

Chapter 4 - Stormwater Local Assistance Fund (SLAF) Requests Estimates Report

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 Fiscal Years (FY) 2026 to 2030, it is estimated that approximately \$236 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.

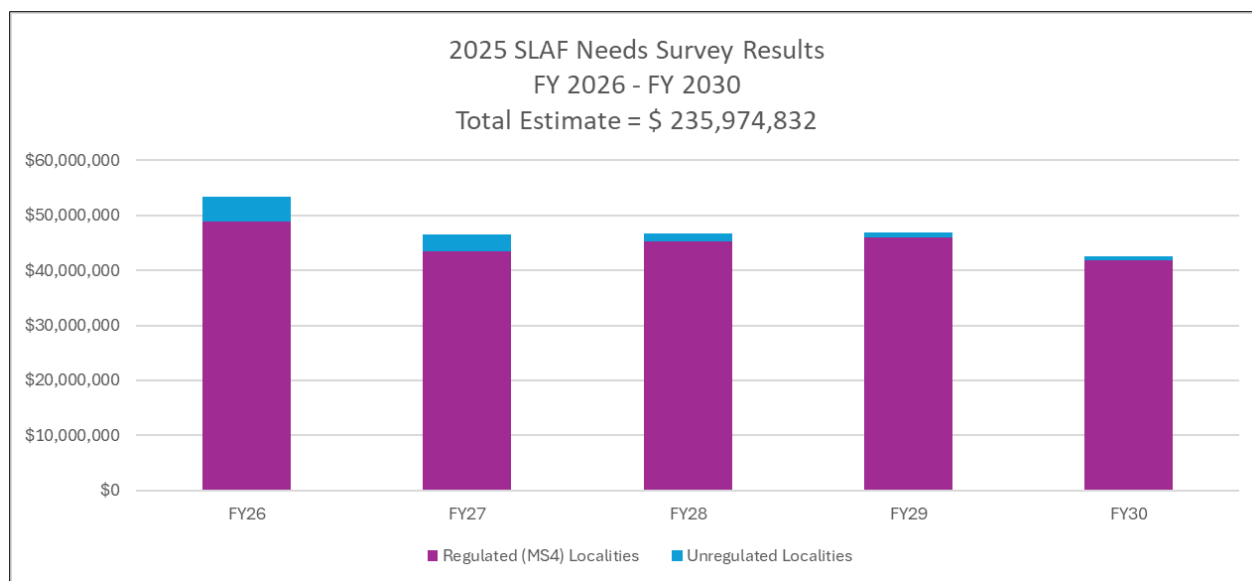


Figure 4.1: 2025 SLAF Needs Survey Results (FY 2026 – 2030)

In addition to the SLAF funding needs reported in this year’s needs assessment, it is important to note the current unobligated SLAF fund balance totals approximately \$22.6 million. DEQ expects to fully obligate the remainder of these funds this fiscal year based on the anticipated number of applications to be received during the SLAF solicitation period, between August 1 and October 1, 2025.

FY 2025 CHESAPEAKE BAY AND VIRGINIA WATERS CLEAN-UP PLAN

The methodology for estimating the amount of SLAF 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 2026 to FY 2030). This timeframe was selected because it generally aligns with the time horizons of typical local Capital Improvement Plans (CIP), Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4) Permit terms, and Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) Action Plans. Project specific information supporting the FY 2026 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 2026 SLAF grant application.

This year’s SLAF needs survey ran from April 1 through May 16, 2025. A total of 33 complete responses to the survey were received. All 33 localities identified a programmatic funding need over the five-year time horizon, with 30 responses coming from regulated MS4 Permit holders. Responses from 26 of those localities identified project specific funding needs for FY 2026 totaling \$53,391,104.

The total amount of SLAF funding needed through FY 2030 to fully fund all needs identified in the survey is \$235,974,832 (see Table 4.1). The following is a breakdown of funding need by fiscal year:

Table 4.1: 2025 SLAF Needs Survey Results

Applicant	2026	2027-2028 Biennium		2029-2030 Biennium		Total Need
	FY26	FY27	FY28	FY29	FY30	
Regulated (MS4) Localities	\$48,935,335	\$43,494,528	\$45,218,000	\$45,979,118	\$41,904,188	\$225,531,169
Unregulated Localities	\$4,455,769	\$3,097,734	\$1,436,254	\$878,939	\$573,967	\$10,443,663
FY Totals	\$53,391,104	\$46,592,262	\$46,654,254	\$46,859,057	\$42,478,155	\$235,974,832
TOTALS	\$53,391,104	\$93,246,516		\$89,337,212		\$235,974,832

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