

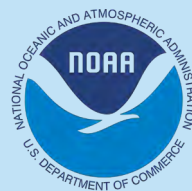
Maryland Department of Natural Resources' Chesapeake and Coastal

Grants Gateway

FY22 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) 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.

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 Coastal Resiliency Program, 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 outdoor learning and stewardship.

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

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 resiliency 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.

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 email the Outcome contact or 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.

FY2021 solicitation average state cost per pound of funded projects:

	Nitrogen	Phosphorus	Suspended Solids (ton / lb)
Annual	\$1,674	\$13,168	\$15,895 (ton) / \$7.95 (lb)
15 Yr Lifespan	\$111.60	\$877.87	\$1,059.67 (ton) / \$0.53 (lb)

- Readiness and ability to proceed

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-governmental Applicants:** Letter of support from a local government representative; landowner agreement as necessary
- FieldDoc nutrient and sediment reductions:
[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 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 email the Outcome contact or 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
- 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: Megan Granato
 Maryland Department of Natural Resources
 Chesapeake and Coastal Service
 (p) 410.260.8799 | (e) megan.granato@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 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 or 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

- 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 actions benefiting Chesapeake and coastal ecosystems through outdoor learning and stewardship.

This opportunity is offered primarily to support outdoor learning field investigations preferably 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 when possible 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, municipal or neighborhood parks and other green spaces offering

opportunities to explore and study nature and natural systems. *Given changes to school situations and practices in the wake of the coronavirus pandemic, accommodations for alternative arrangements will be considered, such as blended learning that includes asynchronous student investigations at home or in their community, a combination of virtual and in-person learning. We invite you to contact us before applying to discuss any ideas that reimagine outdoor learning considering the pandemic, current conditions and barriers. School/district guidance on reopening plans must be included/ documented in the application.*

Eligible costs necessary to bring outdoor learning and stewardship to fruition may include transportation and facility fees, teacher professional development including assistance with transitioning to blended virtual/in-person outdoor learning options 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. Student stewardship may include community outreach or awareness activities that students can develop and share with others virtually/using technology. An emphasis on planning for future curriculum integration will be considered.

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 2020-21 or 2021-22 school years, and summer of 2021 for planning and teacher preparation. Funds should serve as many students as possible.

To discuss project ideas, please email the Outcome contact or 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 support student watershed investigations as part of comprehensive Meaningful Watershed Educational Experiences (MWEEs). In order to address equity challenges, ideally the projects will support students in under-resourced communities, Title I schools, or where access to public lands is severely limited. Funds will be used preferably to support outdoor interaction with natural settings away from school campuses such as on public lands, but alternatives will be considered *and should be discussed with the project manager in advance during COVID accommodations*. Links to mapping tools are provided in the guidance document referenced below.
- 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); and/or to better prepare teachers of these students to more confidently plan and lead MWEEs which include in-person field investigations (and alternative virtual experiences as needed).
- 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.
- Partners demonstrate the ability to undertake and sustain the proposed work.

Required Attachments:

- Transmittal letter from applicant organization, with signature of authority
- Letter(s) of support from the school system(s) superintendent(s)
- Environmental Literacy Plan or other evidence of environmental literacy programming -- such as curriculum alignment, Meaningful Watershed Educational Experience plan or Environmental Literacy Model (ELM), etc.
- School/district guidance regarding the pandemic/reopening must be included/documented if the requested project includes distance learning accommodations.

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

Outcome Contact: Jennifer 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.

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.

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

Please note that Outcome 5 applications are due by 11:59pm on October 9, 2020.

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 alichel.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 are 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 timing needs to ensure project outcomes are met on time.

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 October 9, 2020

All other outcome proposals will be due by 11:59 p.m. on December 16, 2020.

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	August 2020
Technical Assistance/Site Visits (<i>as requested</i>)	August 2020 – November 2020
OUTCOME 5 Applications due	October 9, 2020
OUTCOMES 1-4 Applications due	December 16, 2020
Technical Review and Evaluation	January 2021 - February 2021
Project Selection	March 2021 - April 2021
Project Funding Available	July 1, 2021

Cancellation of the solicitation

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