

2024 INNOVATIVE NUTRIENT AND SEDIMENT REDUCTION GRANTS PROGRAM

Applicant Webinar January 8, 2024



Poundat New York



Chesapeake Bay Program





- **1. Webinar Instructions**
- 2. Review of 2024 Innovative Nutrient and Sediment Reduction Grants RFP
- 3. How to Submit a Proposal Using Easygrants



Jake Reilly, Program Director

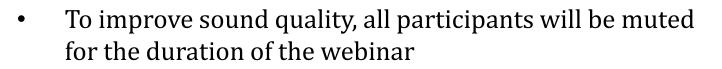


Tori Sullens, Program Manager



Ernie Newborn, Program Coordinator

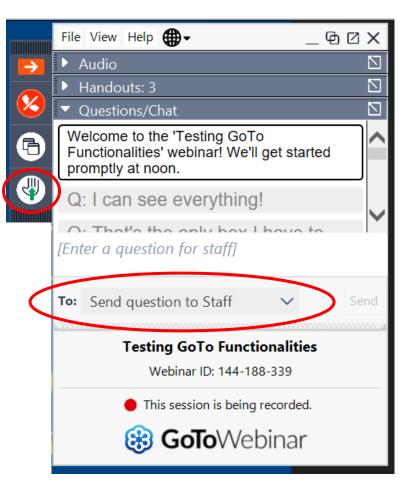
WEBINAR INSTRUCTIONS



- 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









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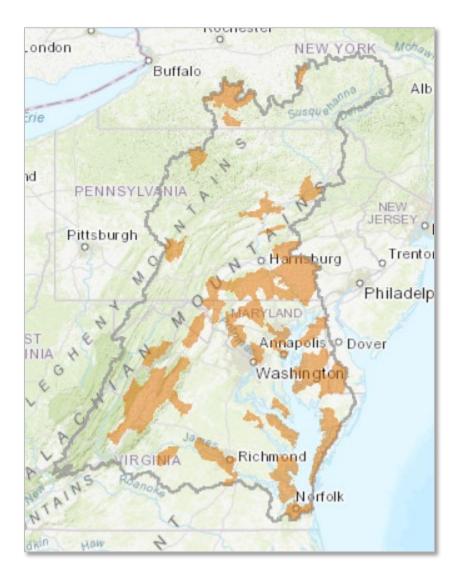
2024 INSR RFP OVERVIEW



- **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
 - **INSR Infrastructure Grants** to implement natural and nature-based watershed restoration infrastructure at scale
- Up to \$25M 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

2024 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 \$10M 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 DEIJ



• 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 specific and localized harm such as pollution, flooding, etc.
Empowering community members with knowledge or decision-making authority	Creating jobs in the target community or performing job training and certification
Including specific, active engagement strategies	Directly engaging in specific cultural activities with the community

PROGRAM PRIORITIES – ENHANCING DEIJ



- Priority consideration for proposals directly representing or resourcing underrepresented, underserved, and/or underresourced 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 <u>nfwf.org/chesapeake</u> for **definitions** and **supporting tools**

PROGRAM PRIORITIES – ENHANCING DEIJ



- Proposals will be evaluated on DEIJ 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 **10:00AM Wednesday, January 10** (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 \$25 million in grants through the 2024 INSR program including:
 - Up to \$15 million for **INSR Partnership Grants**
 - Up to \$10 million for **INSR Infrastructure Grants**
- Awards range: \$500,000 to \$2 million (Cap Increased in 2024!)
- **INSR Partnership Grants** require non-federal matching contributions equal to the grant request
- Non-federal match is <u>encouraged but not required</u> for INSR Infrastructure Grants

PARTNERSHIP VS INFRASTRUCTURE GRANTS





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	PARTNERSHIPS AND COMM. ENGAGEMENT	BUDGET	TECHNICAL	
Clear and demonstrable increases in the rate and/or scale of implementation	Collaborative with engagement with impacted communities	Quality and level of detail in the budget and budget narrative	Specific goals and objectives	
Partnership/collaborative growth (INSR Partnership Grants only)	Engagement of non-traditional partners or communities	Cost-effectiveness	Core competencies of the project team	
Plans and approaches to verify and sustain pollution load reductions	Adequate description of community characteristics and proposed engagement activities	Reasonability of proposed costs	Permitting and environmental compliance considerations	
Plans and approaches to actively transfer and disseminate project-related information	Documented support from community partners and/or collaborators	Evidence of genuine partnerships in budget	Demonstrated ability of lead applicant	

FULL PROPOSAL NARRATIVE – COMMUNITIES IMPACTED

Communities Engaged and Impacted: Describe the community(ies) where the project will take place and any associated target audience(s):

- A. Who will specifically benefit from the project?
- B. How were they or will they be engaged in project development and implementation?
- C. Using the table below, provide information on key demographic and socioeconomic indicators for the community(ies) and target audience(s). Use your response to questions A or B above to provide any other representative demographic or socioeconomic data or information.

Community(ies) and/or Target Audience(s)	Race/Ethnicity (%)	Poverty Rate (%)	Low Income (%)	Annualized Unemployment Rate (%)		

ADDITIONAL CONSIDERATIONS



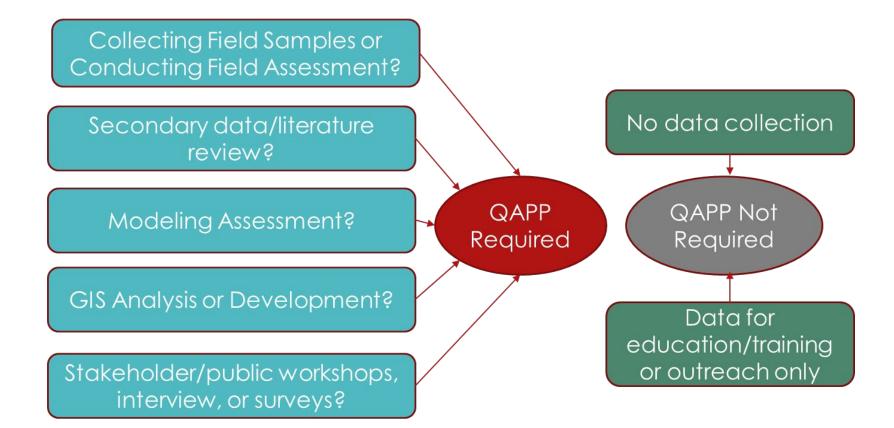
- All applicants with active grants from NFWF must be in **good standing** in terms of reporting requirements, expenditure of funds, and quality assurance (if required)
- Applicants must demonstrate awareness and the status of all permits required to comply with federal, state or local requirements
- 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 January 24, 2024
- WIP Reporting: Awardees should assume implementation outcomes reported through FieldDoc will be provided to jurisdictions for WIP reporting purposes
- Period of Performance: All 2024 INSR grants must be completed within three years and projects must begin on or after June 1, 2024 to facilitate necessary grant contracting and quality assurance activities

ADDITIONAL CONSIDERATIONS – QUALITY ASSURANCE



Note that data collection related to engineered practices may not need a QAPP but may be covered under a Quality Assurance Statement which requires no additional documentation

https://www.nfwf.org/programs/chesapeake-bay-stewardship-fund/tools-current-grantees/quality-assurance

ADDITIONAL CONSIDERATIONS – QUALITY ASSURANCE

- Applicants **can and 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 time and resources to complete the QAPP and have it approved within the *first 3 months of the grant's period of performance*.
 - The timeline for receiving review feedback and comments and subsequent submittal for EPA approval is dependent upon the quality of the draft QAPP submission and may involve several iterations.

ADDITIONAL CONSIDERATIONS – QUALITY ASSURANCE

Prepare a draft QAPP: Your document will be reviewed by the external QAPP consultants at Stantec. Comments are dependent upon the quality of the QAPP submission and may involve several iterations <u>prior</u> to submission to EPA. Each resubmission of the draft QAPP to Stantec will initiate a 30-day review and comment period.

QAPP is technically approved and submitted to the EPA by NFWF: EPA will have a chance to review and comment on the draft QAPP prior to providing their signature. It is our goal that QAPPs submitted to EPA receive no additional feedback and are technically sound enough to be signed by them.

QAPP Review and Approvals: NFWF will advise grantees concerning the status of the QAPP review (e.g. approved, requested revisions, etc.) and circulate the final, signed version. The QAPP tag restricting payment on data collection activities is removed.

TIPS FOR APPLICANTS



- Read and re-read the RFP. Contacts 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!

CRITICAL RESOURCES FOR DEVELOPING YOUR APPLICATION



DETAILED BUDGET AND NARRATIVE GUIDE

This **DETAILED BUDGET AND NARRATIVE GUIDE** contains three sections, please refer to the applicable sections. Budgets not completed according to these instructions may create significant delays in evaluation, approval and/or contracting.

SECTION I.	GENERAL GUIDELINES – Pg. 1
SECTION II.	BUDGET INPUT FUNCTIONALITY – Pg. 1
SECTION III.	BUDGETING AND NARRATIVE BEST PRACTICES – Pg. 4

I. A complete detailed budget must be submitted with NFWF Full Proposals. In order to complete a budget for your proposal, applicants must expand the appropriate categories and provide the information requested.

If you do not anticipate an expense for a category, skip that category - it is not necessary to enter a "0" value in the cost fields

Try to anticipate factors that may affect the budget when developing projections and provide an explanation of those factors

Matching funds should not be included in the proposal budget

II. In addition to the financial aspects of the budget, applicants must include category or full budget level narratives for each line item category.

Below is a snapshot of a **COLLAPSED** blank NFWF summary budget as seen in the Grants Management System. **These** categories will need to be expanded in order to add line item detail for each cost category. It can be helpful to expand only one budget category at a time.



Chesapeake Bay Small Watershed Grants - Implementation 2023 Full Proposal Tip Sheet

STARTING AN APPLICATION

When you are ready to begin the application process, go to easygrants.nfwf.org.

- New users to the system will be prompted to register before starting their application.
- Existing users should log in using their e-mail address and password. 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 Chesapeake Bay Small Watershed Grants - Implementation 2023 from the list of "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 Chesapeake Bay Small Watershed Grants -Implementation 2023. Now you are ready to get started! If you do not pass the Eligibility Quiz, please contact the NFWF Program Contact identified in the RFP.

* * * * *

The instructions below follow sequentially through each section and field in Easygrants required for this program. You may, however, complete these sections and fields in any order. You are encouraged to use the **Help** feature in

Easygrants for additional guidance and examples. Additional resources for applicants, including the Indirect Cost Policy, can be accessed on the NFWF website by clicking <u>here</u>. Use the Quick Launch box on the left hand side of the screen to locate your desired information.

Take Note!

- Pop-ups: Easygrants uses pop-up windows to display some files. Please make sure your web browser allows for pop-ups. The internet browser pop-up blocker must be disabled prior to beginning the application process. You can also try holding the Shift or Control (CTRL) key when clicking the link.
- Cookies: Easygrants uses cookies to maintain the session information. Please make sure that your browser and computer can accept cookies.
- **PDF:** Easygrants uses PDFs extensively. Make sure you are able to use Adobe Reader.
- SAVING AND SUBMITTING: Once an application has been initiated, it may be saved and then modified and submitted at a later time, up to the application deadline of April 20th, 2023, 11:59 PM Eastern Standard Time. Please note DO NOT hit the "Submit" button until you are actually ready to submit. Once you hit submit the application is formally submitted and you may no longer make changes.

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. <u>Letters of</u> <u>support should not be mailed directly to NFWF</u> . 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 <u>Required Financial Documents and FAQs</u> webpage for details on all financial information required for submission.
IRS Form 990*	Yes	Please refer to the <u>Required Financial Documents and FAQs</u> webpage for details on all financial information required for submission.
Single Audit*	Yes	Please refer to the <u>Required Financial Documents and FAQs</u> webpage for details on all financial information required for submission.
Applicant Controls Questionnaire	Yes	Please refer to the <u>Required Financial Documents and FAQs</u> 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



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 The information provided on this excel form will 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 webs 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 sec 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 <u>must upload this form to Easygrants</u> 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: Click on the green box to select from the dropdown list Organization Size (number of employees) 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:

PROGRAM TIMELINE

RFP Released: Applicant Webinar: FieldDoc Webinar: Proposals Due: Proposal Review: Board Approval: Award Announcement: Monday, December 11, 2023 Monday, January 8, 2024 Wednesday January 10, 2024 Wednesday, February 21, 2024, 11:59 PM EST March – April 2024 May 2024 June 2024 (anticipated)



QUESTIONS?

NFWF Staff Contacts:



Jake Reilly, Program Director jake.reilly@nfwf.org (202) 595-2610



After 1/16/2024 Tori Sullens, Program Manager tori.sullens@nfwf.org (202) 888-1656

Liaison Contact	Email	Phone	Sector Expertise
Kristen Saacke Blunk	kristen@headwaters-llc.org	(814) 360-9766	All Sectors
Sarah Clark	sarah@icl.org	(240) 472-1772	Partnerships and Collaborative Leadership
Kristen Hughes Evans	kristen@susches.org	(804) 554-3403	Agricultural Conservation
Liz Feinberg	liz.feinberg63@gmail.com	(610) 212-2345	All Sectors
David Hirschman	dave@hirschmanwater.com	(434) 409-0993	Stormwater/Urban Sector
Katie Ombalski	katie@woodswaters.com	(814) 574-7281	Agricultural ConservationHabitat Restoration





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HOW TO SUBMIT A PROPOSAL



• 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.

• Create your *Easygrants* account

	Frequently Asked Questions	
Log In		New User?
Login ID / Email		
Password		
🕑 Remember Me		Forgot Password?
	Log In	
Fo	or the optimal Easygrants experience, plea	ase:
🔒 Use a Supporte	d Browser 🛛 🖻 Enable Pop-ups	🚔 Allow Cookies
💼 Or	nly Use One Tab 🛛 🛓 Get Adobe i	Reader
G.	Log Out and Close Browser for Sec	urity





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.



SUBMITTING A PROPOSAL IN EASYGRANTS

- 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. Make sure all your check marks are green; do not click SUBMIT until you are completely finished





- Concise Budget Narrative must be included for *every* line item
- Budget should only include the grant amount requested from NFWF
- Must comply with <u>OMB's Uniform Guidance</u>
- 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





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: <u>https://www.nfwf.org/apply-grant/application-information</u>

SUBMITTING AN APPLICATION



• Let's try it...

DIN NF	My Tasks - Claire Question - Home										
	My Tasks	My Grants	Profile	Apply For Funding							
Home Change Password	Peer Reviewers: 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.										
FAQ	FAQ Apply for Funding View All My Tasks My Tasks My Tasks										
Log Out	Log Out										
	ID	Primary (Contact/Pl	Task	Program Na		Funding Cycle Name	Status	Outcome	Due Date	
	62195	Question,	Claire	Full Proposal	Grants		Chesapeake Bay Small Watershed Grants Implementation 2018	Incomplete	Not Submitted	9/4/2018	View PDF
	For Technical assistance, please contact us via e-mai l or phone 202-595-2497. Download Adobe Reader Powered by Easygrants™ v9.5.0										