

Annual Funding Needs for Stormwater Local Assistance Fund (SLAF) Matching Grants to Implement Stormwater Best Management Practices

The purpose of the Stormwater Local Assistance Fund (SLAF) is to provide matching grants to local governments for the planning, design, and implementation of stormwater best management practices and for nonpoint source nutrient credit purchases. In accordance with § 62.1-44.15:29.2 of the *Code of Virginia*, DEQ in consultation with stakeholders including representatives of the Virginia Municipal Stormwater Association (VAMSA), local governments, and conservation organizations, is required to annually determine an estimate of the amount of stormwater local assistance matching grants expected to be requested by local governments for projects that are related to planning, designing, and implementing stormwater best management practices (BMPs) and nonpoint source nutrient credit purchases that are eligible for funding from SLAF. For FY 2025 to 2029, it is estimated that approximately \$189 million could be requested from the SLAF program (see Figure 4.1). Because SLAF is a matching grant program, this total represents up to 50% of the total funds expended on stormwater BMPs and nonpoint source nutrient credit purchases, with the other portion being made up by financial contributions from localities.

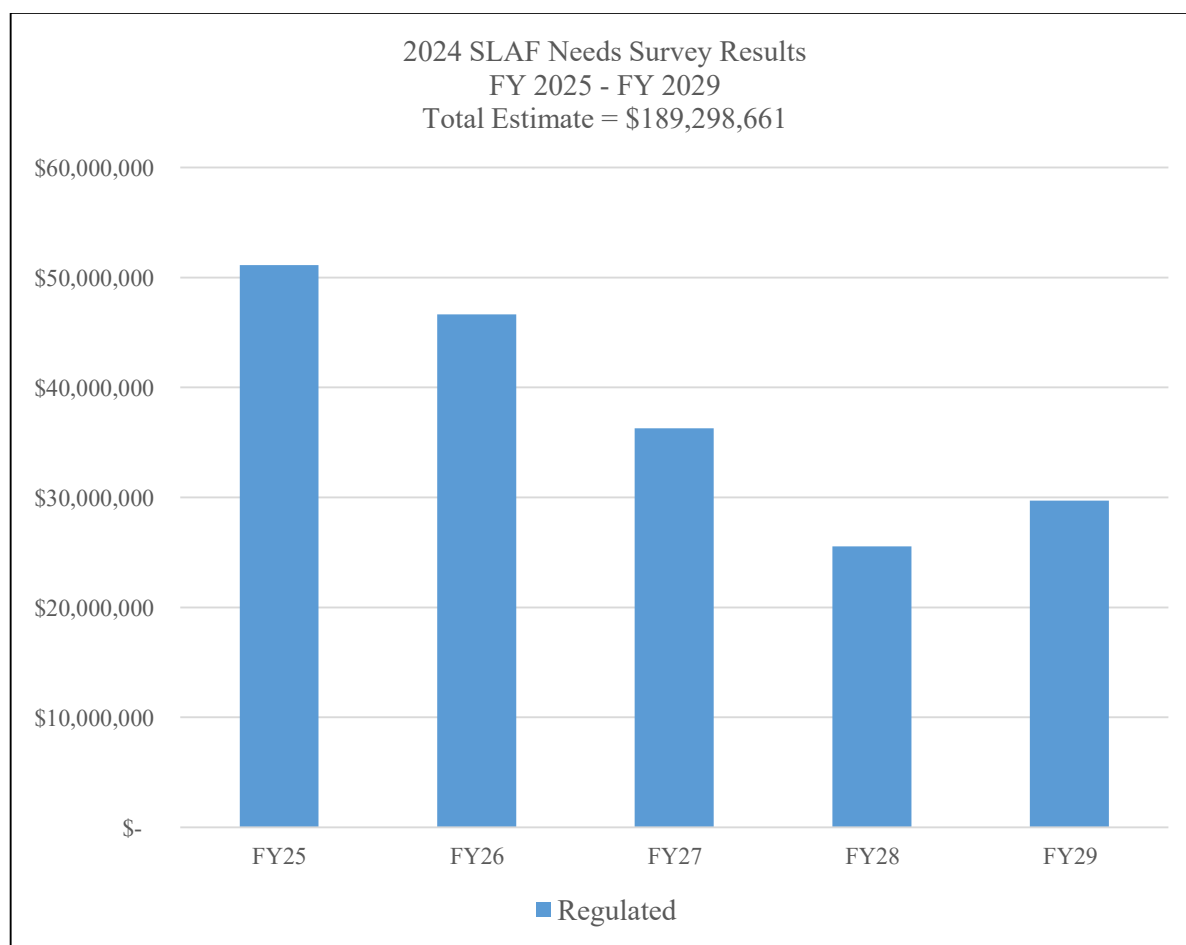


Figure 4.1: 2024 SLAF Needs Survey Results (FY 2025 – 2029)

In addition to the SLAF funding needs reported in this year's needs assessment, it is important to note the current state of the fund. The unobligated SLAF fund balance totals approximately \$40 million.

The methodology for estimating the amount of stormwater local assistance matching grants expected to be requested by local governments was established by DEQ in consultation with stormwater stakeholders, including VAMSA, Virginia Municipal League (VML), Virginia Association of Counties (VACO), Chesapeake Bay Foundation (CBF), Northern Virginia Regional Commission (NVRC), Hampton Roads Planning District Commission (HRPDC) and the James River Association (JRA). An electronic survey was created in consultation with these stakeholders and distributed to localities. The survey requested: general, programmatic, and project specific information from localities. General information included the locality name and contact information. Programmatic information was requested on future SLAF funding needs over a five-year time horizon (FY 2025 to FY 2029). This timeframe was selected because it generally aligns with the time horizons of typical local Capital Improvement Plans (CIP) and Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4) Permit TMDL Action Plans. Project specific information supporting the FY 2025 SLAF funding need was requested based on the assumption that planning or design information would be available for projects that are likely to be the subject of an FY 2025 SLAF grant application.

A total of 18 complete responses to the survey were received. All 18 localities identified a programmatic funding need over the five-year time horizon. Responses from 14 of those localities identified project specific funding needs for FY 2025. Of the survey respondents that identified a programmatic need, all are regulated as MS4s.

The total amount of SLAF funding needed through FY 2029 to fully fund all needs identified in the survey is \$189,298,661 (see Table 4.1). The following is a breakdown of funding need by fiscal year:

FY 2025 – \$51,140,773

FY 2026 – \$46,619,275

FY 2027 – \$36,289,260

FY 2028 – \$25,545,353

FY 2029 – \$29,704,000

Table 4.1: 2024 SLAF Needs Survey Results

Applicant	2025	2026-2027 Biennium		2028-2029 Biennium		Total Need
	FY 2025	FY 2026	FY 2027	FY 2028	FY 2029	
Regulated	\$51,140,773	\$46,619,275	\$36,289,260	\$25,545,353	\$29,704,000	\$189,298,661
Unregulated*	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
FY Totals	\$51,140,773	\$46,619,275	\$36,289,260	\$25,545,353	\$29,704,000	\$189,298,661
TOTALS	\$51,140,773	\$82,908,535		\$55,249,353		\$189,298,661

*No responses were received from the unregulated sector.

For the FY 2025 funding need, four localities did not provide project-specific data. The total funding need of regulated localities for FY 2025, when calculated based on the FY 2025 input in the project specific section, is \$51,140,773. Using programmatic data, the total FY 2025 need is also \$51,140,773.

The survey format will remain consistent for next year to allow for multi-year comparisons, with updated questions relating overall need to new regulatory changes.