

# Maryland Department of Natural Resources' Chesapeake and Coastal

# Grants Gateway

## FY21 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.



## **The Department of Natural Resources' Chesapeake and Coastal Grants Gateway**

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

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 department will provide a single point of entry through the Grants Gateway 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 Coastal Resiliency Program, the Waterway Improvement Fund, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration and the Environmental Protection Agency's Chesapeake Bay Program. 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 resilience to climate change.

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

**Outcome 5** - Foster sustainable development and use of Maryland waterways with projects that benefit the general boating public. *(Expected Summer 2020)*.

## 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. **As of November 2019, the department's voicemail system is not working. Please use the [Site Visit / Proposal Discussion Form](#) and a representative will contact you or use the outcome contact email as the best method of communication. We apologize for any inconvenience.**

### **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 incorporating habitat and enhancing resiliency to increased precipitation events will be given priority; this includes a robust riparian buffer for stream restoration projects.

**New for FY2021: The technical review will prioritize riparian forest buffer opportunities. Large-scale, contiguous riparian forest buffer projects that maximize forest plantings within the width (35 ft minimum) and length of the riparian zone are highly desirable. This grant is not intended to replace existing cost-share opportunities on private land (i.e. [CREP](#)).**

There is a suggested minimum request of \$500,000 for this outcome (if your project is under \$500,000 please discuss with the outcome contact). 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). To arrange a site visit, please fill out the request form and a CCS project manager will contact you: [Site Visit Request Form](#)**

**Selection criteria include:**

- Geographic Targeting: To view the targeting map visit: <http://bit.ly/targetingmap>
- 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.

*FY2020 solicitation average state cost per pound of funded projects:*

	<b>Nitrogen</b>	<b>Phosphorus</b>	<b>Suspended Solids</b>
<b>Annual</b>	\$2,500 / lb	\$25,520 / lb	\$53,400 / ton (\$26.70 / lb)
<b>15 Yr Lifespan</b>	\$167 / lb	\$1,701 / lb	\$3,560 / ton (\$1.78 / lb)

- Readiness and ability to proceed

**Required attachments:**

- **For Projects on Private Lands:** Landowner agreement(s)
- **For Non-governmental Applicants:** Letter of support from a local government representative; landowner agreement as necessary
- FieldDoc nutrient and sediment reductions
  - [FieldDoc.org](http://FieldDoc.org) is required to estimate nitrogen, phosphorus and sediment reductions. The land use loading rates and BMP effectiveness estimates within FieldDoc are consistent with Bay Program protocols and Municipal Separate Sewer System (MS4) nutrient and sediment reduction calculations and must be used to calculate reductions for your proposal submission. **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

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Chesapeake and Coastal Service

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

Local governments seeking to improve understanding of potential impacts and vulnerabilities associated with flooding from rising waters and increased precipitation events are encouraged to submit a proposal. Communities 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 future impacts to tidal waters, applicants should utilize the [2018 Sea Level Rise Projections for Maryland](#). 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.

### **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 fill out the request form and a CCS project manager will contact you: [Proposal Discussion Request Form](#)

**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
- 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

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Chesapeake and Coastal Service  
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**Outcome 3 – Utilize natural and nature-based infrastructure to enhance 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 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 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.

**Contact the outcome contact to discuss project ideas. To arrange a site visit, please fill out the request form and a CCS project manager will contact you: [Site Visit Request Form](#)**

**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
- 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)
- **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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**Outcome 4 – Improve student ability to take actions benefiting Chesapeake and coastal ecosystems through outdoor learning and stewardship.**

This opportunity is offered primarily to support outdoor learning field investigations on public lands, and related student stewardship activities, for students in pre-Kindergarten through grade 12, as part of comprehensive Meaningful Watershed Educational Experiences (MWEEs) that contribute to school environmental literacy programs. Projects **must** involve students in extended learning that includes outdoor experiences and leads to stewardship projects. 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 or municipal parks offering opportunities to explore and study nature and natural

systems. Eligible costs necessary to bring outdoor learning and stewardship to fruition may include transportation and facility fees, teacher professional development, or supplies for field investigations and stewardship projects. Stewardship activities may take place at school, in the surrounding community, or elsewhere as appropriate to the program's content.

School systems (districts) and partners working with schools are encouraged to apply under this outcome. Partners may include local or state agencies, nonprofit entities such as environmental organizations or outdoor schools. Proposals are preferably for systemic district-wide programs and can support schools that are fully ready to implement their MWEEs but are lacking funding resources for the stated costs associated with outdoor experiences and/or stewardship; or school districts that need more help in planning and implementing quality, sustained student experiences as part of their local curriculum. There is a preferred minimum request of \$25,000 up to a maximum of \$100,000 (those with projects less than \$25,000 are encouraged to arrange a discussion with the outcome contact listed here, to determine if the project may be eligible). Funds may be used for the 2019-2020 or 2020-2021 school years, and summer of 2020 for planning and teacher preparation. Funds should serve as many students as possible.

**To discuss project ideas, please fill out the request form and a CCS project manager will contact you: [Proposal Discussion Request Form](#)**

**Selection criteria includes:**

- Funds will be used to provide transportation to public lands for student watershed investigations as part of comprehensive Meaningful Watershed Educational Experiences (MWEEs), ideally supporting students in low-income communities, such as Title I schools, or communities where access to public lands is severely limited.
- The proposal demonstrates support for and contribution to environmental literacy priorities with a MWEE focus, for programs that have begun being implemented or are currently under development.
- The program aims to use funds cost-effectively to reach all students (or as many as feasible) within a given grade throughout a school system (systemically).
- The proposal requests funding for or demonstrates that programmatic supports are in place, for example, the program is embedded in required curriculum, professional development for teachers will be provided, school administration is engaged, environmental education partners are on board to provide assistance, etc.
- Ability to undertake and sustain the proposed work.

**Required attachments:**

- Letter(s) of support from the school system(s) superintendent(s)
- Environmental Literacy Plan or other evidence of environmental literacy program (curriculum alignment, Meaningful Watershed Educational Experience plan, etc.)

**Additional guidance details for Outcome 4 are provided [here](#). Please review these guidelines before beginning the application.**

Outcome Contact: Jennifer Wolfe

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Chesapeake and Coastal Service

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**Outcome 5 – Foster sustainable development and use of Maryland waterways with projects that benefit the general boating public. (*Expected Summer 2020*)**

## **Submitting a Proposal**

Additional submission resources and information 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.

### **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*) 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](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 are no match 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 timing needs to ensure project outcomes are met on time.

### Deadline

The proposals will be due to the Department of Natural Resources by 11:59 p.m. on Friday February 14, 2020 through the CCS web-based grants management portal at: [https://webportalapp.com/sp/grants\\_gateway](https://webportalapp.com/sp/grants_gateway).

### 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 for is as follows:

Solicitation Issued	November 2019
Technical Assistance/Site Visits ( <i>as requested</i> )	November 2019 – February 2020
<b>Grants Gateway Application due</b>	<b>February 14, 2020</b>
Technical Review and Evaluation	February 2020 - March 2020
Project Selection	April 2020 - May 2020
Project Funding Available	July 1, 2020

### Cancellation of the solicitation

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