

Delaware Watershed Conservation Fund 2023 | Frequently Asked Questions

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Program Contact Information

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Quick Links

[2023 Request for Proposals](#)

[Applicant Webinar](#)

[Tip Sheet](#)

[Full Proposal Narrative Template](#)

Additional resources are available through the 2023 Request for Proposals.

General Questions

Q: Where do I go for more information on the Delaware Watershed Conservation Fund?

A: For general information about the DWCF, we encourage you to review the Request for Proposals, tip sheets, webinar recording, and other materials on our website:
www.nfwf.org/programs/delaware-river-program

Q: What is the DWCF, is it an annual grant competition?

A: The Delaware Watershed Conservation Fund was created by Congress through the Delaware River Basin Conservation Act. Since 2018, NFWF has been administering the DWCF in

partnership with the US Fish and Wildlife service as an annual grant competition, subject to Congressional appropriations and the availability of funds.

Q. Where can I find examples of previously funded DWCF projects?

A. Descriptions of previously funded DWCF projects can be found on our website in the Grant Slate announcements for each funding cycle on the ‘Program Information’ tab of the Delaware River Program webpage: www.nfwf.org/programs/delaware-river-program

Webinar Recording

Q. Will a recording of the webinar be made available?

A. Yes, the recording will be available at www.nfwf.org/programs/delaware-river-program under “Related Content”

Q. Will the slides be available?

A. The slides will be available along with the recorded webinar at www.nfwf.org/programs/delaware-river-program

Match Questions

Q. What are the match requirements and conditions for 2023 DWCF proposals?

A. Match must be non-Federal in origin and equal to, or exceed, the grant request (unless applying under the Capacity Building project category which has a match requirement of 25% of the NFWF grant request) and related to proposed actions as raised and dedicated specifically for the project. We anticipate allowing match to be incurred between January 1, 2022, and the proposed project end date, pending confirmation of the match look back period in our funding agreement with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

Q. What is the earliest date match can be incurred and count towards a project?

A. For 2023 it is the intention of NFWF and our DWCF funders at the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service that applicants are allowed to have a match look back period (prior to the start of project activities NFWF funding is requested for) that begins on January 1, 2022, assuming all other match conditions are met. This policy is pending and subject to change as our cooperative agreement with U.S. FWS has not yet been executed, but we anticipate being able to provide this match flexibility.

Q. Does DWCF accept in-kind match?

A. DWCF accepts both cash and in-kind match. Please note in-kind and cash match are equally competitive.

Q. How can I capture federal funds leveraged in support of a project, when they do not count as nonfederal match?

A. In the match section of your application, you can indicate that funds are federal. You can also detail federal funds leveraged in support of your project in your proposal narrative. These funds will be counted as federal leverage but not match when evaluating your proposal.

Period of Performance

Q. What is the Period of Performance?

A. The Period of Performance is the time between the start and end date of your project for which all activities in the scope of work and requested budget must be included. Expenses incurred outside of the start and end dates cannot be reimbursed. With the ability for applicants to look back and include match incurred between January 1, 2022, and the proposed end date, the project period of performance should have a start date aligned with the start of project activities included in the NFWF funding request. This means match may be raised and spent prior to the project start date (though no earlier than January 1, 2022) but no later than the project end date.

Q. What is the greatest possible period of performance?

A. Projects must be ready to begin within six months of the grant award and be completed within two years of award. It is up to the applicant to specify the period of performance for their project that is appropriate for the work they are proposing to complete. For this funding opportunity, a project cannot have a start date prior to July 1, 2023, or an end date after December 31, 2026. Any expenses incurred prior to an official award letter and signed contract are taken solely at the risk of the applicant.

Q. When will funds be available?

A. This will depend on how complete your application is, the grant policies and routing at your organization, and how responsive you are to modification requests. Funds are only disbursed to grantees who have a signed grant agreement with NFWF. Award notifications are expected in August 2023.