

## Uniform Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) Summary Information

06/15/16

|     | Data Field   |  |
|-----|--|--|
| 1.  | Awarding Agency Name:  | Illinois Department of Natural Resources   |
| 2.  | Agency Contact:  | Dave Blatchford<br>Grant Administrator<br>One Natural Resources Way<br>Springfield, IL 62702<br><a href="mailto:Dave.blatchford@illinois.gov">Dave.blatchford@illinois.gov</a><br>(217) 782-0073   |
| 3.  | Announcement Type:   | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Initial announcement<br><input type="checkbox"/> Modification of a previous announcement   |
| 4.  | Type of Assistance Instrument:                               | State Pheasant Fund Grant  |
| 5.  | Funding Opportunity Number:                                  | 17-422-20-1091   |
| 6.  | Funding Opportunity Title:                                   | Special Wildlife Funds Pheasant Fund   |
| 7.  | CSFA Number:   | 422-20-1091  |
| 8.  | CSFA Popular Name:   | Pheasant Fund  |
| 9.  | CFDA Number(s):  | n/a  |
| 10. | Anticipated Number of Awards:                                | unknown  |
| 11. | Estimated Total Program Funding:                             | <b>Est. \$500,000.00</b>   |
| 12. | Award Range  | n/a  |
| 13. | Source of Funding:   | <input type="checkbox"/> Federal or Federal pass-through<br><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> State<br><input type="checkbox"/> Private / other funding  |
| 14. | Cost Sharing or Matching Requirement:                        | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No  |
| 15. | Indirect Costs Allowed<br><br>Restrictions on Indirect Costs | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No<br><br><input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No<br>If yes, provide the citation governing the restriction:  |
| 16. | Posted Dates:  | June 15, 2016 to July 31, 2016   |
| 17. | Closing Date for Applications:                               | August 1, 2016 5pm   |
| 18. | Technical Assistance Session:                                | Session Offered: <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No<br>Session Mandatory: <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No<br><br>Specify date and time<br>Provide link to registration, if applicable |

## Agency-specific Content for the Notice of Funding Opportunity

### A. Program Description

#### Program Background and History

The State Pheasant Fund is one of three programs funded through the purchase of a State Habitat Stamp. The Habitat Endowment Act, enacted in 1992, provides long-term funding for the State Pheasant Fund, State Furbearer Fund and the Illinois Habitat Fund. The State Habitat Stamp replaced the existing Pheasant and Furbearer stamps, expanding funding opportunities for enhancement to all types of habitat.

The State Pheasant Fund portion involved in the Special Wildlife Funds Grant Program provides for wild pheasant conservation. Organized groups of volunteers from appropriate not-for-profit organizations to develop projects and submit applications to the Department to help fund their projects. The grants are competitive, and are evaluated for their merit.

The Office of Resource Conservation's Division of Wildlife Resources administers four special grant programs that are funded by Illinois sportsmen through the purchase of Habitat Stamps and Migratory Waterfowl Stamps. These are the Illinois Habitat Fund, State Pheasant Fund, State Furbearer Fund and the State Migratory Waterfowl Stamp Fund. These Funds are governed by Administrative Rule set forth in 17 Ill. Adm. Code 3060

Projects that have been undertaken in the past include:

- Funds for an organized incentive payments program to landowners for assistance managing or establishing grasslands for ring-necked pheasant and other grassland birds.
- Purchase of a tractor to establish and manage grasslands. To replace a well-used tractor.
- Funds for a biologist position to promote participation in Conservation Reserve Programs or other programs to increase grassland habitat acreage as per the Illinois Wildlife Action Plan in counties within the Pheasant Range.
- Funds for a cooperative research project to study and compare mid-term management techniques over 3 years of warm season grasses and brome fields within the pheasant range and the impact on wild pheasants.
- Funding for youth conservation education and upland shooting events to recruit new upland hunters.

Examples of applications that were not funded in the past include:

- Purchase of habitat equipment (chain saw, burn tools, sprayers) and support of outdoor education. Rejected because of limited benefit to wild pheasants, and applicant's by-laws didn't mention wild pheasants conservation.
- Purchase of grass seed, forbs & legumes for Give-Away program. Rejected because of poor quality seed and limited outreach of only idle ground not already drawing governmental incentives

#### Performance Measures

The purpose of the State Pheasant Fund and this program is to support activities and programs undertaken by the IDNR and appropriate not-for-profit organizations to improve pheasant habitat on public or private land, promote pheasant research, educate the public regarding pheasants and pheasant hunting, and acquire land for pheasant habitat. Habitat quality is measured by such parameters as type, native diversity, size, structure, scarcity and location. Linkage with neighboring habitat, whether existing or potential, is another important consideration. Illinois' habitat includes all wetlands, woodlands, grasslands and agricultural lands, natural or altered, that support or have the potential to support populations of wild animals in any or all phases of their life cycles.

The project, once approved, will be evaluated according to the original comprehensive scope of work which is to include:

- the benefit to wild pheasants
- a plan for implementation
- a map of the project area
- if appropriate, the amount of habitat to be established or managed, including species to be planted or eliminated
- if with cooperators, plat map showing each property to be developed and a copy of a farm program contract for each committed cooperator involved in the project or estimated acreage. (Committed cooperators will be given priority over estimated acreage.)
- a comprehensive plan for the operation and maintenance of the project, including supervision, estimated costs (including any and all fees) and storage location, if applicable
- a comprehensive funding/budget summary, including:
  - actual cash contributions other than the grant amount
  - documented purchase price of equipment or commodities
- the description of plan for general public access or use (or lack thereof) funds for an organized incentive payments program to landowners for completion of wildlife-friendly habitat management work.
- Educational projects need to clarify target audience, objectives, methodology, measureable outcomes and products resulting from the project that can be used after completion.
- Research projects must list objectives, a concise description of the experimental design and methods to be used to address each objective, list expected outputs and their application to wildlife management policies/practices in Illinois.

The success of the project will be measured qualitatively and quantitatively according to the above parameters, so the application must be specific on the goals that will be attained by its undertaking.

Financial reporting will include all funds and in-kind work spent in the undertaking of the project.

## **B. Funding Information**

### Funding Source

This award utilizes only State appropriated funds from the State Pheasant Fund. The State Pheasant Fund was established by statute and is found in 520 ILCS 5/1.31.

New application(s) which continue, supplement or expand an existing grant project are eligible to compete without preference or hindrance for a new grant.

### Available Funding

50% of funds derived from the sale of State Habitat Stamps and deposited into the Pheasant Fund shall be allocated to appropriate not-for-profit organizations. The other 50% is spent toward State projects and land acquisition. Total Annual Revenues have varied in the last 3 years from \$480,675 to \$550,000.

The amount of funding available for grants over the last three fiscal years was:

- In Fiscal Year 2014 \$250,000 split among 5 grants ranging from \$ 9,596 to \$164,000.
- In Fiscal Year 2015 \$250,000 split among 5 grants ranging from \$29,163 to \$111,785.
- In Fiscal Year 2016 \$250,000 split among 4 grants ranging from \$ 2,500 to \$156,000.

### Disbursements

The disbursement of funds will be made after the final execution of the grant, and upon submission by the grantee of a written request for payment on the Request for Reimbursement form provided by IDNR. All payments shall be based upon documentation of project expenditures as submitted by the grantee, as provided below:

- a) Advance Payments: The IDNR may make advance payments to the grantee before the work and/or equipment is purchased, in accordance with the following guidelines and the grantee's program of proposed expenditures for the grant funds:
- 1) For projects involving the purchase of equipment with a total cost estimate up to \$5,000.00, the IDNR may make payment in advance to the grantee up to one hundred percent (100%) of the grant award based on quotes submitted and approved by the IDNR. **Within 10 days after the purchase of such equipment**, grantee shall provide written documentation to the IDNR of the actual equipment purchase price, together with a payment of any amount by which the grant funds exceed the purchase price.
  - 2) For projects involving the purchase of equipment with a total cost estimate of over \$5,000.00, the IDNR may make payment in advance to the grantee up to ninety-five percent (95%) of the grant award based upon quotes submitted and approved by the IDNR. The remainder shall be reimbursed to the grantee after final documentation of project expenditures. **Within 10 days after the purchase of such equipment** shall provide written documentation to the IDNR of the actual equipment purchase price, together with a payment of any amount by which grant funds received exceed the purchase price.
  - 3) Payment for commodities and contractual services may be made in **advance up to sixty percent (60%)** of the grant award with the remainder reimbursed to the grantee after final documentation of project expenditures.
- b) Except as otherwise required by paragraph a) (Advance Payments), all billings shall be submitted within ninety (90) days following the end of a project period or date of project completion. Failure to do so may be cause for termination of the project with no further reimbursement to the grantee.
- c) Project costs for which reimbursement is sought cannot be incurred by the grantee prior to the effective date of the agreement, unless otherwise authorized by the IDNR. Costs incurred prior to IDNR approval are ineligible for grant assistance. If purchase is initiated and documented by a written purchase order or invoice prior to the end of the term of the grant agreement and payment is made within 30 - 60 days, the expense may be allowable.
- d) Final payment will not be processed until the Final Report and Request for Reimbursement are received and approved by the IDNR. All local matching funds (if any) will be paid by the grantee who will provide documentation at this time.

## C. Eligibility Information

### Eligible Applicants

Eligible applicants are limited to appropriate not-for-profit organizations. "Appropriate Not-For-Profit Organization" means a not-for-profit corporation that is organized pursuant to the General Not For Profit Corporation Act of 1986 [805 ILCS 105], is in good standing as a not-for-profit corporation and is authorized to conduct affairs in Illinois with one of its purposes as stated in its Articles of Incorporation or Bylaws being the support, development, conservation or promotion of wild pheasants.

### Dun and Bradstreet Universal Numbering System (DUNS) Number

Each applicant is required to have a valid DUNS number before submission of their application. An applicant is exempt only if the applicant is an individual or Federal or State awarding agency that is exempt from those requirements under 2 CFR § 25.110(b) or (c), or has an exception approved by the Federal or State awarding agency under 2 CFR § 25.110(d)). If an applicant does not have a DUNS number, this link provides a connection for a free DUNS number: <https://fedgov.dnb.com/webform>.

### Kinds of Projects Eligible for Grants

Projects are limited to those with the purpose of wild pheasant conservation. Examples of past funded projects include native grass and forb seed, herbicide, and habitat management equipment such as

controlled burn tools, seeders, sprayers, native grass drills, land purchases, pheasant research, and education of the public regarding pheasants and pheasant hunting.

#### Kinds of Projects Ineligible for Grants

Projects that are ineligible include education projects and the purchase or lease of a vehicle such as a truck or All-Terrain Vehicles (ATV's).

#### Limitations

The maximum reimbursement for various types of habitat development is limited to the following cost-per-acre rates which include the grantee's percentage cost share match as listed in the Uniform Budget Template:

- \$100.00/acre for seed costs (grasses, forbs, legumes or any combination thereof)
- Food plots alone are not eligible for reimbursement.

#### Cost Sharing or Matching

Cost sharing or matching funds are not required for award of these grants but it is an evaluation criteria item. The review committee feels the applicant demonstrates more value and importance in their project when cash or in-kind match is included.

#### Indirect Cost Rate

In order to charge indirect costs to a grant, the applicant organization must have an annually negotiated indirect cost rate agreement (NICRA). There are three types of NICRAs: a) Federally Negotiated Rate. Organizations that receive direct federal funding may have an indirect cost rate that was negotiated with the Federal Cognizant Agency. Illinois will accept the federally negotiated rate. The organization must provide a copy of the federally NICRA. b) State Negotiated Rate. The organization must negotiate an indirect cost rate with the State of Illinois if they do not have Federally Negotiated Rate or elect to use the De Minimis Rate. The indirect cost rate proposal must be submitted to the State of Illinois within 90 days of the notice of award. c) De Minimis Rate. An organization that has never received a Federally Negotiated Rate may elect a de minimis rate of 10% of modified total direct cost (MTDC). Once established, the de minimis rate may be used indefinitely. The State of Illinois must verify the calculation of the MTDC annually in order to accept the de minimis rate.

### **D. Application and Submission Information**

#### Application Package

The complete application package consists of supplemental documents listed below and 2 uniform templates:

1. Uniform Application for State Grant Assistance (fillable pdf)

<http://www.illinois.gov/sites/GATA/Documents/Resource%20Library/Uniform%20Application%20for%20State%20Grant%20Assistance.pdf>

2. Uniform Budget Template (use Internet Explorer if having problems opening)

<http://www.illinois.gov/sites/GATA/Documents/Resource%20Library/GOMBGATU-3002.pdf>

Budget Instructions for applicant's assistance

<http://www.illinois.gov/sites/GATA/Documents/Resource%20Library/Uniform%20Budget%20Template%20Instructions.pdf>

### Application Format

The Application and Budget forms should be on letter-sized paper and type font size must be 9 or greater. Any and all project descriptions, proposals, pictures, charts, tables and maps on separate sheets must be included with the application. These forms are designed to allow the IDNR and the review committee to obtain enough information to evaluate the proposed project.

### Additional Documents to be Submitted

The following other financial information is required:

- **Project Narrative** (no form) must include project justification, the implementation and maintenance plans, number of acres to be impacted, the benefit to wildlife and plans for public access (or lack thereof).
- Applicants that have not done business with the State of Illinois in the last 3 years, or have reorganized since last doing business with the State must provide a copy of their **IRS Determination Letter** which declares the entity's legal status as determined by the IRS, e.g. tax-exempt, governmental, partnership, type of corporation, or type of Limited Liability Company. This letter is not the IRS FEIN assignment letter, but is among the original legal/tax documents for an entity.
- All applicants must complete and provide the **latest W-9 version** as found at [www.irs.gov](http://www.irs.gov). The Illinois Comptroller, who issues all State payments, will not accept earlier versions.

### Additional Project Specific Documents

The following project information is also required, if applicable:

- The project site map
- County plat map, USGS map or aerial photo of project site
- Two price quotes for equipment purchase with value of \$5,000 or more
- Habitat management plan (prepared by IDNR or other qualified entity)

To contact IDNR, request or submit forms use the following means:

By US Mail: Illinois Department of Natural Resources  
Office of Grant Management and Assistance  
One Natural Resources Way  
Springfield, IL 62702-1271

By e-mail: [DNR.specialfunds@illinois.gov](mailto:DNR.specialfunds@illinois.gov)

By telephone: Federal Aid/ Special Funds Unit (217) 782-2602

### Application Submission

The applicant must provide all information requested in the application package. Only one (1) original application with supporting documentation and legally authorizing signature needs to be submitted. Paper copies may be double-sided. Applications can be submitted electronically or on paper, but must be signed by an authorized individual for the applicant. **The application deadline is 5:00 p.m. August 1st.** Should this date fall on a Saturday, Sunday or holiday, the deadline will be extended to the next business day.

Applications considered incomplete will be returned to the applicant for completion and resubmittal. Submitting an incomplete application does not extend the application deadline date. Applications received after the deadline date will not be considered and will be returned to the applicant.

Signers of these documents must be authorized by their organization to enter into formal contracts. All communication, oral or written, between the applicant and IDNR will be with the signer, or their designee. Applications that are not signed will be returned.

### Applicant Qualification

An applicant's organization will be subject to the following:

- verification with Dun and Bradstreet
- check of status on the Illinois Debarred and Suspended List
- check of status with the Illinois Secretary of State

If applicable, the entity will be notified that it is ineligible based on any of above checks. The entity will be informed if corrective action is needed to become eligible for a grant award.

### Intent to Award

Following a decision of intent to award IDNR is required to do a financial and administrative risk assessment of the applicant. Additional information may be required at that time from the successful applicant. For the applicant to remain eligible for the award, they must provide the requested information within 30 days after notification of intent to award.

## **E. Application Review Information**

### Evaluation Criteria

Habitat and Management Applications will be evaluated on the following criteria:

- Biological importance – How does the project assist with achieving the goals of the Illinois Statewide Action Plan?
- Geographical Reach – What is the scope of the project? Is it regional, natural division, game division, watershed, county or managed area, or an individual landowner?
- Quality of Habitat Provided – Does the project provide high quality habitat for target wildlife species as prescribed in the Illinois Wildlife Action Plan? What are the plan materials used or promoted?
- Methodology and Project Cost – Is the methodology sound and the project cost economical?
- Match and/or Project Partners – How much matching funds are proposed and how many partners are participating?
- Public Access – Is any public access provided? If so, how much?

Equipment Purchase Applications will be evaluated on the following criteria

- Equipment Need – Will the equipment be used by a habitat team for habitat development and/or management? Will it be used over a broad area or within Focus Areas or Conservation Opportunity Areas?
- Equipment Maintenance – How will the equipment be stored and protected?
- Appropriateness and Cost – Is the proposed equipment appropriate for its intended use? Is the estimated cost economical, average or too expensive?
- Match and Project Partners - How much matching funds are proposed and how many partners are participating?
- Public Access – Who will use the equipment? Will it be used by a habitat team on private and public land? Will it be provided to the public at a fee? If so, how much? Or will access be limited to a group or a site?

Research Projects will be evaluated based on the following criteria:

- Biological Importance - How does the research project better the management of pheasants in Illinois? Have the questions of interest been answered before?
- Geographical reach - What is the scope of the project? Is the focus of the project at a small scale or at a large scale?
- Quality of data provided - What do you expect the final sample size to be, or what will you be able to infer through this project?
- Project cost - Is the project cost economical?

- Match or Project Partners - How much matching funds are proposed and how many partners are participating?

Education: Projects will be evaluated based on the following criteria:

- Importance: Does the education project better educate the public about pheasants or pheasant hunting? Do other projects like the proposed project exist either in Illinois or in other states?
- Geographical reach - how many individuals are anticipated to be affected by this project?
- Project cost - Is the project cost economical?
- Match or project partners - How much matching funds are proposed and how many partners are participating?

In addition to these criteria, the applications will be competitively ranked by the State Pheasant Committee based on such criteria as the completeness of the application, past grant performance of the applicant, eligibility, feasibility, adverse impacts, quality of the proposed habitat, priority for the IDNR, the applicant's cost-share match, and the applicant's plan for general public access to and/or use of the proposed habitat development or equipment purchase.

#### Review and Selection Process

All applications received on time and containing the information required by the application packet will be reviewed by IDNR staff. Incomplete applications will be returned to the applicant for completion and resubmittal. Submitting an incomplete application does not extend the application deadline beyond the designated deadline date. All complete, eligible and timely applications will be forwarded to the State Pheasant Committee for evaluation and recommendation to the IDNR Director, who makes the final decision on awards. Committee members with ties to an applicant entity are not allowed to vote on that entity's application.

#### Anticipated Announcement and State Award Dates

The State Pheasant Committee meets annually in late October or early November. At that time all grant applications and state projects for the current fiscal year are reviewed. The Committee's recommendations are forwarded to the IDNR Director, who usually makes his decisions in January. Each applicant will be notified by letter and/or email of the Director's decision regarding their application

## **F. Award Administration Information**

#### State Award Notice

After the IDNR Director has made his decision the successful applicant will be notified by email and/or letter of any final requirements before the grant can be awarded to them. Once all the final requirements have been completed, two (2) originals of the Grant Agreement between IDNR and the applicant will be sent for the applicant to sign both and return. Then the IDNR Director will also sign both. One original will remain with IDNR. The other original will be returned to the applicant.

Only after the Grant Agreement has been signed by the Director can expenses be incurred for grant reimbursement. Any expenses incurred outside of the grant period (before or after) are at the applicant's risk and are not eligible either as match or for reimbursement related to the grant.

#### Reporting

Various types of reporting is required for grant agreements awarded under the Special Wildlife Funds Grant Program, including:

- Performance Reporting: The grantee shall be required to provide reporting of its activities under this project. The IDNR may withhold or suspend payment if the grantee fails to submit the required reports. The following reports are required under this Agreement:
  - a) *Quarterly Progress Reports*: If the amount of grant funds awarded exceeds \$25,000.00,

the grantee is required to provide to the IDNR quarterly progress reports that describe the progress of the project and expenditures of funds according to the budget line items as detailed in the approved Uniform Application for State Grant Assistance. The Quarterly Progress Report will be due as follows:

| <u>Period of Work</u>   | <u>Quarterly Progress Report Due Before</u> |
|-------------------------|---|
| January 1 – March 31    | April 30                                    |
| April 1 – June 30       | July 31                                     |
| July 1 – September 30   | October 31                                  |
| October 1 – December 31 | January 31                                  |

b) *Annual or Final Report:* The grantee shall submit a written Final Report to the department no later than 30 days following the completion of the Project or the ending date of the grant agreement, whichever is earlier, in accordance with the applicable administrative rules. The Final Report shall include:

- Grant Agreement Number
- Grantee name, address and telephone number
- Time-frame of the report
- Name and telephone number or e-mail address of grantee representative completing the report
- Project objective as described in the application and grant agreement
- Completed Project description,
- Summary of the Project accomplishments (if applicable) as follows:

for habitat preserved, protected, acquired, managed or improved (list of wildlife and/or native plant resources [by species] that benefit from the project and how they benefit; acres planted in cool season grasses, warm season grasses, forbs, legumes, shrubs, trees or other appropriate description, including whether the acres were new or replanted; acres sprayed or controlled through the use of herbicides; acres upon which controlled burns were undertaken; acres affected through woody vegetation and/or tree removal; acres planted, disked, mowed, sprayed, or burned; trees/shrubs planted or removed with equipment purchased through the grant; number of cooperators involved in the project);

for educational projects list measureable outcomes, products and how they can be used after completion

for research projects list outputs and application to wildlife management policies and practices.

Total project expenditures itemized to include the following: name and address of vendor, item description identifying details (if applicable), quantity purchased, date item purchased;

- Project expenditures paid by funds other than Special Wildlife Grant Funds;

Documentation to support the summarized report including a complete list of landowner names and full address (note if absentee owner), acreage location and acres affected by the project. Multiple conservation practices on the same acreage do not multiply the acreage. On habitat development projects where other governmental or private funding programs are involved, the grantee is required to provide detailed information including but not limited to the type of eligible conservation practice completed, the amount (\$) of other cost sharing provided, the name of the cost share provider, and length of time committed to maintain the developed habitat area.

The IDNR can provide a Final Report form.

c) *Equipment Use Report:* If the grant is for the purchase of equipment, a similar written report of equipment usage shall be due to the IDNR by December 31<sup>st</sup> in each of the first five years following the purchase of equipment. The Equipment Use Report shall include the following:

- Details on the Grant recipient:
  - Grant Agreement Number
  - Grantee name, address and telephone number
  - Time-frame of the report
- Details on the piece of equipment:
  - Equipment type, model number and serial number
  - Storage location address
  - Acre or odometer meter reading at the beginning and ending of the reporting period
  - Contact person name and telephone number
  - Rental rate charged and total fees collected for the use of the equipment
  - Description of any equipment maintenance and total expenditures for maintenance, supported by paid invoices
- Detailed information on the use of the equipment, including:
  - Date equipment was used
  - Location of equipment use, including county, township, range and section
  - Landowner name and full address (note if absentee owner)
- Description of how equipment was used:
  - management practice completed (planting, disking, mowing, herbicide application, prescribed burn)
  - materials planted including the quantity and species planted and provide details of seed mix contents;
  - acres established, enhanced or otherwise affected and how. (Note when multiple practices are on the same acres.)

**G. State Awarding Agency Contact(s)**

To contact the IDNR with questions related to this grant, please use the following means:

By US Mail: Illinois Department of Natural Resources  
 Office of Grant Management and Assistance  
 One Natural Resources Way  
 Springfield, IL 62702-1271

By e-mail: [IDNR.specialfunds@illinois.gov](mailto:IDNR.specialfunds@illinois.gov) or [dave.blatchford@illinois.gov](mailto:dave.blatchford@illinois.gov)

By phone: Federal Aid/Special Funds (217) 782-2602 or Dave Blatchford (217) 782-0073

By fax: (217) 785-2438

**H. Other Information**

Besides the State Pheasant Fund, the Special Wildlife Funds Grant Program offer non-profit organizations three (3) other grant programs annually with specific purposes: the Illinois Habitat Fund focuses on management of habitat for future generations. The application deadline is August 1<sup>st</sup>. The State Furbearer Fund focuses on conservation of fur-bearing mammals and developing and/or improving public fur-bearing mammal habitat management areas within Illinois. The application deadline is March 1<sup>st</sup>. The State Migratory Waterfowl Stamp Fund focuses on development of waterfowl areas within the Dominion of Canada or the United States that specifically provide waterfowl for the Mississippi Flyway. The application deadline is January 1<sup>st</sup>.

More information can be found at IDNR's website: [www.DNR.illinois.gov](http://www.DNR.illinois.gov) Search for "Grants" under the A-Z tab.

The State of Illinois is not obligated to make any award of the State Pheasant Funds as a result of this Notice of Funding Opportunity.

Only the Director of Natural Resources makes the determination of what grants shall be awarded after considering the recommendations of the State Pheasant Committee. Grant applicants are not authorized to proceed on their projects until the Director has signed the Grant Agreement.