must submit proof of signatory authority signed by all legal dam owners. In cases where known owners refuse to sign the application, a written request for authorization to apply without all signatures must be included with the application submission as a separate document. The request must provide an explanation and justification for the request. Approval of the request will be at the sole discretion of the Director of DCR.**
  - If a grant is sought for a study, project, or activity that will be carried out in concert with a federal agency, the applicant must have entered into or have adopted a resolution to enter into any necessary written agreement with the federal agency endorsing the study, project, or activity, including any provisions for cost-sharing. A copy of the agreement must be submitted with the application.

## **Application and Selection Process**

### **1. General Submittal Information and Deadline**

A complete electronic application file with all required attachments **must be submitted through DSIS.**

Files should be saved as follows:

- Dam Safety projects: Dam inventory number.pdf (example: 190054. pdf). If multiple applications are for the same inventory number, then please use 190054-1.pdf.

If electronic submittal through DSIS is not possible, approval to submit outside of DSIS may be considered under extenuating circumstances. A written justification must be submitted to [dam@dcr.virginia.gov](mailto:dam@dcr.virginia.gov) prior to the grant application submittal due date. If approval is granted, the applicant will be required to submit the completed application along with all attachments and supporting documentation to [dam@dcr.virginia.gov](mailto:dam@dcr.virginia.gov). If email submission is not possible, submit three complete copies of each application (including one originally-signed copy), together with all attachments and supporting documentation, to the Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation at the address below:

Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation  
Attention: Dam Safety, Flood Prevention and Protection Assistance Fund  
Division of Dam Safety  
600 East Main Street, 24<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Richmond, Virginia 23219

It is important that applications be printed on one-sided pages. All pages must be sized to 8.5 x 11 inches. Photographs are acceptable. All photos and images and their captions must be mounted on 8.5 x 11-inch paper and be of a quality suitable for reproduction by photocopier. It is not necessary to submit three sets of original images, but all reproduced images must be clear and discernable. Images and photos will not be returned.

Please ensure signature pages are completed prior to submitting electronically or mailing. . Applications will be accepted beginning on December 31, 2025. **All applications must be RECEIVED by 4:00 p.m. (EST) on March 31, 2026.** Applications received after this deadline **will not be considered.**

Applications will be scored, ranked, and funded based on scoring criteria in Appendix B for Dam Safety and the availability of funds.

***General Application Inquiries:*** For any questions regarding the application process, please contact the Department of Conservation and Recreation, Division of Dam Safety at (804) 371-6095 or via email at [dam@dcr.virginia.gov](mailto:dam@dcr.virginia.gov) .

## 2. Project Application Contents

### ***Organizational Information***

The Application Form (Appendix A) contains general organizational information, including the title, category, and location of the project, the amount of grant funds requested, and contact information for the applicant or the applicant's designated contact person.

### ***Scope of Work Narrative (as an attachment to the Application Form)***

The requirements for the project's Scope of Work Narrative are outlined in Part III of this manual. A completed scoring criteria sheet must also be included to support the Scope of Work Narrative.

### ***Budget Narrative (as an attachment to the Application Form)***

The Budget Narrative establishes the proposed budget for the project. It should include evidence of the source of funds available to fully fund the project to qualify for cash-matching funds. A description of the Budget Narrative is outlined in Part III of this manual.

## 3. Application Review and Approval

Qualifying projects in each category are selected for funding on a competitive scoring basis. DCR will use the following procedure in determining the qualification of an application.

#### ***Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) Review***

Applications will be reviewed by DCR's Division of Dam Safety for completeness in accordance with the eligible grant categories and application requirements. Division staff will additionally review and rank each complete application to determine its merits in accordance with the criteria set out in this manual pursuant to the scoring criteria contained in the appropriate Appendix for that project type.

#### ***Virginia Soil and Water Conservation Board Review***

DCR will recommend qualified projects for funding to the Board. The Board will consider the recommendations and approve projects for funding in accordance with the criteria set out in this manual.

#### ***Virginia Resources Authority (VRA) Review***

Following the Board's approval and pending further necessary submittals, the application will be forwarded to VRA for the execution of a grant agreement and funding.

### **4. Project Commencement and Schedule for Completion**

Since the readiness of projects to proceed is a critical factor in maintaining the integrity of the program, projects must start no later than twenty-four (24) months following the issuance of a signed agreement between the applicant and VRA on behalf of DCR or between the applicant and DCR. If a project does not commence in a timely fashion to allow completion within the agreement period, funding will be withdrawn from the project and may be redistributed to other qualifying projects at the discretion of the Board. The applicant may reapply during the next funding round, provided the proposed project activity remains eligible. Such funds may be redistributed to other qualifying projects at the discretion of the Board.

#### **All projects are eligible to request a 1-year period of performance extension from DCR.**

An extension may be requested by completing the "Extension Request Form" (Attachment D of this grant manual). The request must be received prior to the expiration of the original agreement and should be emailed to [dam@dcr.virginia.gov](mailto:dam@dcr.virginia.gov). If email is not available, please mail the completed form to:

Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation  
Attention: Dam Safety, Flood Prevention and Protection Assistance Fund  
Division of Dam Safety  
600 East Main Street, 24<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Richmond, Virginia 23219

### **5. Reporting and Close-Out Guidelines for Grant Recipients**

Where applicable, DCR will conduct project inspections as necessary to ensure conformance to grant terms. **Final project deliverables shall be provided digitally to DCR through the Dam Safety Inventory System (DSIS) as a requirement for receipt of this grant.** Although not required, printed materials may also be submitted to DCR in addition to the DSIS submittal. Printed material

may not substitute for DSIS submittal.

- All documents must be provided in PDF and/or a Microsoft Word-compatible format, including any embedded maps or other figures/illustrations.
- All engineering files (including hydrologic and hydraulic studies) and assumptions necessary to replicate various analyses or other calculations must be provided in a format compatible with the software used to perform those calculations; likewise, all output files are also required.
- All tabular information not included in the engineering files above, whether contained within any report or appendix, which was used as the basis for any calculation, shall be provided in a Microsoft Excel compatible format or Microsoft Access compatible format.
- All map data shall be delivered as a geodatabase or individual shapefiles. Additionally, maps shall be provided in a PDF format if not already included embedded within the report(s).
  - If derived from CAD or another non-GIS workflow, data must be converted into a GIS format.
  - See the Virginia Soil and Water Conservation Board's Guidance Document for specific requirements and direction for mapping - [\*\*Dam Break Inundation Zone Modeling and Mapping Procedures\*\*](#) (PDF) (Revised June 28, 2018, and Sept. 27, 2018).

## **6. Grant Award and Administration**

- A. After approval by the Virginia Soil and Water Conservation Board at the meeting tentatively scheduled for May 2026, a letter will be sent from DCR to the applicants, and notice of awards will be posted on the DCR Dam Safety and Floodplain Management Grants web page at <http://www.dcr.virginia.gov/dam-safety-and-floodplains/dsfpm-grants>.
- B. VRA will email grant agreements to recipients using the email address provided in the original application. If no email address is provided, the grant agreements will be sent via U.S. mail. Recipients shall return the signed Grant Agreement within 90 days of receipt to:

Peter D'Alema  
Virginia Resources Authority  
1111 E. Main Street, Suite 1920  
Richmond, VA 23219  
[PDalema@virginiaresources.org](mailto:PDalema@virginiaresources.org)  
(804) 616-3446

**Grant agreements not signed and returned to VRA within 90 days as required, may have grant funds rescinded.**

- C. Submit reimbursement requests within 90 days following the passage of the authorized project completion date, including completed and signed Exhibit E Reimbursement Request Form, signed Exhibit D Form of Requisition along with the Certificate of the Consulting Engineer Form, all located in the grant agreement, proof of payment (canceled
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checks, bank statements, accounting system reports, etc.) and invoices to [dam@dcr.virginia.gov](mailto:dam@dcr.virginia.gov) or:

Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation  
Attention: Dam Safety, Flood Prevention and Protection Assistance Fund  
Division of Dam Safety  
600 East Main Street, 24<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Richmond, Virginia 23219

Invoices must be detailed and specific to the project awarded and provide sufficient detail to determine the work and hours genuinely completed related to the approved project.

If the project was awarded for Dam-break Inundation Zone Study (DBIZ) Analysis, Mapping, and Digitization or for EAP Development, evidence must be provided that the map has been additionally filed with the local planning department and the EAP with the local emergency management coordinator and the Virginia Department of Emergency Management prior to reimbursement approval.

## **7. Virginia Resources Authority Disbursement of Grant Funds**

Grant funds shall be disbursed on a reimbursement basis only. All requests for disbursement shall be delivered to DCR for approval according to the reimbursement terms of the grant manual and grant agreement. DCR shall forward the approved request to VRA for payment to the applicant for projects. Neither DCR nor VRA will disburse funds prior to receipt of a fully executed grant agreement signed by the grant recipient and subsequently signed by VRA's Executive Director. Where applicable, DCR will conduct site visits and inspections to monitor project compliance. A checklist for reimbursement will be included as Exhibit E in the Grant Agreement.

## **Part III: Eligible Dam Safety Projects**

### **Dam Safety Project Descriptions and Eligible Activities**

The purpose of these categories is to assist dam owners in bringing their regulated dams into compliance with the Dam Safety Act (§10.1-604 et seq. of the *Code of Virginia*) and the Virginia Impounding Structure Regulations (4VAC50-20-10 et seq.) or to remove unsafe dams. Funding is available under two categories. Previously funded activities are ineligible for additional funding.

#### **Project Type 1: Engineering Studies**

Total Pool of Matching Funds Available: \$1,000,000 with no more than a 10% project match by the applicant, or a minimum of \$5,000, whichever is greater

#### **Criteria**

1. Dam is a local government or privately owned dam.
2. Dams with an undetermined hazard classification are given priority.
3. Only one project type may be selected per application; multiple applications may be submitted.

### Eligible Activities

1. Dam Break Inundation Zone Analysis, Mapping, and Digitization
2. Emergency Plan Development (EAP Emergency Action Plan)
3. Professional Engineer Inspection Project
4. Preliminary Engineering / Alternatives Analysis
5. Geotechnical Investigations

### Project Type 2: Design, Repair, Removal, and Safety Modifications

Total Pool of Matching Funds Available: \$4,000,000 with a maximum 30% project match by the applicant and maximum total cost share per project according to ownership and hazard classification, as shown in the table below:

Owner Type	Hazard Classification		
	High	Significant	Low
Private	\$1,000,000	\$500,000	\$250,000
Local Government	\$500,000	\$250,000	\$125,000

### Criteria

1. Dam is regulated by the Dam Safety Act.
2. Dam is a local government or privately owned dam.
3. Only one project type may be selected per application; multiple applications may be submitted.
4. Design, Repair, Removal, and Safety Modifications , the dam owner(s) must have submitted a Regular or Conditional Operation and Maintenance Certificate Application and associated fee or regular or conditional general permit registration statement and associated fee no later than the grant application deadline. A current professional engineer's inspection must be submitted to DCR at the time of the grant application submittal
5. Has submitted an Inundation Study, including hazard classification, to DCR by the grant application deadline.
6. An Alteration Permit application and/or Record Report must be submitted and approved by DCR during the project performance period and prior to reimbursement.
7. High Hazard Dams are given priority.
8. Dam removal projects may propose a design-build approach and be exempt from the requirements to have submitted plans and specifications and a hazard classification on file with DCR by the time of application. Dam removal projects are eligible for the maximum funding based on ownership type and hazard classification. On or prior to the reimbursement request, the owner's engineer must provide certification (see 4VAC50-20-80) the dam was

- removed in accordance with the alteration permit.
9. Routine maintenance projects are not eligible for funding.

### Eligible Activities

1. Final Plans, Specifications, and other required submittals for an alteration permit as listed in 4VAC50-20-80 for rehabilitation projects such as:
  - a. Dam Embankment Wave Run-up or Wave Berm Construction and Reconstruction
  - b. Dam-Graded Filter Drains, Toe Drains, Drainpipes, and/or /Underdrain
  - c. Principal and/or Emergency Spillway and Repair/Replacement
  - d. Trash Rack and/or Anti-Vortex Device Analysis and Repair/Replacement
  - e. Dam Embankment Culvert or Pipe Repair/Replacement
  - f. Outlet/Stilling Basin Repair/Replacement
  - g. Dam Primary Mechanical Flow Control Evaluation and Repair (Valves, Siphons, etc.)
  - h. Reservoir Drain/Low-Level Outlet Analysis and Repair Plan
  - i. Repair/Replacement of Erosion or Deteriorated Appurtenant Structures
2. Repair and/or Safety Modifications to address any of the following:
  - a. Static failure mode:
    - i. Fails to meet stability criteria
    - ii. Settlement, cracking, depressions/sinkholes, slumps/sloughs
    - iii. Seepage
    - iv. Instrumentation readings are indicative of a problem
    - v. Known design and/or construction issues
    - vi. Non-routine operational issues
  - b. Hydrologic failure mode:
    - i. Deficiency of spillway design flood
    - ii. No spillway redundancy
    - iii. Spillway condition is in poor or unsatisfactory condition
    - iv. Non-routine operational issues
  - c. Seismic failure mode:
    - i. Does not meet state-required seismic stability criteria
    - ii. Embankment or foundation comprised of liquefiable materials
  - d. Other repairs or safety modifications required by the Conditional Operation and Maintenance Certificate; however, routine maintenance activities are ineligible for funding.
3. Removal of an unsafe dam where no new impounding structure will be rebuilt.
4. Installation of remote monitoring system instrumentation for the purposes of monitoring rainfall, water level, flow, and/or conditions at the dam, including but not limited to:
  - a. Cameras, float switches, rainfall gauge, depth sensor/pressure transducer, telemetry system
  - b. Integration of a notification system that issue alerts to primary contacts when EAP stage thresholds are reached based on data observations
  - c. Data transmission service costs (e.g. cellular service) for up to 4 years after installation

## Part IV: Dam Safety Scope of Work Narrative

All applications must include a Scope of Work Narrative that is an attachment to the application document. The Scope of Work Narrative shall include a detailed description of the need for assistance and the work to be conducted to address that need. Appendix B must be included in the submission. The Scope must also describe how the project meets the criteria in Appendix C, identify risk reduction benefits to be achieved from the project, goals and objectives, the approach, milestones and deliverables of the project, a maintenance plan, if applicable, and any alternatives considered for each grant application. Additional details for each category are listed below.

1. ***Need for Assistance:*** Identify and describe any relevant issues or problems to be addressed by the project and the proposed activity to be accomplished by the grant program.
  - For Project Type 2, the applicant must submit a Regular or Conditional Operation and Maintenance Certificate Application and associated fee or a regular or conditional general permit registration statement and associated fee no later than the grant application deadline. A current professional engineer's inspection must be on file with DCR at the time of the grant application submittal.
2. ***Scoring Criteria:*** Describe how the project meets each of the applicable scoring criteria contained in Appendix B and provide documentation where necessary. Documentation can be incorporated into the Scope of Work Narrative or included as attachments to the application. At a minimum, an applicant must identify if the project impacts any of the following: major public street or road; secondary public street or road; private-public street or road; limited use public street or road; private road or driveway; service or access road; public water or sewer treatment; public water system; public sewer system; public pump or lift station; electric; gas; cable; communications; business structures; industrial structures; public structures (school, library, fire, police, etc.) Appendix B must be completed and submitted with the application.
3. ***Risk Reduction Benefits Expected:*** Briefly discuss the expected results and **risk reduction benefits** of the project. The proposal should describe how the project is part of a complete approach to addressing dam deficiencies, such as those required in the Conditional Operation and Maintenance Certificate, where applicable, or flood impacts.
4. ***Goals and Objectives:*** Identify and describe the goals and objectives of the project. Include a description of the expected results of the completed project and explain the expected benefits of the project. This may include financial benefits, increased awareness, decreased risk, etc.
5. ***Approach, Milestones and Deliverables:*** Outline a plan of action laying out the scope and detail of how the proposed work will be accomplished with a timeline identifying expected completion dates. Determine milestones for the project that will be used to track progress. Explain what deliverables can be expected at each milestone and identify the final project deliverables. Identify other potential project partners. If assistance is sought for a project



that will be carried out in concert with a federal agency, provide evidence of an agreement with the federal agency endorsing the project.

- *Please note no analysis or study will be approved for reimbursement if the methodology used to conduct the analysis or study does not meet Dam Safety Regulations.*

6. **Maintenance Plan:** Applications for Repair and Safety Modification projects must provide a maintenance plan demonstrating how the dam will be maintained for the expected lifespan of the project or at least 50 years. Ongoing operation and maintenance will be the financial responsibility of the applicant and will not be eligible for monies from the Fund.
7. **Alternatives:** Applications for Repair and Safety Modifications must briefly describe any alternatives to the proposed activity that have been considered and the reason the project was selected. One alternative should be doing nothing, and one alternative should be another project type that could reasonably address the issues identified. Explain these alternatives and the reason the proposed project was selected. Include how the two alternatives differ from the proposed activity and how the cost and benefit of the alternatives compare to the proposed activity.

## Part V: Dam Safety Budget and Budget Narrative

Each application must include a detailed Budget and Budget Narrative explaining all proposed expenditures. The budget narrative is applicable to requests for all grant requests in this manual. The following items must be included in the Budget Narrative:

- ***Estimated total project cost and amounts requested from the fund:*** This must reflect the total cost of bringing the project to completion and reflect the amount of funds requested from the Fund. Estimates for all work to be completed by third parties (engineers, contractors, etc.) on the specified project should be included. Include a detailed breakdown of how this funding is proposed to be allocated between the applicant and the Fund. At a minimum, the budget and budget narrative should include a breakdown of salaries, fringe benefits, travel, equipment, supplies, construction, contracts, and other direct costs. Indirect costs are not allowable.
- ***Amount of cash funds available:*** The applicant must demonstrate the ability to pay the full cost (100%) of the project prior to reimbursement. Include a description of the source of these funds and evidence of the applicant's ability to obtain these funds in order to complete the project.
- ***Resolution authorizing the request for funding:*** Localities seeking funding shall attach a resolution or other authorizing documentation approving the request for funding.

For private entities, a pledge agreement or other authorizing documentation is required for each contribution, signed by the authorized representative of the contributing organization and the applicant organization, if different, which must include the following:

- The name, address, and telephone number of the contributor;
- The name of the applicant organization;
- The title of the project for which the cash contribution is made;
- The source of funding for the cash contribution;
- The dollar amount of the cash contribution; and
- A statement that the contributor will pay the cash contribution during the agreement period.

**In-kind services, indirect costs, loans, or other grant funds awarded from the Fund may NOT be used as match funds. Monies used to match other funding streams are also NOT allowed as a match for this grant program.**

## **Part VI: Additional Funding Resources:**

### **Private Entities:**

#### **Virginia Small Business Financing Authority**

**(VSBFA)** - <https://www.sbsd.virginia.gov/virginia-small-business-financing-authority>

Contact: Anna Mackley, Chief Credit Officer & Operations Manager

[anna.mackley@sbsd.virginia.gov](mailto:anna.mackley@sbsd.virginia.gov)

**LOCUS (formerly Virginia Community Capital)** <https://locusimpact.org/>

### **Governments:**

Inquire with your locality about possible nutrient credit trading program funding or similar programs.

**USDA Rural Development Virginia Office** <https://www.rd.usda.gov/va>

State Director: Beth Walker Green 804.287.1500

# Appendix A: Application Form for Dam Safety Projects

Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation

Dam Safety, Flood Prevention and Protection Assistance Fund Grant Program

Type of Applicant (Check one): ☐ Public Government Entity ☐ Private Entity

Dam Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Dam Inventory Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Dam Owner (1): \_\_\_\_\_

Signature of Dam Owner: \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone No: \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Dam Owner (2): \_\_\_\_\_

Signature of Dam Owner: \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone No: \_\_\_\_\_

(If additional dam owners, please see page two of the application)

## APPLICANT INFORMATION

Name of Applicant: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature of Applicant: \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address (1): \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address (2): \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone Number: (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ Cell Phone Number: (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

**Email Address:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Project Type (select only one project type):**

**Project Type 1: Engineering Studies**

- ☐ Dam Break Inundation Zone Analysis, Mapping, and Digitization
- ☐ Emergency Plan Development (EAP Emergency Action Plan)
- ☐ Professional Engineer Inspection
- ☐ Preliminary Engineering / Alternatives Analysis
- ☐ Geotechnical Investigation

**Project Type 2: Design, Repair, Removal, and Safety Modifications on**

- ☐ Design, Specifications, and other required submittals for alteration permits as listed in 4VAC50-20-80 for rehabilitation projects such as:
  - Dam Embankment Wave Run-up or Wave Berm Construction and Reconstruction
  - Dam Graded Filter Drains, Toe Drains, Drainpipes and/or /Underdrain
  - Principal and/or Emergency Spillway and Repair/Replacement Plan
  - Trash Rack and/or Anti-Vortex Device Analysis and Repair/Replacement Plan
  - Dam Embankment Culvert or Pipe Analyses and Repair/Replacement Plan (Hydraulic or Structural)
  - Outlet/Stilling Basin Analysis and Repair/Replacement Plan
  - Dam Primary Mechanical Flow Control Evaluation and Repair Plan (Valves, Siphons, etc.) Dam or Lake Drain/Low-Level Outlet Analysis and Repair Plan
  - Analyses and Repair/Replacement of Erosion or Deteriorated Appurtenant Structures
- ☐ Final plans and specifications suitable for dam rehabilitation (May include final report incorporating multiple elements (i.e., #1-4) to consolidate into one grant application)
- ☐ Installation of remote monitoring system
  
- ☐ Repairs and/or Safety Modifications to address any of the following:
  - Static failure mode:
    - Fails to meet stability criteria
    - Settlement, cracking, depressions/sinkholes, slumps/sloughs
    - Seepage
    - Instrumentation readings are indicative of a problem
    - Known design and/or construction issues
    - Non-routine operational issues
  - Hydrologic failure mode:
    - Deficiency of spillway design flood
    - No spillway redundancy
    - Spillway condition is in poor or unsatisfactory condition

- Non-routine operational issues
- Seismic failure mode:
  - Does not meet state-required seismic stability criteria
  - Embankment or foundation comprised of liquefiable materials
- Other repairs or safety modifications required by the Conditional Operation and Maintenance Certificate - Does not include maintenance.
- ☐ Removal of an unsafe dam where no new impounding structure will be rebuilt

**Location of Project (Include Maps):** \_\_\_\_\_

**Total Cost of Project:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Total Amount Requested:** (Not more than 50% of total costs) \_\_\_\_\_

**Additional Dam Owners**

**Name of Dam Owner (3):** \_\_\_\_\_

**Signature of Dam Owner:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Email Address:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Phone No:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Name of Dam Owner (4):** \_\_\_\_\_

**Signature of Dam Owner:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Email Address:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Phone No:** \_\_\_\_\_

# Appendix B: Scoring Criteria for Dam Safety Projects

Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation

Dam Safety, Flood Prevention and Protection Assistance Fund Grant Program

Name of Applicant: \_\_\_\_\_

Dam Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Dam Inventory Number: \_\_\_\_\_

<b>Dam Name:</b>		<b>Dam Inventory Number:</b>	
<b>Eligibility Information</b>			
<b>Criterion</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Check One</b>	
<b>1. Is the applicant a local government (including counties, cities, towns, municipal corporations, authorities, districts, commissions, or political subdivisions created by the General Assembly or pursuant to the Constitution or laws of the Commonwealth, or any combination of these) or a private entity (including dam owners, whether individuals, partnerships, corporations, homeowners association, or other nongovernmental entities)?</b>			
Local Government	Eligible for consideration under this category		
Private Entity	Eligible for consideration under this category		
Other	Not eligible for consideration under this category		
<b>2. Has this or any portion of this project been included in any application previously funded by Fund? This does not include necessary updates to EAP, DBIZ, or other projects required due to updates to dam safety regulations</b>			
Yes	Not eligible for consideration under this category		
No	Eligible for consideration under this category		
<b>3. Has the applicant provided evidence of an ability to provide the required match funds?</b>			
Yes	Eligible for consideration under this category		
No	Not eligible for consideration under this category		
<b>4. Has the applicant maintained proper Certification during the past twelve months or provided sufficient documentation regarding efforts to bring the dam into compliance? (Include copy)</b>			
Yes	Eligible for consideration under this category		
No	Not eligible for consideration under this category		

<b>Dam Name:</b>		<b>Dam Inventory Number:</b>	
<b>Scoring Information</b>			
<b>Criterion</b>		<b>Point Value</b>	<b>Points Awarded</b>
<b>5. What is the hazard classification or size of the dam? (select one)*</b>			
High	Confirmed spillway deficiency	30 pts	
Significant	Confirmed spillway deficiency	15 pts	
Low	Confirmed spillway deficiency	8 pts	
Large Dam (Top Capacity $\geq$ 50,000 Ac-Ft or Height $\geq$ 100 Ft)	No hazard class determination	20 pts	
Medium (Top Capacity $\geq$ 1,000 & < 50,000 Ac-Ft or Height $\geq$ 40 & < 100 Ft)	No hazard class determination	10 pts	
Small (Top Capacity $\geq$ 15 & < 1,000 Ac-Ft or Height $\geq$ 6 & < 40 Ft)	No hazard class determination	4 pts	
High	Adequate spillway capacity	10 pts	
Significant	Adequate spillway capacity	5 pts	
Low	Adequate spillway capacity	2 pts	
<b>6. Number of residential units within the probable dam break inundation zone of the dam?*</b>			
101 or more		20 pts	
21-100		15 pts	
11-20		10 pts	
1-10		5 pts	
0 (or undetermined)		0 pts	
<b>7. Will public roadways, public utilities, and/or commercial structures be impacted within the dam's probable dam break inundation zone?*</b>			
Public Roadways, public utilities, and commercial structures		10 pts	
Any two of the above		7 pts	
One of the above		4 pts	
None of the above		0 pts	
Unknown		0 pts	



<b>8. What is the most common land use downstream within the likely dam break inundation zone?</b>		
Residential/Commercial/Industrial or equivalent	5 pts	
Agricultural or equivalent	3 pts	
Other	1 pts	
Unknown	0 pts	
<b>9. What is the public use of the impoundment created by the dam?</b>		
Public water supply, public water treatment, and public recreation access (Does not include private or restricted access communities)	5 pts	
Public water supply or public water treatment only	3 pts	
Public recreational access only (Does not include private or restricted access communities)	2 pts	
No public access or use (Includes private or restricted access communities)	0 pts	
<b>10. Eligible Projects (Select all that apply)</b>		
<b>Project Type 1: Engineering Studies</b>		
Dam with unknown hazard classification	10 pts	
Dam Break Inundation Zone Analysis, Mapping, and Digitization	50 pts	
Emergency Plan Development (EAP Emergency Action Plan)	50 pts	
Professional Engineer Inspection	40 pts	
Preliminary Engineering Study / Alternatives Analysis	40 pts	
Geotechnical Investigation	40 pts	
<b>Project Type 2: Design, Repair, Removal, and Safety Modifications</b>		
	50 pts	
	50 pts	
	30 pts	
	35 pts	
	25 pts	
Final plans and specifications suitable for rehabilitation	45 pts	
Installation of remote monitoring system	25 pts	

Installation of remote monitoring system that transmits data to NWS	30 pts	
Repair or Safety Modification		
Submittal of complete alteration permit	20 pts	
Addresses Failure Modes (Static/Hydrologic/Seismic)	50 pts	
Other Repairs or Safety Modifications	25 pts	
Removal of Unsafe Dam - No New Dam Rebuilt	75 pts	
<b>Total Points</b>		

# Appendix C: Documentation Checklist for Dam Safety Applications

Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation

Dam Safety, Flood Prevention and Protection Assistance Fund Grant Program

Name of Applicant: \_\_\_\_\_

Scope of Work Narrative	
Required Components	Included
Need for Assistance Narrative	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> N/A
Operation and Maintenance Certificate	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> N/A
Application Appendix A	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
Scope of Work Narrative	
Need for Assistance	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
Completed Scoring Criteria Sheet in Appendix B	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
Risk Reduction Benefits Expected	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
Goals and Objectives	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
Approach, Milestones and Deliverables	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
Maintenance Plan	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> N/A
Alternatives	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> N/A
Budget Narrative	
Supporting Documentation	Included
Locality Applicants: Resolution or other documentation authorizing the request for funding	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
Non-locality Applicants: Signed pledge agreement(s) or other authorizing documentation from each contributing organization	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
Detailed budget and narrative of how funding is to be allocated	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
Proof / Evidence of ability to fund the total cost (100%) of the project prior to Reimbursement	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No

## Appendix D: Extension Request Form

Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation

Dam Safety, Flood Prevention and Protection Assistance Fund Grant Program

### ***Request to Amend Contract between Virginia Resources Authority and Grant Recipient of the 2026 Dam Safety, Flood Prevention and Protection Assistance Fund Grant***

All projects are required to commence and to be completed within the twenty-four (24) months following the issuance of a signed agreement between the applicant and VRA on behalf of DCR. A one-year extension may be granted at the discretion of DCR, provided such request is **received prior to the expiration of the original agreement**. Requests should be emailed to [dam@dcr.virginia.gov](mailto:dam@dcr.virginia.gov). If email is not available, please mail to:

Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation  
Attention: Dam Safety, Flood Prevention and Protection Assistance Fund  
Division of Dam Safety  
600 East Main Street, 24<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Richmond, Virginia 23219

Grant Recipient: \_\_\_\_\_

Contact Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address (1): \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address (2): \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

***Is this a new address?***   ☐ Yes   ☐ No   ***Has the Contact Name changed?***   ☐ Yes   ☐ No

Telephone Number: (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ Cell Phone Number: (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Grant Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Type of Project (Check one):   ☐ Dam Safety   ☐ Flood Prevention and Protection

Title of Project: \_\_\_\_\_

Dam Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Dam Inventory Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Total Cost of Project: \_\_\_\_\_

Total Amount Awarded: \_\_\_\_\_

Current Grant End Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**Requested New End Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

Please provide a detailed explanation for the extension request, including the reason work will not be completed during the initial grant period and a timeline for completion if approved. Please attach additional documentation as needed.

--

\_\_\_\_\_  
Grant Recipient Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date Requested

\_\_\_\_\_  
Grant Recipient Printed Name

\_\_\_\_\_  
Title

**DCR Use Only**

Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation

Date Approved

---

Date Denied

---

Printed Name

---

Title


**VRA Use Only**

Virginia Resources Authority

Date  
ReceivedDate Grant  
Modified