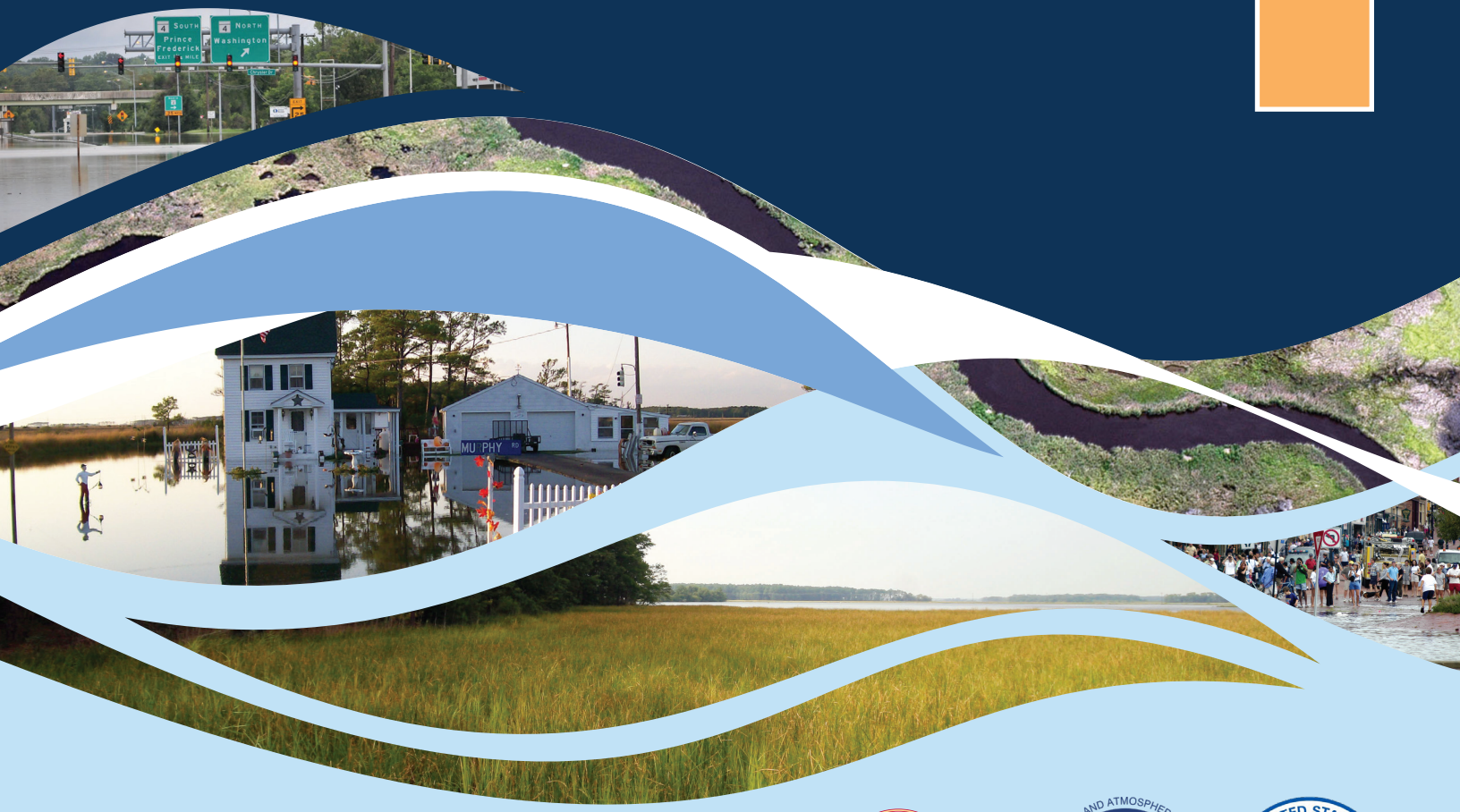
Maryland Department of Natural Resources' Chesapeake and Coastal Grants Gateway

FY23 PROPOSAL SOLICITATION



The Chesapeake and Coastal Grants Gateway provides a one-stop location for communities seeking technical and financial support for projects that foster healthy ecosystems, communities, and economies that are resilient in the face of change.

MARYLAND

NOAA
NATIONAL OCEANIC AND ATMOSPHERIC ADMINISTRATION
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

MARYLAND DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

Chesapeake & Coastal Service

The Department of Natural Resources'
Chesapeake and Coastal Grants Gateway

Maryland's Chesapeake and Coastal Grants Gateway (Grants Gateway) provides a one-stop resource for partners seeking technical and financial support for projects that foster healthy ecosystems, communities and economies that are resilient in the face of change.
Grants Gateway was created to streamline the grant application process for government and non-governmental organizations as well as academic institutions.

Maryland's communities are faced with a future of higher intensity storms, increased populations and development, changing sea levels and flooding and a growing demand for healthy places for 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.

To assist Maryland's communities, the Grants Gateway will provide a single point of entry for organizations seeking technical and financial assistance to restore local waterways, increase their resilience to climate impacts, strengthen local economies and develop the next generation of environmental stewards.

Grants 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. Through the improved connections across grant programs, the department seeks to support more 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 - Enhance capacity to understand and effectively plan to address flood risks associated with a changing climate.

Outcome 3 - Utilize natural and nature-based infrastructure to enhance community resilience to climate change.

Outcome 4 - Improve student ability to take action benefiting Chesapeake and coastal ecosystems through professional development, curriculum expansion, outdoor learning and stewardship. ***Includes special interest area in marine debris for FY23*

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

Deadline

All proposals must be submitted through the CCS web-based grants management portal at: https://webportalapp.com/sp/grants_gateway.

Outcome 5 proposals will be due by 11:59 p.m. on September 15, 2021.

All other outcome proposals will be due by 11:59 p.m. on December 15, 2021.

Awards

Funding will be made available on a competitive basis. Awards will be subject to the contractual and/or grant agreement conditions. **Unless otherwise authorized by the Department of Natural Resources (DNR), all payments to grantees will be made on a reimbursable basis.**

Solicitation Schedule

The anticipated schedule is as follows:

Solicitation Issued	July 2021
Technical Assistance/Site Visits (*as requested*)	July 2021 – November 2021
OUTCOME 5 Applications due	**September 15, 2021**
OUTCOMES 1-4 Applications due	**December 15, 2021**
Technical Review and Evaluation	January 2022 - March 2022
Project Selection	April 2022 - June 2022
Project Funding Available	**July 1, 2022**

Outcomes

Project proposals must be submitted under only one of the following five 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.

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. Projects that maximize the restoration opportunity by improving habitat and enhancing resilience to coastal flooding and increased precipitation events will be given priority; this includes a robust riparian buffer for stream restoration projects. Funds cannot be used to bank water quality credits, meet compensatory mitigation requirements (i.e. new or re-development) or otherwise sold for profit.

Special focus area for fiscal year 2023: The Environmental Protection Agency, the Chesapeake Bay Program and the state of Maryland have renewed their commitment and focus on inclusion and equity regarding historically underrepresented communities, including communities of color and communities of lower socioeconomic status. Federal funding is being made available to support urban tree canopy and green infrastructure implementation projects in areas that have been identified as most effective for improving water quality while also targeting underrepresented communities. These priority areas are identified in the "most effective basins and underrepresented communities" layer in this Chesapeake Bay Program targeting map.

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 Chesapeake and Coastal Service (CCS) to discuss their project(s) and arrange a site visit.**

Selection criteria include:

- Geographic Targeting: To view the targeting map visit: http://bit.ly/targetingmap
  - Readiness and ability to proceed
- Cost-Efficiency: 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.

FY2022 solicitation average state cost per pound of funded projects:

	Nitrogen	***Phosphorus***	***Suspended Solids (ton / lb)***
Annual	*$1,898*	*$7,223*	*$6,966 (ton) / $3.48 (lb)*
15 Yr Lifespan	*$127*	*$482*	*$464 (ton) / $0.23 (lb)*

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 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 land use loading rates and BMP effectiveness estimates within FieldDoc are consistent with Bay Program protocols nutrient and sediment reduction calculations. **Any proposal that does not include calculations from FieldDoc will not be considered.**
- Current designs
- Letters of support from committed partners
- Photographs of current conditions

Outcome Contact: Gabe Cohee
Maryland Department of Natural Resources
Chesapeake and Coastal Service
(p) 410.260.8753 | (e) gabe.cohee@maryland.gov

Outcome 2 – Enhance capacity to understand and effectively plan to address flood risks associated with a changing climate.

Local governments seeking to improve their understanding of potential impacts and vulnerabilities associated with flooding from rising tides, changing sea levels and increased precipitation events are encouraged to submit a proposal. lCommunities should address both short (1-10 years) and long (+10 years) term flood impacts. Proposed projects can support communities conducting risk assessments and incorporating adaptation strategies into current planning processes. Project outcomes should result in higher regulatory standards and risk-reduction strategies. When addressing impacts to tidal waters, applicants should utilize the 2018 Sea Level Rise Projections for Maryland and their nuisance flood plan and/or flood mitigation plan. Projects addressing precipitation-induced flooding should be consistent with the trends

described in the Northeast chapter of the Fourth National Climate Assessment. Proposals may request up to $75,000 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 the existing stormwater infrastructure to identify system improvements, including green infrastructure approaches, to reduce flood risk.
- Assess or evaluate impacted infrastructure (built or natural) with the intent to address current and anticipated flood impacts.
- 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 2018 Sea Level Rise Projections for Maryland and/or Northeast chapter of the Fourth National Climate Assessment

- 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

Outcome Contact: Sasha Land
Maryland Department of Natural Resources
Chesapeake and Coastal Service
(p) 410.980 3271 | (e) sasha.land@maryland.gov

Outcome 3 – Utilize natural and nature-based infrastructure to enhance community resilience to climate change.

Local governments and non-profit organizations can submit proposals under this outcome to design, engineer and implement projects that restore, create, and strengthen natural infrastructure to enhance community resilience to flooding, erosion, and sea level rise. Proposed resiliency projects must be nature-based and provide risk-reduction and community-wide benefits. Proposals must state how the project will address climate-related impacts in the short term (1-10 years) and long term (+10 years) based on the life expectancy of the proposed project. The 2018 Sea Level Rise Projections for Maryland should be integrated into the design as applicable. Projects addressing precipitation-induced flooding should be consistent with the trends described in the Northeast chapter of the Fourth National Climate Assessment.

The department encourages proposals that implement recommendations outlined in state or local planning documents; incorporate community conversations; involve community/citizen science; address environmental justice needs; address multiple climate hazards; and address other co-benefits such as water quality, habitat resiliency, public access, and the beneficial use of dredged material. Proposals may request design/permitting, design-build or construction funding, with a maximum of $100,000 for the design/permit phase. Design projects will be a maximum of 24 months in duration and construction projects a maximum of 12 months in duration. Design projects with identified local partnerships and matching funds will be prioritized.

Applicants are encouraged to reach out to Outcome 3 and Outcome 5 points of contact to discuss opportunities for beneficial use of dredged material.

Applicants may have the opportunity to work with CCS towards construction after permits are obtained. Applicants proposing construction projects must describe how the existing design addresses climate change, provides risk reduction and community-wide benefits, and incorporates the 2018 Sea Level Rise Projections for Maryland, precipitation trends described in the Northeast chapter of the Fourth National Climate Assessment, or other relevant projections as applicable. Funds cannot be used to bank water quality credits, meet compensatory mitigation requirements (i.e. new or re-development), or otherwise sold for profit.

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

Examples of projects may include:

- Design and construction of a green infrastructure practice that will address previously-determined stormwater risks anticipated due to climate change.
- Design and construction of an innovative coastal resilience project that will restore or enhance natural features (such as high and low marsh, dunes, coastal forest buffer, and near-shore habitats) while protecting critical infrastructure from future sea level rise.
- Design and construction of a nature-based coastal resilience project that addresses coastal and non-coastal flooding in an environmental justice community.
- Design and construction of a living shoreline that utilizes local dredged material while protecting public lands that buffer coastal economies.

Selection criteria includes:

- Protection of critical or community infrastructure from climate change impacts using nature-based solutions. Projects will be screened through Maryland's Coastal Resiliency Assessment to evaluate alignment with statewide priorities.
- Community-wide benefit with engagement opportunities
- Demonstrate connection to local hazard mitigation, nuisance flooding, green infrastructure or climate adaptation plan
- Incorporation of 2018 Sea Level Rise Projections for Maryland or precipitation trends described in the Northeast Chapter of the Fourth National Climate Assessment.

- Readiness and ability to proceed
- Cost efficiency: Leveraged funds up to a 1:1 match help to reduce the overall cost of the project to the state.

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 Non-profit Applicants**: Letter of support from a local government representative (i.e. county or town council, town administrator, county planning office, county executive); landowner agreement(s) as necessary
- Current designs (if applicable)
- Photographs of current conditions

Outcome Contact: Nicole Carlozo
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Chesapeake and Coastal Service
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Annapolis, MD 21401
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Outcome 4 – Improve student ability to take action benefiting Chesapeake and coastal ecosystems through professional development, curriculum expansion, outdoor learning and stewardship.

Rapid changes in the scale and scope of the environmental and social issues facing Maryland cause education programs to operate in a constantly changing landscape. In order to remain relevant, environmental literacy must rigorously examine both natural and man-made systems that inform and exacerbate environmental issues at the community level. As a result, twenty-first century learning is evolving to more holistically address environmental and social sciences to create clearer connections between the natural world and human behavior.

Funding will be offered as available to support learning experiences and educational opportunities focused on environmental issue exploration and investigation. Ideal projects will develop youth and community-led awareness and stewardship actions, creating healthier communities throughout the state. Proposals should be focused on local watershed issues,

based on sound environmental education principles, result of collaborative and inclusive planning oriented toward capacity building and civic engagement, and demonstrate a long-term investment in change. Projects that include environmental and climate justice as a frame or focus to build community collaboration and change through civic action are encouraged.

Eligible costs necessary to bring projects to fruition may include transportation and facility fees to public lands* and facilities such as recycling and/or waste management sites, community and stakeholder engagement, educator professional development and training, and supply costs for investigations and stewardship projects. Stewardship activities may take place on public lands*, at school, in the surrounding community, or elsewhere as appropriate to the program's content. Stewardship efforts should be student-led physical restoration projects or community outreach and awareness activities and programs.

Eligible applicants include local and state agencies, schools and school systems, and non-governmental organizations. Partners serving underrepresented communities are especially encouraged to apply. If working with a school or school system, an emphasis on planning for future curriculum integration should be considered.

**For this opportunity, public lands include primarily state-managed properties such as state parks, estuarine research reserves, designated natural areas, state forests, trails, water trails, etc.; or may include Federal facilities such as National Parks, National Wildlife Refuges, etc.; or local, county, municipal or neighborhood parks and other green spaces offering opportunities to explore and study nature and natural systems.*

Special focus area: marine debris

Marine debris--particularly plastic--is harming ecosystems around the world. Research has discovered microplastics in 100 percent of samples taken in the Chesapeake Bay. There are many sources and impacts of marine debris and understanding this issue is important for the students as they mature as citizens of Chesapeake Bay watershed. Improving Chesapeake and coastal ecosystems requires understanding of the sources, vectors, and impacts of marine debris and supporting efforts to change behavior.

Approximately $5K - $10K is available for a project that will expand access to the Wave of Plastic curriculum by implementing a teacher development workshop and providing additional support for curriculum deployment as needed. The Wave of Plastic curriculum helps middle school students to make sense of the core ideas related to issues of plastic pollution

(particularly those relevant to the Chesapeake Bay watershed) by engaging in authentic interdisciplinary practice culminating in comprehensive, student-driven, informed action projects. This approach of rigorous, inquiry-based instruction helps to promote the behavior change needed to address this issue. Providing teacher training on the Wave of Plastic curriculum will help the teachers explore the concepts and lessons before employing them in the classroom. Preference will be given to applicants that will engage middle school teachers in school systems that do not currently have marine debris curriculum. Anticipated costs could include, but are not limited to, transportation expenses, teacher stipends, workshop materials, staff time to coordinate and present the curriculum, etc.

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

Selection criteria includes:

- A clear programmatic focus on healthy water
- Readiness and ability to proceed for the 2022 - 2023 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 students and under-resourced communities in the state such as Title I schools and high-need watersheds
- Marine debris proposals require a demonstrated change in local programs/curricula that expand teachers' access and ability to use curriculum units focused on plastic marine debris.

Required Attachments
(School System or Systemic Program):

- Transmittal letter from applicant organization, with signature of authority
- Letter(s) of support from the school system(s) superintendent(s) and/or supervisor of science

- Environmental Literacy Plan or other evidence of environmental literacy programming, such as curriculum alignment, Meaningful Watershed Educational Experience (MWEE) or 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)
- Outline or documentation of environmental education curriculum or programming plan and activities for the project (preferred formats are the MWEE or ELM referred to above)

Outcome Contact: Jen Wolfe
Maryland Department of Natural Resources
Chesapeake and Coastal Service
(p) 410.260.8988 | (e) Jennifer.wolfe1@maryland.gov

Marine debris funding inquiries should be directed to:
Donna Morrow
Maryland Department of Natural Resources
Chesapeake and Coastal Service
(p) 410-260-8773 | (e) donna.morrow@maryland.gov

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

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 boating access facilities;
2. dredge channels and harbors and;

3. Purchase fire/rescue vessels in partnership with local fire companies.

New this year, 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

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 15, 2021.

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 (three years).

The Governing Body will publicly advertise the project for bids or use other procurement method approved in advance by the Department of Natural Resources (DNR). Budgeted costs for engineering/design (A/E) services should be adequate and reasonable. Note: CCS funding participation may be capped per its A/E cost eligibility policy. (See Waterway Manual Section 9(g))

Project contracts with a value of $500,000 or more for which the State provides 50% 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: Li Lan Carson 310-789-7664 or lilan.carson@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 alicel.scanlon@maryland.gov
- For Caroline, Dorchester, Kent, Queen Anne's, Somerset, Talbot, Wicomico and Worcester Counties: Sandi Pepe 443-433-6284 or sandi.pepe@maryland.gov
- For statewide dredging that is Waterway Improvement Fund eligible, contact Isaac Wilding 443-458-8217 or Isaac.wilding@maryland.gov
- For overall Center for Waterway Improvement & Infrastructure questions, contact Carla Fleming 443-534-6289 or carla.fleming@maryland.gov

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Submitting a Proposal through Grants Gateway

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, 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. 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. 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 timelines to ensure project outcomes are achievable.

Cancellation of the solicitation

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