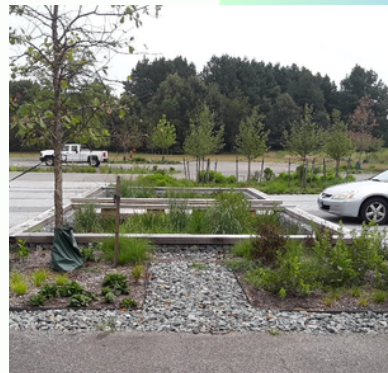


Maryland Department of Natural Resources  
Chesapeake and Coastal

# GRANTS GATEWAY

FY25 Proposal Solicitation



Maryland



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# Solicitation Overview

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Maryland's communities are challenged by intense storms, changing sea levels and more frequent flooding while balancing growing populations, economic growth, and increased tourism and recreation. These trends make the already challenging task of restoring the Chesapeake Bay, safeguarding people and infrastructure and managing natural resources even more complex.

Maryland's Chesapeake and Coastal Grants Gateway (Grants Gateway) provides a resource for partners seeking technical and financial support for projects that foster healthy and resilient ecosystems, communities and economies. The Grants Gateway provides a single point of entry to streamline the grant application process for governments, academic institutions and non-governmental organizations. Eligible projects across five outcomes and one loan program will improve water quality, restore local waterways, increase resilience to climate impacts, improve navigation and boating access sites for the benefit of the boating public and develop the next generation of environmental stewards.

Through connections across the funds managed by the Chesapeake & Coastal Service, the Maryland Department of Natural Resources (DNR) seeks to support comprehensive and integrated projects that achieve (at least one of) the following outcomes:

*Outcome 1 - Accelerate recovery and restoration of natural resources by implementing non-point source pollution reduction projects.*

*Outcome 2 - Understand, enhance capacity and plan to reduce flood risks both coastal and precipitation-based building community resilience to climate change.*

*Outcome 3 - Design and construct habitat restoration projects to address erosion and flooding in communities and on public lands.*

*Outcome 4 - Improve student ability to take action benefiting Chesapeake and coastal ecosystems through professional development, curriculum expansion, outdoor learning and stewardship.*

*Outcome 5 - Foster sustainable development and use of Maryland waterways with projects that benefit the general boating public.*

*Shoreline Erosion Loan Program - Protect waterfront property and enhance wildlife habitat utilizing nature-based living shoreline techniques.*



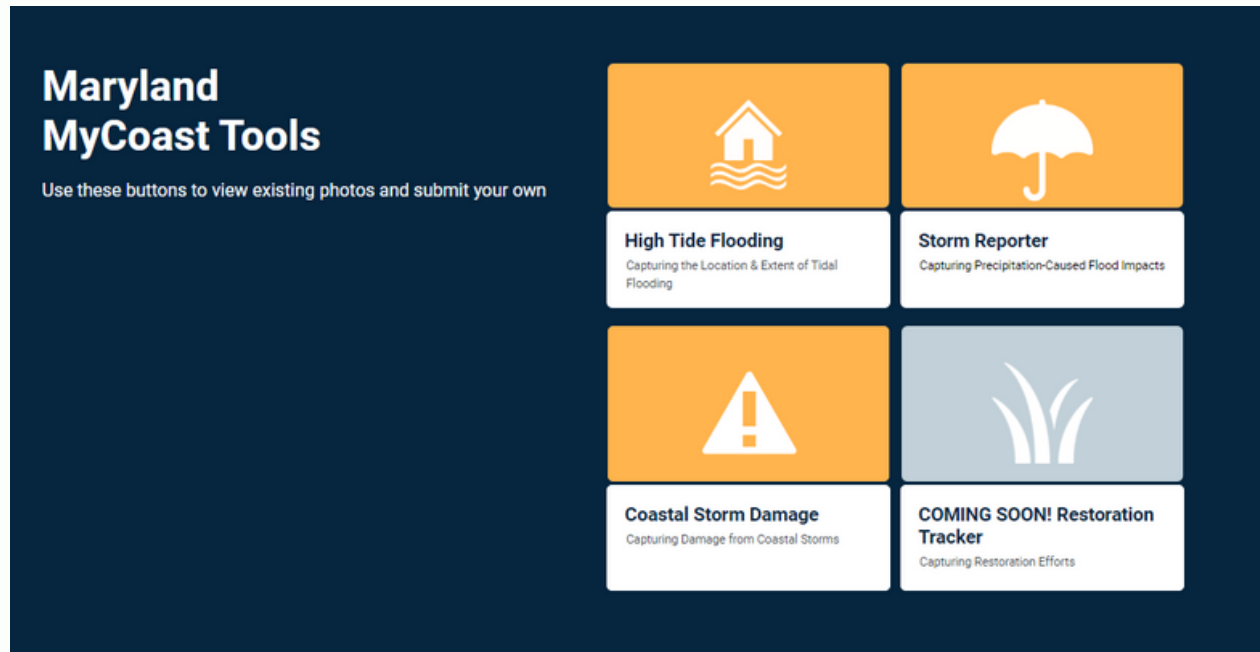
### *Cross-Outcome Priorities*

As stewards of Maryland's waters, CCS recognizes that diversity is necessary for healthy ecosystems and healthy communities. As such, diversity should be cultivated. CCS acknowledges that natural spaces should be safe and welcoming, and regardless of economic status, race, religion, age, ethnic origin, or sexual orientation, everyone has the right to access, protect, and improve these shared areas. It is the commitment of CCS to promote a culture of understanding and inclusion within ourselves and to engage communities that have historically not been engaged (or included) in the efforts to conserve, protect, and connect with Maryland's natural spaces. This applies to the projects we solicit across all 5 outcomes and the Shore Erosion Loan Program, and in support of DNR's department-wide commitment to advance DEIJ internally, advance DEIJ through mission-related work, and advance DEIJ performance of partners. To learn more about these focus areas, please visit the [DNR Environmental Justice website](#). Proposals that help make meaningful progress towards the CCS and DNR commitments will be prioritized for funding. Applicants are encouraged to consider the "Guiding Questions for Evaluating Equity Concerns and Impacts in Decision-Making" section on page 37 of the [Maryland Climate Adaptation and Resilience Framework Recommendations: 2021 - 2030](#) report. Although the questions are written specifically for adaptation-focused projects, they translate to other project types as well.





[Maryland Department of Natural Resources Policy 2010:11, "Building Resilience to Climate Change,"](#) established that the department will make sound investments in land and facilities and manage its assets and natural resources to better understand, mitigate, and adapt to climate change. It is integral that applicants appropriately integrate climate change considerations into their proposed projects. It is expected that several key authoritative resources will be used as appropriate based on the project type and location:

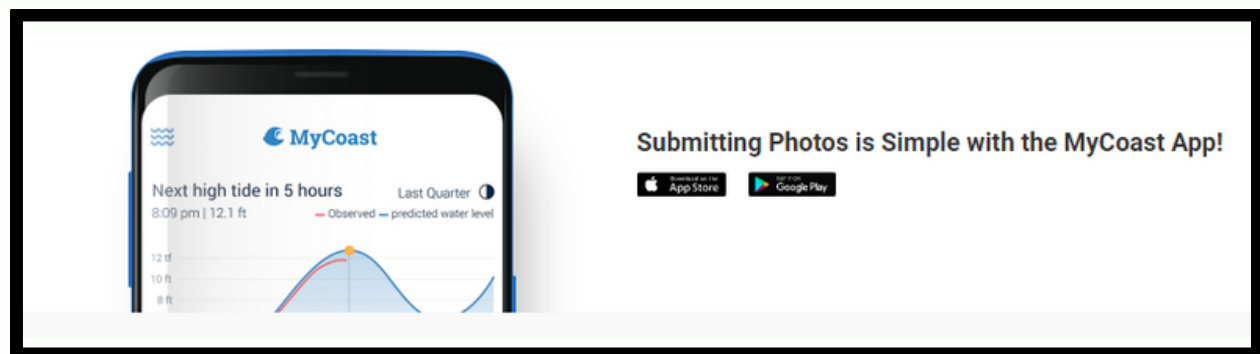
- [Guidance for Using Maryland's 2018 Sea Level Rise Projections](#)
- [Projected Intensity-Duration-Frequency \(IDF\) Curve Data Tool for the Chesapeake Bay Watershed and Virginia](#)

In addition, projects that will address flood hazards are encouraged to use [MyCoast: Maryland](#) to document impacts. This tool is a portal to collect and analyze photos of flooding that are linked to precipitation, riverine, and tidal data and can help applicants demonstrate the current-day flooding in their project location.



**Maryland MyCoast Tools**  
Use these buttons to view existing photos and submit your own

 <b>High Tide Flooding</b> Capturing the Location & Extent of Tidal Flooding	 <b>Storm Reporter</b> Capturing Precipitation-Caused Flood Impacts
 <b>Coastal Storm Damage</b> Capturing Damage from Coastal Storms	 <b>COMING SOON! Restoration Tracker</b> Capturing Restoration Efforts



**Submitting Photos is Simple with the MyCoast App!**

Download on the App Store | GET IT ON Google Play

The image shows a smartphone displaying the MyCoast app interface. The screen displays the MyCoast logo, a tide chart, and the text: "Next high tide in 5 hours", "8:09 pm | 12.1 ft", and "Last Quarter". The tide chart shows a blue line for "Observed" water level and a red line for "predicted water level".

### *Funding*

Funding will be made available on a competitive basis. Applicants whose proposals are selected for funding will work with DNR to execute a funding agreement and the award will be subject to the terms and conditions included within. Awards are made possible with funding through the Chesapeake and Atlantic Coastal Bays Trust Fund, the Resiliency through Restoration Initiative, the Waterway Improvement Fund, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration and the Environmental Protection Agency. Unless otherwise authorized, all payments will be made on a reimbursable basis.

### *Solicitation Schedule*

The anticipated schedule is as follows. All proposals must be submitted through the CCS web-based grants management portal at [https://webportalapp.com/sp/grants\\_gateway](https://webportalapp.com/sp/grants_gateway). Please see “Submitting a Proposal through the Grants Gateway” for instructions.

<u>Milestone</u>	<u>Anticipated Date(s)</u>
Targeted Solicitation Issue Date	July 17, 2023
Technical Assistance/Site Visits (as requested)	through November 30, 2023
OUTCOME 5 Applications due	September 18, 2023 by 11:59 p.m.
OUTCOMES 1-4 Applications due	December 14, 2023 by 11:59 p.m.
Shoreline Erosion Loan Applications due	December 14, 2023 by 11:59 p.m.
Technical Review and Evaluation	January 1, 2024 - March 31, 2024
Project Selection	April 1, 2024 - June 30, 2024
Project Funding Available	July 1, 2024

### *Outcomes*

Each project proposal must be submitted under only one of the following six outcomes. To ensure the best possible proposals the department recommends that applicants contact the respective outcome contact to discuss their project ideas and arrange a field visit (if applicable) prior to developing and submitting an application.

# Outcome 1

## *Accelerate recovery and restoration of natural resources by implementing non-point source pollution reduction projects.*

*Primary Fund Source: The Chesapeake and Atlantic Coastal Bays Trust Fund*

*Minimum grant request is \$500,000 - if your project is below this threshold, please email the outcome contact (below)*

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Government-affiliated and non-governmental organizations with implementation-ready restoration projects can submit proposals under this outcome. Projects must address water quality to the mainstem of the Chesapeake Bay or Atlantic Coastal Bays by reducing non-point source pollution, namely nitrogen, phosphorus and sediment. Projects should be cost-effective, located in targeted areas, and implementation-ready. The state is interested in supporting projects that, in addition to cost-effective nutrient and sediment reduction, provide desirable co-benefits, such as:

- Environmental justice, equity, diversity and inclusion benefits;
- climate resilience;
- carbon sequestration;
- creation of wildlife habitat;
- local employment opportunities;
- improvement or provision of recreational opportunities; and
- restoration of aquatic resources, such as seagrass beds or oyster reefs.

To aid in the evaluation of these co-benefits, the state has developed a [targeting map](#) for applicants to better understand proposed projects' full impact.

Currently, for-profit entities proposing pay for success projects cannot be prime applicants and must apply as a partner to a local government or non-profit applicant. In response to the Conservation Finance Act of 2022, the state anticipates the ability to direct contract with for-profit entities in future fiscal years. Pay for success proposals will need to provide a proposed quantification plan which includes:

- The method that will be used to measure or model environmental outcomes and co-benefits. This would be in addition to the required use of [FieldDoc.org](#).
- The compliance monitoring that will occur to ensure that the proposed actions are taken and maintained over the life of the project.

- Verification steps that will be carried out by the state or an evaluator to confirm model results or accurate measurement of environmental outcomes.
- The timeline for proposed payments under a grant with the state.

Funds cannot be used to bank water quality credits, meet compensatory mitigation requirements (i.e. new or re-development) or otherwise be sold for profit.

Competitive projects will be large-scale, multi-partnered efforts with demonstrable water quality impacts. Proposed projects should demonstrate ability to construct within 12 months of award. **We encourage applicants to contact DNR CCS to discuss their project(s) and arrange a site visit.**

*Selection criteria include:*

- Geographic Targeting: [Click here](#) to view the targeting map
  - A [guidance document](#) to help you use this new tool is available on the [Grants Gateway site](#).
- Readiness and ability to proceed
- Cost efficiency, which is defined as the state cost per pound of nutrients and sediment reduced. Leveraged funds help to reduce the overall cost of the project to the state, thus increasing cost-efficiency. The FY2024 solicitation annual averaged of funded projects was \$761 per pound of Nitrogen, \$5,997 per pound of Phosphorus, and \$4,460 per ton of suspended solids.

*Required attachments:*

- For Projects on Private Lands: Landowner agreement(s); and, if applicable, HOA/Community Land Authorization(s). Templates are available on the Grants Gateway site.
- For Projects in Areas to be Impacted by Sea Level Rise: Worksheet for Selecting a RSLR Estimate, which is Appendix A (also available on the [Grants Gateway website](#)) in the [Guidance for Using Maryland's 2018 Sea Level Rise Projections](#) report.
- For Non-governmental Applicants: Letter of support from a local government representative; landowner agreement as necessary.
- FieldDoc nutrient and sediment reductions: Applicants are required to use [FieldDoc.org](#) to estimate nitrogen, phosphorus and sediment reductions. The calculations in FieldDoc are consistent with the processes utilized by the Chesapeake Bay Program. Any proposal that does not include calculations from FieldDoc will not be considered.



- Current design
- Complete budget
- Letters of support from committed partners
- Photographs of current conditions

*A note on stream restoration*

Stream restoration is a valuable tool to help Maryland meet its total maximum daily load (TMDL) and Chesapeake Bay Agreement goals; however, the state must also strive to limit any potentially negative consequences to in-stream biology from these projects.

Beginning in the FY26 grant cycle, Chesapeake and Coastal Service will require that stream restoration projects in the below areas provide pre-restoration Maryland Biological Stream Survey (MBSS) benthic macroinvertebrate data in order to be eligible for funding:

- designated cold water streams (MDE Use Classes III and IV);
- existing cold water (identified by the presence of trout or benthic macroinvertebrate cold water obligates (Tallaperla and Sweltsa)); or,
- high quality (MDE Tier II) stream catchments.

While this requirement will not be fully implemented until state fiscal year 2026, applicants who intend on submitting stream restoration projects located in the above areas for funding in state fiscal year 2025 (funds available July 1, 2024) are encouraged to provide pre-restoration MBSS benthic macroinvertebrate sampling data this year.

To be considered consistent with MBSS protocols, benthic macroinvertebrate data must be collected by a person certified in benthic macroinvertebrate sampling, the sample must be processed by an individual who is certified in laboratory processing and subsampling, and a person who is a certified taxonomist in both EPT East and North American Chironomidae by the Society for Freshwater Science must perform the benthic macroinvertebrate taxonomy. The contact information for individuals who are already certified can be found on the [MBSS Registry of Certifications](#) and information on how to become certified can be found on the 2023 MBSS Training website.

*Outcome Contact:*

Dana Reiss  
Maryland Department of Natural Resources  
Chesapeake and Coastal Service  
(p) 410.260.8825 | (e) [dana.reiss@maryland.gov](mailto:dana.reiss@maryland.gov)

## Outcome 2

*Understand, enhance capacity and plan to reduce flood risks both coastal and precipitation-based building community resilience to climate change.*

*Primary Fund Source: Chesapeake Bay Implementation Grant, Environmental Protection Agency and National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.*

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Local governments seeking to improve their understanding of flood impacts and vulnerabilities and who want to address those impacts at a community scale are encouraged to submit a proposal. Flood impacts to be addressed may be at the community, county, or municipal level and may be the result of high tide flooding, changing sea levels, and/or an increased incidence and severity of precipitation events. Proposed projects can seek to plan for either or both short (1-10 years) and long (+10 years) term flood impacts.

Proposed projects can support communities conducting risk assessments to understand current and future vulnerability, identifying and incorporating adaptation strategies into current planning processes and developing conceptual designs or engineered for identified adaptations. Project outcomes and deliverables should result in risk-reduction strategies and/or higher regulatory standards and help propel forward the implementation of identified on-the-ground adaptation projects. Projects that address flood impacts caused by tidal waters should reference the jurisdiction's nuisance flood plan and/or flood mitigation plan or other planning processes to show how it aligns with ongoing risk reduction strategies. Applicants are encouraged to use the [Guidance for Using Maryland's 2018 Sea Level Rise Projections](#) report to determine flood risk tolerance and sea level rise estimate for long term projects. Projects addressing precipitation-induced flooding should be consistent with the trends described in the [Northeast chapter of the Fourth National Climate Assessment](#) and illustrated for the project's target area through the [Projected Intensity-Duration-Frequency \(IDF\) Curve Data Tool for the Chesapeake Bay Watershed and Virginia](#).

Proposals may request up to \$125,000 of funding for projects that will be a maximum of one year in duration. If awarded, applicants should be open to either receiving direct financial support or technical assistance through a CCS selected provider.

*Examples of projects may include:*

- Assess flood hazards and existing stormwater infrastructure to identify system improvements, including green infrastructure approaches, to reduce flood risk.
- Creation of conceptual or engineered plans for areas identified in previous planning processes that are prioritized for flood risk reduction.
- Evaluate how flood risks may be impacted by projected changes in precipitation patterns.
- Assess vulnerability of natural resources, recreational and public access and built infrastructure to nuisance or high-tide flooding and future impacts under the 2018 MD Climate Change Commission Sea Level Rise Projections.
- Update and adopt planning processes such as small area flood mitigation plans, critical areas plans, floodplain ordinances, building codes, zoning ordinances and/or long-term plans.
- Develop or integrate a green infrastructure plan to address coastal, stormwater or floodplain hazards.
- Maintain membership in, or apply to, FEMA's Community Rating System (CRS).

**To discuss project ideas, please email the Outcome contact.**

*Selection criteria includes:*

- Demonstrated program change. A program change is a change in local programs, policies or decisions that reduce vulnerability to flood impacts.
- Readiness and ability to proceed
- Identification of the flood risk to be addressed and explanation of how it relates to the trends described in the Guidance for Using Maryland's 2018 Sea Level Rise Projections, [Northeast chapter of the Fourth National Climate Assessment](#), and/or [Projected Intensity-Duration-Frequency \(IDF\) Curve Data Tool for the Chesapeake Bay Watershed and Virginia](#)
- Demonstrated connection between proposed outcomes and adaptation to identified current and/or future flood risk

*Required attachments:*

- Letters of support from county or town council, town administrator, county executive, or appropriate decision-making body
- Photographs of areas impacted

*Outcome Contact:*

Sasha Land

Maryland Department of Natural Resources

Chesapeake and Coastal Service

(p) 410.980 3271 | (e) sasha.land@maryland.gov

# Outcome 3

## *Design and construct habitat restoration projects to address erosion and flooding in communities and on public lands.*

*Primary Fund Source: Resiliency through Restoration Initiative & National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.*

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*Applicants:* Local governments and non-profit organizations can submit proposals under this outcome. Please reach out to the outcome contact for more information on non-profit eligibility.

*Funding Guidelines:* Applicants may request design/permitting, design-build or construction funding for restoration projects. Design/permit projects are typically completed within 24 months and cost up to \$100,000. Permit fees are not eligible. Construction projects are typically completed within 12 months. While there is no funding cap for construction, most projects are anticipated to cost between \$200,000 and \$1.5M depending on project scale. Larger scale projects that exceed these amounts may also be considered. Please reach out to the outcome contact to discuss larger scale projects. Construction projects must describe how climate change data were incorporated. Funds cannot be used to bank water quality credits, meet compensatory mitigation requirements (i.e. new or re-development), or otherwise sold for profit.

### *Project Examples:*

- Design a stormwater practice (i.e. bioretention facility, rain garden, stream restoration, regenerative stormwater conveyance system) that will address rain-induced flooding.
- Construct a coastal habitat restoration project that enhances natural features (i.e. wetlands, dunes, forests, floodplains, oyster reefs) while protecting roads, critical infrastructure, or habitat from future sea level rise.
- Design and construct a suite of restoration projects that address coastal and non-coastal flooding in an underserved community.
- Design a living shoreline or wetland enhancement project that uses local dredged material while protecting public lands that buffer coastal economies.

**Contact the outcome contact to discuss project ideas. To arrange a site visit, please email the Outcome contact.**

### *Selection Criteria*

Eligible projects will:

1. Enhance habitat through coastal restoration or nature-based practices. Projects may support design, engineering and implementation of restoration practices.
2. Address climate change impacts. Projects will reduce community flood risk and/or erosion impacts.
3. Provide community-wide benefits. Projects will benefit a majority of community members and protect community infrastructure and/or assets.
4. Incorporate climate change data. Projects will address short term (1-10 years) and long term (+10 years) impacts based on the life expectancy of the proposed project.

Competitive projects will:

- Demonstrate readiness and ability to proceed.
- Partner with the local government and/or implement recommendations identified in local plans or assessments (i.e. hazard mitigation plan, nuisance flood plan, green infrastructure plan).
- Restore public lands, allow public access, and serve as a demonstration site.
- Document critical or community infrastructure (i.e. # roads, buildings, parks) benefiting from the project.
- Demonstrate community support and engagement opportunities.
- Provide conceptual-level or greater designs.
- Support underserved communities.
- Provide multiple benefits such as water quality, habitat, public access, and navigation (through beneficial use of dredged material).
- Provide up to 1:1 matching funds.
- For coastal flooding projects: Incorporate the 2018 Sea Level Rise Projections for Maryland. Identify flood and sea level rise risk with the Guidance for Using Maryland's 2018 Sea Level Rise Projections.
- For stormwater projects: Incorporate trends in the Northeast chapter of the Fourth National Climate Assessment, and/or Projected Intensity-Duration-Frequency (IDF) Curve Data Tool for the Chesapeake Bay Watershed and Virginia
- Shoreline projects will be screened through Maryland's Coastal Resiliency Assessment



*Required attachments:*

- For Projects on Private Lands: Landowner agreement(s) and, if applicable, HOA/Community Land Authorization(s). Templates available on [Grants Gateway site](#).
- For Projects in Areas to Be Impacted by Sea Level Rise: Worksheet for Selecting a RSLR Estimate, which is Appendix A in the [Guidance for Using Maryland's 2018 Sea Level Rise Projections](#) report.
- For Non-profit Applicants: Letter of support from a local government representative (i.e. county or town council, town administrator, county planning office, county executive) that addresses how the project supports local efforts to address climate change; and, landowner agreement(s) as necessary
- Current designs (if applicable)
- [Communication Strategy Worksheet](#). Template available on [Grants Gateway site](#).
- Photographs of current site conditions and impacts from high tide or rain-induced flooding.

*Outcome Contact:*

Nicole Carlozo

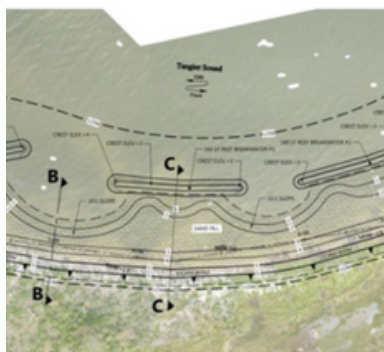
Maryland Department of Natural Resources

Chesapeake and Coastal Service

580 Taylor Ave, E-2

Annapolis, MD 21401

(p) 410.260.8726 | (e) nicole.carlozo@maryland.gov



## Outcome 4

*Improve student ability to take action benefiting Chesapeake and coastal ecosystems through professional development, curriculum expansion, outdoor learning and stewardship.*

*Primary Fund Source: Chesapeake Bay Implementation Grant*

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Rapid changes in the scale and scope of environmental and social issues facing Maryland necessitate that schools and educational programs adapt as they operate in a constantly changing landscape. In order to continue to bring environmental awareness and behavior change through environmental literacy, efforts must seriously examine both natural and man-made systems and how they do or do not function together, as well as how they inform and exacerbate environmental issues at the community level and beyond. As a result, twenty-first century learning and programming is evolving to more holistically address and incorporate environmental and social sciences into learning in order to create clearer connections between the natural world, human behavior, and resulting public and environmental health outcomes.

Funding will be offered as available to support learning experiences and educational opportunities focused on environmental issue exploration and investigation. Funding will support two tracks for this outcome: Track One will focus on projects serving formal K-12 education systems, and Track Two will focus on projects serving communities or public education. Ideal projects will develop youth and community-led environmental awareness, literacy, and stewardship actions creating healthier communities throughout the state. Both tracks include proposals that should be focused on local watershed issues not excluding land-use, be based on sound [environmental education principles](#), the result of collaborative and student/community-stakeholder inclusive planning oriented toward capacity building and civic engagement, and demonstrate an ongoing investment in change. Projects that include environmental and climate equity as the frame or focus towards building community collaboration and change through civic action are encouraged.

*Eligible costs may include:*

- transportation and facility fees to natural areas such as parks, public lands, and to environmental facilities such as recycling and/or waste management sites, labs and centers
- community and stakeholder engagement
- educator professional development and training or community education programs
- supply costs for investigations, field equipment, and stewardship projects

Stewardship activities may take place on public lands, in schoolyards, in the surrounding community, or elsewhere as appropriate to the program's content. Stewardship efforts should be student/community-led physical restoration projects or community outreach and awareness activities and programs, including community-led, policy and legislative change efforts through advocacy initiatives.

Eligible applicants include local non-governmental organizations or non-profits, local and state agencies, and schools and school systems including higher learning institutions. Partners in and serving historically excluded, underrepresented, and under-resourced communities throughout the state are especially encouraged to apply.

**To discuss project ideas, please email the Outcome contact (below).**

*Selection criteria includes:*

- A clear programmatic focus on healthy water and so healthier communities
- Readiness and ability to proceed for the 2023 - 2024 school year
- Connections between the proposed work and Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS), Maryland Environmental Literacy Standards, Maryland Service-Learning Graduation Requirements, and/or the Student Outcome of the Environmental Literacy Goal of the 2014 Chesapeake Bay Watershed Agreement (Meaningful Watershed Educational Experiences).
- Demonstrated ability to undertake and sustain the proposed work, including ensuring that programmatic supports and partnerships are in place as needed
- Preference will be given to projects that will support historically marginalized, excluded and under-resourced communities, youth and students in the state

*Required Attachments*

School System or Systemic Program:

- Transmittal letter from applicant organization, with signature of authority
- Letter(s) of support from leadership of the school system(s) or organization (ie. superintendent(s), supervisor of science, school principal, organization director)
- Letters of Support from participating partners/impacted community members
- Environmental Literacy Plan or other evidence of environmental literacy programming, such as curriculum alignment, [Meaningful Watershed Educational Experience \(MWEE\)](#), [Environmental Literacy Model \(ELM\)](#), etc.

Partner/Community Organization:

- Transmittal letter from applicant organization, with signature of authority
- Letter(s) of support from school administration of partnering schools (i.e. principal, science coordinator), or other partners
- Outline or documentation of environmental education curriculum or programming plan and activities for the project

Outcome Contact:

Jen Wolfe

Maryland Department of Natural Resources

Chesapeake and Coastal Service

(p) 410.260.8988 | (e) Jennifer.wolfe1@maryland.gov



# Outcome 5

## *Foster sustainable development and use of Maryland waterways with projects that benefit the general boating public.*

*Primary Fund Source: Waterway Improvement Fund*

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Maryland's Waterway Improvement Fund was established in 1966 (Annotated Code of Maryland Section 8-707 of the State Boat Act) for the purpose of funding projects which improve and promote the recreational and commercial capabilities, conditions and safety of Maryland's waterways for the benefit of the general boating public. Revenues for this fund are primarily obtained from the one time 5% excise tax that is paid to the State of Maryland when a boat is purchased and titled in the state.

Typically, jurisdictions apply for Waterway Improvement Fund grants in order to:

1. construct, renovate, or maintain public boating access facilities;
2. dredge navigable channels and harbors and;
3. Purchase fire/rescue vessels in partnership with local fire companies.

We are asking partners submitting proposals for Waterway Improvement Fund grant types 1 and 2 (above) to consider ways to build climate resilience into their projects. At certain points over the project's expected design life, some project locations may be susceptible to impacts from nuisance and higher-than-high tide flooding, storm surge, storm water flooding, and future sea level rise. Please include information about any climate considerations in the "Project Details" section of your application, particularly those that would help to avoid or minimize impacts to your project.

Additional information, including selection criteria, can be found in the waterway Improvement Fund Grants Manual at [https://dnr.maryland.gov/boating/Documents/wif\\_Program\\_Manual.pdf](https://dnr.maryland.gov/boating/Documents/wif_Program_Manual.pdf)

Applicants are encouraged to reach out to Outcome 3 and Outcome 5 points of contact to discuss opportunities for beneficial use of dredged material. Type 2 projects (above) may be paired with restoration projects to simultaneously address resiliency and waterways needs.



**Please note that Outcome 5 applications are due by 11:59pm on September 18, 2023.**

All applicants that receive Outcome 5 grant funding will be required to enter into a grant agreement with the Department commencing with the beginning of the state fiscal year. The Department reserves the right to revert any unexpended or unencumbered balance from the grant not used during the grant performance period (four years).

The Governing Body will publicly advertise the project for bids or use other procurement methods approved in advance by the Department of Natural Resources (DNR). Budgeted costs for engineering/design (A/E) services should be adequate and reasonable.

Project contracts with a total value equal to or greater than \$250,000 for which the State provides 25% or more of the funding will be advertised as prevailing wage contracts (COMAR 21.11.11).

The Governing Body will prepare a tabulation of bids and/or other methods of procurement and submit to the DNR with comments and recommendations prior to the award of any contract.

Projects that involve the construction, demolition, installation, alteration, repair, or salvage activities located in, on, over, or under State or private tidal wetlands must be performed by a licensed Marine Contractor. Information can be found at Maryland Dept of Environment (Licensed Marine Contractors).

<https://mde.maryland.gov/programs/Water/WetlandsandWaterways/Pages/LicensedMarineContractors.aspx>

*Outcome Contacts:*

- For Anne Arundel, Calvert, Charles, Prince George's and St. Mary's Counties: (Position Vacant) contact Carla Fleming 443-534-6289 or [carla.fleming@maryland.gov](mailto:carla.fleming@maryland.gov)
- For Allegany, Baltimore City and County, Carroll, Cecil, Frederick, Garrett, Harford, Howard, Montgomery, and Washington Counties: Alice L. Scanlon 443-433- 6043 or [alichel.scanlon@maryland.gov](mailto:alichel.scanlon@maryland.gov)
- For Caroline, Dorchester, Kent, Queen Anne's, Somerset, Talbot, Wicomico and Worcester Counties:(Position Vacant) contact Alice L. Scanlon 443-433- 6043 or [alichel.scanlon@maryland.gov](mailto:alichel.scanlon@maryland.gov)
- For statewide dredging that is Waterway Improvement Fund eligible, contact Isaac Wilding 443-458-8217 or [Isaac.wilding@maryland.gov](mailto:Isaac.wilding@maryland.gov)
- For overall Center for Waterway Improvement & Infrastructure questions, contact Carla Fleming 443-534-6289 or [carla.fleming@maryland.gov](mailto:carla.fleming@maryland.gov)



# Shoreline Erosion Loan Program

*Protect waterfront property and enhance wildlife habitat utilizing nature-based living shoreline techniques.*

*Primary Fund Source: The Shoreline Erosion Control Revolving Loan Fund*

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The Shoreline Erosion Control Revolving Loan Fund requires site visit requests as part of this application - if you have not had a site visit from DNR staff, please email the outcome contact (below)

Maryland's Shoreline Conservation Service was established in 1964 by act of the Maryland General Assembly for the purpose of addressing shoreline and erosion problems along the Chesapeake Bay and its tributaries. The program provides technical and financial assistance to waterfront property owners experiencing erosion.

The Shoreline Erosion Control Revolving Loan Fund provides waterfront property owners with an opportunity to apply for a zero-interest loan for nature-based living shoreline projects. Loan terms range from 5-20 years (determined by project type) and include a nominal administrative fee based on projected construction costs. The loan is secured by a Shoreline Erosion Control Lien and/or a Special Shoreline Erosion Control Taxing District (dependent on applicant type).

Local governments, non-profit organizations, communities, and private property owners are eligible to apply. A site visit with DNR Staff is required prior to application submission.

Financial assistance is not available for structural projects (ie. bulkheads, revetments, seawalls etc). This opportunity is for nature-based living shoreline projects only. Awards will be based on the availability of funds.

To discuss project ideas, please email the Outcome contacts (below).

*Selection criteria includes:*

- Cost effectiveness
- Readiness and ability to proceed:
  - Readiness is evaluated based on project phase. Construction-ready projects are prioritized
- Maximize ecological opportunities appropriate to the site

*Required Attachments:*

- Copy of plat
- Copy of deed
- Photographs of existing site conditions
- Current design plan (if applicable)
- Permits (if applicable)
- Cost estimate, budget, contracts etc. (if applicable)

Outcome Contact: Wesley Gould  
Maryland Department of Natural Resources  
Chesapeake and Coastal Service  
(p) 410.260.8812 | (e) [wesley.gould@maryland.gov](mailto:wesley.gould@maryland.gov)





# How to Apply

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This section includes important information on how to submit a proposal to this solicitation. Additional submission resources and information for all outcomes can be found at <http://dnr.maryland.gov/ccs/Pages/funding/grantsgateway.aspx>. This includes a sample landowner agreement, outcome form questions and other useful resources. Applicants will not discriminate against any person on the basis of race, color, religion, creed, age, sex, marital status, national origin or ancestry in the use of any funding acquired pursuant to this application.

## *Eligible Applicants for all Outcomes*

Government-affiliated: Local and state government agencies and affiliates, including local school systems and park services, are eligible to propose projects under all outcomes. Applications must be submitted by a representative of a local government and the government entity must be the funding recipient if selected.

Non-Governmental Organizations: (Not eligible for Outcome 2 or Outcome 5) Non-profit organizations that are registered, in compliance and in good standing with the Maryland Secretary of State are eligible to propose projects. This includes Institutions of Higher Education.

Individual private or commercial landowners (*other than Shoreline Erosion Loan applicants*), consultants, contractors, and other for-profit entities with demonstrated restoration experience are encouraged to apply in partnership with an eligible entity identified above.

## *Submission Guidelines*

All applications must be submitted through CCS's Grants Gateway: [https://webportalapp.com/sp/grants\\_gateway](https://webportalapp.com/sp/grants_gateway). Applications CANNOT be mailed, faxed or submitted in person. If this is your first time submitting a proposal, you will first need to visit the website and sign up by clicking on "Sign Up." Please store your username and password in a secure location for later reference. Your username and password will be used to submit online reports if your project is selected and to submit future proposals.



### *Grants Gateway Application:*

After creating your profile, use the “Get Started” button on the Home page to begin your application. There are three phases to complete your Application:

- Common Application: general details about your proposal
- Project Details: site and task specific details
- Budget: funding requested and leveraged/match fund details. Note: you will be asked to download a “Budget Template” that you will fill out and upload when complete. The template includes space for notes to explain or justify line items in your budget. There is no match (unless identified under Outcome 5 matching grant) or leveraged funds required; however, demonstrating matched and leveraged funds may help in the competitiveness of your proposal.

Fill out the appropriate information and follow the instructions for each subsequent step in the process. There is no additional narrative requirement for the application outside of the form-based responses. Please direct any questions about your applications to the appropriate outcome contact, listed above. All submissions require a transmittal letter on official letterhead that is signed by an executive who is authorized to request funding on behalf of the applicant organization. Form questions can be reviewed and printed for planning purposes on the Grants Gateway website: <http://dnr.maryland.gov/ccs/Pages/funding/grantsgateway.aspx>

### *Selection Process*

Each project proposal will receive an initial screening by CCS to ensure the application meets basic eligibility criteria. CCS staff may follow up with applicants to discuss the projects further. The State reserves the right to refuse review due to ineligibility or lack of information. Eligible proposals will then be evaluated by an inter-agency review team based on criteria identified in the Outcomes above. After review, if awarded, CCS staff will work with selected candidates to complete the final scope of work for the project and discuss timing needs to ensure project outcomes are met on time. Applicants whose projects were not selected for funding will be notified.

### *Cancellation of the Solicitation*

The state reserves the right to cancel this solicitation at any time.