









General Session Agenda

- 1. Webinar Instructions
- 2. Introduction to NFWF
- 3. Review of Request for Proposals
 - ✓ Grant Opportunities and Priorities
 - Delaware Watershed Conservation Fund
 - ✓ Evaluation Criteria & Compliance Requirements
- 4. Frequently Asked Questions
- 5. Q&A
- 6. Using EasyGrants



Stephanie Heidbreder, Director stephanie.heidbreder@nfwf.org 202-595-2498



Erin Lewis, Manager erin.lewis@nfwf.org 202-595-2413

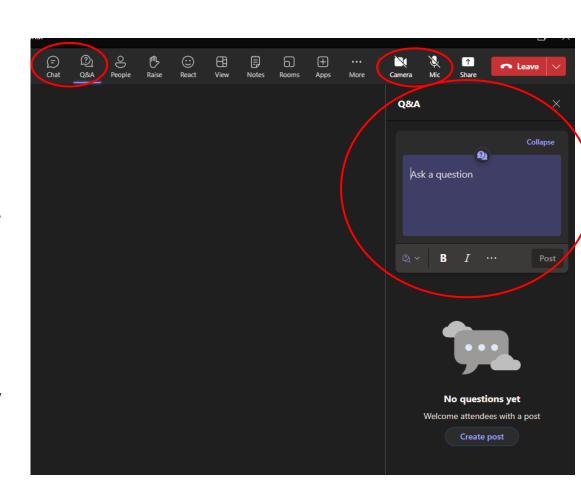


Victoria Moreno, Coordinator victoria.moreno@nfwf.org 202-888-1645

Webinar Instructions

- To improve sound quality, please make sure your microphone is muted for the duration of the webinar content. If you want to ask a question you have two options:
 - 1. Enter your question into the Q&A section and click send. We will type a response or read your question aloud when we pause for Q&A.
 - 2. Write it down and contact us after the webinar. We have a lot of material to cover, so you may prefer to have a more in-depth discussion later.
- If you experience a technical glitch, please type it into the question box or chat, since we can't hear you. (We may not know about the glitch unless you say something!)

The webinar recording and slides will be posted to the website by the end of the week



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Introduction to NFWF – HOW WE DO IT

NON-FEDERAL PARTNERS

- Corporations
- Foundations
- Private Donors
- States
- NGOs
- Mitigation & Settlements



FEDERAL GOVERNMENT

- Appropriations
- Cooperative Agreements

CONVENER OF FOCUSED, LEVERAGED FUNDING & LEADERSHIP FOR PRIORITY WILDLIFE & HABITAT CONSERVATION

THROUGH GRANT MAKING







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DWCF Overview

2018 = inaugural year for the DWCF

 Goal to conserve and restore natural areas, corridors and waterways on public and private lands to contribute to the vitality of the communities in the Delaware River watershed

Up to \$14.4 million in grant funding available

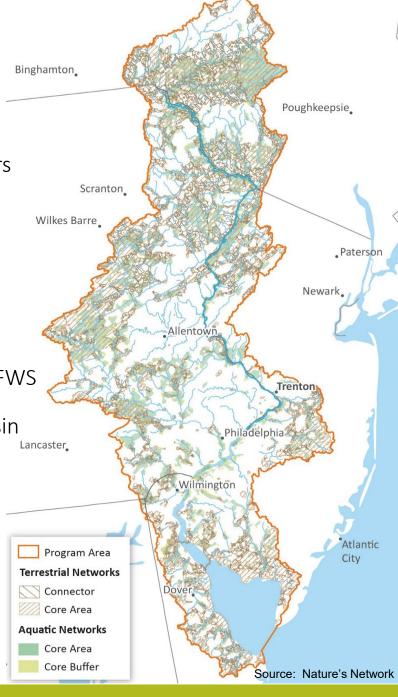
 Major funding is provided by the U.S Fish & Wildlife Service; program administered in partnership with FWS

 Program designed to deliver the Delaware River Basin Restoration Partnership and Program Framework

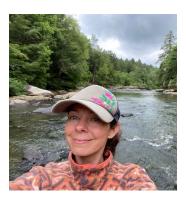
2024 AWARD RANGE:

\$75,000 - \$1,500,000





YOUR FWS CONTACTS



Christina Ryder
Delaware River Basin
Program Manager

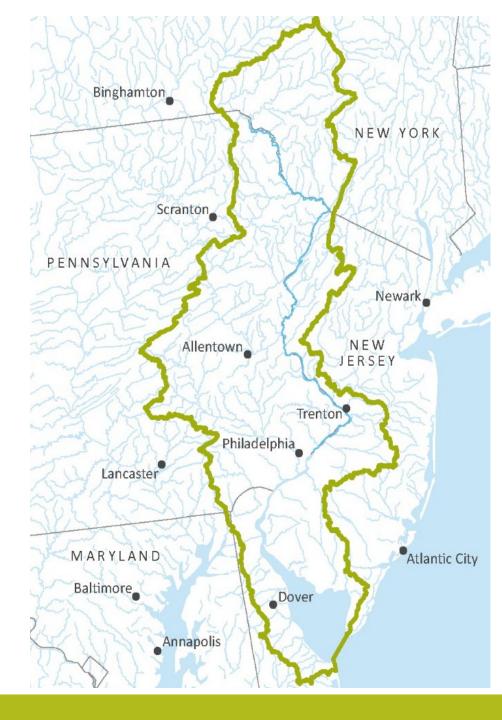


Sandra Cross
Delaware River Basin
Program Landscape
Biologist

- Manage the Delaware River Basin Restoration Program and provide DWCF program direction and funding
- Attend proposal labs and provide feedback on the competitiveness of proposals
- Approve and sign grantee federal compliance documentation and can offer technical assistance related to endangered species
- Interested in your events, project milestones, and opportunities for congressional engagement
- In partnership with NFWF, provide guidance on project scope changes and addressing grantee challenges
- Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA) specific oversight

Geographic Focus

- All Projects must be implemented entirely within the Delaware River watershed, which includes portions of New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, and Delaware.
- Organizations located outside the watershed may apply if the project will be conducted entirely within the watershed.
- Applicants should consult NFWF's online <u>mapping portal</u> to determine appropriate geographic focus areas for their proposed project activities and alignment with NFWF's Delaware Business Plan and Nature's Network priorities.



DWCF Grants

- Purpose of all DWCF Grants: Implement on-the-ground restoration and conservation projects that achieve the goals of the *Delaware River Basin Restoration Partnership and Program Framework* for all four Strategic Program Areas:
 - 1. Sustain and enhance fish and wildlife habitat;
 - 2. Improve and maintain water quality for fish, wildlife and people;
 - 3. Sustain and enhance water management to benefit fish and wildlife;
 - 4. Improve outdoor recreational opportunities
- DWCF grants should include **Cross-Program Activities** outlined in the Framework:
 - Engage and equip the public to support coordinated restoration and protection;
 - Facilitate resiliency of natural systems;
 - Increase scientific knowledge, monitoring and research needed for successful project implementation;
 - Provide technical assistance for restoration and conservation;
 - Conserve areas of regional significance



SUSTAIN AND ENHANCE FISH AND WILDLIFE HABITAT RESTORATION AND CONSERVATION ACTIVITIES

- Focus: conserve and restore ecological function to the important habitats for which the fish and wildlife resources in the basin depend
- Objective: conservation and restoration of habitats that will result in ecological, recreational, and commercial benefits

Goal: To sustain and restore fish and wildlife populations through conservation and restoration of their associated habitats and promote native ecosystem restoration

IMPROVE AND MAINTAIN WATER QUALITY TO SUPPORT FISH AND WILDLIFE, AS WELL AS HABITATS FOR FISH AND WILDLIFE AND DRINKING WATER FOR PEOPLE

- Focus: non-regulatory efforts to provide additional focus on habitat protection and conservation activities
- Objective: to protect water quality for both drinking water and the health of the fish and wildlife resources that depend on clean water

Goal: To protect and maintain water quality through projects and non-regulatory programs aimed at improving land and watershed management and reduce pollutants that can impair water quality



SUSTAIN AND ENHANCE WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT FOR VOLUME AND FLOOD DAMAGE MITIGATION IMPROVEMENTS TO BENEFIT FISH AND WILDLIFE HABITAT

- Focus: non-regulatory efforts to support the demands on the water resources of the basin and to enhance tolerance of potential drought and flood conditions
- Objective: manage water use to meet drinking water needs and other human uses while still providing water to support fish and wildlife

Goal: To provide non-regulatory support to the management of water resources to meet the various human and ecological needs and legal requirements in the basin and restore ecological function to the watershed, river, and tributaries in order to provide enhanced tolerance of potential drought and flood conditions



IMPROVE OPPORTUNITIES FOR PUBLIC ACCESS AND RECREATION IN THE BASIN CONSISTENT WITH THE ECOLOGICAL NEEDS OF FISH AND WILDLIFE HABITAT

■ Focus: maintaining and improving access to outdoor recreational opportunities



 Objective: provide high-quality recreational experiences while supporting the needs of fish and wildlife

Goal: To maintain and improve recreational opportunities which are compatible with the conservation of natural resources



RFP Structure

- Four funding categories:
 - Implementation Grants
 - \$8M available
 - o 1:1 match
 - Capacity Building Grants
 - o \$2M available
 - Match requirement is 25% of request to NFWF
 - Planning Grants
 - o \$2M available
 - o 1:1 match
 - Research, Monitoring, & Evaluation Grants
 - \$2M available
 - o 1:1 match

Implementation Grants

- \$8,000,000 available
- 1:1 match requirement
- Range: \$75,000 to \$1,500,000 each
- Shovel-ready conservation and restoration projects that result in quantifiable benefits for fish, wildlife, and people within the Delaware River Watershed
- Note: \$1M available for projects that directly benefit priority at-risk and ESA species

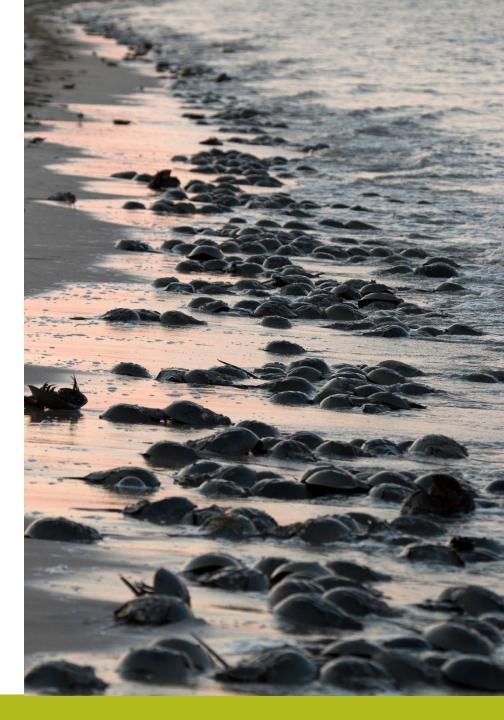


Capacity-Building Grants

- \$2,000,000 available
- Match requirement is 25% of the request to NFWF
- Range: \$75,000 to \$500,000 each
- Establish and enhance local networks to accomplish shared goals; support strategic planning and project development; improve direct community engagement; advance Tribal co-stewardship initiatives; implement diversity, equity, inclusion, and justice (DEIJ) in conservation; and undertake programmatic evaluations, assessments and monitoring
- Applicants are encouraged to work in partnership with other organizations interested in similar capacity-building efforts (e.g., "cohorts")
- Note: If new staff are hired, there must be a clear plan for sustaining staff without DWCF grants in the future.

Planning Grants

- \$2,000,000 available
- 1:1 match requirement
- Range: \$75,000 to \$500,000 each
- Engagement, planning and prioritization; feasibility, suitability, or alternatives analyses; site assessment and conceptual design; and final design and permits.
- Set-the-stage for projects that can compete for larger, nationally competitive funding sources and/or have watershed wide impacts.



Research, Monitoring, & Evaluation Grants

- \$2,000,000 available
- 1:1 match requirement
- Range: \$75,000 to \$500,000 each
- High-performing science that is inclusive, adaptive, innovative, and accountable
- Projects should have significant potential to transform the Delaware River watershed's future in areas including conservation and restoration action, diversity and inclusion, Tribal co-stewardship, monitoring, research, evaluation, and public access
- Prioritize projects that address cross cutting issues that are barriers to, or represent unique opportunities for, accelerating habitat improvement for fish, wildlife, and people in the Delaware River watershed



DWCF Species

NFWF Priority species from Delaware Business Plan:

- Fastern brook trout
- Alosine species like American shad,
 Alewife and river herring
- Golden-winged warbler
- Wood thrush
- Cerulean warbler
- Saltmarsh Sparrow
- Red knot

FWS Endangered Species Act species:

- Red knot
- Bog turtle
- Black rail
- Dwarf wedgemussel
- Northern Long-eared Bat
- Atlantic Sturgeon
- Shortnose Sturgeon

FWS At-risk species:

Birds

- American oystercatcher
- Ruddy turnstone
- Whimbrel
- Eastern whippoor-will

Freshwater mussels

- Brook floater
- Green floater
- Tidewater mucket
- Yellow lampmussel

Pollinators

- Native bumblebees
- Monarch butterfly
- Frosted elfin
- Septima's Clubtail

Turtles

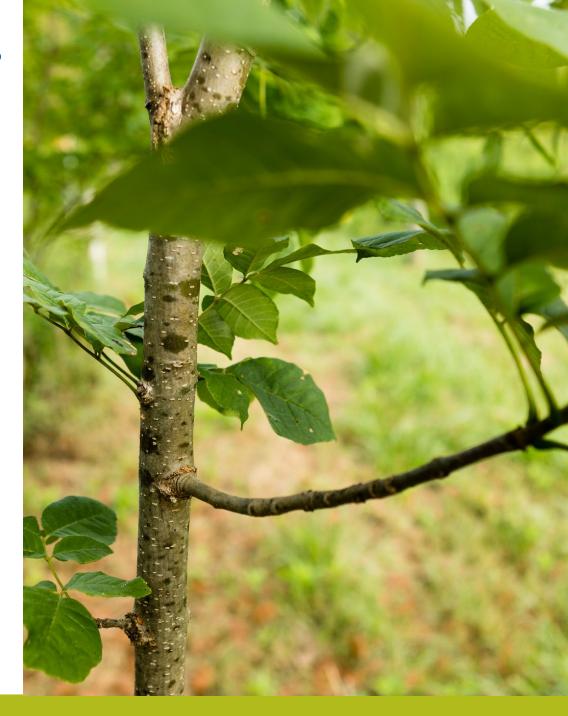
- Spotted turtle
- Wood turtle

Other Priority Species:

- Golden-winged warbler
- American Black Duck

Tree Planting Projects

- Seeking <u>DWCF</u> projects with significant tree planting
- Examples include:
 - Riparian buffer plantings
 - Urban and suburban canopy expansion
 - Reforestation and afforestation
 - Other tree planting practices for improved habitat and water quality
- Use the metric for number of trees planted in addition to other appropriate metrics



NRCS Working Lands for Wildlife

- Approximately \$400,000 available for projects that direct staff resources to help agricultural producers design and implement conservation practices benefitting select Working Lands for Wildlife target species
 - American Black Duck
 - Golden-winged warbler
- Projects should Increase Farm Bill program participation and conservation practice implementation among agricultural producers
 - Emphasis on working with farmers and ranchers in the Historically Underserved and Special Emphasis categories.

Tip: applicants must ensure the project is in alignment with NRCS goals and priorities by conferring with the NRCS State Conservationist and their staff in the state in which the project will be located. Check the RFP or DWCF Priority Species document for a list of contacts.

Updated in 2024: Narrative Template



Delaware Watershed Conservation Fund 2024 Grants: Full-proposal Project Narrative Template

Instructions: Save this document on your computer and complete the narrative in the format provided (font size should be no smaller than 10pt, and text should be black). The narrative may not exceed ten pages, and smaller grants with fewer partners may be as few as five pages. Please do not delete the text provided below. Once complete, upload this document into the online application as instructed.

Project	Tuno: Diasco	colort the	DWCE	grant category	for the	proposed	project

- □ Implementation
- □ Capacity Building
- \square Planning
- □ Research, Monitoring & Evaluation
- Which <u>Strategic Program Areas and Cross Program Activities</u> listed in the RFP will be addressed by the project? And how (i.e., how will project outcomes or activities contribute to the Program Priorities)?
- 2. What are the primary project outcomes (the intended result, including any associated metrics, of the project)?
- What are the major project activities that will lead to the outcomes provided above (project actions and tasks/workplan)? Please use the work plan below.

Statement of ove	atement of overall project methodology or approach:				
Activity	Responsible Party	Time Period (express in months, quarters, etc.)	Expected Result of Activity (outputs)		

- 4. Who are the key individuals on the project team and what are their relevant (or technical) qualifications for project implementation?
- How will the project metrics be monitored/measured and how will challenges or limitations with tracking be addressed?
- 6. How will long term project sustainability be ensured (i.e., beyond the grant period) and what are the plans for ongoing monitoring, maintenance, and stewardship?
- 7. How will the results of the project be transferred to other parts of the Delaware River Watershed or integrated into broader policies and programs to restore and conserve the watershed?
- 8. How will the project address established plans (e.g., management, conservation, species recovery, Indigenous Knowledge) or an identified conservation or restoration planning need?

- Who are the partner organizations working on this project and what are their roles? (e.g., NGOs, agencies, landowners, community groups)
- 10. Who was or will be engaged in project development and implementation (beyond the project partners)? (e.g., communities, user groups, affected/impacted constituencies, and stakeholders) And how will they or were they engaged?
- 11. What is the demographic information of the engaged community(ies)? Using the table below, provide demographic information on the community(ies) and target audiences to support descriptions. Applicants can use the <u>US Census Bureau</u> website and EPA's <u>EI Screen</u> to obtain demographic data for the table below. Applicants are encouraged to include an EJ Screen report as an upload in addition to the descriptions provided below. Please see the DWCF Toolbox for information on pulling an EJ Screen report.

Community(ies)	Race/Ethnicity %	Poverty Rate	Low Income %	Annualized Unemployment Rate

- 12. Have you received a DWCF grant for a prior phase of this work? If so, please provide a summary specific to progress associated with that grant relative to promised deliverables, including progress on NEPA/NHPA/ESA approvals. Clearly describe any outcomes or lessons learned in <u>initial</u> phase(s) that will affect the proposed project.
- 13. Did your organization or your project partners apply to any other currently open NFWF RFP to fund project activities? If yes, please provide the 5-digit Easygrants ID number.
- 14. Did you include additional uploads (e.g., supplemental budget narrative, letters of support, photos)? If yes, please list them.
- 15. Anything else we should know?

Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, Justice (DEIJ) in DWCF

NFWF is taking steps to encourage and support our partners and grantees in the Delaware River watershed to work toward fostering inclusive practices that counteract discrimination and environmental injustice. Incorporating DEIJ considerations into organizational and project practices and policies will foster a safe, diverse, equitable, and inclusive environment that allows for new, enhanced and more impactful partnerships.

Coalition for the Delaware River Watershed's Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Justice Resource Hub



INTERNAL

ORGANIZATIONAL

PRACTICES

COMMUNICATIONS &

DIGITAL MEDIA

DEIJ Resources

INDIVIDUAL LEARNING

& TRAININGS

EXTERNAL

ENGAGEMENT PRACTICES Resources

JOB BOARD

PUBLIC COMMENTS

VOTE FOR CLEAN
WATER!

DELJ RESOURCE HUB



Learn about what the Coalition is doing to advance Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Justice internally, externally, and throughout the watershed.

READ MORE



DEIJ in the Coalition

Open to all CDRW members, the work group convenes twice a month to support individual growth and collaborate on DEIJ efforts. Contact us to join!

DEIJ WORKGROUP

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DEIJ LENS TOOL

Learn more about how our DEIJ
Lens and Screening Tool can
support you and your
organization in effectively
operationalizing DEIJ.

LEARN MORE

https://www.delriverwatershed.org/deij-resource-hub

Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, Justice (DEIJ) in DWCF

10. Who was or will be engaged in project development and implementation (beyond the project partners)? (e.g., communities, user groups, affected/impacted constituencies, and stakeholders) And how will they or were they engaged?

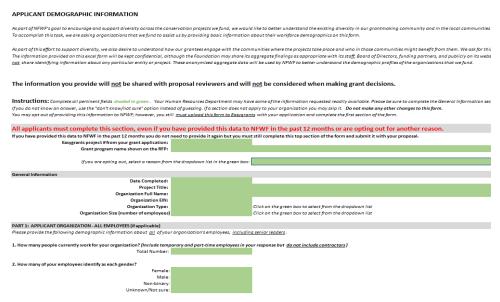
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Community(ies)	Race/Ethnicity %	Poverty Rate	Low Income %	Annualized Unemployment Rate



Applicant Demographic Information Form

- The information you provide will <u>not</u> be shared with proposal reviewers and will <u>not</u> be considered when making grant decisions.
- The Foundation will <u>not</u> share identifying information about any particular entity or project.
- While the form is a required upload, applicants can opt out of providing the information within the form itself
 - If your organization does not collect this information or if you have provided NFWF with this information in the last 12 months, you can opt out.
- The information provided on this excel form will be kept confidential, the Foundation may share its anonymized aggregate findings as appropriate with its staff, Board of Directors, funding partners, and publicly on its website or through other media.





Eligibility

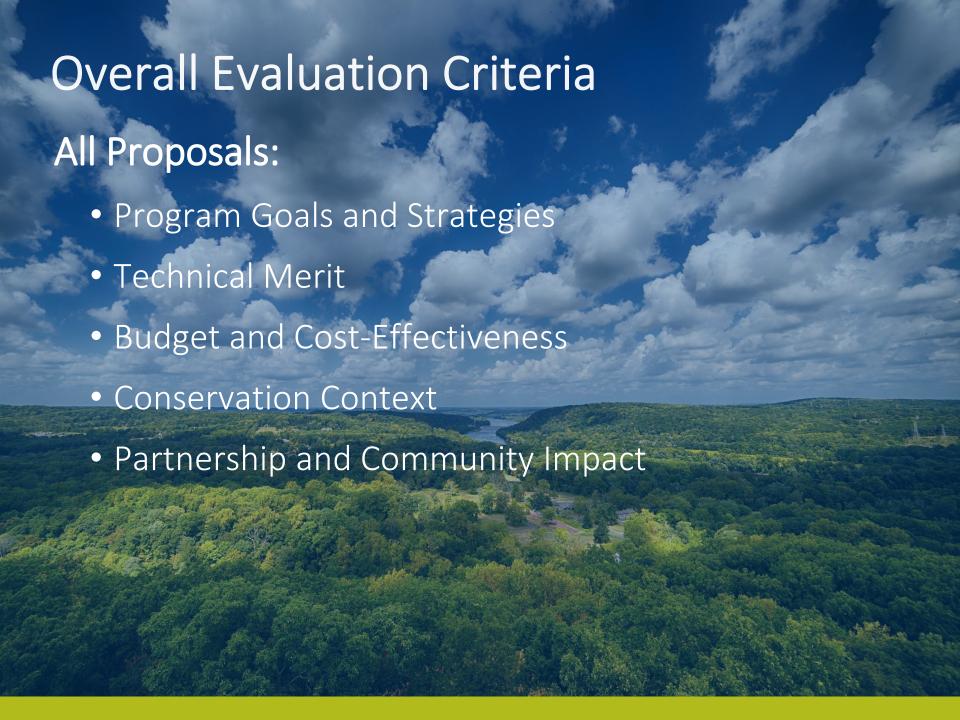
- ✓ Eligible applicants include non-profit 501(c) organizations; federal, state, interstate, local and municipal governments, Tribal governments and organizations, and educational institutions.
- Ineligible applicants include unincorporated individuals, businesses, and international organizations

Ineligible Uses of Grant Funds:

 Support of ongoing efforts to comply with legal requirements

 Support of political advocacy, fundraising, lobbying, litigation, terrorist activities or Foreign Corrupt Practices Act violations





Compliance Requirements

- All DWCF awards include U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) funding, so your project must comply with the requirements of NEPA, ESA, NHPA, and other relevant state and federal legislation.
 - You are encouraged to budget for time/resources to complete these requirements!
- Buy American Act: The <u>Build America Buy America Act</u>, enacted as part of the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA) on November 15, 2021, established a domestic content procurement preference for all Federal financial assistance obligated for infrastructure projects after May 14, 2022, which will apply to 2024 DWCF grantees.
- Davis-Bacon Prevailing Wage Requirements: Davis-Bacon labor standards apply to federally funded or assisted construction projects in different ways, including provisions that expressly provide that Davis-Bacon labor standards apply to all construction projects receiving funding under particular programs created by or funded through IIJA.

Overall Proposal Guidelines

- Projects should be completed within 3 years of award
- Provide measurable outputs and outcomes, choose your metrics wisely and provide details requested (see Metrics Guidance document)
- If you haven't thought about permits and compliance yet, START NOW!
- Review Letters of Support Best Practices and start collecting your letters of support (write templates for your partners)
- Pursuant to OMB rules, indirect <u>is allowed</u> please review the policy on our website (<u>https://www.nfwf.org/grants/application-information/indirect-cost-calculator</u>)
- Complete your budget narratives! Please review guidance on our website
 (https://www.nfwf.org/sites/default/files/2020-07/nfwf-detailed-budget-narrative-guide.pdf)



Resources

Applicant Tip Sheet

UPDATED: Proposal **Narrative**

DWCF Toolbox

- Nature's Network
- Species-specific plans

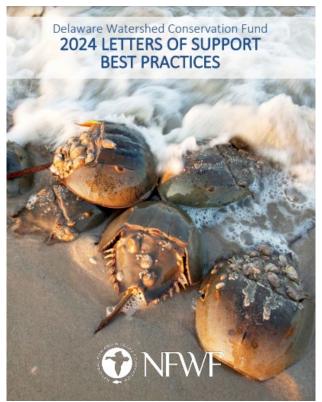
Letters of Support Best **Practices**

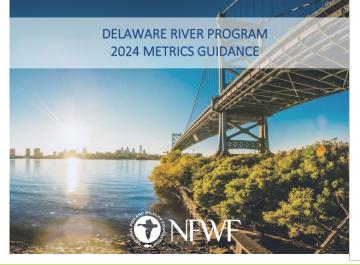
Metrics Guidance

Proposal Tools Webinar (2/2 at 10AM)

CDRW DFII Resource Hub

Proposal labs









Delaware Watershed Conservation Fund 2024 RFP **Full Proposal Tip Sheet**

STARTING AN APPLICATION

- Existing users should log in using their e-mail address and passy If you have forgotten your password, please click the "Forgot your password?" link on the Easygrants login page and a reset link will be sent to you. The link expires within 24 hours of being sent.
- Once you are logged in, click the Apply for Funding button, and select Delaware Watershed Conse "Available Funding Opportunities".
- Complete the Eligibility Quiz and Save and Submit your response
- If you pass the Eligibility Quiz, Easygrants will return you to your personal Easygrants Home Page. From there, click on the Full-Proposal for the Delaware Watershed Conservation Fund 2024. Now you are ready to get started! If you do not pass the Eligibility Quiz, please contact the NPWF Program Contact identified in the RFP.

Easygrants required for this program. You may, however, complete these sections and fields in any order. You are encouraged to use the Help fee

ce and examples. Additional resources for applicants, including the Indirect Cost Policy, can be ed on the NFWF website by clicking here. Use the Quick Launch box on the left-hand side of the so

Enter the contact information for the primary person responsible for completing the Easygrants application (this person is tagged as the

ORGANIZATION INFORMATION

Use the "Sulect Organization" further to search for your organization; you can search by Name, EIN number or OLINS number. When searching by Name, EIN number is a commended that you after a diverse variety and passible to stress your entire list a comprehensive. Saled your organization from the last that is the most complete (has DLINS and/or EIN numbers). If Europyan's informs you had your organization is PEN or DLINS search you shall be your organization from the last that is the most complete (has DLINS and/or EIN numbers). If Europyan's informs you had your organization from the part of participation or participation is passed contact Europyan-stagford or grow organization is and the participation of passed in the "Add New" button at bottom of isst and fill out your organization is formation.

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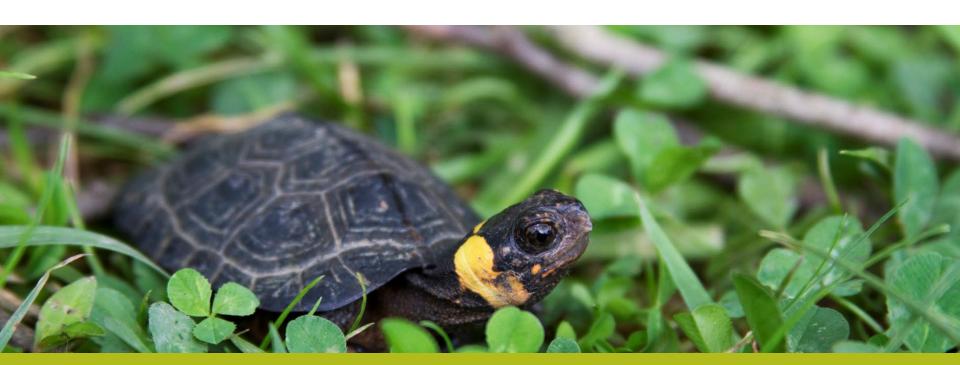
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Frequently Asked Question – 1

Q: Why is the grant funding level <u>approximately</u> \$14.4 million?

A: Final funding amounts will be determined through the federal budget process. Congress also allocated funding to the DWCF through the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law; about \$4.5 million is available for grants. We conservatively anticipate the final amount available for grants will be around \$14.4 million. Funding decisions will be made based on the level of funding and timing of when it is received by NFWF.



Frequently Asked Question – 2

Q: What is eligible for match?

A: Match includes all in-kind and cash contributions to the implementation of the project.

- DWCF projects must have a minimum 1:1 <u>non-federal</u> match except for the capacity building grants, which has a 25% match requirement.
- All match should be in support of, or directly contribute to, activities associated with the proposed work
- Funds associated with project parcel easements or acquisitions can be included as long as the funds are utilized during the grant period
- Match can include cash contributions and in-kind contributions including staff time or volunteer hours



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

A: For 2024 applicants may have a match look back period that begins on January 1, 2023, assuming all other match conditions are met.

- Project start date should still reflect when proposed project activities will begin
- Project cannot start before July 1, 2024
- Any match incurred prior to your project start date should be noted in your application, including when the match was spent

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: There are a few metrics we'd like to select that really showcase the potential impact of our project, but they seem complicated to calculate. Where do we begin?

A: Metrics should be reasonable, achievable, and tell a story about your project. There is a "toolbox" for DWCF applicants that offers some resources for establishing project context and calculating project impact.

Add metric notes! They help provide a clearer picture of your project for reviewers, and you will be required to enter them in later!



Q: What about design and planning? Can we request funding for these kinds of activities?

A: Yes! Design and planning are eligible projects, and there is approximately \$2M available. To make your proposal more competitive, make sure to articulate its ultimate potential and that the proposal shows how there is future possibility for the project, that the groundwork is underway, and partners and agencies have been contacted.

Q: Should project partners submit a single proposal or will NFWF consider multiple proposals from the project partners?

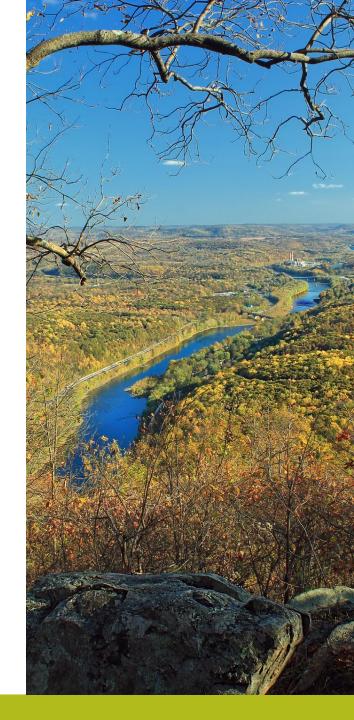
A: One of the evaluation criteria for NFWF's proposal review is the strength of the partnership assembled to implement the project.

- It would be beneficial for partners to ensure that proposals are well coordinated, fully supported and complementary. Whether a single, larger proposal is submitted or multiple is up to the partners.
- It would NOT be ideal for competing proposals addressing the same project or approach to be received.
- Reach out to program contacts to discuss specific circumstances if needed.



Q: Is the budget narrative really all that important?

A: <u>Yes!</u> The budget narrative allows reviewers to understand what will be accomplished through grant funds, and what portion of the project will be covered by matching funds. You will be required to complete a budget narrative if you are selected for funding, and this can delay contracting. Save yourself some time and include the budget narratives from the beginning!



Final Tips for Applicants

- 1. Print/download the tip sheet and use it as a reference
- 2. Re-read the RFP and reference the linked-information provided
- These are competitive grants; projects should address all criteria, respond to all requirements and have a "wow" factor
- 4. Include lots of context and details—do not assume reviewers know things about your project!
- Don't skimp on the metrics notes. Read the new Metrics Guidance documents for specific metric instructions.
- 6. Submit your proposal ON OR BEFORE March 21st
- 7. Note that NFWF staff will not be in the office at 11:59 pm on **March 21**st!
- 8. Reach out if you need help

RESOURCES:

- Metrics Guidance
- Letters of Support Best Practices
- Toolbox



Proposals are Due Thursday, March 21st!!

Awards will be announced in early-mid August



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Erin Lewis
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Victoria Moreno
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How to Apply to NFWF – EasyGrants System

www.easygrants.nfwf.org

- 1. Log in with existing email and password
 - Register now if you do not have one this will allow for time to familiarize yourself with the system
 - If you have trouble logging in, use the help feature
- 2. Turn off your pop-up blockers
- 3. Download and use the tip sheet available on the program webpage
- 4. You can work on the narrative offline download the template and upload when you're finished
- 5. Please be as specific as possible with mapping AND providing location information on your project
- 6. Click save frequently
- 7. Input budget line-item narratives!
- 8. Save a PDF of your proposal before you submit
- 9. Make sure all your check marks are green; do not click SUBMIT until you are completely finished



Submitting a Proposal Step One: Create an Account



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.

Frequ	ently Asked Questions	
Log In		New User?
Login ID / Email		
Password		
Remember Me		Forgot Password?
	Log In	
For the optima	al Easygrants experience, plea	ase:
♠ Use a Supported Browser	Enable Pop-ups	Allow Cookies
Only Use One	e Tab 🕹 Get Adobe F	Reader
C→ Log Out ar	nd Close Browser for Sec	urity

Let's try it...

