



# 2023 INNOVATIVE NUTRIENT AND SEDIMENT REDUCTION GRANTS PROGRAM

Applicant Webinar  
*September 12, 2022*





# AGENDA

1. **Webinar Instructions**
2. Review of 2023 Innovative Nutrient and Sediment Reduction Grants RFP
3. How to Submit a Proposal Using Easygrants



Jake Reilly,  
Program Director



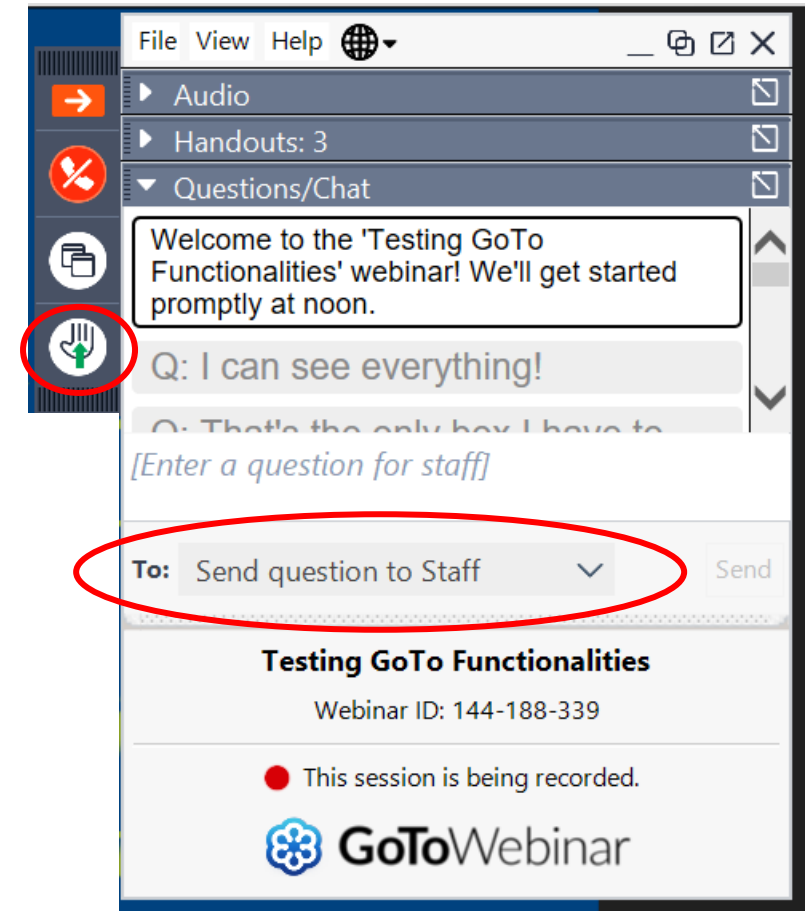
Joe Toolan,  
Program Manager

Carley Morton,  
Program Coordinator

# WEBINAR INSTRUCTIONS

- To improve sound quality, all participants will be muted for the duration of the webinar
- To ask a question, use the Questions/Chat box to “Enter a question for staff” and click send. We will type a response or read your question aloud when we pause for Q&A
- Raise your “hand” in the webinar dialogue box to confirm participants can hear us
- If you experience a technical glitch, please type it into the Questions/Chat box, since we can’t hear you.
- (We may not know about the glitch unless you say something!)

*The webinar will be available for download within 48 hours at [NFWF.org/Chesapeake](https://www.nfwf.org/Chesapeake)*



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- 2. Review of 2023 Innovative Nutrient and Sediment Reduction Grants RFP**
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# 2023 INSR RFP OVERVIEW

- **Objective:** Accelerating the rate and scale of water quality improvements through cost-effective BMP implementation
- **INSR Partnership Grants** supporting coordinated and collaborative efforts to accelerate WIP implementation
- **NEW:** **INSR Infrastructure Grants** to implement natural and nature-based watershed restoration infrastructure at scale
- Up to \$30M available
- Major funding provided by EPA's Chesapeake Bay Program Office, including funds via the Bipartisan Infrastructure Legislation

# GEOGRAPHIC FOCUS



- NFWF has identified targeted subwatersheds based on need and opportunity for WIP implementation
- Focus areas intended to drive action, not define project eligibility
- Projects outside target subwatersheds are encouraged

# 2023 INSR PROGRAM PRIORITIES

- For **INSR Partnership Grants**:
  1. Cultivating partnership growth and enhancement AND
  2. Accelerating the scale and/or rate of implementation for priority water quality improvement practices
- For **INSR Infrastructure Grants**: Accelerating the scale of implementation for one or more of priority watershed restoration infrastructure practices
- For **all proposals**: Enhancing diversity, equity, inclusion, and justice outcomes in Chesapeake Bay watershed restoration efforts

# PROGRAM PRIORITIES – PARTNERSHIP GRANTS

- **INSR Partnership Grant** proposals **must** enhance the capacity and impact of **existing** partnerships for watershed restoration and WIP implementation
- Successful **INSR Partnership Grants** will describe how proposed partnership growth will directly accelerate implementation via:
  - **Building and Sustaining Motivation**
  - **Establishing and Improving Effective Collaborative Processes**
  - **Enhancing Core Capacities**
  - **Promoting Continuous Evaluation**



# PROGRAM PRIORITIES – PARTNERSHIP GRANTS

- Proposals **must** measurably increase the geographic scale and/or rate of implementation for priority WIP practices:
  - **Managing Upland Agricultural Runoff** through Farm-Scale Conservation Systems and Solutions
  - **Managing Upland Urban Runoff** through Green Stormwater Infrastructure (GSI) Improvements
  - **Restoring Stream Health and Riparian Habitats**
  - **Conservation Finance and Market Development**

# PROGRAM PRIORITIES – INFRASTRUCTURE GRANTS



- Up to \$20M in additional funding available through the **Bipartisan Infrastructure Legislation**
- Focus on accelerated implementation of select **watershed restoration infrastructure practices** that:
  - Provide **long-term pollution control**
  - Improve **aquatic and terrestrial habitat** for at-risk species
  - Enhance **climate resilience** for human and wildlife communities

# PROGRAM PRIORITIES – INFRASTRUCTURE GRANTS

- Seeking accelerated implementation of one or more of the following practices:
  - **Riparian forest buffers**, including associated livestock exclusion fencing and component practice
  - **Non-tidal wetlands** restoration, creation, or enhancement
  - **Floodplain restoration** that reconnects incised streams to their floodplains and floodplain wetlands
  - **Shoreline management**
  - **Urban tree planting**



# PROGRAM PRIORITIES – INFRASTRUCTURE GRANTS



- **INSR Infrastructure Grants** do not require the application of partnership-based approaches to advance implementation
- **INSR Infrastructure Grants** proposals may also utilize program funding for implementation of other, related nature-based structural practices
- **INSR Infrastructure Grants** will be evaluated primarily on the scale of implementation outcomes for identified priority practices and associated water quality improvements

# PROGRAM PRIORITIES – ENHANCING DEI

- Seeking **direct and meaningful engagement** of local communities in the identification, prioritization, selection, and implementation of proposed actions

Co-creating projects with community members	Addressing a <b>specific and localized harm</b> such as pollution, flooding, etc.
Empowering community members with knowledge or decision-making authority	<b>Creating jobs</b> in the target community or performing job training and certification
Including specific, <b>active engagement strategies</b>	Directly engaging in specific <b>cultural activities</b> with the community

# PROGRAM PRIORITIES – ENHANCING DEI

- Priority consideration for proposals directly representing or resourcing **underrepresented, underserved, and/or under-resourced** communities
- NFWF encourages applications from or incorporating **community-based organizations** as key project partners, regardless of an environmental or conservation-related mission
- Applicants may utilize grant funding to enhance their internal capacity to engage with, mentor, and support diverse community partners
- See [nfwf.org/chesapeake](https://nfwf.org/chesapeake) for **definitions** and **supporting tools**



# PROGRAM PRIORITIES – ENHANCING DEI

- Proposals will be evaluated on DEI outcomes through responses to the **Communities Engaged and Impacted** element in the proposal narrative:
  - Communit(ies) **where** the project will take place
  - **Who** will specifically benefit from the project
  - **How** they're engaged in project development/implementation
- Requires **demographic information** on impacted communities, including but not limited to age, race and ethnicity, sexual orientation, and socioeconomic indicators

# PROJECT METRICS

- **All** proposals must provide estimated nutrient and sediment load reductions from proposed activities through *Easygrants*
- Individual proposals may include additional *Easygrants* metrics associated with specific practices and activities (See **Appendix A**)
- NFWF has helped to furnish **FieldDoc** as a tool to estimate load reductions and other project metrics from proposed activities and facilitate tracking of implementation for WIP reporting purposes
- FieldDoc webinar for INSR applicants scheduled for **2:00PM Wednesday, September 14** (See RFP to register)

# APPLICANT ELIGIBILITY

- ✓ **Eligible applicants** include non-profit 501(c) organizations, state government agencies, local governments, municipal governments, Tribal governments and organizations, and educational institutions
- ✗ **Ineligible applicants** include U.S. federal government agencies, businesses, unincorporated individuals, and international organizations



# COST ELIGIBILITY

- ✓ Applicants are encouraged to rent **equipment** where possible and cost-effective or use matching funds to make equipment purchases. If you have questions, contact program staff to discuss options.
- ✗ NFWF funds and matching contributions may not be used to support political advocacy, fundraising, lobbying, litigation, terrorist activities or Foreign Corrupt Practices Act violations
- ✗ NFWF funds may not be used to support ongoing efforts to comply with legal requirements, including permit conditions, mitigation and settlement agreements

# FUNDING AVAILABILITY AND MATCH

- Up to \$30 million in grants through the 2023 INSR program including:
  - Up to \$10 million for **INSR Partnership Grants**
  - Up to \$20 million for **INSR Infrastructure Grants**
- Awards range: \$500,000 to \$1 million
- **INSR Partnership Grants** require non-federal matching contributions equal to the grant request
- Non-federal match is encouraged but not required for **INSR Infrastructure Grants**

# PARTNERSHIP VS INFRASTRUCTURE GRANTS



NFWF

Chesapeake Bay Stewardship Fund



NFWF

## INNOVATIVE NUTRIENT AND SEDIMENT REDUCTION Full Proposal Project Narrative

**Instructions:** Save this document on your computer and complete the narrative in the format provided. The final narrative may not exceed ten (10) pages, excluding tables and figures. Please retain the outline format below, but you may delete the instructions associated with each element. Once complete, upload this document into the online application as instructed.

- 1) Program:** Please indicate the primary INSR program opportunity for which you are applying. Projects that address program priorities and satisfy funding, match, and eligibility requirements for both program opportunities may be considered under both opportunities. Select all that apply.

- ☐ INSR Partnership Grants
- ☐ INSR Infrastructure Grants



# EVALUATION CRITERIA

CONSERVATION OUTCOMES	BUDGET	TECHNICAL
Clear and demonstrable increases in the rate and/or scale of implementation of priority water quality improvement practices	Quality and level of detail in the budget and budget narrative provide a clear and detailed understanding of the proposed funding request	Specific goals and objectives that correlate with a clear, logical and achievable work plan, milestones, and timeline
Partnership/collaborative growth, enhancement, and capacity building (INSR Partnership Grants only)	Cost-effectiveness in achieving proposed outcomes, considering direct and indirect costs and proposed leveraging of cash and in-kind match	Core competencies of the project team in implementing the proposed activities and achieve the proposed outcomes
Plans and approaches to verify and sustain pollution load reductions and plan for their continuance beyond the grant	Reasonability of proposed costs based on the work plan, local or regional costs for similar activities, and proposed project outcomes	Awareness and ability to meet necessary permitting and environmental compliance requirements
Plans and approaches to actively transfer and disseminate project-related information to appropriate audiences and relevant stakeholders	Evidence of genuine partnerships in budget allocations and activities	Demonstrated ability of lead applicant to manage and implement similar projects on time and within budget

# ADDITIONAL CONSIDERATIONS

- All applicants with active grants from NFWF must be in **good standing** in terms of reporting requirements, expenditure of funds, and quality assurance (if required)
- Applicants must demonstrate awareness and the status of all **permits** required to comply with federal, state or local requirements
- When procuring goods and services, NFWF recipients must follow documented **procurement** procedures which reflect applicable laws and regulations

# ADDITIONAL CONSIDERATIONS

- All prospective INSR applicants **must** consult with NFWF program staff prior to submitting applications and no later than **November 3, 2022**
- **WIP Reporting:** Awardees should assume implementation outcomes reported through FieldDoc will be provided to jurisdictions for WIP reporting purposes
- **Period of Performance:** All 2023 INSR grants must be completed within three years and projects must begin on or after April 1, 2023 to facilitate necessary grant contracting and quality assurance activities

# QUALITY ASSURANCE

- If a project involves monitoring, data collection or data use, grantees will be asked to prepare and submit quality assurance documentation (e.g., QAPP). Examples include:
  - New data collection
  - New use for data previously collected for a different purpose, whether by the same or different groups
  - Data collection and analysis associated with development or design of plans and projects
  - Water or other environmental monitoring
  - Model development or use
  - Citizen or community based scientific data collection, monitoring

# QUALITY ASSURANCE

- Applicants should budget time and resources in their INSR proposal to complete this task
- Reimbursement for project activities, including non-data collection activities, may be delayed until quality assurance compliance requirements are complete
- Projects that require a QAPP should budget and plan to have it approved within the first 3 months of the grant's period of performance
- QAPP approval by EPA is dependent upon the quality of the draft QAPP submission and may involve several iterations



# TIPS FOR APPLICANTS

- **Read – and re-read – the RFP.** Contact us if you're confused
- Read the RFP Tip Sheet and use it as a reference
- **Do not mail letters of support** to the office – upload electronic copies
- If you've never used Easygrants before, **create your login TODAY** and familiarize yourself with the system
- **Submit your proposal early** if possible
  - NFWF staff won't be available at 11:59PM on the due date!

# FROM THE TIP SHEET – REQUIRED UPLOADS

Upload	Required	Notes
Narrative	Yes	Template provided in Easygrants online application “Uploads” section.
Project Maps	Yes	In addition to the Mapping Tool, please submit maps and/or diagrams of on-site work proposed, if applicable. Strongly recommended for restoration or green infrastructure projects.
Letters of Support	No	Recommended from significant partners, especially those providing matching contributions. <b><u>Letters of support should not be mailed directly to NFWF.</u></b> Scan all letters of support into one single file and upload the file in the “Uploads” section of your online application.
Other documents	No	Ten (10) page limit.
Statement of Litigation	Yes	Template provided in Easygrants online application “Uploads” section. Federal, state, and local government applicants are not required to complete this section.
Board of Trustees or Directors	Yes	Provide a list of members. If your organization is not a nonprofit and does not have a Board, upload a document stating that none exists.
GAAP Audited Financial Statements*	Yes	Please refer to the <a href="#">Required Financial Documents and FAQs</a> webpage for details on all financial information required for submission.
IRS Form 990*	Yes	Please refer to the <a href="#">Required Financial Documents and FAQs</a> webpage for details on all financial information required for submission.
Single Audit*	Yes	Please refer to the <a href="#">Required Financial Documents and FAQs</a> webpage for details on all financial information required for submission.
Applicant Controls Questionnaire	Yes	Please refer to the <a href="#">Required Financial Documents and FAQs</a> webpage for details on all financial information required for submission.
Conceptual or Engineered Plans	Yes	Conceptual or engineering designs of green infrastructure, restoration, best management practices, and other technology or techniques that will be employed during the course of the project, if applicable.
Photos	No	Please compress photos to minimize file size. 3 photos maximum.
Applicant Demographic Information Form**	Yes	Template provided in Easygrants online application “Uploads” section. While this upload is required, you can opt out of providing the information within the form. If your organization has provided NFWF with this information in the last 12 months, please indicate that in the opt out drop down menu.

# APPLICANT DEMOGRAPHIC FORM



NFWF

Chesapeake Bay Stewardship Fund



## APPLICANT DEMOGRAPHIC INFORMATION

As part of NFWF's goal to encourage and support diversity across the conservation projects we fund, we would like to better understand the existing diversity in our grantmaking community and in the local communities. To accomplish this task, we are asking organizations that we fund to assist us by providing basic information about their workforce demographics on this form.

As part of this effort to support diversity, we also desire to understand how our grantees engage with the communities where the projects take place and who in those communities might benefit from them. We ask for this information to be kept confidential, although the Foundation may share its aggregate findings as appropriate with its staff, Board of Directors, funding partners, and publicly on its website. not share identifying information about any particular entity or project. These anonymized aggregate data will be used by NFWF to better understand the demographic profiles of the organizations that we fund.

The information you provide will not be shared with proposal reviewers and will not be considered when making grant decisions.

**Instructions:** Complete all pertinent fields **shaded in green**. Your Human Resources Department may have some of the information requested readily available. Please be sure to complete the General Information section. If you do not know an answer, use the "don't know/not sure" option instead of guessing. If a section does not apply to your organization you may skip it. **Do not make any other changes to this form.** You may opt out of providing this information to NFWF; however, you still must upload this form to Easygrants with your application and complete the first section of the form.

**All applicants must complete this section, even if you have provided this data to NFWF in the past 12 months or are opting out for another reason.**

If you have provided this data to NFWF in the past 12 months you do not need to provide it again but you must still complete this top section of the form and submit it with your proposal.

Easygrants project # from your grant application:

Grant program name shown on the RFP:

If you are opting out, select a reason from the dropdown list in the green box:

### General Information

Date Completed:

Project Title:

Organization Full Name:

Organization EIN:

Organization Type:

Organization Size (number of employees)

Click on the green box to select from the dropdown list

Click on the green box to select from the dropdown list

### PART 1: APPLICANT ORGANIZATION - ALL EMPLOYEES (if applicable)

Please provide the following demographic information about all of your organization's employees, including senior leaders.

1. How many people currently work for your organization? (Include temporary and part-time employees in your response but do not include contractors)

Total Number:

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# HOW TO SUBMIT A PROPOSAL

- Create your *Easygrants* account

 **NFWF**

Enter your login ID and password and click **Log In** below. If you have forgotten your password, click **Forgot your password?** below.  
If you are a first time visitor to this system, click **Register here** below.

[Frequently Asked Questions](#)

**Log In** [New User?](#)

Login ID / Email

Password

☒ Remember Me [Forgot Password?](#)

**Log In**

For the optimal Easygrants experience, please:


- [Use a Supported Browser](#)
- [Enable Pop-ups](#)
- [Allow Cookies](#)
- [Only Use One Tab](#)
- [Get Adobe Reader](#)
- [Log Out and Close Browser for Security](#)

For Technical assistance, please contact us via [e-mail](#) or phone 202-595-2497.  
[Download Adobe Reader](#)  
Powered by [Easygrants™](#) v9.5.0



# HOW TO SUBMIT A PROPOSAL

- Please add a phone number!
- Once you have created your Easygrants log-in and or you log-in as an existing user, please visit review your contact details and make sure that you provide a phone number.



The screenshot shows the NFWF Easygrants user interface. At the top, there is a navigation bar with the NFWF logo and four tabs: 'My Tasks', 'My Grants', 'Profile', and 'Apply For Funding'. The 'Profile' tab is selected and circled in red. Below the navigation bar, there is a sidebar with buttons for 'Home', 'Change Password', 'FAQ', and 'Log Out'. To the right of the sidebar, there are three links: 'View My Contact Details', 'Manage My Communication and Interests', and 'Manage My Demographics'. A red arrow points to the 'View My Contact Details' link with the text 'Click here'. Below this, a large red arrow points down with the text 'Scroll down'. At the bottom of the page, there is a form field labeled 'Phone' with a yellow phone icon. Below the 'Phone' field, there is a blue button labeled 'Add' which is circled in red.

# BUDGET TIPS

- **Concise Budget Narrative must be included for *every* line item**
- Budget should only include the grant amount requested from NFWF
- Must comply with [OMB's Uniform Guidance](#)
- Itemize all costs in appropriate budget categories
- Avoid lumping costs i.e., All Materials and Supplies: \$10,000
- Total Amount Requested in Project Information section must equal the Budget Grand Total in Budget section

# BUDGET TIPS

SUBAWARD	CONTRACT
Transfer of programmatic responsibility to another organization, with measurable performance goals related directly to the primary award	A party is required to deliver a product or service in exchange for compensation

- For each Subaward or Contract, briefly describe the associated activities, scope of work or services to be provided and how the costs were estimated
- If you have not identified the specific contractor or subrecipient who will be conducting the required work, put “TBD” in the Contractor/Subrecipient line

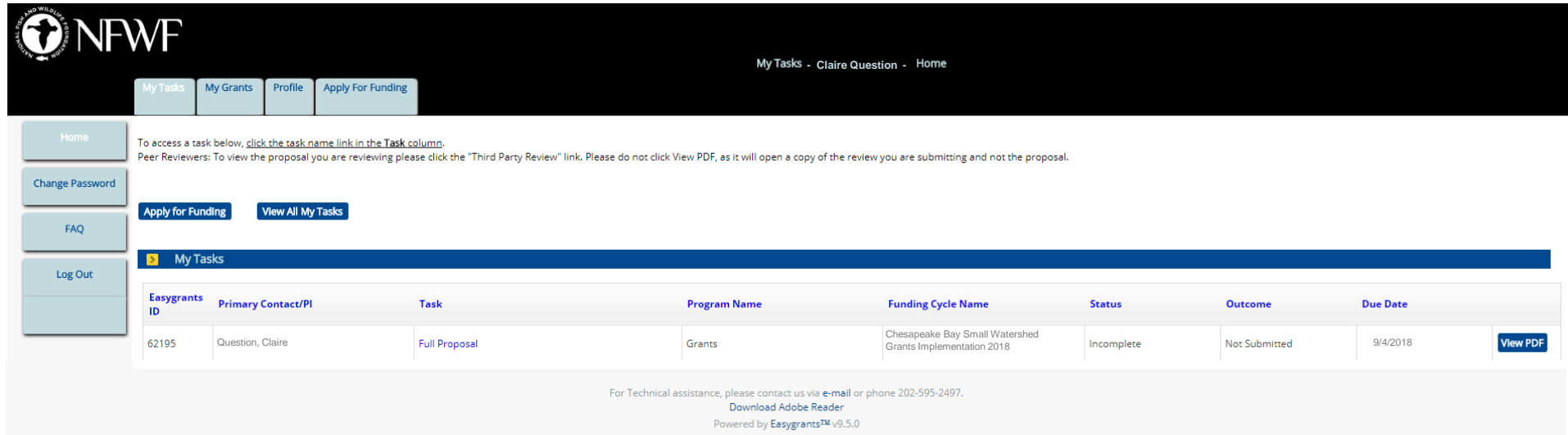
# FINANCIAL DOCUMENTS

- All financial documentation must:
  - Represent the same fiscal year period
  - Be the most recent financial information available
  - Be less than two years old

Further details on document requirements and for FAQs visit our website: <https://www.nfwf.org/apply-grant/application-information>

# SUBMITTING AN APPLICATION

- Let's try it...



The screenshot displays the NFWF Easygrants application portal. The top navigation bar includes the NFWF logo and the text "My Tasks - Claire Question - Home". Below this, a sidebar on the left contains links for "Home", "Change Password", "FAQ", and "Log Out". The main content area features a "My Tasks" section with a table of tasks. The table has columns for "Easygrants ID", "Primary Contact/PI", "Task", "Program Name", "Funding Cycle Name", "Status", "Outcome", and "Due Date". A single task is listed with ID 62195, contact "Question, Claire", task name "Full Proposal", program "Grants", funding cycle "Chesapeake Bay Small Watershed Grants Implementation 2018", status "Incomplete", outcome "Not Submitted", and due date "9/4/2018". A "View PDF" button is located next to the task. Below the table, there is a footer with contact information and a note about the Easygrants system.

Home

Change Password

FAQ

Log Out

My Tasks

To access a task below, [click the task name link in the Task column](#).  
Peer Reviews: To view the proposal you are reviewing please click the "Third Party Review" link. Please do not click View PDF, as it will open a copy of the review you are submitting and not the proposal.

[Apply for Funding](#) [View All My Tasks](#)

Easygrants ID	Primary Contact/PI	Task	Program Name	Funding Cycle Name	Status	Outcome	Due Date	
62195	Question, Claire	<a href="#">Full Proposal</a>	Grants	Chesapeake Bay Small Watershed Grants Implementation 2018	Incomplete	Not Submitted	9/4/2018	<a href="#">View PDF</a>

For Technical assistance, please contact us via [e-mail](#) or phone 202-595-2497.  
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