

FY17 Chesapeake and Atlantic Coastal Bays Trust Fund

Proposal FAQ

How are projects selected for the Trust Fund?

Projects are selected using three main criteria; cost-effectiveness, geographic targeting, readiness and ability to proceed. During reviews, the technical review panel also considers the long term protection and maintenance of the proposed project(s), project need, general quality of proposal, and likelihood of success.

My project isn't in one of the targeted areas of the Priority Map, should I still apply?

The Trust Fund was established to reduce the most nonpoint source pollutants from reaching the mainstem of the Chesapeake and Coastal Bays. Partnering with USGS, the targeting map was developed to identify those areas of the state that deliver the highest load to the mainstem of the Chesapeake Bay. For that reason, projects in High and Medium priority areas are reviewed most favorably. However, the Trust Fund also is seeking the most efficient and cost-effective projects in the watershed. If you have a highly efficient and cost-effective project in a low priority area, we encourage applicants to submit a letter of intent and discuss the project with a Trust Fund project manager.

Is monitoring required? Does the grant pay for this?

Although the Trust Fund does not require monitoring on funded projects, a well-designed monitoring plan can add value. As this is an implementation grant, The State encourages that the applicants consider monitoring efforts as match to requested state restoration funds. The State, with your partnership, is interested in collecting data from the proposed BMP(s) if a monitoring effort is being planned. Monitoring for innovative projects is particularly useful in verifying claimed results. Monitoring requirements per any applicable permits still apply.

The Trust Fund does have a rigorous monitoring program to ensure that we are achieving the greatest results with the funds invested. To learn more about the Trust Fund monitoring program, please visit: <http://dnr2.maryland.gov/streams/Pages/trustfund.aspx>

Is maintenance required for projects?

Yes, applicants will be required to submit a maintenance and long term protection plan that will demonstrate how the project will achieve the proposed nutrient and sediment reductions for at least 10 years. This plan should also explain how the maintenance will be funded.

I am a small community/nonprofit, I would not likely be able to carry out a project greater than \$500k should I still apply?

The intent of the solicitation is to identify large scale projects that will reduce significant nonpoint source nutrient and sediment loads; therefore, the Trust Fund targets projects that are \$500,000 or greater. If you have a project with significant impact but is below this minimum request by a marginal amount, please submit a letter of intent and discuss the project with a Trust Fund project manager. For

projects that are significantly less, we encourage applicants to look into some of the smaller grant opportunities offered through Chesapeake Bay Trust, among others.

As a small community/nonprofit we would not be able to front the money for expenses as they occur, and then be reimbursed on a quarterly basis. Is there a way to adjust this payment structure?

Unless otherwise authorized by DNR, all payments to grantees under this Grant will be made on a reimbursable basis. However, DNR has been able to work with organizations to work out an alternative payment schedule to assist when there are funding issues on a case by case basis. We encourage applicants to address this issue in their Letter of Intent so DNR can discuss the options. It should be noted that this is an exception to our payment format and only occurs in special circumstances.

I am proposing a BMP that has not been approved by the Chesapeake Bay Program and does not have a certified reduction, can I still apply?

The Trust Fund encourages proposals that incorporate innovative approaches to reduce non-point source pollution that is negatively impacting the Chesapeake and Atlantic Coastal Bays. Proposals with innovative practices that push beyond approved efficiencies must be accompanied by rigorous, peer reviewed scientific literature that demonstrates the validity and efficacy of these novel practices. A robust monitoring program should also be proposed to validate the expected results. Without adequate scientific documentation, associated reductions will be determined using the approved Bay Program efficiencies.

Does the Trust Fund pay for project design? Does my project need to be 100% designed before I can apply for Trust Funds?

While an ideal proposal will be at 100% design and fully permitted, we recognize that some strong projects may require a small amount of design funding in order to move forward in a timely manner. While some funds can be used to complete designs, this will reduce the project's cost effectiveness. The request for design funding will be considered on a case by case basis and is not guaranteed. For applicants looking for design funds, we encourage them to apply to the Watershed Assistance Grant Program (WAGP) administered by Chesapeake Bay Trust (CBT).

www.cbtrust.org/site/c.miJPKXPCJnH/b.5457627/k.463C/Watershed_Assistance.htm

How long do I have to complete my Trust Fund Project?

Multi-year proposals will be accepted, however, proposals are not to exceed three years and should bid to construction within 12 months of grant execution. Most grants are complete between 12 and 36 months.

What is factored into 'Ability and Readiness-to-Proceed'?

The Trust Fund seeks projects that can demonstrate the ability to mobilize and carry out implementation in a timely and effective manner. Priority funding will be awarded to proposals that involve shovel-ready projects and the technical expertise to move through proposal milestones. Ability and readiness to proceed will be evaluated on status of design, applicable permits, landowner permissions, technical

partnerships, and past history with the fund. The best proposals will have achieved 100% design of the projects, have permits in hand, and have all landowner agreements secured.

Are agricultural BMPs eligible for Trust Fund money?

The Trust Fund is looking for the greatest reduction of nonpoint source pollution for the most competitive cost; therefore, we do not prescribe desired BMPs or sectors. All nonpoint source BMPs which address nutrients and sediment in targeted areas of the state are eligible for this grant; however, all proposed projects must demonstrate protection and maintenance of the achieved nutrient and sediment reductions for a minimum of ten years.

Does the Trust Fund Cover Salary?

Trust Fund grants are intended for implementation of non-point source reduction projects and not for building organizational capacity or programmatic development. Salary and fringe for staff time spent directly on Trust Fund funded projects is allowed. This requested budget item is factored into the cost-effectiveness of the project; therefore we highly encourage applicants to use leveraged funding for staff time and benefits. Additionally, grantees are allowed to take a 1.5% administration fee which can be used toward these expenses.

What are some examples of items that are not covered?

This funding should not be used for any of the following:

- Food, refreshments, and T-shirts
- Promotional collateral, ex. pens, key chains, etc.
- Endowments, deficit financing, building campaigns, annual giving, research, fund raising or venture capital
- Political lobbying
- Reimbursement for a project that has been completed or materials that have been purchased prior to the award or project period

This funding can be used for the following, but are considered to be programmatic expenses and should be covered by the allowed 1.5% administrative fee:

- Communication items (tablets, cell phones, computers, data plans, software, etc.)
- Rental fees associated with office space, office equipment and/or vehicles
- Lodging, per diem, conference registration, etc.

We encourage you to reach out to DNR staff if you are unclear of what is and what is not allowable.