

Uniform Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO)

Summary Information

11/30/2018

	Data Field	
1.	Awarding Agency Name:	Illinois Department of Natural Resources
2.	Agency Contact:	Susan J. Duke Grant Administrator One Natural Resources Way Springfield, IL 62702 Susan.Duke@illinois.gov (217) 785-4416
3.	Announcement Type:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Initial announcement <input type="checkbox"/> Modification of a previous announcement
4.	Type of Assistance Instrument:	Migratory Waterfowl Fund Grant
5.	Funding Opportunity Number:	19-422-20-1093
6.	Funding Opportunity Title:	Special Wildlife Funds Duck Stamp Fund
7.	CSFA Number:	422-20-1093
8.	CSFA Popular Name:	Duck Stamp
9.	CFDA Number(s):	n/a
10.	Anticipated Number of Awards:	unknown
11.	Estimated Total Program Funding:	\$500,000.00
12.	Award Range	n/a
13.	Source of Funding:	<input type="checkbox"/> Federal or Federal pass-through <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> State <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 Restrictions on Indirect Costs	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No If yes, provide the citation governing the restriction:
16.	Posted Dates:	November 30, 2018 to January 3, 2019
17.	Closing Date for Applications:	January 4, 2019 5 p.m.
18.	Technical Assistance Session:	Session Offered: <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No Session Mandatory: <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No Specify date and time Provide link to registration, if applicable

Agency-specific Content for the Notice of Funding Opportunity

A. Program Description

Program Background and History

The State Migratory Waterfowl Stamp Fund is funded from the sale of State Migratory Waterfowl Stamps. The Fund portion involved in the Special Wildlife Funds Grant Program provides for the development of *waterfowl propagation areas* within the Dominion of Canada or the United States, and for the *implementation of the North American Waterfowl Plan* pursuant to state statute **520 ILCS 5/1.29**.

<http://www.ilga.gov/legislation/ilcs/ilcs3.asp?ActID=1729&ChapterID=43>

For management purposes, North America is divided into four flyways—the Atlantic, Mississippi, Central, and Pacific. Illinois is located in the *Mississippi Flyway region*.

For more information about waterfowl propagation and hunting management, visit www.flyways.us.

The North American Waterfowl Plan is found at:

<https://www.fws.gov/birds/management/bird-management-plans/north-american-waterfowl-management-plan/plan-documents.php>.

The Illinois Administrative Rules for this grant

program are found at: <https://www.dnr.illinois.gov/adrules/documents/17-3060.pdf>

These grant funds are subject to the Grant Accountability and Transparency Act, 30 ILCS 708/1

<http://www.ilga.gov/legislation/ilcs/ilcs3.asp?ActID=3559&ChapterID=7>

These grant funds are subject to the Grant Information Collection Act 30 ILCS 707/1

<http://www.ilga.gov/legislation/ilcs/ilcs3.asp?ActID=3521&ChapterID=7>

These grant funds are subject to the Illinois Grant Funds Recovery Act.

<http://www.ilga.gov/legislation/ilcs/ilcs3.asp?ActID=558&ChapterID=7>

Successful applicants will have to sign this Grant Agreement with the State of Illinois:

<https://www2.illinois.gov/sites/GATA/Documents/Resource%20Library/GATA%20UGA%20FY19%202%2014%2018.pdf>

Eligible Applicants

For purposes of this NOFO, this funding is for **development of waterfowl propagation areas** within the Dominion of Canada or the United States that specifically provide waterfowl for the Mississippi Flyway and projects to implement the North American Waterfowl Management Plan <https://www.fws.gov/birds/management/bird-management-plans/north-american-waterfowl-management-plan/plan-documents.php>. The grants are competitive and are evaluated for their merit. Eligible recipients are limited to appropriate not-for-profit organizations.

The public can search the Catalog of State Financial Resources for all state agencies with other active grant programs, currently funded grants, current funding opportunities, and all registered grantees. [Click here to search for other state grant opportunities](#) .

The Office of Resource Conservation's Division of Wildlife Resources administers four special fund grant programs that are funded by Illinois sportsmen through the purchase of Habitat Stamps and State Migratory Waterfowl Stamps. These are the Illinois Habitat Fund, State Pheasant Fund, State Furbearer Fund and the State Migratory Waterfowl Stamp Fund. These grant funds are all governed by Administrative Rule set forth in 17 Ill. Adm. Code 3060. <https://www.dnr.illinois.gov/adrules/documents/17-3060.pdf>

Projects that have been undertaken in the past include:

- Funds for a waterfowl habitat program in the Saskatchewan Parklands of Canada involving conservation activities on 4,293 acres of waterfowl and wetland habitat and impacting 21,250 acres more with winter wheat planting.
- Funds for a Manitoba, Canada waterfowl habitat conservation project securing permanent protection for 10,545 acres of wetland and associated native upland in priority waterfowl production areas.

Projects that were denied funding in the past include:

- Funds to manage cattails and to plant wild celery on a privately-owned waterfowl refuge site. Rejected for unproven benefits and feasibility of both proposed tasks.

Performance Measures

The purpose of the State Migratory Waterfowl Stamp Fund and this program is to support activities and programs undertaken by the IDNR and appropriate not-for-profit organizations: to develop waterfowl propagation areas within the dominion of Canada or the United States that specifically provide waterfowl for the Mississippi Flyway, and to implement the North American Waterfowl Management Plan.

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

- the benefit to migratory waterfowl
- a plan for implementation
- a map of the project area

- if appropriate, the amount of waterfowl propagation area to be established or managed
- if with cooperators, a 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 all fees) and storage location, if applicable.
- a comprehensive funding/budget summary, including:
 -
 - *actual cash contributions* other than the grant, i.e., the funds leveraged, defined as cash funds that are wholly contingent upon Illinois Duck Stamp funds in order to obtain them, and are not offered as cash match to other non-federal funding sources, and have not been offered previously as leverage or cash match for a previously awarded Illinois DNR grant. Cash funds meeting these criteria shall be considered “match leverage.” Additional funds, expenditures and assets supporting the application or proposal may be presented as non-matching leverage but will not be contribute to the scoring criteria. All funds, expenditures and assets identified in the proposal must be designated as either “match leverage” or “non-match leverage.”
 - documented purchase price of equipment or commodities.

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

B. Funding Information

Funding Source

This award utilizes only State appropriated funds from the State Migratory Waterfowl Stamp Fund. This Fund was established by statute and is found in 520 ILCS 5/1.29. <http://www.ilga.gov/legislation/ilcs/ilcs3.asp?ActID=1729&ChapterID=43>. No federal funds are included in this grant program.

Obligations of the State will cease immediately without penalty or further payment being required if in any fiscal year the Illinois General Assembly fails to appropriate or otherwise make available sufficient funds for this award.

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 Migratory Waterfowl Stamps and deposited into the State Migratory Waterfowl Stamp Fund shall be allocated to appropriate not-for-profit organizations. The other 50% is spent toward State projects, State migratory waterfowl stamp production and land acquisition. Total Annual Fund Revenues have varied in the most recent four years from \$926,060 to \$998,498.

The amount of funding available for grants in recent fiscal years was:

- In Fiscal Year 2013 \$490,000 split among 2 grants ranging from \$73,000 to \$416,500.
- In Fiscal Year 2014 \$500,000 split among 2 grants ranging from \$75,000 to \$425,000.
- In Fiscal Year 2015 \$500,000 split among 2 grants ranging from \$75,000 to \$425,000.
- In Fiscal Year 2016 \$0.00 – due to lack of an approved State budget.
- In Fiscal Year 2017 \$0.00 – due to lack of an approved State budget.
- In Fiscal Year 2018 \$0.00 – due to lack of an approved State budget.

For Fiscal Year 2019 there will be:

- \$352,500 available for work in Saskatchewan
- \$147,500 available for work in Manitoba

The Illinois Grant Funds Recovery Act (30 ILCS 705/5) limit the grant period to a maximum of twenty-four (24) months.

Disbursements

Before turning over any funds the Department shall obtain evidence that the project is acceptable to the appropriate governmental agency of the Dominion of Canada or the United States or of one of its Provinces or States having jurisdiction over the lands and waters affected by the project.

Also, a financial and administrative risk assessment of the applicant’s organization will precede disbursement of grant funds. 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.

C. Eligibility Information

Eligible Applicants

Applicants limited to entities that develop

Grantee Registration - All grantees must register with the State of Illinois. Grantee registration is completed by accessing, completing and submitting the Grantee Registration form at <https://grants.illinois.gov/portal/>.

Grantee Pre-qualification - All entities must be qualified to do business with the State of Illinois. To be qualified for an FY17 grant award, an entity must:

- have a current DUNS number ([sign up for free](#));
- have a current SAMS Cage# ([sign up for free](#));
- must not be on the [Federal Excluded Parties List](#);
- must not be on the State of Illinois Stop Pay List;
- and be in good standing with the [Illinois Secretary of State](#).

Kinds of Projects Eligible for Grants

Projects are limited to those with the purpose of development of waterfowl propagation areas, or for the implementation of the North American Waterfowl Management Plan.

Kinds of Projects Ineligible for Grants

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

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 their own cash or in-kind match is involved.

Indirect Cost Rate

All grantees must elect at least one of the following (4) options annually and complete the necessary requirements in the State of Illinois Indirect Cost Rate System.

1. Negotiate an indirect cost rate with the State of Illinois
2. Elect the de minimis rate - 10% of modified total direct costs (MTDC)
3. Provide a copy of a current Federal Negotiated Indirect Cost Rate Agreement (NICRA)
4. Elect to decline any indirect cost rate

If you have indirect costs associated with your grant application: Applicants must go into the CARS system and upload your documents, including your audit report. See this page for instructions;

<https://www2.illinois.gov/sites/GATA/Grantee/CentralizedIndirectCostSystem/Pages/default.aspx>

The computer system you must access is;

<https://solutions.crowe.com/CARS/StateofIllinoisGOMB/Login.aspx>

The training manual that tells you the steps of how to upload an audit report once you get in there is found here;

[https://www2.illinois.gov/sites/GATA/Documents/Resource%20Library/GOMB%20CARS%20Training%20Manual%20February%202017%20\(002\).pdf](https://www2.illinois.gov/sites/GATA/Documents/Resource%20Library/GOMB%20CARS%20Training%20Manual%20February%202017%20(002).pdf)

D. Application and Submission Information

Application Package

The complete application package consists of supplemental documents listed below and two uniform form templates (state required forms for all grantees):

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

[https://www.dnr.illinois.gov/grants/Documents/GATA%20Standard%20Application%20for%20State%20Grant%20Assistance%20-%20fillable%20\(003\).pdf](https://www.dnr.illinois.gov/grants/Documents/GATA%20Standard%20Application%20for%20State%20Grant%20Assistance%20-%20fillable%20(003).pdf)

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

<https://www2.illinois.gov/sites/GATA/Documents/Resource%20Library/GATA%20Spring%202018%20Training%20for%20FY19/GOMBGATU-3002.pdf>

Application Format

The Application and Budget forms should be on letter-sized paper and type font size must be 9 or greater. 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 sufficient information to properly evaluate the proposed project. Please provide sufficient narrative descriptions and maps as attachments to the template application form for adequate information for grading of the grant applications.

Supplemental Documents to be Submitted

The following other financial information documents are required:

- **A Project Narrative** (no form provided) 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 within 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 an entity's original legal/tax documents.
- All applicants must complete and provide the **latest W-9 version** as found at 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 grant 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: Susan.Duke@illinois.gov

By telephone: Office of Grant Management and Assistance (217) 785-4416

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. January 4th, 2019.** Should this date fall on a Saturday, Sunday or holiday, the deadline will be extended to the next business day. The email address to submit electronically is Susan.Duke@illinois.gov.

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

Grantee Pre-qualification - All entities must be qualified to do business with the State of Illinois and registered on the Grant Accountability and Transparency Act (GATA) computer system. Non-registered grant applicants are considered non-eligible. To be qualified for an FY19 grant award, an entity must register on GATA and;

- have a current DUNS number ([sign up for free](#));
- have a current SAMS Cage# ([sign up for free](#));
- must not be on the [Federal Excluded Parties List](#);
- must not be on the State of Illinois Stop Pay List;
- and be in good standing with the [Illinois Secretary of State](#).

Intent to Award

Following a decision of intent to award, IDNR is required to conduct a financial and administrative risk assessment of the applicant. Additional information may be required at that time from the successful applicant, and the applicants will submit the required information at <https://grants.illinois.gov/portal/>. For the applicant to remain eligible for the award they must provide the requested information within 30 days after notification of intent to award. The GATA system will send out a Notice of State Award (NOSA) to the applicants to which they must respond within 30 days.

E. Application Review Information

Evaluation Criteria

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

- Habitat Quality – How does the project provide high quality habitat for target wildlife species as prescribed in the Illinois Wildlife Action Plan?

- Geographic Region & Biological Scope – What is the project’s scope? Is it regional, natural division, game division, watershed, county or managed area, or an individual landowner?
- Methodology & Project Cost (Feasibility) – Is the methodology sound and the project cost economical?
- Maintenance & Infrastructure – What infrastructure must be created and how will it be maintained?
- Existing Infrastructure & Capacity – Will current staff and/or equipment be able to maintain the project?
- Waterfowl Hunting Opportunity & Public Access – Are public or private hunting opportunities provided or refuge only? Is any public access provided? If so, how much?
- Hunting Opportunity – How many open public waterfowl hunting locations are within a 50-mile radius?
- Total Site Wetland Acreage – How many acres are directly impacted by this project?
- Critical Need – Will failure of the project result in loss or degradation of wetland habitat or public waterfowl opportunities?

Additional criteria for waterfowl propagation area projects outside Illinois:

- Habitat Quality and Location – degree of habitat quality and suitability in Saskatchewan and Manitoba, and volume of waterfowl supplied to the Mississippi Flyway, i.e. Illinois State statutes are specific to waterfowl propagation areas (breeding areas).
- Applicant History and Specialization – the applicant should have a demonstrable history of grassland and wetland conservation impacting waterfowl in Illinois, and an applicant’s degree of priority work on waterfowl conservation specifically.
- Overall Value – demonstrable history of using governmental funds to leverage additional applicant cash funds and specified in their proposal how Illinois Duck Stamp funds will be leveraged in current application, i.e. detailed cash match narrative.
- Funds Leveraged – ratio of Illinois Duck Stamp funds to total leveraged, i.e. the percent of state award dollars that is matched by cash funds held by the applicant for the proposed project.

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?

In addition to these criteria, the applications will be competitively ranked by the State Duck Stamp 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 Duck Stamp 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 Duck Stamp Committee meets annually in early February. 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 by late February. 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 after that date. 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

Financial reporting will include all funds and in-kind work spent in the undertaking of the project. Various types of reporting are 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 performance report form is found here:

<https://www2.illinois.gov/sites/GATA/Documents/Resource%20Library/GOMBGATU-4001-PPR.pdf>

The Periodic Financial Report form is found here;

<https://www2.illinois.gov/sites/GATA/Documents/Resource%20Library/GOMBGATU-4002-PFR.pdf>

There is also an Excel based spreadsheet form available for periodic financial reports.

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 email 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);
 - 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.
 - 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.
- c) *Equipment Use Report* -this report of equipment usage shall be due to the IDNR by December 31: If the grant is for the purchase of equipment, a similar written report is due in each of the first five years following the purchase of equipment. The Equipment Use Report (a form is available) 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
Attn: Susan Duke

By e-mail: Susan.Duke@illinois.gov

By phone: 217-785-4416

By fax: 217-785-2438

H. Other Information

The State of Illinois is not obligated to make any award of the Migratory Waterfowl Stamp 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 Duck Stamp Committee. Grant applicants are not authorized to proceed on their projects and charge costs to the grant until the calendar date the Director has signed the Grant Agreement.