



## Subject Specific Grant Guide

# Grants to Support Water and Ecosystem Restoration Projects

This guide identifies funding opportunities released in Fiscal Year 2022 which support water and ecosystem restoration projects. These opportunities prioritize evidence-based, cost-effective programs for pressing water supply and water infrastructure issues.

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FEDERAL  
GRANT PROFILE



**Department:** U.S. Department of Agriculture  
**Agency:** U.S. Forest Service

# FY 2024 Community Forest and Open Space Conservation Program (CFP)

### Grant Overview

The purpose of this program is to establish community forests by protecting forest land from conversion to non-forest uses. Supported projects should provide community benefits, including public recreation, environmental and economic benefits, and forest-based educational programs. Public access is required for all projects. Eligible applicants are units of local governments; Indian Tribes and Alaska Native Corporations; and non-profit organizations.

### Program History

	Total Funding	# of Awards
2022	\$5.5 million	11
2021	\$3.935 million	10

### Key Information and Tips

**Total Funding:** Unspecified  
**Award Range:** Up to \$600,00  
**Match:** 50%  
**Solicitation date:** August 13, 2023  
**Proposal due:** January 1, 2024  
<https://www.fs.usda.gov/managing-land/private-land/community-forest/program>



### Awardee Profile

Anchorage, Alaska – Potter Marsh Community Forest Project

**YEAR:** 2022

**AWARD AMOUNT:** \$600,000

The project supports recreation and traditional uses (including food and raw materials for craftspeople) for metropolitan Anchorage residents. Recreation on the project will support ongoing community efforts to address public health by giving access to a new trail network in a safe and accessible location for exercise.

**Department:** U.S. Department of Agriculture

**Agency:** U.S. Forest Service

# FY 2024 Community Forest and Open Space Conservation Program (CFP)

## Detailed Summary

The purpose of this program is to establish community forests by protecting forest land from conversion to non-forest uses. Supported projects should provide community benefits, including public recreation, environmental and economic benefits, and forest-based educational programs. Public access is required for all projects. Acquired land must remain in a forested condition in perpetuity. Funding will support the establishment of community forests through fee simple acquisition of private forest land. Eligible lands must meet the following requirements:

- Be at least five acres in size
- Be suitable to sustain natural vegetation
- Be at least 75 percent forested
- Be threatened by conversion to non-forest uses
- Not be held in trust by the United States on behalf of any Indian tribe and not be tribal allotment lands
- Be offered for sale by a willing seller
- Land in Department of Defense (DoD) buffer zones is eligible for acquisition.

Applicants may apply for multiple tracts of land, even if multiple owners are involved. The acquisitions need not be simultaneous. Priority will be given to projects that maximize the delivery of community benefits, including:

- Economic benefits, such as timber and non-timber products
- Environmental benefits, including clean air and water, stormwater management, wildlife habitat, and cultural resources
- Benefits from forest-based experiential learning, including K-12 conservation education programs, vocational education programs in such disciplines as forestry and environmental science, traditional ecological knowledge, and environmental education through individual study or voluntary participation in programs offered by such organizations as 4-H, Boy or Girl Scouts, and Master Gardeners
- Benefits from serving as replicable models of effective forest stewardship for private landowners
- Recreational benefits, such as hiking, hunting, and fishing secured through public access

Award recipients must develop and periodically update a community forest plan and are encouraged to work with the applicable state forester or equivalent tribal government official for technical assistance when developing or updating the plan. Eligible costs include the purchase price, appraisals and appraisal reviews, land surveys, legal and closing costs, development of the community forest plan, and title examination.

## Applicant Eligibility

Eligible applicants are units of local governments; Indian Tribes and Alaska Native Corporations; and non-profit organizations. Additional consideration will be given to projects that provide direct benefits to disadvantaged communities.

## Funding

In FY 2024, an unspecified amount of funding is available for multiple awards of up to \$600,000 through this program.

## Matching and Cost Sharing

Applicants must provide at least 50 percent of the total project costs via nonfederal cash and/or in-kind contributions. Cost-share contributions must be accomplished within the award period. The purchase or donation of lands located within the community forest may be used as a match if the land is provided by an eligible entity and legally dedicated to perpetual land conservation consistent with the program's objectives.

Applicants may request that project due diligence costs, such as title review and appraisals, that were incurred up to one year prior to the issuance of the award, be counted toward the match. Some Department of Defense (DoD) funds may be used as matching contributions.

## Contact Information

Program Staff  
SM.FS.CFP@usda.gov

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Program Coordinator  
(202) 465-5038  
scott.stewart@usda.gov

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<https://www.fs.usda.gov/managing-land/private-land/community-forest/program>

FEDERAL  
GRANT PROFILE



**Department:** U.S. Department of Agriculture  
**Agency:** Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS)

# FY 2023 Conservation Innovation Grants (CIG): Classic Program

### Grant Overview

This program aims to stimulate the development and adoption of innovative conservation approaches and technologies in conjunction with agricultural production. This program funds the development and field testing, on-farm research and demonstration, evaluation, or implementation of approaches to incentivizing conservation adoption, including market-based and conservation finance approaches, as well as conservation technologies, practices, and systems. Eligible applicants are all nonfederal entities and individuals based in the United States for projects carried out in the United States.

### Program History

	Total Funding	# of Awards
2022	\$15 million	18

### Key Information and Tips

- Total Funding:** \$15 million
- Award Range:** \$250,000 to \$2,000,000
- Match:** 50 percent
- Solicitation Date:** August 31, 2023
- Proposal Due:** October 30, 2023

More information is available [here](#).



### Awardee Profile

Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University

**YEAR:** 2022

**AMOUNT:** \$1,998,583

Funding will be used for a project which focuses on getting silvopasture established on farms through incentive payments and entry to carbon markets. The project will work to better understand producer motivation and provide producer and technical service provider training to expand knowledge and speed adoption.

**Department:** U.S. Department of Agriculture

**Agency:** Natural Resources Conservation Service

## FY 2023 Conservation Innovation Grants (CIG): Classic Program

### Detailed Summary

The purpose of this program is to stimulate the development and adoption of innovative conservation approaches and technologies in conjunction with agricultural production. This program funds the development and field testing, on-farm research and demonstration, evaluation, or implementation of approaches to incentivizing conservation adoption, including market-based and conservation finance approaches, as well as conservation technologies, practices, and systems. Projects are expected to lead to the transfer of conservation technologies, management systems, and innovative approaches to agricultural producers, into technical manuals and guides, or to the private sector. Projects must meet the following requirements:

- Comply with all applicable federal, tribal, state, and local laws and regulations throughout the duration of the project
- Use a technology or approach that has been studied sufficiently to indicate a high probability for success
- Demonstrate, evaluate, and verify the effectiveness, utility, affordability, and usability of natural resource conservation technologies and approaches in the field
- Adapt and transfer conservation technologies, management, practices, systems, approaches, and incentive systems to improve performance and encourage adoption
- Introduce proven conservation technologies and approaches to a geographic area or agricultural sector where that technology or approach is not currently in use

NRCS is only accepting proposals that address one or more of the priorities listed in this section. Each proposal must clearly identify a primary priority on the proposal cover page:

**Forestry:** This priority area will accept proposals for climate smart forestry and agroforestry in one of the following two areas:

- **Agroforestry:** Agroforestry (alley cropping, silvopasture, forest farming or multistory cropping, riparian forest buffers, and windbreaks shelterbelts) integrates trees into crop and livestock systems to address conservation needs, increase carbon storage, and build sustainable agricultural systems. Agroforestry systems can be expensive to implement, and it may take several years before the producer benefits financially from the conservation practice. Projects will be given higher priority that develop innovative tools for landowners that include:
  - Economic tools to help producers determine the financial benefits of adopting agroforestry. Tools should integrate entry costs, return on investment (such as improved production, income diversification, energy reduction), and conservation benefits (wildlife habitat, moisture management, soil health, odor mitigation, or reduced heat stress in livestock)

- Conservation practices and intermediate activities to help offset implementation and transition costs.
- **Climate smart Forestry:** Forests face increasing stress from extreme weather including longer and warmer seasons, drought, and precipitation intensity. To support forest landowners with maintaining healthy forests, assistance is needed in selecting native tree species adapted to climate shifts. Projects will be given higher priority that include both of the following:
  - A regionally specific guide (or guides) that helps private forest landowners and forest managers incorporate climate change considerations into forest management and climate adaptation efforts
  - Databases of suitable native tree and shrub species for seed zones within the specific region of the guide

**Habitat Conservation and Restoration for Wildlife and Invertebrates:** This priority area is focused on innovations to identify, improve, and expand habitats for wildlife and native beneficial invertebrate populations critical for ecosystems, agriculture, or other natural resource services. Higher priority will be given to projects that have a large impact on invertebrate conservation or can leverage other resource opportunities that have stackable conservation benefits. The following are examples of projects, but accepted proposals are not limited to these examples:

- Grassland management, including innovative ways to manage grasslands to increase wildlife or invertebrate food abundance
- Agroforestry, such as managing native tree and shrub communities that improve stream rehabilitation and increase riparian wildlife or invertebrate populations
- Cover crop systems that help manage beneficial invertebrates, such as systems that maximize beneficial invertebrate production for wildlife or to provide ecosystem services, and formulation of seed mixes for cover crops that support native invertebrate populations or specific species beneficial for crop pollination and plant health.
- Replanting with native plants, including economic studies on the costs and benefits of using native plants for habitat restoration, and identifying native or non-invasive non-native host plants that support insect populations that feed wildlife where native plant species can replace invasive species.
- Climate resilience through improved techniques to establish support for invertebrates and wildlife and climate-resilient plants that address drought and water retention aspects.
- Urban Agriculture, such as using beneficial insects for pest control, and substituting native varieties for urban vegetation to support native beneficial invertebrates and improve socio-ecological benefits (e.g., shade, pollinator habitat, privacy, stormwater management)

All projects should include some level of economic assessment that shows the cost of innovation and should be related to agricultural systems.

**Managing Agricultural Lands to Improve Local Water Quality:** This priority seeks creative, integrated solutions to address specific water quality improvement or protection goals at a local water resource level (e.g., locality, soil and water conservation district, sub-watershed, or groundwater recharge area). Proposals submitted under this priority area will apply strategies, operational processes, and decision support tools to identify and address nutrient reduction goals at a local water resource level and tie those reduction goals to conservation and management at the field level (and vice versa), and provide comprehensive, site-specific nutrient loss risk assessments and management plans for specific water quality improvements or the desired



outcomes at the local water resource level. The following are examples of projects, but acceptable proposals are not limited to these:

- A water body consistently experiences harmful algae bloom outbreaks that impact the quality of livestock water. A decision support tool is developed for producers to connect their nutrient management plan to the downstream goal of reducing harmful algae blooms, which may be more stringent than the current recommendations.
- Drinking water wells in a rural community are experiencing excess nitrate, which is leading to cases of 'blue baby' syndrome. Data show that the excess nitrate is likely coming from intense dairy operations in the groundwater recharge area of the drinking water wells. The project develops a conservation strategy to mitigate the excess nitrate loss from the dairies while maintaining their economic viability.
- Agricultural production is increasing or shifting in a watershed that contributes to a waterbody with high ecological, recreational, and tourism value for the local community. A decision support tool is developed to avoid excess nutrient contributions from the watershed to protect the waterbody, incorporating local agricultural businesses such as agrichemical dealers and crop consultants.

**Energy Conservation:** This priority seeks proposals for approaches to conserve energy for agricultural producers that help them achieve (or get closer to) energy self-sufficiency (i.e., net zero energy). Successful applicants will demonstrate merit in one or more of the following sub-priorities:

- Holistic approaches to improve energy efficiency and enhance the use of renewable energy resources tested at multiple producer operations
- Significant gains (compared to standard practice) in one or more of the following areas:
  - Energy efficiency for one or more energy-using systems (e.g., irrigation, field operations, poultry ventilation, grain drying, or parlor operations), use of onsite renewable resources to meet onsite energy needs, and use of advanced control systems to maximize the benefits of energy-efficient equipment and systems with onsite renewable resource systems.

**Economics:** This priority area will find synergies with practices that already exist and assess the financial and environmental benefits to those synergies. The innovation will be in the compounding of practices that are not currently combined. The following are examples of projects, but applications are not limited to these examples:

- A range planting to further improve erosion control immediately after a biomass project took trees from a range site
- Inter-organization collaborations to better use economic dollars. These projects will combine projects that are normally performed separately and assess the economic and conservation benefits of this combination

**Strengthening Conservation through Indigenous Knowledge:** This priority areas seeks innovative ideas that can increase conservation in the United States based on indigenous knowledge, priorities, and perspectives. Priority will be given to projects that address conservation needs for tribal and other indigenous lands. Proposals must address one or more of the following sub-priorities:

- Innovatively translating existing conservation practices (i.e., conservation practices currently represented in agricultural or forestry landscapes) to meet the needs of tribal nations or indigenous peoples using indigenous knowledge
- Introducing indigenous cropping systems or cultural crops (e.g., perennial plantings or rotations such as agroforestry, systems that integrate perennial grains into rotation, or transition to xeric farming);
- Fostering the conservation of culturally relevant species (e.g., bison, sugar maple, camas, river cane, salmon) or promoting tribal food sovereignty
- Employing innovative or repurposed planning tools, guidance documents, or climate smart agriculture and forestry adaptation practices that use traditional ecological knowledge in a dynamic response to a changing climate
- Demonstrating the conservation benefits of indigenous forestry management with the implementation of agroforestry and multistory cropping systems (also known as forest farming)
- Improving livestock and ecosystem management through indigenous uses of silvopasture and grazing management systems.

## Applicant Eligibility

Eligible applicants are all domestic nonfederal entities and individuals based in the United States for projects carried out in the United States.

“Based in the United States” includes all 50 states, the District of Columbia, the Caribbean Area (Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands), and the Pacific Islands Area (Guam, American Samoa, and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands).

## Funding

In FY 2023, approximately \$15 million is available to support an estimated 15 and 20 awards ranging from \$250,000 to \$2 million through this program.

At least 10 percent of the total funding available for this program will be set aside for projects from historically underserved producers or community-based organizations comprised of, or representing, these entities.

The project period is between one and three years and the estimated project start date is May 31, 2024.

## Matching and Cost Sharing

Applicants must provide at least 50 percent of the total project costs via nonfederal cash and/or in-kind contributions.

## Contact Information

CIG Staff

[nrcscig@usda.gov](mailto:nrcscig@usda.gov)

<https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/main/national/programs/financial/cig/>

# FEDERAL GRANT PROFILE



**Department:** U.S. Department of Agriculture  
**Agency:** Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS)

## FY 2023 Emergency Watershed Protection (EWP) Program

### Grant Overview

The purpose of this program is to provide financial and technical assistance to help local communities relieve imminent threats to life and property caused by floods, fires, windstorms, and other natural occurrences that impair a watershed. Eligible sponsors are entities with a legal interest in, or responsibility for, the areas threatened by the watershed emergency, including states, state agencies, and legal subdivisions of a state government, local units of government, including cities, counties, towns, flood and water control districts, soil and water conservation districts, Native American tribes, and Tribal organizations.

### Program History

	Total Funding	# of Awards
2019	\$42.5 million	13

### Key Information and Tips

**Total Funding:** Unspecified  
**Match:** Cash/In-Kind  
**Proposal due:** Rolling

- EWP does not require a disaster declaration by federal or state government officials for program assistance to begin.

For more information [click here](#).



### Awardee Profile

Town of Alstead  
Cheshire County, NH

**AMOUNT:** \$280,000

**YEAR:** 2019

Funding was awarded to Alstead following multiple rain events that caused flood-related damage in southwestern New Hampshire. The funds were used for emergency construction work and damage survey reports.

**Department:** U.S. Department of Agriculture

**Agency:** Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS)

## FY 2023 Emergency Watershed Protection (EWP) Program

### Detailed Summary

The purpose of this program is to provide financial and technical assistance to help local communities relieve imminent threats to life and property caused by floods, fires, windstorms, and other natural occurrences that impair a watershed. Funding will support projects that will:

- Provide protection from flooding or soil erosion
- Reduce threats to life and property
- Restore the hydraulic capacity to the natural environment to the maximum extent practical
- Be economically and environmentally defensible
- Be designed to acceptable engineering standards

In particular, funding will support recovery projects, such as:

- Removing debris from stream channels, road culverts, and bridges
- Reshaping and protecting eroded streambanks
- Correcting damaged or destroyed drainage facilities
- Establishing vegetative cover on critically eroding lands
- Repairing levees and structures
- Repairing certain conservation practices

This program may also support the purchase of floodplain property buyouts. In general, all projects must have a designated sponsor that will work with eligible public and private landowners to apply for assistance through this program. In some situations, eligible landowners may directly apply for assistance for the purchase of a floodplain easement if project funding for floodplain easements is available.

Responsibilities of sponsors include:

- Obtaining land rights for repairs
- Securing the necessary permits
- Accomplishing the installation of work
- Conducting operation and maintenance on completed projects

All projects must meet the following criteria:

- Address watershed impairment caused by a significant natural event that suddenly lowered the ability of a watershed to function properly or safely, such as:
  - Debris-clogged waterways
  - Unstable streambanks
  - Severe erosion jeopardizing public infrastructure
  - Wind-borne debris removal
  - Damaged upland sites stripped of protective vegetation by fire or drought
- Prevent major property damage or threat to human life that could be caused by another strong natural event in the near future

- Address eligible property, which, for the purposes of this program, is defined as any man-made structure permanently affixed to the land, such as houses, buildings, roads, utilities, structures, and dams

A disaster declaration by federal or state government officials is not required for program assistance to begin. The Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) state conservationist may declare a local watershed emergency and initiate program assistance in cooperation with an eligible sponsor.

## Applicant Eligibility

Eligible sponsors are entities with a legal interest in, or responsibility for, the areas threatened by the watershed emergency, including:

- States, state agencies, and legal subdivisions of a state government
- Local units of government, including cities; counties; towns; flood and water control districts; and soil and water conservation districts
- Native American tribes
- Tribal organizations

Sponsors must apply on behalf of eligible public and private landowners. In some situations, eligible landowners may directly apply for assistance for the purchase of a floodplain easement if project funding for floodplain easements is available.

Eligible applicants may be located in the U.S. territories of American Samoa, Guam, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, or the U.S. Virgin Islands.

Applicants may request support to address the same structural issue or practice no more than three times within a ten-year period.

## Funding

In FY 2023, an unspecified amount of funding is available to support awards through this program. In addition to providing monetary awards, this program will provide technical assistance.

Funds will be provided on a reimbursement basis.

The design and construction of proposed recovery measures must be completed within 220 days, or 10 days for exigent situations where the threat is immediate.

- Recovery measures that are eligible for support under the Farm Service Agency's (FSA's) Emergency Conservation Program
- Addressing pre-existing damage or damage resulting from regular storm events
- Addressing damage that threatens farmland, woodland, or pastureland only

## Matching and Cost Sharing

In general, sponsors must provide at least 25 percent of total construction costs for recovery projects, or total property costs, relation costs, and site restoration costs for floodplain property buyouts, via nonfederal cash or in-kind contributions.

## Contact Information

Questions can be directed to regional program staff or to the appropriate state program manager listed online at <https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/programs-initiatives/ewp-emergency-watershed-protection#contact>.

## FEDERAL GRANT PROFILE



**Department:** U.S. Department of Agriculture  
**Agency:** National Resource Conservation Service

# FY 2023 Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP)

### Grant Overview

This program promotes coordination of National Resource Conservation Service conservation activities with partners that offer value-added contributions to expand the collective ability to address on-farm, watershed, and regional natural resource concerns. Eligible applicants are agricultural or silvicultural producer associations, states, local governments, Indian tribes, farmer cooperatives, water districts, municipal water or wastewater treatment entities, institutions of higher education, conservation districts, and other qualified organizations.

### Program History

	Total Funding	# of Awards
2022	\$200 million	41
2020/2021	\$330 million	85

### Key Information and Tips

**Total Funding:** \$500 million

**Award Range:** \$250,000 - \$25 million

**Match:** One-to-one

**Solicitation date:** May 22, 2023

**Proposal due:** August 18, 2023

- Individual RCPP projects will only receive RCPP funds from a single source, either the 2018 Farm Bill funds or the IRA funds due to the specific, measurable climate-smart targeting required in the IRA.

More information can be found [here](#).



### Awardee Profile

Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship, IA

**AMOUNT:** \$5,844,156

**YEAR:** 2022

The Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship was awarded to expand and build upon successful locally-led efforts working collaboratively with cattle farmers to increase the resilience of their operations and improve conservation outcomes. Implemented through the use of precision ag and conservation planning tools, project partners plan to measure success by modeling reductions in nitrogen, phosphorus, and carbon equivalents within the project area.

**Department:** U.S. Department of Agriculture

**Agency:** National Resources Conservation Service

## FY 2023 Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP)

### Detailed Summary

The purpose of this program is to promote coordination of the funding agency's conservation activities with applicants (partners) that offer value-added contributions to expand the collective ability to address on-farm, watershed, and regional natural resource concerns. Through this program, the funding agency seeks to co-invest with applicants to implement projects that address conservation challenges and provide measurable improvements and outcomes for resource concerns. Award recipients may be provided both financial and technical assistance funds to carry out projects.

Applicants must propose projects that generate conservation benefits by addressing specific natural resource objectives in a state/multistate area, or address one or more priority resource concerns within one of the designated critical conservation areas. Projects must be for land management, land rental, U.S.-held easements, entity-held easements, or public works/watersheds.

This program employs a co-investment approach through which the funding agency and applicants collaborate to implement natural resource conservation activities to design, promote, and implement projects on agricultural and non-industrial private forest land. The following are the key principles of the program:

- **Impact:** applicants must propose effective and compelling solutions that address one or more natural resource concerns to help solve natural resource challenges
- **Partner contributions:** applicants are responsible for identifying any combination of cash and in-kind value-added contributions to leverage the funding agency's investments
- **Partnerships and management:** projects must integrate multiple conservation approaches, implement new technologies, build new partnerships, or effectively take advantage of program flexibilities to deliver conservation solutions, and applicants must have experience, expertise, and capacity to manage the partnership and project, provide outreach to producers, and quantify the environmental outcomes of a project, with priority consideration given to projects that meaningfully engage historically underserved farmers and ranchers as well as those that coordinate with other federal, state, tribal, or local efforts

Successful applicants will bring an array of financial and technical capabilities to projects; demonstrate experience working effectively and collaboratively with agricultural producers across the landscape; and propose innovative, sustainable, and measurable approaches to achieving compelling conservation outcomes.

### Applicant Eligibility

Eligible applicants are:

- Agricultural or silvicultural producer associations, or other groups of producers
- State or local units of government
- Indian tribes



- Farmer cooperatives
- Water districts, irrigation districts, acequia, rural water districts or associations, or other organizations with specific water delivery authority to agricultural producers
- Municipal water or wastewater treatment entities
- Institutions of higher education
- Organizations, businesses, or other entities that have an established history of working cooperatively with producers to address local conservation priorities related to agricultural production, wildlife habitat development, or non-industrial private forest land management, or to address critical watershed-scale soil erosion, water quality, sediment reduction, or other natural resource issues
- Entities, such as Indian tribes, state governments, local governments, or non-governmental organizations that have farmland or grassland protection programs that purchase agricultural land easements, as defined in 7 CFR Section 1468.3
- Conservation districts

Each project must have a single lead partner that is an eligible applicant. A contributing partner may be an eligible applicant or may be a third-party individual or organization that would not qualify as an eligible applicant.

Critical concern area (CCA) projects must take place wholly within a CCA. State/multistate projects must be carried out either within a single state or in multiple states. For multistate projects, priority consideration will be given to proposals identifying a manageable number of states.

Applicants with an existing RCPP project may apply for additional funding to support an existing project or for a new project. When considering proposals related to an existing project, the funding agency considers previous performance and project outcomes as part of the evaluation criteria.

## Funding

In FY 2023, a total of \$500 million is available to support awards through both the Classic program and the RCPP Alternative Funding Arrangements (AFA) program. Up to \$225 million of the RCPP funds available through this funding announcement is provided through the Inflation Reduction Act of 2022 (IRA). The IRA directs NRCS to prioritize funding for proposals that “support the implementation of conservation projects that assist agricultural producers and nonindustrial private forestland owners in directly improving soil carbon, reducing nitrogen losses, or reducing, capturing, avoiding, or sequestering carbon dioxide, methane, or nitrous oxide emissions, associated with agricultural production.”

Fifty percent of the RCPP funding is dedicated to NRCS-designated CCA projects, and 50 percent is dedicated to projects in the state or multistate category. The maximum RCPP funding (combined FA and TA) available for any project selected under this announcement is \$25 million. The minimum funding amount for an RCPP project is \$250,000.

When applying for funding, applicants will need to select a proposal type (Classic or AFA) as well as a funding pool (state, multistate, or CCA). Up to \$50 million is being made available specifically for NRCS to enter into AFAs with Indian Tribes. Any unused funds may be available to enter into other partnership agreements. RCPP funds awarded at the time the agreement is executed are committed by NRCS for 5 years. Partners may request an agreement term of longer than 5 years when it is necessary to meet the objectives of the program. In the case of IRA-funded projects, all financial and technical assistance funds must be expended by

September 30, 2031, and no IRA-funded RCPP project partnership agreements will be extended beyond that date.

## Cost Sharing and Matching

Applicants are responsible for identifying any combination of cash and in-kind support that provides a significant portion of the overall costs of the project. Certain project activities, such as entity-held easements and public works activities, have specific minimum matching fund requirements.

Proposals will be evaluated, in part, on the contribution of nonfederal resources to the project, and the funding agency strongly recommends that applicants propose value-added contributions that enhance the overall impact and efficacy of a project.

Producer expenses are not eligible contributions if associated with a producer contract funded by this program. Producer expenses incurred for eligible activities completed without funding assistance from this program may be eligible as a contribution.

## Contact Information

Program Staff  
[rcpp@usda.gov](mailto:rcpp@usda.gov)

<https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/programs-initiatives/rcpp-regional-conservation-partnership-program>

## FEDERAL GRANT PROFILE



**Department:** U.S. Department of Commerce

**Agency:** National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA)

# FY 2023 Coastal Habitat Restoration and Resilience Grants for Tribes and Underserved Communities

## Grant Overview

This program supports opportunities for underserved communities, tribes, and/or tribal entities to meaningfully engage in coastal habitat restoration activities. Awards are intended to support capacity-building activities that have the greatest potential to lead to habitat restoration that enhances the resilience of underserved communities in marine, estuarine, coastal, and Great Lakes areas. Eligible applicants are institutions of higher education; nonprofits; for-profit organizations; U.S. territories; or state, local, or tribal governments that can demonstrate status as an underserved community, or that partner with underserved communities or tribes or tribal entities, in coastal areas.

## Program History

	Total Funding	# of Awards
2022	\$25 million	35

## Key Information and Tips

**Total Funding:** \$45 million

**Award Range:** \$75,000 to \$3 million

**Match:** Not required

**Solicitation Date:** September 1, 2023

**Proposal Due:** December 19, 2023

<https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/grant/coastal-habitat-restoration-and-resilience-grants-tribes-and-underserved-communities>



## Awardee Profile

Kashia Band of Pomo  
Indians of the Stewarts  
Point Rancheria, CA

**YEAR:** 2022

**AMOUNT:** \$1.6 million

The funding will be used to build their capacity to participate in and lead abalone restoration on their ancestral lands. They will take steps toward establishing a tribal breeding program for red abalone and will train and employ tribal divers to conduct ecological monitoring.

**Department:** U.S. Department of Commerce

**Agency:** National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA)

# FY 2023 Coastal Habitat Restoration and Resilience Grants for Tribes and Underserved Communities

## Detailed Summary

The purpose of this program is to support opportunities for underserved communities, tribes, and tribal entities to meaningfully engage in coastal habitat restoration activities. Awards are intended to support capacity-building activities that have the greatest potential to lead to habitat restoration that enhances the resilience of underserved communities in marine, estuarine, coastal, and Great Lakes areas.

For the purposes of this program, underserved communities refer to populations sharing a particular characteristic, as well as geographic communities, that have been systematically denied a full opportunity to participate in aspects of economic, social, and civic life. Meaningful engagement of underserved communities is intended to ensure that communities are integral to the visioning, decision-making, planning, and/or leadership for coastal habitat restoration projects; to ensure that the scope of such projects is inclusive of the priorities and needs of communities; and/or to ensure that the benefits of such projects flow back to underserved communities.

Awards are intended to invest in building organizational capacity and supporting restoration activities that benefit underserved communities and enhance their resilience to climate hazards. Capacity building may include participation in municipal or regional-scale resilience planning, project planning and feasibility studies, stakeholder engagement, proposal development for future funding, and outreach and education. Restoration project activities, including for demonstration projects, may include engineering and design, permitting, on-the-ground restoration, and pre- and post-project implementation monitoring.

Projects should address the following program priorities:

- Enhancing habitat in support of ecosystem and community resilience: supporting work that will strengthen the resilience within the ecosystem and flow to underserved communities and tribes, and work that will enhance the ability to plan and prepare for adverse effects of extreme weather events or climate hazards or provide additional co-benefits to the community.
- Increasing organizational and technical capacity of underserved communities, tribes, and/or tribal entities to lead and/or participate in habitat restoration activities: supporting activities that build the capacity of underserved communities to lead and/or participate in habitat restoration activities.

Options for increasing capacity may include:

- Funding paid positions, including contracts, to support the community's leadership or engagement in the project
- Contracting for technical expertise to advance the community's habitat restoration goals

- Funding paid internships, educational opportunities, or partnerships and mentoring to support the community's engagement in current and/or potential future projects
- Funding office or meeting space needed to engage the community

In addition, habitat restoration activities may include participation in municipal or regional-scale resilience planning, project scoping and goal setting, project planning, project location evaluation and selection, design plan review and comment, and/or management of multifaceted habitat restoration project design and construction. Activities may also include providing public feedback on all phases of habitat restoration scoping and implementation through such mechanisms as public meetings and public site visits.

## Applicant Eligibility

Eligible applicants are institutions of higher education; nonprofits; for-profit organizations; U.S. territories; or state, local, or tribal governments that can demonstrate status as an underserved community, or that partner with underserved communities or tribes or tribal entities, in coastal areas.

Applicants must propose work in coastal, marine, estuarine, or Great Lakes areas. Coastal areas are defined as those within coastal shoreline counties/parishes, or within coastal watershed counties/parishes. Coastal shoreline counties are directly adjacent to the open ocean, estuaries, or the Great Lakes. Coastal watershed counties are located along inland rivers and streams with a significant impact on coastal and ocean resources.

Applicants for Great Lakes projects must propose work within one of the eight U.S. Great Lakes states, comprising Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, Minnesota, New York, Ohio, Pennsylvania, and Wisconsin. Applicants may propose projects in American Samoa, Guam, the Northern Mariana Islands, Puerto Rico, and the U.S. Virgin Islands.

Applicants may propose multiple project sites in a single application.

## Funding

In FY 2023, approximately \$45 million in funding is available to support awards ranging from \$75,000 to \$3 million through this program. The funding agency anticipates typical funding awards will range from \$250,000 to \$1 million over three years. Up to \$20 million will specifically be available as direct awards and subawards to Indian tribes and Native American organizations that represent Indian tribes through formal legal agreements. The remaining \$25 million will be available to all eligible applicants.

Project periods of up to three years are encouraged, with the potential for extensions of up to five years at the funding agency's discretion based on project needs. The earliest anticipated award start date is October 1, 2024.

## Matching and Cost Sharing

Matching funds are not required for this program; however, the funding agency desires cost sharing to encourage partnerships among government, community, industry, and academia. Applicants should indicate in the application if they are using federal funds, nonfederal funds, or a combination of both as match and leverage. Non-federal match is not included in the evaluation criteria.

## Contact Information

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<https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/grant/coastal-habitat-restoration-and-resilience-grants-tribes-and-underserved-communities>

## FEDERAL GRANT PROFILE



**Department:** U.S. Department of Commerce

**Agency:** National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA)

# FY 2022 Marine Debris Removal

### Grant Overview

This program offers funding that supports locally driven, community-based marine debris removal projects. These projects benefit coastal habitat, waterways, and wildlife including migratory fish. Eligible applicants are states, local governments, tribal governments, institutions of higher education, non-profit organizations, and commercial (for-profit) organizations.

### Program History

	Total Funding	# of Awards
2020	\$1.3 million	10
2019	\$1.5 million	10

### Key Information and Tips

**Total Funding:** \$5 million

**Award Range:** \$50,000 - \$750,000

**Match:** one-to-one

**Solicitation date:** August 2, 2021

**Proposal due:** September 24, 2021 (Letter of Intent)

- Only selected applicants will be invited to submit full proposals which will be due January 14, 2022

<https://marinedebris.noaa.gov/resources/funding-opportunities>



### Awardee Profile

Oregon State Marine Board  
Corvallis, OR

**AMOUNT:** \$50,000

**YEAR:** 2020

The Oregon State Marine Board received funding to remove abandoned and derelict vessels (ADVs) from marinas while they are still securely moored and afloat.

**Department:** U.S. Department of Commerce

**Agency:** National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA)

## FY 2022 Marine Debris Removal

### Detailed Summary

The purpose of this program is to support the development and implementation of locally driven marine debris assessment, removal, and prevention projects that benefit coastal habitat, waterways, and National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) trust resources. Projects supported through this program will create long-term, quantifiable ecological benefits and habitat improvements for NOAA trust resources through on-the-ground marine debris removal activities. Projects should also foster awareness of the sources and effects of marine debris to further the conservation of living marine resource habitats, and to contribute to the understanding of marine debris composition, distribution, and impacts.

The highest priorities for this program are the detection and removal of derelict fishing gear, abandoned or derelict vessels, and the removal of medium- to large-scale marine debris that has a negative impact on NOAA trust resources and important habitat areas. Other priority activities include:

- Projects that pair removal activities with technically sound, cost-effective habitat monitoring that measures the benefits of debris removal to NOAA trust resources
- Detection and removal of debris resulting from hurricanes and other natural disasters
- Detection and removal of legacy aquaculture debris
- Shoreline or riparian cleanup coupled with education and outreach efforts, monitoring programs, or volunteer involvement that aim to reduce or prevent future accumulation of marine debris
- Derelict piling removal projects with meaningful benefits to NOAA trust resources or with strong debris impact-related reason supporting removal

Strong applications will integrate innovative, sustainable approaches for disposal of debris. The funding agency may consider the disposal methodology and whether these types of sustainable disposal options are integrated into projects as selection factors during the application evaluation process. Strong applications will also describe the specific resources, navigational, and economic benefits that are expected from projects.

The funding agency encourages projects implementing activities that fit into existing national or regional programs and other plans to address marine debris. Additional information regarding NOAA Marine Debris Action Plans can be found online at [marinedebris.noaa.gov/emergency-response-guides-and-regional-action-plans](https://marinedebris.noaa.gov/emergency-response-guides-and-regional-action-plans).

### Applicant Eligibility

Eligible applicants are:

- State, local, tribal, territory, and freely associated state governments whose activities affect research or regulation of marine debris
- Institutions of higher education, nonprofit organizations, or commercial (for-profit) organizations with expertise in a field related to marine debris



Projects may be implemented throughout all U.S. coastal, marine, and Great Lakes areas; the coastal and marine areas of U.S. territories or Freely Associated States; or within coastal areas of Mexico and Canada, as long as benefits to U.S. resources, navigation, and economy can be clearly demonstrated. Sanctuaries, reserves, or other protected areas are valuable natural resource areas; however, projects are not limited to these areas and may take place in remote, urbanized, or underserved areas.

Applications from veterans, minority-serving institutions, and entities that work in underserved areas are encouraged. Applications that have been submitted to other National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) programs or as part of another NOAA award may be considered for this program.

## Funding

In FY 2022, up to \$5 million is expected to be available through this program to support an anticipated 8 to 15 cooperative agreements ranging from \$50,000 to \$750,000. Additional funding may be awarded above the \$750,000 limit to allow for effective completion of proposed project objectives. Awards typically range from \$150,000 to \$350,000.

Applicants must provide at least a one-to-one nonfederal match of the requested award amount via cash or in-kind contributions. In addition to required cost sharing, applicants are encouraged to leverage additional investment where possible. All or part of the matching requirement may be waived if the applicant can demonstrate the following:

- No reasonable means are available through which the matching requirement can be met
- The probable benefit of such project outweighs the public interest in such matching requirement

The earliest anticipated start date for awards will be September 1, 2022. Project periods may last up to two years; however, if habitat recovery monitoring activities are proposed to be conducted before or following removal, a project period of up to three years may be considered, as long as there is reasonable justification provided.

Pre-award costs are allowable only with prior approval and will be incurred at the applicant's own risk. Applications requesting support for large equipment purchases; to expand an organization's day-to-day administrative or program management activities; or to support strictly administration, salaries, overhead, and travel without being part of a specific project will be a low priority.

Projects focused on removing primarily hazards to human health or removals for aesthetic purposes with no clear connection to National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) resources are not a focus of this program. In addition, applications addressing other types of pollution not fitting the definition of marine debris are not priorities for this program and may not be considered.

## Contact Information

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Management and Program Analyst  
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<https://marinedebris.noaa.gov/resources/funding-opportunities>

FEDERAL  
GRANT PROFILE



**Department:** U.S. Department of Commerce

**Agency:** National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA)

## FY 2024 Marine Debris Interception Technologies under the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law

### Grant Overview

The overall objective of this funding opportunity is to support the installation, monitoring, and maintenance of proven marine debris interception technologies to benefit marine and coastal NOAA trust resources, coastal communities, and/or local economies. Eligible applicants are state, local, tribal and territory governments whose activities affect research or regulation of marine debris, as well as institutions of higher education, non-profit organizations, and commercial (for-profit) organizations with expertise in a field related to marine debris.

### Program History

There is no available program history.

### Key Information

**Total Funding:** \$4 million

**Award Range:** \$100,000 - \$1,000,000

**Match:** Not Required

**Solicitation date:** August 28, 2023

**Proposal due:** November 15, 2023 (Letter of Intent) – March 15, 2024 (Application)

<https://www.grants.gov/web/grants/view-opportunity.html?oppld=349978>



### Tips

- Priority will be given to applications that have a long-term monitoring and maintenance plan in place which does not require additional future federal funding.
- Applicants should describe any project activities that will take place within, have a portion of the benefits flow to, and/or meaningfully engage Tribal or underserved communities.

**Department:** U.S. Department of Commerce

**Agency:** National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA)

# FY 2024 Marine Debris Interception Technologies under the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law

## Detailed Summary

The overall objective of this funding opportunity is to support the installation, monitoring, and maintenance of proven marine debris interception technologies to benefit marine and coastal NOAA trust resources, coastal communities, and/or local economies. This funding opportunity will openly compete funding made available through the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law to support marine debris removal through the deployment and management of proven debris interception technologies throughout the coastal United States, Great Lakes, territories, and freely associated states, including in Tribal and underserved communities.

Marine debris is defined as "any persistent solid material that is manufactured or processed and directly or indirectly, intentionally or unintentionally, disposed of or abandoned into the marine environment or the Great Lakes".

NOAA seeks to fund projects focused on the deployment of marine debris interception technologies in riverine, shoreline, estuarine, and urban environments where trash, plastics, and other persistent, reaccumulating macro-debris can be captured and removed.

For the purpose of this funding opportunity, marine debris interception technologies include devices (such as litter traps, shoreline removal technologies, booms, skimmers, conveyors with receptacles, floating collection devices, etc.) that capture trash, plastics, and other macro-debris. These interception technologies may be utilized alone or together as part of a wider interception strategy. NOAA will prioritize applications that demonstrate clear removal and disposal outcomes. Examples of alternative disposal may include: recycling, reuse, waste-to-energy, or other innovative disposal methods.

The intent of this funding is to not only remove debris but to reduce the reaccumulation of debris in the future. Successful interception technology proposals for this funding opportunity should also be paired with a prevention strategy or plan, such as behavior change and/or awareness efforts through an education and outreach plan or other source reduction efforts.

Prevention activities should prioritize collaboration with diverse entities and groups. These include (but are not limited to) collaborations with public and nonprofit organizations, community and watershed groups, anglers, boaters, industry (e.g., recreational fishing industries, other marine industries, and plastic and waste management industries), corporations and businesses, youth groups, students, landowners, academia, Tribal governments, and local and state government agencies.

## Applicant Eligibility

Eligible applicants are state, local, tribal and territory governments whose activities affect research or regulation of marine debris, as well as institutions of higher education, non-profit organizations, and commercial (for-profit) organizations with expertise in a field related to marine debris.

NOAA is strongly committed to broadening the participation of veterans, minority serving institutions, and entities that work in underserved and underrepresented areas.

Applications that have been submitted to other NOAA grant programs or as part of another NOAA grant may be considered under this solicitation.

## Funding

In FY 2024, up to \$4 million is expected to be available through this program to support an anticipated an unspecified number of projects ranging from \$100,000 to \$1,000,000. The minimum federal request for this solicitation is \$100,000. The maximum federal request is \$1 million. The typical funding level for the federal share of project awards ranges from \$250,000 to \$750,000.

Applications should cover a project period of performance from two to four years in duration.

## Matching and Cost-Sharing

There is no non-federal matching requirement for this funding. However, cost sharing, leveraged funds, and in-kind support are important to ensuring these projects are impactful and meaningfully supported by other project partners. Applicants are strongly encouraged to explore the opportunity to combine NOAA federal funding with formal matching contributions and informal leverage from a broad range of sources in the public and private sectors. Contact Information

## Contact Information

Sarah Lowe

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[sarah.lowe@noaa.gov](mailto:sarah.lowe@noaa.gov)

<https://www.grants.gov/web/grants/view-opportunity.html?oppId=349978>

## FEDERAL GRANT PROFILE



**Department:** U.S. Department of Commerce

**Agency:** National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA)

# FY 2024 NOAA Ocean Acidification Program Education Mini-Grant Program

### Grant Overview

This program will develop ocean and coastal acidification education tools and programs in underserved and/or Indigenous communities or Tribes. The program will support education programs that are responsive to the goals of the NOAA Ocean Acidification Education Implementation Plan and the 2021-2040 NOAA Education Strategic Plan. Eligible applicants are institutions of higher education; other nonprofits; commercial organizations; state, local and Indian tribal governments; and Federal agencies.

### Program History

A program history is unavailable.

### Key Information and Tips

**Total Funding:** \$400,000

**Award Range:** Up to \$50,000

**Match:** Not required

**Solicitation date:** June 29, 2023

**Proposal due:** February 23, 2024 Full Application

<https://www.grants.gov/web/grants/view-opportunity.html?oppld=348989>



### Tips

- A [webinar](#) outlining required proposal elements and the review process will take place on Monday, July 10th, 2023 at 5 pm Eastern Standard Time (EST)
- Letters of Intent are strongly encouraged, and if submitted must be received by 11:59 pm EST on Friday, September 15th, 2023.

**Department:** U.S. Department of Commerce

**Agency:** National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA)

# FY 2024 NOAA Ocean Acidification Program Education Mini-Grant Program

## Detailed Summary

The purpose of this program is to develop ocean and coastal acidification education tools and programs in underserved and/or Indigenous communities or Tribes. The program will support education programs that are responsive to the goals of the NOAA Ocean Acidification Education Implementation Plan and the 2021-2040 NOAA Education Strategic Plan. Projects will respond to one of the following four NOAA Ocean Acidification Education Implementation Plan goals:

- Education and outreach products that incorporate data interpretation and/or visualization
- Multimedia educational tools
- Discrete hands-on lab modules that incorporate inquiry-based learning and align with Next Generation Science and/or Common Core Standards to be used in a formal education setting
- Protocol or tools for ocean acidification community science programs

All projects must promote stronger connections between diversity, equity, inclusion, and accessibility (DEIA) and ocean and/or coastal acidification as it relates to ocean literacy, stewardship, or workforce development in the United States, particularly in underserved and/or Indigenous communities or Tribes. Projects that incorporate NOAA or university-generated ocean acidification data, where applicable, are encouraged.

It is recommended that the project proposed feature a collaboration between NOAA educators and/or scientists and educators/scientists from an entity external to NOAA, such as a minority serving institution.

## Applicant Eligibility

Eligible applicants are institutions of higher education; other nonprofits; commercial organizations; state, local and Indian tribal governments; and Federal agencies.

Preference will be given to proposals that include a partner from an underserved and/or Indigenous community or Tribal representative as a co-principal investigator

## Funding

In FY 2024, approximately \$400,000 is available to support an unspecified number of awards up to \$50,000. The project period will be up to 24 months with an anticipated start date of September 1, 2024.

## Matching and Cost Share

No cost-share is required under this program.

## Contact Information

Program Staff

[Alexandra.Puritz@noaa.gov](mailto:Alexandra.Puritz@noaa.gov)

<https://www.grants.gov/web/grants/view-opportunity.html?opId=348989>

## FEDERAL GRANT PROFILE



**Department:** U.S. Department of Commerce

**Agency:** National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

# FY 2023-2024 Ocean-Based Climate Resilience Accelerators – Phase One

### Grant Overview

The purpose of this program is to develop business accelerators that provide specific programming and opportunities for small businesses and entrepreneurs aligned with identified marine-based climate resilience theme areas. The program will foster public-private partnerships to develop and support sustainable business models around ocean, coastal, and Great Lakes observation technologies, products, and services that address climate resilience needs. Eligible applicants are US-based for-profit organizations (corporations, partnerships, joint ventures), academic institutions, nonprofit organizations, tribal organizations or governments, and state, territorial, or local governmental entities, agencies, or instrumentalities.

### Program History

This is a new program funded through the Inflation Reduction Act.

### Key Information

**Total Funding:** \$5 million

**Award Range:** \$50,000 - \$250,000

**Match:** Not required

**Solicitation date:** July 10, 2023

**Application due:** September 11, 2023

<https://ioos.noaa.gov/about/governance-and-management/inflation-reduction-act/accelerators/>



### Tips

- Applicants are encouraged to form partnerships, with one accelerator entity serving as the lead and primary applicant.
- The Climate Resilience Accelerator Program consists of two phases. Phase one is for program design and phase two is for implantation.
- Only phase one awardees will be invited to apply for phase two funding.
- Lead applicant must have experience supporting business and/or entrepreneurs in business development



**Department:** U.S. Department of Commerce

**Agency:** National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

## FY 2023-2024 Ocean-Based Climate Resilience Accelerators – Phase One

### Detailed Summary

The purpose of this program is to develop business accelerators that provide specific programming and opportunities for small businesses and entrepreneurs aligned with identified marine-based climate resilience theme areas. The accelerators will support entrepreneurs and startups with training, resources, mentorship, and funding to bring ocean-based climate resilience solutions to market. The program will foster public-private partnerships to develop and support sustainable business models around ocean, coastal, and Great Lakes observation technologies, products, and services that address climate resilience needs.

The program seeks to fund accelerator entities that will support businesses navigating commercialization pathways for ocean-based climate resilience solutions that support NOAA's mission to help communities prepare for, adapt to, and build resilience to climate challenges. NOAA has developed climate resilience theme areas that align with the [U.S. Ocean Climate Action Plan](#), and expects results of this opportunity to support relevant actions, such as:

- Maintain and expand ocean basic and applied research, observing networks, modeling, forecasting, synthesis, and technology development.
- Develop new and innovative technologies and information pathways for ocean climate action.
- Expand coastal mapping, monitoring, observational systems, research, and modeling to inform science-based decision-making capabilities and advance use of nature-based solutions.
- Advance research, technologies, and observation systems to support climate-ready marine resources and communities.
- Enhance community resilience to ocean change by developing ocean-based solutions that help communities adapt and thrive in our changing climate.

The Climate Resilience Accelerator Program consists of **two phases**. In Phase One, NOAA seeks proposals from qualified accelerator entities that define an approach for scoping, planning, and designing climate resilience accelerator activities according to the requirements defined in this announcement. In a subsequent Phase Two funding opportunity announcement, to be released approximately 1 month from the start of Phase One awards, NOAA will seek proposals for the implementation of the climate resilience accelerator programs that are planned and designed in Phase One. The current solicitation is for Phase One projects only.

Phase One - Scoping and Design of a Climate Resilience Accelerator Program: qualified accelerator entities will receive funding to assist with scoping, planning, and designing an ocean-based climate resilience-focused accelerator program design that aligns with NOAA mission areas and addresses climate resilience challenges. Applications for Phase One should propose to design a climate resilience accelerator program focused on ocean-based climate resilience solutions, which should include one or more of the following program priorities:

- Climate Resilience Theme Area: Ocean Renewable Energy – Climate resilience will require the development of ocean observation technologies and information services to support siting, construction, and operation of ocean renewable energy resources. These technologies are also necessary to support forward-looking analyses, science, and research to ensure ocean renewable energy progresses in tandem with biodiversity protection, ocean course, and future changes due to climate change. This effort should not support the development of energy technologies themselves but rather the tools and information services that enable sustainable, safe, inclusive, and informed ocean energy development.
- Climate Resilience Theme Area: Coastal and Ocean Carbon Sequestration Monitoring and Accounting - There is growing interest in enhanced natural and engineered sequestration of carbon in the coasts and oceans. To support climate resilience as these initiatives, move from pilot to large operational scale, there will be a need for ocean observation and information services that monitor their effectiveness and environmental impact and verify and monitor the quantities of carbon they remove. This effort should not support the development of carbon sequestration technologies themselves but rather the tools and information services that can measure the effectiveness and monitor the impacts of their deployment.
- Climate Resilience Theme Area: Hazard Mitigation and Coastal Resilience - To facilitate climate resilience, coastal communities require accurate wind and water level predictions to prepare for and mitigate beach erosion, coastal flooding, and prevent loss of human life. Accurate wind-wave forecasting in enclosed or semi-enclosed basins, nearshore coastal areas, islands, and estuaries require high resolution observations and modeling at a regional scale. These regional scale observations and model products are currently not available to vulnerable coastal communities nationwide; therefore, it is not possible to accurately predict the magnitude or extent of coastal flooding during episodic storms, King tides, and other wind and wave driven events.
- Climate Resilience Theme Area: Ecosystem Services, Including Change Detection, Change Analysis (Cause and Effects) and Change Adaptation and /or Mitigation - Many decision makers, including natural resource managers, offshore operators, permitting agencies, and others, require the best available science, data, and predictions to reduce uncertainty in decision making processes. Advances in ocean and coastal observation technology, modeling, and analytics are required to accurately assess and forecast ecosystem changes, such as shifts in species location, biological production, biogeochemical regulation, and physical phenomena like marine heat waves or changes in sea level. Improved predictive capabilities will provide natural resource managers and other decision makers with the ability to adapt climate resilience efforts at meaningful spatial and temporal scales.

## Applicant Eligibility

Eligible applicants are US-based, geographically concentrated entities to include the following: for-profit organizations, which may include corporations, partnerships, and joint ventures; academic institutions, including institutions of higher education and NOAA cooperative institutes; nonprofit organizations; tribal organizations; state, territorial, or local governmental entities, agencies or instrumentalities; or tribal governments or consortia of tribal governments.

## Funding

In FY 2023 - 2024, approximately \$5 million is expected to be available to support an anticipated 15 awards ranging from \$50,000 to \$250,000 through this program. Phase One projects are expected to be complete within 9 months.

## Matching and Cost Sharing

Matching funds are not required for this program.

## Contact Information

Debra Esty

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<https://ioos.noaa.gov/about/governance-and-management/inflation-reduction-act/accelerators/>



**Department:** Department of Commerce

**Agency:** National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA)

## FY 2023 NOAA Restoring Fish Passage through Barrier Removal Grants Under the BIL and IRA

### Grant Overview

The purpose of this grant is to provide federal financial and technical assistance to fish passage through the removal of dams and other in-stream barriers for native migratory or sea-run fish. Eligible applicants are institutions of higher education, non-profits, commercial (for profit) organizations, U.S. territories, and state, local, and Native American and Alaska Native tribal governments.

### Program History

	Total Funding	# of Awards
2022	\$87 million	23

### Key Information

**Total Funding:** \$175 million

**Award Range:** Up to \$20 million

**Match:** Not required

**Solicitation date:** July 31, 2023

**Due date:** October 16, 2023

<https://www.grants.gov/web/grants/view-opportunity.html?opId=349628>



### Tips

- Priority will be given to projects that include on-the-ground construction likely to occur during the award period.
- Projects that include the removal of barriers will score highly during the evaluation process.
- Webinar series will be available on August 10, August 16, August 22 and August 24 – click here for more [details](#).

**Department:** Department of Commerce

**Agency:** National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA)

## **FY 2023 NOAA Restoring Fish Passage through Barrier Removal Grants Under the BIL and IRA**

### **Detailed Summary**

The purpose of this funding is to provide federal financial and technical assistance to fish passage through the removal of dams and other in-stream barriers for native migratory or sea-run fish. Funding will be used for fish passage that rebuilds productive and sustainable fisheries, contributes to the recovery and conservation of threatened and endangered species, enhances watershed health, promotes resilient ecosystems and communities, especially in underserved communities, and improves economic vitality, including local employment.

Applicants should address the following program priorities:

- Achieving measurable and lasting benefits for migratory fish populations
- Enhancing community resilience to climate hazards and providing other co-benefits
- Fostering regionally important habitat restoration
- Providing benefit to and engaging with underserved communities, including through partnerships with Indian tribes and other indigenous communities.

Proposals submitted under this funding opportunity should describe how the proposed fish passage project responds to one or more of the following objectives:

- Contribute to the recovery of threatened and endangered species listed under the Endangered Species Act
- Sustain or help rebuild fish stocks and their prey managed under the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act
- Improve passage to support native fish species of the Great Lakes
- Enhance the sustainability of saltwater recreational fisheries
- Enhance community resilience, especially in tribal, indigenous and underserved communities, to climate hazards by removing or improving aging infrastructure and supporting other co-benefits
- Support hydroelectric license surrender to remove dams that are no longer economically viable or provide significant public benefits

Proposed activities may include future project development and feasibility studies; engineering and design; permitting; on-the-ground fish passage restoration; pre- and post-removal implementation monitoring; stakeholder engagement, including in tribal, indigenous and underserved communities; building the capacity of new and existing restoration partners to manage multi-faceted project design and construction; and education and outreach. Priority will be given to applications that include on-the-ground construction likely to

occur during the award period. Proposals that focus on the removal of barriers will score highly in the evaluation criteria. Proposals may include multiple locations throughout a watershed or other geographic area and should demonstrate how multiple locations collectively contribute to priorities within the watershed or geographic area. Applicants should identify if the project is located within tribal or underserved communities and/or whether a portion of the resilience benefits from the proposed work will flow to tribal, indigenous or underserved communities.

## Applicant Eligibility

Eligible applicants are institutions of higher education, non-profits, commercial (for profit) organizations, U.S. territories, and state, local, and Native American and Alaska Native tribal governments.

Applicants must propose work in areas that benefit United States migratory fish. Eligible applicants for Great Lakes projects must propose work within one of the eight U.S. Great Lakes states (New York, Pennsylvania, Ohio, Michigan, Indiana, Illinois, Wisconsin, and Minnesota), within the Great Lakes basin. Eligible applicants that propose projects in the Commonwealth and Territories of the United States must propose work in American Samoa, Guam, Northern Mariana Islands, U.S. Virgin Islands, or Puerto Rico.

## Funding

In FY 2023, up to \$175 million will be available to support cooperative agreements ranging from \$1 million to \$20 million through this program.

It is anticipated that typical federal funding awards will range from \$3 million to \$6 million. Single fish passage project awarded the maximum allowed request (\$20 million) will have significant ecological impact, detailed and credible cost estimates and clear justifications, and construction readiness.

Project periods of up to three years are encouraged, with the potential for up to five years if necessary. The earliest anticipated start date for awards will be July 1, 2024.

## Matching and Cost Sharing

A non-federal match is not required for this program; however, cost sharing or leveraging is an element considered in the evaluation criterion. Non-federal match funds may be optionally included within the application to demonstrate stakeholder support for the proposed work.

## Contact Information

Competition Manager

Melanie Gange

(301) 427-8664

[fish.passage.grants@noaa.gov](mailto:fish.passage.grants@noaa.gov)

<https://www.grants.gov/web/grants/view-opportunity.html?oppld=349628>

## FEDERAL GRANT PROFILE



**Department:** U.S. Department of Interior  
**Agency:** Bureau of Land Management

# FY 2024 Aquatic Resource Management

## Grant Overview

The National Aquatic Resources Program conserves and restores riparian and wetland areas, aquatic habitats, and water resources to provide resource functioning ecosystems for a combination of balanced and diverse uses including fish and wildlife, and for the long-term needs of future generations. Eligible applicants are state, county, city or township governments; special district governments; independent school districts; institutions of higher education; Native American tribal governments (Federally recognized); public housing authorities/ Indian housing authorities; nonprofits; and private institutions of higher education.

## Program History

This is no program history available at this time.

## Key Information

**Total Funding:** \$1 million

**Award Range:** \$100,000 - \$500,000

**Match:** Not required

**Solicitation date:** November 6, 2023

**Proposal due:** January 19, 2024

<https://www.grants.gov/search-results-detail/350870>



## Tips

- Applicants are encouraged to contact the Aquatic Resources Program Lead at the BLM state, district, or field office where the work is proposed to take place to discuss proposed projects in order to determine eligibility under the BLM priorities and criteria described in this NOFO.
- All proposed projects submitted under this funding opportunity must state a benefit to the public and must address national level priorities crossing state boundaries.

**Department:** U.S. Department of Interior

**Agency:** Bureau of Land Management

## FY 2024 Aquatic Resource Management

### Detailed Summary

The purpose of this program is to conserve and restore riparian and wetland areas, aquatic habitats, and water resources to provide resource functioning ecosystems for a combination of balanced and diverse uses including fish and wildlife, and for the long-term needs of future generations. The Program ensures that public land management based on multiple use and sustained yield provides healthy and productive riparian, wetland, and aquatic habitat, achieves land health standards, and considers society's long-term needs for healthy watersheds. The issues the Program addresses are diverse and include restoration, habitat fragmentation and degradation, drought resiliency, water availability, and aquatic invasive species.

Core functions of this program include:

- Decision Support: Inventory, assess, and monitor aquatic resources to inform our understanding of condition and trend, guide the BLM's management activities, and assess regulatory compliance
- Protection: Maintain and protect the chemical, physical, and biological integrity of aquatic resources
- Restoration: Restore aquatic resources affected by past and present impacts, aquatic invasive species, wildfire, drought, and floods; and increase their resistance, resilience, and adaptability to the impacts of climate change
- Water Resource Sustainability: Identify the quantity and quality of water required to conserve and restore riparian and wetland areas and aquatic habitats and secure water rights and protections so sufficient water is physically and legally available for all public land management purposes
- Environmental Compliance: Ensure full compliance with applicable Federal law, Executive Orders, regulations, and policy and with state laws where such compliance does not conflict with Federal law mandates
- Collaboration: Coordinate, cooperate, and consult with Federal, State, tribal, and local governments and other programs, partners, and communities, to foster adaptive approaches to conservation and restoration and implement education and outreach programs

The BLM (HQ) Aquatic Resources Program continues to advance the [Department of the Interior's priorities](#) to address the climate crisis, restore balance on public lands and waters, advance environmental justice, and invest in a clean energy future. Specific focus to implement the Department priorities include, but are not limited to those actions that: protect biodiversity; restore aquatic resources; increase resistance, resilience, and adaptability to climate change and help leverage natural climate solutions; contribute to conserving at least 30 percent of our lands and waters by the year 2030; engage communities of color, low income families, and rural and indigenous communities to enhance economic opportunities related to aquatics; and use the best science and data available to make decisions. The funding agency will work with partner organizations:

- Contributing to the above-described Program core functions.
- Combating climate change and habitat loss impacts to aquatic resources
- Restoring and connecting degraded aquatic resources
- Increasing ecosystem resistance, resilience, and adaptability to drought, wildfires, and floods



- Determining acceptable levels of hydrologic and ecological change given BLM management objectives
- Advancing inventory, assessment, and monitoring activities and tools.
- Preventing the establishment and spread of invasive species
- Increasing public knowledge of aquatic habitats on funding agency managed lands, including with a targeted focus on communities of color, low-income families, and rural and indigenous communities

## Applicant Eligibility

Eligible applicants are state, county, local, and special district governments; school districts; institutions of higher education; Native American tribal governments; nonprofits; and public housing authorities. Eligible applicants are state, county, city or township governments; special district governments; independent school districts; institutions of higher education; Native American tribal governments (Federally recognized); public housing authorities/ Indian housing authorities; nonprofits; and private institutions of higher education.

## Funding

In FY 2024, approximately \$1 million is available to support an estimated three awards between \$100,000 and \$500,000 through this program. The award period is five years.

## Matching and Cost-Sharing

Cost sharing or matching is not required for this program; however, a voluntary cost share is strongly encouraged.

## Contact Information

Program Contact

Scott Miller

720-545-8367

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<https://www.grants.gov/search-results-detail/350870>

## FEDERAL GRANT PROFILE



**Department:** U.S. Department of Interior

**Agency:** U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

# FY 2024 Candidate Species Conservation Program

## Grant Overview

The purpose of this program is to support conservation tasks for high-priority candidate species or other at-risk species across the United States, such that identified threats to the species may be reduced or eliminated. Eligible applicants are state, local, and tribal governments, independent school districts, institutions of higher education, public housing authorities and Indian housing authorities, Native American tribal organizations, individuals, nonprofit organizations, for-profit organizations, and small businesses.

## Program History

Funding history is not available.

## Key Information

**Total Funding:** \$500,000

**Award Range:** \$1,000 - \$500,000

**Match:** Not required

**Solicitation date:** October 18, 2023

**Proposal due:** Rolling

<https://www.grants.gov/web/grants/view-opportunity.html?oppld=350615>



## Tips

- Applicants are expected to have demonstrated knowledge and understanding of the biology of the involved candidate or at-risk species and its ecosystem, including preferably having worked with the species in the field.
- Supported projects should show a clear conservation benefit that will help prevent listing of a candidate or at-risk species, remove identified threats or improve status, or contribute information on species response to changes in the environment.

**Department:** U.S. Department of Interior

**Agency:** U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

# FY 2024 Candidate Species Conservation Program

## Detailed Summary

The purpose of this program is to support conservation tasks for high-priority candidate species or other at-risk species across the United States, such that identified threats to the species may be reduced or eliminated. Projects should show a clear conservation benefit that will help prevent listing of a candidate or at-risk species, remove identified threats or improve status, or contribute information on species' response to changes in the environment.

Priority will be given to projects that meet one or more of the following criteria:

- Enhance partnerships with states, non-governmental organizations, private landowners, federal agencies, and other entities
- Leverage the funding agency's resources and authorities with those of the funding agency's partners

Priority will also be given to projects that will aid in improving the conservation status of a species that will preclude the need to list it under the Endangered Species Act (ESA), including activities that will secure scientific information about candidate or at-risk species and their habitat, the implementation of restoration actions that will lead to removing threats to the species, or helping to prevent extinction of a species.

Eligible species include candidate and at-risk species. A full list of candidate species can be found online at <https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/>. Candidate species with a listing priority number between one and six are considered by the funding agency to be especially important. All projects must demonstrate the purpose of conserving species that are candidates for ESA listing status, included in the Service National Listing work plan, or otherwise identified as priority at-risk species.

For the purposes of this program, at-risk species are defined as species that have a reasonable potential to be considered for listing. A list of at-risk species that is prioritized according to an assigned priority number is available in FWS' [National Listing Workplan](#). The at-risk species with a priority number of three or four are considered by the funding agency to be especially important.

## Applicant Eligibility

Eligible applicants are state, local, and tribal governments, independent school districts, institutions of higher education, public housing authorities and Indian housing authorities, Native American tribal organizations, individuals, nonprofit organizations, for-profit organizations, and small businesses.

Applicants are expected to have demonstrated knowledge and understanding of the biology of the involved candidate or at-risk species and its ecosystem, including preferably having worked with the species in the field.

## Funding

In FY 2024, approximately \$500,000 is available to support grants and cooperative agreements ranging from \$1,000 to \$500,000 through this program. The number of grants and cooperative agreements to be distributed and award amounts will vary by region.

Applicants are encouraged to contact their local Ecological Services program field office or the Regional Office personnel before applying.

The project period is 3 years.

## Matching and Cost Sharing

Matching funds are not required for this program, however, applicants that provide at least 10 percent of the total project budget will be awarded additional points during the application evaluation process. Projects should show how they enhance partnerships with states, non-profit organizations, private landowners, and others, and leverage our resources and authorities with those of our partners.

## Contact Information

Patrick McKenney

703-358-2341

[fws\\_es\\_grants@fws.gov](mailto:fws_es_grants@fws.gov)

<https://www.grants.gov/web/grants/view-opportunity.html?oppld=350615>

## FEDERAL GRANT PROFILE



**Department:** U.S. Department of Interior  
**Agency:** U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS)

# FY 2024 Coastal Program

### Grant Overview

This program encourages the restoration and protection of fish and wildlife habitat on public and private lands by providing technical and financial assistance to coastal communities, conservation partners, and landowners. Eligible applicants are state governments, local governments, special districts, independent school districts, private and public institutions of higher education, federally recognized Native American tribal governments, public housing authorities and Indian housing authorities, Native American tribal organizations, nonprofits organizations, for-profit organizations, individuals and small businesses.

### Program History

	Funding	# of awards
2022	\$6 million	200

### Key Information and Tips

**Total Funding:** \$6 million

**Award Range:** Up to \$500,000

**Match:** Not required

**Solicitation date:** September 29, 2023

**Proposal due:** Rolling

- Prior to developing or submitting applications, applicants are requested to contact the appropriate [regional program office](#)
- Applications are accepted on a rolling basis until September 30, 2024.

<https://www.fws.gov/coastal/>



### Awardee Profile

Valley Adventist Church School  
Ventura County, CA

**AMOUNT:** \$5,624

**YEAR:** 2015

The “Schoolyard Habitat Program” connects kids with nature by helping schools to create native wildlife habitat and sustainable outdoor classrooms. The program provides technical and financial assistance to administrators, teachers, and students to create effective schoolyard habitat projects.

**Department:** U.S. Department of Interior

**Agency:** U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS)

## FY 2024 Coastal Program

### Detailed Summary

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Coastal Program is a voluntary, community-based program that provides technical and financial assistance primarily through cooperative agreements to coastal communities, conservation partners, and landowners to restore and protect fish and wildlife habitat on public and private lands. Projects are developed in collaboration with partners, and with substantial involvement from USFWS field staff and must support the missions of the U.S. Department of the Interior, USFWS, and the Coastal Program, and be based on biological principles and the best available science.

The Coastal Program promotes ecosystem-based practices and seeks partnerships to carry out locally-led on-the-ground conservation. This funding opportunity aims to deliver financial assistance in coordination with federal, state, and local agencies, non-governmental organizations, and private landowners, on public and private lands, working lands and Tribal lands, and in urban and underserved communities, and strives to achieve the following goals:

- **Species Conservation:** Implement habitat projects within priority areas that prevents decline or supports recovery of species of greatest conservation concern, including federal listed species, Birds of Conservation Concern, pollinators and interjurisdictional fish. This priority supports the Service's conservation mission and our role as stewards of federal trust species with intent to make improvements in select species status.
- **Habitat Connectivity:** Integrate projects at a landscape level to improve habitat connectivity and functionality. This priority recognizes that interconnected habitats and migration corridors are vital to fish and wildlife conservation and the work of these programs can support and leverage other conservation efforts including National Wildlife Refuges and other protected lands.
- **Resilient Ecosystems:** Advance ecosystem health and resilience to climate change related impacts benefitting communities of fish, wildlife, plants and people. This priority acknowledges that climate change affects all parts of the ecosystem including those in which humans depend and these Programs can work with diverse partners to support conservation actions to help them respond to climate change stressors.

### Applicant Eligibility

Eligible applicants are state governments, local governments, special districts, independent school districts, private and public institutions of higher education, federally recognized Native American tribal governments, public housing authorities and Indian housing authorities, Native American tribal organizations, nonprofits organizations, for-profit organizations, individuals and small businesses.

## Funding

In FY 2024, an estimated total of \$6 million is available to support approximately 150 awards of up to \$500,000 through this program. Awards are made on a rolling basis between October 1, 2023, and September 30, 2024.

## Matching and Cost Sharing

Matching funds are not required for this program; however, applicants are encouraged to provide at least a one-to-one match via cash and/or in-kind contributions.

## Contact Information

Christopher Eng  
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<https://www.fws.gov/coastal/>

## FEDERAL GRANT PROFILE



**Department:** U.S. Department of Interior  
**Agency:** Bureau of Land Management

# FY 2024 Eastern States (ES) Aquatic Resource Management Program

## Grant Overview

The National Aquatic Resources Program protects and restores riparian and wetland areas, aquatic habitats, and water resources to provide functioning ecosystems for a combination of balanced and diverse uses including fish and wildlife, and for the long-term needs of future generations. Eligible applicants are state, county, city, or township governments; special district governments; independent school districts; institutions of higher education; Native American tribal governments (federally recognized); public housing authorities/ Indian housing authorities; nonprofit organizations; and private institutions of higher education.

## Program History

There is no program history available at this time.

## Key Information

**Total Funding:** \$225,000

**Award Range:** \$25,000 - \$200,000

**Match:** Not required

**Solicitation date:** November 6, 2023

**Proposal due:** January 31, 2024

<https://www.blm.gov/programs/aquatics>



## Tips

- Applicants are encouraged to contact the Aquatic Resources Program Lead at the BLM state, district, or field office where the work is proposed to take place to discuss proposed projects in order to determine eligibility under the BLM priorities and criteria described in this NOFO.
- All proposed projects submitted under this funding opportunity must state a benefit to the public and must address national level priorities crossing state boundaries.



**Department:** U.S. Department of Interior

**Agency:** Bureau of Land Management

# FY 2024 Eastern States (ES) Aquatic Resource Management Program

## Detailed Summary

The purpose of this program is to protect and restore riparian and wetland areas, aquatic habitats, and water resources to provide resource functioning ecosystems for a combination of balanced and diverse uses including fish and wildlife, and for the long-term needs of future generations. The program ensures that public land management based on multiple use and sustained yield provides healthy and productive riparian, wetland, and aquatic habitat, achieves land health standards, and considers society's long-term needs for healthy watersheds. The issues the program addresses are diverse and include restoration, habitat fragmentation and degradation, drought resiliency, water availability, and aquatic invasive species.

Core functions of this program include:

- Decision Support: Inventory, assess, and monitor aquatic resources to inform our understanding of condition and trend, guide the BLM's management activities, and assess regulatory compliance.
- Protection: Maintain and protect the chemical, physical, and biological integrity of aquatic resources.
- Restoration: Restore aquatic resources affected by past and present impacts, aquatic invasive species, wildfire, drought, and floods; and increase their resistance, resilience, and adaptability to the impacts of climate change.
- Water Resource Sustainability: Identify the quantity and quality of water required to conserve and restore riparian and wetland areas and aquatic habitats and secure water rights and protections so sufficient water is physically and legally available for all public land management purposes.
- Environmental Compliance: Ensure full compliance with applicable Federal law, Executive Orders, regulations, and policy and with state laws where such compliance does not conflict with Federal law mandates.
- Collaboration: Coordinate, cooperate, and consult with Federal, State, tribal, and local governments and other programs, partners, and communities, to foster adaptive approaches to conservation and restoration and implement education and outreach programs.

The BLM (ES) Aquatic Resources Program continues to advance the [Department of the Interior's priorities](#) to address the climate crisis, restore balance on public lands and waters, advance environmental justice, and invest in a clean energy future. Specific focus to implement the Department priorities include, but are not limited to those actions that: protect biodiversity; restore aquatic resources; increase resistance, resilience, and adaptability to climate change and help leverage natural climate solutions; contribute to conserving at least 30 percent of our lands and waters by the year 2030; engage communities of color, low income families, and rural and indigenous communities to enhance economic opportunities related to aquatics; and use the best science and data available to make decisions.

The funding agency will work with partner organizations:

- Contributing to the above-described Program core functions.
- Combating climate change and habitat loss impacts to aquatic resources.
- Restoring and connecting degraded aquatic resources.
- Increasing ecosystem resistance, resilience, and adaptability to drought, wildfires, and floods.
- Determining acceptable levels of hydrologic and ecological change given BLM management objectives.
- Advancing inventory, assessment, and monitoring activities and tools.
- Preventing the establishment and spread of invasive species.
- Increasing public knowledge of aquatic habitats on funding agency managed lands, including with a targeted focus on communities of color, low-income families, and rural and indigenous communities.

Projects must assist BLM in meeting one or more of the [Department of Interior priorities](#), as well as one of the Biden-Harris Administration priorities.

## Applicant Eligibility

Eligible applicants are state, county, city, or township governments; special district governments; independent school districts; institutions of higher education; Native American tribal governments (federally recognized); public housing authorities/ Indian housing authorities; nonprofit organizations; and private institutions of higher education.

## Funding

In FY 2024, approximately \$225,000 is available to support an estimated two awards between \$25,000 and \$200,000 through this program. Projects cannot be funded for more than a five-year period.

## Matching and Cost Sharing

Matching or cost sharing is not required for this program; however, a voluntary cost share is strongly encouraged.

## Contact Information

Irene Sattler  
402-830-3941  
[isattler@blm.gov](mailto:isattler@blm.gov)

<https://www.blm.gov/programs/aquatics>

## FEDERAL GRANT PROFILE



**Department:** U.S. Department of Interior

**Agency:** U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

# FY 2023 Endangered Species Recovery Implementation

### Grant Overview

This program supports the implementation of priority recovery actions for federally endangered and threatened species using Endangered Species Act (ESA) recovery plans. Projects must carry out actions described in a species' draft or final recovery plan, recovery strategy, or recovery outline. Eligible applicants are state, county, city, township, and special district governments, independent school districts, institutions of higher education, federally recognized and non-federally recognized Native American tribal governments, public housing authorities and Indian housing authorities, nonprofit organizations, and for-profit organizations including small businesses.

### Program History

	Total Funding	# of Awards
2022	\$14 million	50

### Key Information and Tips

**Total Funding:** \$14 million

**Award Range:** \$1,000 - \$2 million

**Match:** Not required

**Solicitation date:** December 21, 2022

**Proposal due:** September 30, 2023

<https://www.fws.gov/service/recovery-challenge-grants>



### Awardee Profile

Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife, Reintroduction of the Pygmy Rabbit to the Columbia Basin

**AMOUNT:** \$79,583

**YEAR:** 2022

This project aims to reintroduce the pygmy rabbit to the Columbia Basin by translocation, breed and release, and observation and monitoring rabbits in the region.

**Department:** U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

# FY 2023 Endangered Species Recovery Implementation

## Detailed Summary

The purpose of this program is to support the implementation of priority recovery actions for federally endangered and threatened species using Endangered Species Act (ESA) recovery plans. This program will also help to support the funding agency's priorities of Build Back Better framework; integrate climate change mitigation; advance racial justice, equity, diversity, and inclusion; and support the America the Beautiful initiative. Projects must carry out actions described in a species' draft or final recovery plan, recovery strategy, or recovery outline. Actions may include:

- Implementing activities that conserve the species diversity as represented by genetic, geographic, or life-history variation, which conserve the species' adaptive capacity
- Implementing activities that improve demographic factors such as abundance, survival, productivity, and population growth rate, which enhance the species' ability to withstand stochastic disturbance events and persist at the population or meta-population scale
- Implementing activities that improve spatial structure, such as increased distributional extent and connectivity between populations, which minimizes the species' risk to catastrophic events
- Assessing the current condition of the species' population structure, distribution, abundance, demographic rates, diversity, and habitat
- Assessing changes from the historical to current condition
- Explaining the causes and effects of stressors and conservation efforts that have resulted in the current condition
- Predicting the species' response to a range of plausible future scenarios of environmental conditions and conservation efforts

Copies of species recovery documents are available online at [www.fws.gov/endangered](http://www.fws.gov/endangered).

Highest priority will be given to projects that develop and implement management actions designed to have a direct impact on recovery of listed species through development and implementation of management actions that reduce or eliminate threats, such as projects that propose to:

- Stabilize endangered and threatened species on the brink of extinction by accomplishing priority 1 and 2 recovery actions
- Achieve downlisting and delisting criteria by accomplishing priority 3 recovery actions
- Contribute information on the species' current condition or changes from historical to current condition, or predict the species' response to environmental conditions or conservation efforts
- Reduce the extinction risk to the species, such that the future condition of the species is likely to improve in terms of representation, resiliency, and/or redundancy

Priority will also be given to projects that enhance partnerships with states, nonprofit organizations, private landowners, other federal agencies, and others; and to projects that leverage funding agency resources with those of project partners.

## Applicant Eligibility

Eligible applicants are state, county, city, township, and special district governments, independent school districts, institutions of higher education, federally recognized and non-federally recognized Native American tribal governments, public housing authorities and Indian housing authorities, nonprofit organizations, and for-profit organizations including small businesses.

Applicants are expected to have demonstrated knowledge and understanding of the biology of the involved endangered or threatened species and their ecosystems. The funding agency prefers applicants that have worked with the species in the field, and that hold a currently valid Endangered Species Act [permit](#). If awarded funds, applicants without a valid permit for the proposed activity may need to apply for and obtain one before beginning the proposed activity.

Applicants that enhance partnerships with states, non-governmental organizations, private landowners, and others will receive priority in the evaluation process.

## Funding

In FY 2023, an estimated total of \$14,000,000 is available to support grants and cooperative agreements ranging from \$1,000 to \$2,000,000 through this program.

Matching funds are not required for this program. However, projects that leverage partner contributions will receive additional points in the evaluation process. Applicants that provide a match of at least 10 percent of the budget will receive points in the evaluation process, and applicants that provide a match greater than 30 percent of the budget will receive the highest number of points.

## Contact Information

Patrick McKenny

(719) 651-7961

[FWS\\_ES\\_GRANTS@fws.gov](mailto:FWS_ES_GRANTS@fws.gov)

<https://www.grants.gov/web/grants/view-opportunity.html?oppld=345057>

## FEDERAL GRANT PROFILE



**Department:** U.S. Department of Interior

**Agency:** U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

# FY 2023 Fisheries Restoration and Irrigation Mitigation Act (FRIMA)

### Grant Overview

This program supports the development, improvement, or installation of fish screens, fish passage devices and related features to mitigate impacts on fisheries associated with irrigation water system diversions in Pacific Ocean drainages in Oregon, Washington, Montana, Idaho, and California. Eligible applicants are states, local governments, special districts, school districts, institutions of higher education, Native American tribal governments and organizations, public/Indian housing authorities, nonprofit organizations, and for-profit organizations and small businesses. Applicants must propose projects located in areas of California, Idaho, western Montana, Oregon, or Washington that drain into the Pacific Ocean.

### Program History

Award history is not available for this program.

### Key Information

**Total Funding:** \$5 million

**Award Range:** Up to \$1 million

**Match:** 35%

**Solicitation date:** April 6, 2023

**Proposal due:** June 6, 2023

[The Fisheries Restoration and Irrigation Mitigation Act \(FRIMA\)](#)

[| U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service \(fws.gov\)](https://www.fws.gov)



### Tips

- Points will be awarded during the evaluation to projects where Indian tribes are intended to be the prime recipient of the funding or will be a substantially involved partner on the project.
- It is strongly suggested that all potential applicants work with the local Fish and Aquatic Conservation Program (FAC) staff to ensure that their project meets conservation needs.

**Department:** U.S. Department of Interior

**Agency:** U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

## **FY 2022023 Fisheries Restoration and Irrigation Mitigation Act (FRIMA)**

### **Detailed Summary**

The purpose of this program is to provide awards for projects supporting the Fisheries Restoration and Irrigation Mitigation Act (FRIMA). The act was established with the goals of decreasing fish mortality associated with the withdrawal of water for irrigation and other purposes without impairing the continued withdrawal of water for those purposes, as well as decreasing the incidence of juvenile and adult fish entering water supply systems.

Awards provided for the implementation of FRIMA will support the development, improvement, or installation of fish screens, fish passage devices, and related features to mitigate impacts on fisheries associated with irrigation water system diversions in Pacific Ocean drainages in California, Idaho, Montana, Oregon, and Washington. Eligible projects must involve voluntary irrigation diversion passage, screening, barrier inventories, and related features.

Projects will be expected to address, mitigate, or resolve limiting factors or otherwise contribute to the recovery or sustainability of priority species and their habitats. For the purposes of this program, priority species include federal trust species, regional priority species, species that may be considered tribal trust resources, and species of greatest conservation need, as defined in state wildlife action plans.

The extent to which the project is expected to enhance ecological resilience, including the capacity to recover from or persist through disturbances or changes, for species and habitats vulnerable to climate change and extreme weather events will be considered during the evaluation.

### **Applicant Eligibility**

Eligible applicants are states, local governments, special districts, school districts, institutions of higher education, Native American tribal governments and organizations, public/Indian housing authorities, nonprofit organizations, and for-profit organizations and small businesses. Applicants must propose projects located in areas of California, Idaho, western Montana, Oregon, or Washington that drain into the Pacific Ocean.

Applicants must propose projects that are implemented in coordination with Fish and Aquatic Conservation Program (FAC) staff that work collaboratively with potential applicants to identify common conservation priorities.

### **Funding**

In FY 2023, an estimated \$5 million is available to support an expected 5 to 25 awards ranging from \$100,000 to \$1 million through this program. Awards will primarily be provided as cooperative agreements; however the funding agency may also use grant awards, procurement instruments, or Cooperative Ecosystem Studies Units as the funding instrument.

Applicants must provide 35 percent of the total project costs via nonfederal cash and/or in-kind contributions. For the purposes of the cost-share requirement, any amounts provided by the Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) directly or through a grant award to another entity for a project carried out under the program will be credited toward the nonfederal share of costs for the project. Awarded project components will be ineligible to receive federal funds from any other source, with the exception of BPA funds, for the same project purpose.

Awards are expected to be provided on January 31, 2024. Proposed projects must have a clear pathway for completion within three years.

## Contact Information

Shannon Boyle

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[The Fisheries Restoration and Irrigation Mitigation Act \(FRIMA\) | U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service \(fws.gov\)](#)



FEDERAL  
GRANT PROFILE



**Department:** Department of Interior  
**Agency:** U.S. Fish and Wildlife Services

## FY 2024 Great Lakes Fish and Wildlife Restoration Act

### Grant Overview

This program provides funding to protect, restore, and enhance Great Lakes fish and wildlife habitat under the Great Lakes Fish and Wildlife Restoration Act. Eligible applicants are states, local governments, special district governments, independent school districts, institutions of higher education, Native American tribal governments, nonprofit organizations, and for-profit organizations and small businesses.

### Program History

	Total Funding	# of Awards
2022	\$2.83 million	12
2021	\$1.92 million	8

### Key Information and Tips

**Total Funding:** \$3.75 million  
**Award Range:** \$2,000 - \$1,240,000  
**Match:** 25 percent  
**Solicitation Date:** October 26, 2023  
**Proposal Due:** January 4, 2024

Eligibility is limited to proposed activities that are within the Great Lakes Basin or that impact a fish or wildlife species present in the Great Lakes Basin which includes the states of Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, New York, Ohio, Pennsylvania, and Wisconsin.

Click [here](#) for more information.



### Awardee Profile

University of Wisconsin –  
Madison, WI

**AMOUNT:** \$206.067

**YEAR:** 2022

Regional Analysis of Species Recovery: American Marten Demography, Connectivity and Population Viability in a Recovery Network in the Upper Great Lakes Region. This project will provide new information on the abundance, vital rates, connectivity, and the first viability analysis for this recovery network across the Great Lakes region to inform state, tribal and federal land management decisions to enhance the connectivity and viability of these populations.

**Department:** Department of Interior

**Agency:** U.S. Fish and Wildlife Services

# FY 2024 Great Lakes Fish and Wildlife Restoration Act

## Detailed Summary

The purpose of this program is to encourage cooperative conservation, restoration, research, and management of the fish and wildlife resources and their habitats in the Great Lakes Basin. All projects must be consistent with the goals of the [Great Lakes Fish and Wildlife Restoration Act of 2022](#), and the recommendations of the Great Lakes Regional [Collaboration's Strategy to Restore and Protect the Great Lakes](#). The six goals of the Act are:

- Restoring and maintaining self-sustaining fish and wildlife resources
- Minimizing the impacts of contaminants on fishery and wildlife resources
- Protecting, maintaining and, where degraded and destroyed, restoring fish and wildlife habitat, including the enhancement and creation of wetlands that result in a net gain in the amount of those habitats
- Stopping illegal activities adversely impacting fishery and wildlife resources
- Restoring threatened and endangered species to viable, self-sustaining levels
- Protecting, managing, and conserving migratory birds

Applicants may submit research, restoration, or regional projects.

Construction and engineering costs are allowed for restoration projects that directly benefit fish and wildlife resources in the Great Lakes Basin. Equipment purchases are allowable for those items necessary to meet the stated project objectives.

## Applicant Eligibility

Eligible applicants are states, local governments, special district governments, independent school districts, institutions of higher education, Native American tribal governments, nonprofit organizations, and for-profit organizations and small businesses.

Applicants submitting full proposals for research or restoration projects must be sponsored by a member of the GLFWRA proposal review committee (PRC). Continuation of projects funded in previous fiscal years may be proposed, but such projects will be considered and reviewed as new projects. Regional project proposals must be submitted by a state director and/or tribal chair, and should impact multiple Great Lakes, states, and/or tribes.

The proposed activities must be within the Great Lakes Basin or impact a fish or wildlife species present in the Great Lakes Basin, which includes the states of Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, Minnesota, New York, Ohio, Pennsylvania, and Wisconsin. There is no limit on the number of research or restoration proposals or regional project proposals an applicant may submit.

## Funding

In FY 2024, approximately \$3.75 million is available to support an expected 8 to 14 grants and/or cooperative agreements through this program. Up to 33 and one-third percent of the total funding available may be used to support regional projects, with expected cooperative agreement amounts ranging from \$200,000 to \$1.24 million. In addition, awards will be provided for restoration and research projects, with awards expected to range from \$20,000 and \$400,000. Successful restoration and research project awards have ranged from \$2,300 to \$500,000, with an average award of \$145,292.

Award notifications are expected to be issued between mid- to late August 2024 and mid-September 2024. The project period typically ranges from one to four years. Start dates are flexible, but a start date between October 1, 2024, and March 1, 2025, is suggested.

## Matching and Cost Sharing

All proposals require a 25% cash or in-kind match of total project costs using non-federal sources. A non-federal match may be provided at any time during the 2-year period preceding January 1 of the year in which the applicant receives the restoration and/or research pre-proposal or Regional Project proposal. Eligible sources of nonfederal match include:

- The appraised value of land or a conservation easement connected with the project.
- The costs associated with securing a conservation easement, and restoration or enhancement of the conservation easement.
- Appraisal of the conservation easement.

Applicants may also attribute some or all of their allowable unrecovered indirect costs as matching contributions. If the funding agency's Midwest regional director determines that the authorization for the project does not require a nonfederal cost share, regional project proposals selected for funding may be exempt from cost sharing or partner match.

## Contact Information

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Click [here](#) for more information.

## FEDERAL GRANT PROFILE



**Department:** U.S. Department of Interior  
**Agency:** U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS)

# FY 2024 John H. Prescott Marine Mammal Rescue and Response Grant Program

### Grant Overview

The purpose of this program is to support the recovery, care, or treatment of sick, injured, or entangled marine mammals; respond to marine mammal stranding events that require emergency assistance; collect data and samples from living or dead stranded marine mammals for scientific research or assessments regarding marine mammal health; support facility operating costs that are directly related to such activities; and support the development of stranding network capacity, including training for emergency response, where facilities do not exist or are sparse. Eligible applicants include: marine mammal stranding participant entities; state, local, or eligible federal governments; or tribal personnel operating in the course of their official duties.

### Program History

	Total Funding	# of Awards
2023	\$2.162 million	17
2022	\$1.137 million	15

### Key Information

**Total Funding:** \$1.2 million  
**Award Range:** \$1,000-\$150,000  
**Match:** 25%  
**Solicitation date:** November 30, 2023  
**Proposal due:** March 15, 2024

<https://www.fws.gov/service/john-h-prescott-marine-mammal-rescue-and-response-grant-program>



### Awardee Profile

Clearwater Marine Aquarium, FL

**Year:** 2023

**Amount:** \$139,906

The Clearwater Marine Aquarium was awarded funding to improve stranding response and monitoring of the Florida manatee along the Atlantic Coast to enhance survival while assessing health implications and habitat adaptation as a result of unusual mortality events (UME).

**Department:** U.S. Department of Interior

**Agency:** U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS)

# FY 2024 John H. Prescott Marine Mammal Rescue and Response Grant Program

## Detailed Summary

The purpose of this program is to support the recovery, care, or treatment of sick, injured, or entangled marine mammals; respond to marine mammal stranding events that require emergency assistance; collect data and samples from living or dead stranded marine mammals for scientific research or assessments regarding marine mammal health; support facility operating costs that are directly related to such activities; and support the development of stranding network capacity, including training for emergency response, where facilities do not exist or are sparse.

This program is also intended to help foster the funding agency's relationship with partners that are closest to the resources by providing needed support for their response efforts. These efforts, in turn, may provide information important to the funding agency's management of these trust resources, as well as enhance the scientific database and knowledge of their needs in order to improve efforts to rescue, treat, rehabilitate, and release these species back to the wild.

Each project must address at least one species-specific priority within the waters of the United States. The program has specific priorities for West Indian manatees (Antillean subspecies) in Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands, West Indian manatees (Florida subspecies), southern sea otters in the Southwest, northern sea otters in the Pacific Northwest, northern sea otters in Alaska, Pacific walruses, and polar bears.

Applicants are encouraged to describe, in detail, all cooperative efforts among their existing partnerships. These efforts may include in-kind contributions, shared resources/equipment, and/or monetary donations in relationship to the marine mammals identified in the application. All cooperative efforts described in the application will be considered during the application evaluation process.

Priority will be given to projects focusing on marine mammal strandings. The funding agency may also consider:

- Equitable distribution within the program's stranding regions
- Any episodic stranding, entanglement, or mortality events, except for unusual mortality events, that occurred in any stranding region in the preceding year
- Any data with respect to average annual stranding, entanglements, and mortality events per stranding region
- The size of the marine mammal populations inhabiting a stranding region
- The importance of the region's marine mammal populations to the well-being of Indigenous communities
- The conservation of protected, depleted, threatened, or endangered marine mammal species

## Applicant Eligibility

Eligible applicants are entities that meet one of the following requirements:

- Marine mammal stranding participant entities in good standing, which are entities authorized under the Marine Mammal Protection Act (MMPA) Section 104(c) for response to injured or distressed marine mammals or scientific research regarding marine mammal health, or under MMPA Section 112(c) to take marine mammals as described in MMPA Section 109(h) in response to a stranding
- State, local, or eligible federal government or tribal personnel operating in the course of their official duties

Applicants are encouraged to describe, in detail, all cooperative efforts among their existing partnerships. These efforts may include in-kind contributions, shared resources/equipment, and/or monetary donations in relationship to the marine mammals identified in the application. All cooperative efforts described in the application will be considered during the application evaluation process.

An applicant may submit more than one application but no more than one application per category. A single application may address more than one species, and each application must address at least one species-specific priority.

## Funding

In FY 2024, an estimated \$1.12 million is expected to be available to support approximately 12 grants ranging from \$1,000 to \$150,000 through this program. The expected award amount is \$83,000.

Awards are expected to be issued on July 1, 2024, or approximately 120 days after the application due date.

Project periods may be up to three years.

Awards will be distributed, to the greatest extent practicable, equitably among the designated stranding regions. The program's four stranding regions are Alaska, California, the Pacific Northwest, and the South Atlantic-Gulf.

## Matching and Cost Sharing

Applicants must provide at least 25 percent of the total project costs via nonfederal cash and/or in-kind contributions. Third-party, in-kind contributions will be accepted. Proposed matching contributions in excess of 25 percent will become mandatory.

## Contact Information

Program Staff

Patrick McKenney

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<https://www.fws.gov/service/john-h-prescott-marine-mammal-rescue-and-response-grant-program>

## FEDERAL GRANT PROFILE



**Department:** U.S. Department of Interior  
**Agency:** National Fish Habitat Conservation

# FY 2024 National Fish Habitat Action Plan

### Grant Overview

The Action Plan aims to protect, restore and enhance the nation's fish and aquatic communities through funded partnerships that foster fish habitat conservation and improve the quality of life for the American people. Eligible projects may include efforts to protect/maintain intact and healthy aquatic systems, prevent further degradation of fish habitats that have been adversely affected, reverse declines in the quality and quantity of aquatic habitats to improve the overall health of fish/other aquatic organisms, and increase the quality and quantity of fish habitats that support a broad natural diversity of fish and other aquatic species.

Conservation partnerships under the National Fish Habitat Partnership vary in eligibility and deadlines. Announced FY 2024 requests for project proposals are available [here](#). More partnership applications will be added as they are announced in FY 2024.

### Program History

	Total Funding	# of Awards
2022	\$5.4 million	78

### Key Information

**Total Funding:** Varies

**Award Range:** Varies by proposal

**Match:** 1:1 non-federal

**Solicitation date:** Varies by partnership

**Proposal due:** Varies by partnership

<https://www.fishhabitat.org/news/fish-habitat-partnerships-announce-2024-requests-for-project-proposals>



### Awardee Profile

MGLP Region, MI

**Year:** 2022

**Amount:** \$60,155

Midwest Glacial Lakes Partnership area of focus is glacial lakes and their watersheds. This project was funded to assess relationships between fisheries and aquatic vegetation to improve lake habitat management.

## FEDERAL GRANT PROFILE



**Department:** U.S. Department of Interior  
**Agency:** U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS)

# FY 2024 National Fish Passage Program - Restoring River, Floodplain, and Coastal Connectivity and Resiliency

### Grant Overview

This program aims to provide direct technical and financial assistance to partners to remove instream barriers and restore aquatic organism passage and aquatic connectivity for the benefit of Federal trust resources. Eligible applicants include: state, local, and special district governments; independent school districts; institutions of higher education; tribal governments and organizations; housing authorities; nonprofits, small businesses; for-profit organizations; and individuals.

### Program History

	Total Funding	# of Awards
2023	\$9.2 million	150
2022	\$38 million	40

### Key Information and Tips

**Total Funding:** \$70 million

**Award Range:** \$250,000 - \$10 million

**Match:** Not required

**Solicitation date:** October 11, 2023

**Proposal due:** November 17, 2023 (LOI); December 31, 2024 (Invited Applicants)

- Priority will be given to applications that can demonstrate a clear timeline and pathway for on-the-ground implementation within one to four years.

<https://www.grants.gov/web/grants/view-opportunity.html?opId=345976>



### Awardee Profile

Kenai Peninsula Borough, AK

**Year:** 2022

**Amount:** \$1,614,106

Kenai Peninsula Borough was awarded funding to replace an undersized culvert with a channel spanning bridge and restore access to 10.8 miles of Coho Salmon spawning and rearing habitat on Tyonek Creek. Tyonek Creek is one of the largest and most important salmon streams near the village of Tyonek, Alaska.



**Department:** U.S. Department of Interior

**Agency:** U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS)

## **FY 2024 National Fish Passage Program - Restoring River, Floodplain, and Coastal Connectivity and Resiliency**

### **Detailed Summary**

The purpose of this program is to provide direct technical and financial assistance to remove instream barriers, restore aquatic organism passage, and restore climate-resilient aquatic connectivity in rivers, floodplains, and coastal habitat, for the benefit for federal trust resources. This program is intended to maintain or increase native fish populations to improve ecosystem resiliency and provide quality fishing experiences for the American people. This program is also intended to restore fish passage that will support the modernization of the country's infrastructure, such as road culverts, bridges, and water diversions, which will enhance community resilience to the impacts from climate change and other public safety hazards. Funding will support a variety of projects that are based upon sound scientific and technical principles, advance the funding agency's mission, and promote aquatic system resilience, including:

- Dam removals
- Culvert replacements
- Floodplain restoration and reconnection
- Dike breaches
- Reconnection of tidal habitats

All dam removal projects must include written consent of the dam owner submitted with the application if ownership is established. Ultimately, this program works to restore native fish and other aquatic species to self-sustaining levels by reconnecting habitats fragmented by barriers, and also strives to deliver benefits to human communities through infrastructure improvements and other actions that increase resilience to climate change impacts. Eligible activities include:

- Project planning and feasibility studies
- Engineering and design
- Permitting
- On-the-ground fish passage restoration
- Near-term implementation monitoring
- Project outreach
- Capacity to manage project-related activities

The funding agency will prioritize projects that:

- Maximize benefits to native priority species and habitats
- Provide sustainable fish passage benefits
- Contribute to or otherwise leverage regional or watershed priorities for habitat restoration, fish passage, or aquatic connectivity

- Enhance community resilience to climate change, address other public safety hazards, and generally provide other co-benefits, such as job creation or recreational fishing opportunities
- Involve advance coordination on species and watershed priorities with tribes and states
- Provide benefits to or engage with disadvantaged communities
- Are supported by partners, affected stakeholders, and the local community

This program is delivered through the funding agency's Fish and Aquatic Conservation (FAC) offices across states and territories. FAC staff will coordinate with project partners, stakeholders, and other U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) programs to identify and collaboratively develop and implement projects within regional priority areas. Projects will be selected on a regional basis based upon regional priorities.

## Applicant Eligibility

Eligible applicants include: state, local, and special district governments; independent school districts; institutions of higher education; tribal governments and organizations; housing authorities; nonprofits, small businesses; for-profit organizations; and individuals.

For eligible applicants to receive funding, NFPP projects must be implemented in coordination with Aquatic with Fisheries and Conservation (FAC) staff. FAC Program staff work collaboratively with potential applicants to identify common conservation priorities. It is strongly suggested that all potential applicants work with the local FAC Program staff to ensure that their project meets conservation needs of the Service.

## Funding

An estimated \$70 million is available to support approximately 80 awards ranging from \$250,000 to \$10 million through this program. In general, the expected award amount is \$1 million.

## Matching and Cost Sharing

Matching funds are not required for this program; however, this program seeks to secure 50 percent of total project costs at the program level. The funding agency encourages cost and resource sharing to build partnerships and demonstrate partner support for the projects. Matching contributions may include any non-funding agency funding or in-kind services or materials. Applications proposing matching contributions will receive additional points in the application evaluation process.

## Contact Information

Program Staff

Shannon Boyle

571-447-7496

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Applicants should contact their [regional office](#) for their agency contact.

<https://www.grants.gov/web/grants/view-opportunity.html?oppId=345976>

## FEDERAL GRANT PROFILE



**Department:** Department of Interior  
**Agency:** U.S. Fish and Wildlife Services

# FY 2024 North American Wetlands Conservation Act (NAWCA): Small Grants Program

### Grant Overview

This program seeks to protect, restore, enhance and/or establish wetlands and associated uplands habitats for the benefit of all wetlands-associated migratory birds. Eligible applicants are state and county governments, city or township governments, special district governments, independent school districts, public, private and state controlled institutions of higher education, federally recognized Native American tribal governments, Native American tribal organizations, nonprofits with or without 501(c)(3) status, and small businesses.

### Program History

	Total Funding	# of Awards
2022	\$2.7 million	30

### Key Information and Tips

**Total Funding:** \$3 million

**Award Range:** \$1,000 - \$250,000

**Match:** One-to-one

**Solicitation Date:** August 9, 2023

**Proposal Due:** October 12, 2023

<https://www.grants.gov/web/grants/view-opportunity.html?oppld=349808>



### Awardee Profile

Grand Valley Wetlands, CO

**AMOUNT:** \$100,000

**YEAR:** 2021

This project received funding to support the long-term protection, restoration, and enhancement of wetlands and associated uplands habitats for the benefit of all wetlands-associated migratory birds on 350 acres of land.

**Department:** Department of Interior

**Agency:** U.S. Fish and Wildlife Services

# FY 2024 North American Wetlands Conservation Act (NAWCA): Small Grants Program

## Detailed Summary

The purpose of this program is to protect, restore, enhance and/or establish wetlands and associated uplands habitats for the benefit of all wetlands-associated migratory birds. Funding will support smaller-scale, long-term, on-the-ground projects that further the goals of the North American Wetlands Conservation Act (NAWCA). Funds may be used for:

- Acquisition: including fee-title acquisition and donation, conservation easement, and lease acquisition and donation; appraisal fees; acquisition negotiations; acquisition legal costs; boundary surveys; travel and transportation; and annual payments for ten-year conservation agreements
- Wetland restoration: the manipulation of the physical, chemical, and/or biological characteristics of a site with the goal of returning natural/historical functions to a former or degraded wetland
- Wetland enhancement: the manipulation of the physical, chemical, and/or biological characteristics of a wetland site to improve specific functions of the wetland
- Wetland establishment: the manipulation of the physical, chemical, and/or biological characteristics present to develop a wetland that did not previously exist
- Other direct long-term wetlands conservation work: administering the NAWCA award agreement; conducting required state and federal compliance activities, and conducting work that cannot easily be assigned to other activity categories

Projects should demonstrate the following qualities:

- Include partners involved in wetlands conservation
- Contain adequate wetlands-associated uplands to buffer, protect wetlands, and meet the needs of wetlands-associated wildlife
- Have a specifically defined boundary that includes tracts in a geographic area affected by awarded funds and partner funds, sites that are part of a wetlands conservation plan, sites in the same wetlands system, sites that are managed to meet the same wetlands objectives, sites that are in proximity, and/or sites that provide direct benefits to each other
- Include public access on acquired lands to the extent that it is compatible with long-term conservation of fish and wildlife dependent on the area
- Contain work that shows a clear connection between money spent and long-term wetland benefits
- Applicants for projects that involve multiple sites that are not specifically identified must provide an explanation of the method that will be used for selecting these sites.

High-priority populations/species for this program include the tule greater white-fronted goose, dusky Canada goose, southern James Bay Canada goose, northern pintail, mottled duck, American black duck, mallard, lesser scaup, and greater scaup.

Other priority populations/species for this program include the Pacific greater white-fronted goose, Wrangel Island snow goose, Atlantic brant, Pacific brant, wood duck, redhead, canvasback, ring-necked duck, common eider, American wigeon, and cackling goose.

Projects that include enhancement and restoration activities on private lands are required to guarantee the results of the project for a period of at least 25 years, unless a shorter period is justified.

## Applicant Eligibility

Eligible applicants are state governments, county governments, city or township governments, special district governments, independent school districts, public, private and state controlled institutions of higher education, federally recognized Native American tribal governments, Native American tribal organizations, nonprofits with or without a 501(c)(3) status, and small businesses.

## Funding

In FY 2024, an estimated \$3 million in funding is available to support an unspecified number of awards between \$1,000 and \$250,000 through this program.

The project period may span one or two years. All projects must be completed within two years.

Proposals that keep award administration, overhead, and indirect costs below 20 percent of the requested award amount are generally more competitive.

## Matching and Cost Sharing

Applicants must provide at least a one-to-one match of the requested award amount via nonfederal cash and/or in-kind contributions.

Matching contributions must be no more than two years old.

Each dollar of matching contributions, excluding indirect costs, must be linked to an acre of wetland acquired, restored, enhanced, and/or established during the project period.

In general, eligible and ineligible types of matching contributions will correspond to eligible and ineligible uses of awarded funds; however, the following ineligible project costs may be eligible as a match under certain circumstances:

- Stewardship costs
- Monitoring or evaluation costs
- Proposal planning and development costs
- Interest on a loan
- Administrative salary costs incurred prior to award execution and after the project period
- Costs related to the enrollment of participants in other federal conservation programs

In general, funds that do not qualify as a match, including money from other federal agencies, may be included in the proposal as non-match funds if these funds are used to accomplish mutual and/or complementary objectives. Awarded funds and matching funds may be combined with non-match funds, provided that the actual uses of these non-match funds are otherwise eligible.

## Contact Information

Programmatic Technical Assistance Contact:

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Program Administration Assistance Contact:

Justin Markey

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<https://www.grants.gov/web/grants/view-opportunity.html?oppld=349808>

## FEDERAL GRANT PROFILE



**Department:** U.S. Department of Interior

**Agency:** U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

## FY 2024 Partners for Fish and Wildlife

### Grant Overview

This program supports the restoration and conservation of fish and wildlife habitat for the benefit of federal trust resources by providing direct technical and financial assistance to private landowners. Eligibility is unrestricted and includes local governments, state governments, special district governments, small businesses, institutions of higher education, non-profit organizations, for-profit organizations, public housing authorities, Indian housing authorities, Native American tribal governments and organizations, individuals, independent school districts, and other entities.

### Program History

Award history is not available for this program.

### Key Information and Tips

**Total Funding:** \$15 million

**Award Range:** Up to \$750,000

**Match:** Not required

**Solicitation date:** September 28, 2023

**Proposal due:** Rolling through September 30, 2024

- Projects must be implemented on private lands or be in support of projects on private lands
- Prior to submitting applications, applicants should contact the [appropriate state contact](#).

<https://www.fws.gov/program/partners-fish-and-wildlife>



### Awardee Profile

Perryville, Arkansas

**YEAR:** 2019

The owners of Diamond TR Ranch received funding to convert unproductive pasture into a pollinator patch planted with mix of native species flowering plants and managed using conservation practices including prescribed fire, timber stand improvement, conservation easements

**Department:** U.S. Department of Interior

**Agency:** U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

## FY 2024 Partners for Fish and Wildlife

### Detailed Summary

The purpose of this program is to support the restoration and conservation of fish and wildlife habitat for the benefit of federal trust resources by providing direct technical and financial assistance to private landowners. Projects will be developed in collaboration with partners and with substantial involvement from the funding agency's field staff. The funding agency's staff will coordinate with partners, stakeholders, and other programs under the funding agency to identify geographic focus areas and develop habitat conservation goals and priorities within these focus areas. For the purposes of this program, geographic focus areas are defined as areas where the program will direct resources to conserve habitat for federal trust species. Projects must advance the mission of the funding agency, promote biological diversity, and be based upon sound scientific biological principles.

Highest priority will be given to projects that meet the following conditions:

- Projects that seek to amplify Department of the Interior and funding agency priorities
- Projects on private lands that will complement activities on National Wildlife Refuge System lands or contribute to the resolution of problems on refuges that are caused by off-refuge land use practices
- Projects that improve habitat for species of management concern; species of special concern to the funding agency; endangered, threatened, or candidate species or species proposed for listing; and/or other declining species
- Projects that support the funding agency's five-year strategic plans

Special consideration will also be given to projects that address the following secondary priorities:

- Projects delivered in collaboration with state fish and wildlife agencies, conservation districts, and other partners
- Projects that reduce habitat fragmentation and provide migration corridors
- Projects that conserve or restore a natural community that a state natural heritage program or heritage database has designated as globally or nationally imperiled
- Projects that seek to offset or combat climate change through design and resiliency
- Projects that serve as buffers for other important state or federal conservation lands
- Projects delivered in conjunction with the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) or Farm Service Agency (FSA) that provide leveraging opportunities through the Federal Farm Bill
- Projects that put local contractors and businesses to work and support the American economy
- Projects that seek collaboration with Native American tribes and/or will benefit tribal communities, and/or are located in an urban area or will benefit one or more disadvantaged and/or underserved communities



## Applicant Eligibility

Eligibility is unrestricted and includes local governments, state governments, special district governments, small businesses, institutions of higher education, non-profit organizations, for-profit organizations, public housing authorities, Indian housing authorities, Native American tribal governments and organizations, individuals, independent school districts, and other entities.

Projects must be implemented on private lands, with the exception of efforts that support projects on private lands. In general, the term private lands refers to any property that is not state- or federally owned. Private lands may include tribal, Hawaiian homeland, city, municipality, non-governmental, and private fee-title properties.

## Funding

In FY 2024, an estimated \$15 million is available to support an expected 500 awards of up to \$750,000 through this program.

Awards will be made on a rolling basis between October 1, 2023, and September 30, 2024. Applications received after May 30, 2024, may not be awarded until the following fiscal year.

## Matching and Cost Sharing

Matching funds are not required for this program; however, the funding agency strives to achieve a one-to-one cost share on selected projects via cash or in-kind contributions.

## Contact Information

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<https://www.fws.gov/program/partners-fish-and-wildlife>

## FEDERAL GRANT PROFILE



**Department:** U.S. Department of Interior  
**Agency:** U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

# FY 2024 Recovery Challenge Fund

### Grant Overview

The purpose of the Recovery Challenge Fund program is to conserve endangered and threatened species and ecosystems upon which they depend, and to take appropriate steps to achieve the purposes of treaties and conventions set forth in the for Endangered Species Act (ESA). Eligibility for this program is unrestricted. Eligible applicants include non-federal U.S. entities and partners, as well as foreign governments and partners conducting projects implementing high-priority recovery actions for listed species within the U.S. states and territories.

### Program History

	Total Funding	# of Awards
2022-2023	\$9.5 million	unspecified

### Key Information

**Total Funding:** \$9 million

**Award Range:** \$1,000 - \$1.7 million

**Match:** One-to-one

**Solicitation date:** October 19, 2023

**Proposal due:** December 19, 2023

<https://www.fws.gov/service/recovery-challenge-grants>



### Application Tips

- Projects may involve proposing to update recovery plans
- Projects may also involve implementing high priority recovery actions as prescribed in the recovery plans
- Project partnerships can be a longstanding partnership or a new partnership

**Department:** U.S. Department of Interior

**Agency:** U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

## FY 2024 Recovery Challenge Fund

### Detailed Summary

The purpose of this program is to enhance and increase partnerships with non-Federal agencies and organizations implementing high-priority recovery actions, in particular for genetically-sound breeding, rearing, and reintroduction programs, as well as to develop or update recovery plans. The Recovery Challenge funding opportunity specifically provides a unique financial assistance opportunity for eligible, non-Federal longstanding and new partners working on high priority recovery actions as identified by the Fish and Wildlife Service for Endangered Species Act (ESA) endangered and threatened species.

The primary goal of Recovery Challenge is to implement high priority recovery actions for ESA listed species, in particular for genetically-sound breeding, rearing, and reintroduction programs, as well as to develop or update recovery plans. A secondary goal is to enhance new and ongoing partnerships to aid in the recovery of these species and to conserve the ecosystems upon which they depend.

Eligible project types include those that:

- Directly address high-priority recovery actions for Endangered Species Act (ESA)-listed species, specified by the funding agency as either high-priority action(s) of an approved draft or final recovery plan, or activities in a Recovery Implementation Strategy (RIS) for the species tiered from an identified high-priority recovery action
- Update an existing draft or final recovery plan where the species' lead U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service field office has prioritized the need for updating the current plan
- Develop a recovery plan for a species that does not have a draft or final recovery plan, where the species is currently on the [national recovery plan workplan](#)

For projects that propose to update or develop a draft/final recovery plan, there are additional eligibility requirements:

- The proposal cannot request incremental funding
- The period of performance must not exceed 2.5 years for developing or updating a recovery plan (where the draft recovery plan must be produced within 1 year of the start of the period of performance and the final recovery plan must be produced by the end of the period of performance)

Projects are accomplished through eligible partnerships, which include either:

- Longstanding partnerships, where the partner has a history of working with the funding agency on recovery efforts for the species addressed in the project for at least the past five years
- New partnerships, where the partner has not yet worked with the funding agency for the species addressed in the project, or the partner has worked with the funding agency on the species in the project for less than five years

Eligible project activities will vary by species, and may include:

- Genetically sound breeding, rearing, and reintroduction actions
- Securing scientific information about endangered or threatened species and their habitat
- Implementing restoration actions that will lead to delisting or downlisting of a species
- Helping to prevent extinction of a species
- Aiding in the recovery of a species

## Applicant Eligibility

Eligibility for this program is unrestricted. Eligible applicants include non-federal U.S. entities and partners, as well as foreign governments and partners conducting projects implementing high-priority recovery actions for listed species within the U.S. states and territories. Applicants are expected to have demonstrated knowledge and understanding of the biology of the involved listed species and its ecosystem, including preferably having worked with the species in the past. In addition, they must demonstrate that:

- The proposal does not include funding for the salary of a Service employee
- The proposal does not seek funding for land acquisition or conservation easements, even if such activities are identified as a high priority recovery action for the species
- The proposal does not seek funding for projects that serve to satisfy regulatory requirements of the ESA, including complying with a biological opinion under Section 7 of the Act or fulfilling commitments of a Habitat Conservation Plan under section 10 of the Act, or for projects that serve to satisfy other Federal regulatory requirements (e.g., mitigation for Federal permits)
- The applicant will provide a letter indicating they have consulted with the affected State unless the affected State is a partner on the project.

## Funding

In FY 2024, approximately \$9 million is estimated to be available to support an expected 18 grants or cooperative agreements expected to range from \$1,000 to \$1.7 million through this program. Approximately \$5 million of the available funding will be allocated to ongoing projects that received incremental funding. Approximately \$1 million will be awarded to the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation. The remaining funds will be awarded to new FY2024 award cycle projects. The FY2024 distribution for new projects is anticipated as follows:

- A maximum of \$400,000 total to fund all projects proposing to update recovery plans
- A maximum of \$2.6 million total to implement high priority recovery actions as prescribed in recovery plans

## Match and Cost Sharing

One-to-one matching funds are required for this program and may be achieved via cash or in-kind contributions.

The amount of cost share required is based on the total project cost, not based on the grant amount requested. For example, if the project is \$1,000, the cost share must be at least 50 percent of that project total (i.e., \$500). Cost share requirements for long-standing and new partnerships are as follows:

- Longstanding partnership
  - The partner must provide the same percentage of cost share (direct and/or in-kind contributions) provided over the past 5 years or 50 percent of the total project cost, whichever is greater
- New partnership
  - The partner must provide 50 percent of the total project cost (non-Federal direct or in-kind contributions)

## Contact Information

Patrick McKenney

(703) 358-2341

[fws\\_es\\_grants.gov](http://fws_es_grants.gov)

<https://www.fws.gov/service/recovery-challenge-grants>

## FEDERAL GRANT PROFILE



**Department:** U.S. Department of Interior  
**Agency:** U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS)

# FY 2024 Recovery Implementation Program

### Grant Overview

The purpose of this program is to support the implementation of priority recovery actions for federally endangered and threatened species. Eligible applicants are state, county, city, township, and special district governments, independent school districts, public, state-controlled, and private institutions of higher education, federally recognized and nonfederally recognized Native American tribal governments, public housing authorities/Indian housing authorities, nonprofit organizations, both with and without 501(c)(3) designation, and for-profit organizations, including small businesses.

### Program History

There is no available award history for this program.

### Key Information and Tips

**Total Funding:** \$14 million

**Award Range:** \$1,000 - \$2 million

**Match:** Not required

**Solicitation date:** October 18, 2023

**Proposal due:** September 30, 2024

<https://www.fws.gov/program/recovery>



### Tips

- Highest priority will be given to projects that develop and implement management actions designed to have a direct impact on recovery of listed species (e.g., reduce or eliminate threats).

**Department:** U.S. Department of Interior

**Agency:** U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS)

# FY 2024 Recovery Implementation Program

## Detailed Summary

The purpose of this program is to support the implementation of priority recovery actions for federally endangered and threatened species. This includes working with partners, using a range of conservation tools to "recover" endangered species to ensure that they are able to survive on their own in the wild. These tools include restoring habitat, removing invasive species, conducting surveys, monitoring individual populations, and breeding species in captivity to release them into their historic range. Collaborative efforts are critical to recovery success. Partners include many state and local agencies, tribal governments, conservation organizations, the business community, landowners, and other concerned citizens. The Endangered Species Act (ESA) conveys the importance of recovery plans as a central organizing tool for guiding each species' recovery process by requiring their development for every listed species. Recovery plans establish an overall recovery vision that, among other things:

1. Defines the point at which protections under the ESA are no longer needed
2. Identifies and prioritizes the most effective and feasible suite of recovery actions that will promote species survival and recovery
3. Provides the public and policy makers with an overall estimate of the time and cost to recover species, and the ability to measure success and resources needs, and 4. Aids the Service in working with others to improve the status for imperiled species.

Proposals will be prioritized based on the following:

1. Enhance partnerships with states, non-governmental organizations, private landowners, other Federal agencies, and others
2. Leverage the funding agency's resources and authorities with those of agency partners
3. Highest priority will be given to projects that develop and implement management actions designed to have a direct impact on recovery of listed species (e.g., reduce or eliminate threats). Examples of such projects may include the following:
  - a. Stabilize endangered and threatened species on the brink of extinction by accomplishing Priority 1 and 2 Recovery Actions.
  - b. Achieve downlisting and delisting criteria by accomplishing Priority 3 Recovery Actions.
  - c. Contribute information on the species' current condition, changes from historical to current condition, or predict the species' response to environmental conditions or conservation efforts.
  - d. Reduce the extinction risk to the species, such that the future condition of the species is likely to improve in terms of representation, resiliency, and/or redundancy.

Eligible project activities include:

1. Implementing activities that conserve the species diversity as represented by genetic, geographic, or life-history variation, which conserve the species' adaptive capacity

2. Implementing activities that improve demographic factors such as abundance, survival, productivity, and population growth rate, which enhance the species' ability to withstand stochastic disturbance events and persist at the population or meta-population scale
3. Implementing activities that improve spatial structure, such as increased distributional extent and connectivity between populations, which minimizes the species' risk to catastrophic events
4. Assessing the current condition of the species' population structure, distribution, abundance, demographic rates, diversity (ecological, genetic, life-history), and habitat
5. Assessing changes from the historical to current condition
6. Explaining the causes and effects of stressors and conservation efforts that have resulted in the current condition
7. Predicting the species' response to a range of plausible future scenarios of environmental conditions and conservation efforts.

## Applicant Eligibility

Eligible applicants are state governments, county governments, city or township governments, special district governments, independent school districts, public and state controlled institutions of higher education, federally recognized Native American tribal governments, public housing authorities/Indian housing authorities, Native American tribal organizations (other than federally recognized tribal governments), nonprofits having a 501(c)(3) status with the IRS, other than institutions of higher education, nonprofits without 501(c)(3) status with the IRS, other than institutions of higher education, private institutions of higher education, individuals, for-profit organization other than small businesses, small businesses, others, and unrestricted (open to any type of entity above.)

Applicants are expected to have demonstrated knowledge and understanding of the biology of the involved endangered or threatened species and their ecosystem, including preferably having worked with the species and holding a currently valid Endangered Species Act permit, issued by the Service, authorizing them to work with these species (or that have previously held a permit to do so). If funding is awarded, applicants that do not currently hold a valid permit for the proposed activity may need to apply for and obtain a Service permit before beginning the proposed activity. For more information about the permit requirements, please visit our Ecological Services Program's permit website at <https://fws.gov/service/permits>.

The applicant's participation as a CESU member must be verified by reviewing the current regional CESU agreement found at <http://www.cesu.psu.edu/> if the applicant is requesting the use of the CESU 17.5% indirect rate. These awards must be issued as Cooperative Agreements.

## Funding

In FY 2024, an estimated \$14 million is available to support an unspecified number of awards, as the number of awards through this program varies by region. Award amounts range from \$1,000 to \$2,000,000 through this program.

The expected award date for this program is February 28, 2024.

There are two funding instrument types through this program:

- Grants
- Cooperative Agreements



Under a cooperative agreement, there is a participatory relationship between the Service and the recipient during the award, with shared performance responsibilities. Examples of activities qualifying as substantial Service involvement:

- Participate and collaborate jointly with the recipient in carrying out the scope of work, including training recipient personnel or detailing Federal personnel to work on the project effort.
- Review and approve one stage of work before the next stage can begin.
- Help select project staff.
- Reserve the right to halt activity if detailed performance specifications are not met immediately.

Limit recipient discretion with respect to the scope of work, organizational structure, staffing, mode of operations, and other management processes, coupled with close monitoring or operational involvement during performance under the award. Substantial Service involvement does not include:

- awarding funds,
- assigning a project officer,
- reviewing and approving reports,
- processing payments,
- monitoring to ensure the project is completed on time or performing any other routine administrative or monitoring activities.

## Matching and Cost Sharing

Matching funds are not required for this program. However, projects should show how they enhance partnerships with states, non-profit organizations, private landowners, and others, and leverage our resources and authorities with those of our partners.

## Contact Information

Program Technical Contact:

Patrick McKenney

[FWS\\_ES\\_GRANTS@fws.gov](mailto:FWS_ES_GRANTS@fws.gov)

Applicants should contact their [regional office](#) for their agency contact.

<https://www.fws.gov/program/recovery>

## FEDERAL GRANT PROFILE



**Department:** U.S. Department of Interior  
**Agency:** National Park Service

# FY 2024 Rivers, Trails, and Conservation Assistance (RTCA) Program

### Grant Overview

The purpose of this program is to support community-led natural resource conservation and outdoor recreation projects across the nation. Eligible applicants are community groups and nonprofit organizations, tribal governments, national parks, and local, state, and federal agencies.

### Program History

In 2021, the program assisted more than 350 communities across the United States to improve parks, establish trails, access rivers, and protect special places.

### Key Information and Tips

**Total Funding:** Unspecified

**Match:** Not required

**Proposal due:** March 1, 2024

- Applicants should discuss their proposed project and current application process with the appropriate [regional program manager](#)
- Rather than providing monetary funds, this program provides technical assistance from National Park Service staff.

<https://www.nps.gov/orgs/rtca/index.htm>



### Awardee Profile

Arizona State Schools for the Deaf and the Blind  
Tucson, AZ

**YEAR:** 2020

NPS-RTCA collaborated with the school and local partners on design concepts and infrastructure improvements for the Anza Cultural History Park. The park, which is centered around the historic Anza Expedition of 1776, features newly installed accessible amenities which assist all users in accessing the various recreational opportunities.

**Department:** U.S. Department of Interior

**Agency:** National Park Service

## FY 2024 Rivers, Trails, and Conservation Assistance (RTCA) Program

### Detailed Summary

The purpose of this program is to support community-led natural resource conservation and outdoor recreation projects across the nation. Rather than providing monetary awards, this program will partner the funding agency's conservation and recreation planning professionals with award recipients to help local communities realize their conservation and outdoor recreation visions and goals by providing a broad range of services and skills.

Projects typically fall under one of the following focus areas; however, the funding agency will consider other projects that fall outside of these focus areas:

- Build healthy communities through parks, trails, and outdoor opportunities: improve access to outdoor recreation and park amenities on land and water that support healthy lifestyles for all users
- Conserve natural lands, rivers, and watersheds: strengthen the conservation and stewardship of public lands, waterways, and wildlife habitat
- Engage youth in outdoor recreation and stewardship: connect young people to the outdoors to develop a lifelong appreciation of recreation and nature
- Strengthen the organizational capacity of project partners: develop and strengthen effective and sustainable community organizations and partner groups
- Support the funding agency and community networks: facilitate strategic planning and collaboration between national parks and communities to achieve shared goals

Examples of the types of assistance provided through this program include:

- Defining project vision and goals
- Inventory and mapping community resources
- Identifying and analyzing key issues and opportunities
- Engaging collaborative partners and stakeholders
- Designing community outreach and participation strategies
- Developing concept plans for trails, parks, and natural areas
- Setting priorities and building consensus
- Identifying funding strategies
- Developing a sustainable organizational framework to support the project
- Creating project management and strategic action plans
- Coaching teams, groups, and partnership networks

## Applicant Eligibility

Eligible applicants are state, local, or federal government agencies, tribal governments, nonprofit organizations, community groups, and national parks.

Applicants must list key partners committed to the project and their anticipated role(s) and contribution in the application. National parks and other federal agencies may apply in partnership with other local organizations.

## Funding

Rather than providing monetary awards, this program will partner the funding agency's conservation and recreation planning professionals with award recipients to help local communities realize their conservation and outdoor recreation visions and goals by providing a broad range of services and skills.

Project start dates will be coordinated with the funding agency. Assistance will be provided on an annual basis with extensions based on mutual agreement with the funding agency.

## Matching and Cost-Sharing

There are no stated matching requirements for this program; however, applicants must detail any additional resources that will be contributed by the applicant organization in the application.

## Contact Information

Interested applicants should reach out to the appropriate state program manager to discuss the proposed project and current application process. Contact information is available [here](#).

<https://www.nps.gov/orgs/rtca/index.htm>

## FEDERAL GRANT PROFILE



**Department:** U.S. Department of Interior  
**Agency:** Bureau of Reclamation

# FY 2023 WaterSMART Aquatic Ecosystem Restoration Projects

## Grant Overview

WaterSMART Aquatic Ecosystem Restoration Projects provides funding for the restoration and protection of aquatic ecosystems. Eligible applicants are states, tribes, irrigation districts, water districts, and other organizations with water or power delivery authority located in Reclamation States, including entities and organizations that own a dam that is eligible for upgrade, modification, or removal. Nonprofit conservation organizations working in partnership with the entities listed above or that notify entities listed above are also eligible to apply.

## Program History

This is a new program funded by the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law.

## Key Information

**Total Funding:** \$30,000,000

**Award Range:** Up to \$20 million depending on category

**Match:** 35 percent

**Solicitation date:** March 14, 2023

**Proposal due:** June 1, 2023

<https://www.usbr.gov/watersmart/aquatic/index.html>



## Tips

- Projects that support the Administration's priorities regarding Climate Change, Disadvantaged or Underserved Communities, and Tribal Benefits will receive priority during the review process.
- Projects that affect water resources management in two or more river basins, provide regional benefits not limited to fisheries restoration, and that are a component of a larger strategy to replace aging facilities are prioritized under this program.

**Department:** U.S. Department of Interior

**Agency:** Bureau of Reclamation

# FY 2023 WaterSMART Aquatic Ecosystem Restoration Projects

## Detailed Summary

The purpose of this program is to invite eligible applicants to leverage their money and resources by cost sharing with Reclamation on Aquatic Ecosystem Restoration Projects, including study, design and construction of aquatic ecosystem restoration projects that are collaboratively developed, have widespread regional benefits, and are for the purpose of improving of the health of fisheries, wildlife, and aquatic habitat through restoration and improved fish passage.

As used here, “aquatic ecosystem” refers to freshwater and brackish water habitats such as lakes, ponds, rivers, streams, wetlands, swamps, and estuaries and the adjacent floodplains, riparian corridors, deltas, and shallow aquifers that interact with surface water.

Applicants can apply for funding under for projects in one of two task areas, including Task A: Study and Design and Task B: Construction.

- **Task A: Study and Design:** Projects must include study and design activities to develop an aquatic ecosystem restoration project, resulting in the development of a study and design package that can be used to apply for funding under Task B. To be eligible to apply for Task B, applicants must have conducted study and design activities resulting in a design package at a 60 percent design level. A 60 percent design package should include technical study and design documentation supporting the preferred alternative in sufficient detail to be able to obtain the necessary permits and estimate funding required for project implementation. Eligible activities include:
  - Project Outreach
  - Restoration Project Design Alternatives Analysis
  - Project Analysis and Design
  - Complete site-specific design and engineering of the restoration project to reach a target 60% level of final project design
  - Preparation of project cost estimates and development of project construction plan
  - Legal and Institutional Requirements Research
  
- **Task B: Construction:** To be eligible under this category, projects must include the construction of aquatic ecosystem restoration projects that are collaboratively developed, have widespread regional benefits, and are for the purpose of improving of the health of fisheries, wildlife, and aquatic habitat through restoration and improved fish passage. These projects include:
  - Completion of Final Design for Aquatic Ecosystem Restoration Construction
  - Outreach to Affected Stakeholders
  - Restoration Activities
    - Removal or Modification of Barriers to Fish Passage

- Restoration of Connectivity
- Restoration of Aquatic Habitat
- Improvement of Water Availability, Quality, and Temperature
- Monitoring Plan Development, Baseline Assessment, and Equipment Installation

Projects that include the removal or modification of a dam must submit documentation verifying the dam owner has agreed to the study, design, or construction of the project and impacted water or power delivery customers have been notified.

## Applicant Eligibility

Eligible applicants are divided into Categories outlined below.

- Category A applicants: States, Tribes, irrigation districts, and water districts; state, regional, or local authorities, the members of which include one or more organizations with water or power delivery authority; agencies established under State law for the joint exercise of powers; and other entities or organizations that own a dam that is eligible for upgrade, modification, or removal.
- Category B applicants: Nonprofit conservation organizations that are acting in partnership with and with the agreement of an entity described in Category A. Category B applicants must include with their application a letter from the Category A partner stating that the Category A partner:
  - Is acting in partnership with the applicant;
  - Agrees to the submittal and content of the application; and
  - Intends to participate in the project in some way, for example, by providing input, feedback, or other support for the project.

Applicants must be located in the western U.S., which includes the states and territories of Alaska, Arizona, California, Colorado, Hawaii, Idaho, Kansas, Montana, Nebraska, Nevada, New Mexico, North Dakota, Oklahoma, Oregon, South Dakota, Texas, Utah, Washington, Wyoming, American Samoa, Guam, the Northern Mariana Islands, the Virgin Islands, or Puerto Rico.

Multiple applications for funding may be submitted for consideration, provided that the project scopes are not duplicative. Category B applicants may receive a maximum of up to 3 awards provided that the Category A partner entity for each project is different.

## Funding

In FY 2023, approximately \$30 million of funding is available to support approximately 5 to 10 awards, depending on the amount requested by each applicant, through this program. Task A project awards are anticipated to range from \$500,000 - \$2 million and Task B project awards are anticipated to range from \$3,000,000 to \$20 million. Task A projects are expected to be completed in two years and Task B projects are expected to be completed in four years.

Applicants must be capable of cost sharing 35% or more of the total project costs and may be made through cash, costs contributed by the applicant, or third-party in-kind contributions.

## Contact Information

Avra Morgan

Reclamation Program Coordinator Contact

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303-445-2906

<https://www.usbr.gov/watersmart/aquatic/index.html>



## FEDERAL GRANT PROFILE



**Department:** U.S. Department of Interior  
**Agency:** Bureau of Reclamation

# FY 2023 WaterSMART Environmental Water Resources Projects

### Grant Overview

WaterSMART Environmental Water Resources Projects provides funding for projects focused on environmental benefits and that have been developed as part of a collaborative process to help carry out an established strategy to increase the reliability of water resources. Eligible applicants are states, tribes, irrigation districts, water districts, and other organizations with water or power delivery authority located in the Western United States. Nonprofit conservation organizations working in partnership with the entities listed above or that notify entities listed above are also eligible to apply.

### Program History

	Total Funding	# of Awards
2022	\$36.1 million	27

### Key Information and Tips

**Total Funding:** Unspecified

**Award Range:** Up to \$3 million

**Match:** 25% or more depending on ability to meet criteria

**Solicitation date:** January 24, 2023

**Proposal due:** March 28, 2023

- Projects with multiple benefits to watershed health are encouraged and prioritized.

<https://www.usbr.gov/watersmart/ewrp/index.html>



### Awardee Profile

San Bernadino Valley Municipal  
Water District, California

**AMOUNT:** \$2,000,000

**YEAR:** 2022

The Anza Creek Aquatic and Riparian Habitat Restoration Project received funding to construct and maintain four tributary restoration sites within the cities of Riverside and Jurupa Valley and the County of Riverside.

**Department:** U.S. Department of Interior

**Agency:** Bureau of Reclamation

## FY 2023 WaterSMART Environmental Water Resources Projects

### Detailed Summary

The purpose of this program is to invite eligible applicants to leverage their money and resources by cost sharing with Reclamation on Environmental Water Resources Projects, including water conservation and efficiency projects that result in quantifiable and sustained water savings and benefit ecological values or watershed health, water management or infrastructure improvements to benefit ecological values or watershed health, and restoration projects benefitting ecological values or watershed health that have a nexus to water resources or water resources management.

Eligible projects through this program include projects that benefit plant and animal species; fish and wildlife habitat; riparian areas; ecosystems; commercial, recreational, subsistence, or Tribal ceremonial fishing; and river-based recreation, which are supported by rivers, streams, or other water sources, or that are directly influenced by water resources management. This may include, but is not limited to, projects that improve the timing or quantity of water available; improve water quality and temperature; improve stream or riparian conditions for the benefit of plant and animal species, fish and wildlife habitat, riparian areas, watershed health, and ecosystems; restore a natural feature or use a nature-based feature to reduce water supply and demand imbalances or the risk of drought or flooding; and projects that otherwise mitigate against the impacts of climate change to fish and wildlife habitats. This includes projects that provide benefits to multiple sectors, including projects that benefit ecological values or watershed health AND agricultural, municipal, Tribal, or recreation water uses.

Applicants can apply for funding for project components in one or more of the following three categories:

- Category A: Water conservation and efficiency projects that result in quantifiable and sustained water savings and benefit ecological values: To be eligible under this category, projects must be for the primary purpose of providing more reliable water supplies to benefit ecological values or watershed health. This could include a formal mechanism to commit conserved water to instream flows or other types of assurances. These projects include:
  - Canal lining or piping
  - Irrigation flow measurements
  - Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition Automation
  - Municipal and industrial water use efficiency improvements
- Category B: Water management or infrastructure improvements to benefit ecological values or watershed health: To be eligible under this category, projects must be for the primary purpose of benefitting ecological values or watershed health. These projects include:

- Improving fish passage, including installation and/or modification of fish screens, ladders, bypasses, or removing small barriers to fish passage (e.g., diversion dams).
- Improving fish hatcheries (e.g., chillers, holding pens, transport, disease control, or prevention).
- Water management changes or infrastructure improvements that will improve water supply reliability and benefit ecological value or watershed health (e.g., upgrading a headgate to improve water supply reliability and ecological value or watershed health, installing a new diversion location downstream from critical temperature control points, treating return flows to improve water quality, water storage to improve streamflow, or improving the timing or volume of available flows at particular locations).
- Salinity or temperature control projects to benefit ecological values or watershed health (e.g., salinity barriers, temperature curtains, dam temperature shutters, powerplant bypass structures) and to aerate ecologically sensitive areas where dissolved oxygen levels are low.
- Category C: Restoration projects benefitting ecological values or watershed health that have a nexus to water resources or water resources management: To be eligible under this category, projects must have a nexus to water resources or water resources management. These projects may include:
  - Improving stream channel structure and complexity.
  - Improving channel/flood plain connectivity.
  - Protecting and stabilizing streams and riverbanks and other restoration projects to reduce erosion.
  - Restoration projects influencing water temperature or improving the timing or volume of available flows at particular locations to improve aquatic conditions.
  - Stream restoration to improve groundwater recharge and riparian habitat.
  - Restoring backwater/flood plain areas (for larval and juvenile fish and other wildlife species) to enhance and maintain rearing as well as feeding and foraging habitats.
  - Restoring a natural feature or use of a nature-based feature to reduce water supply and demand imbalances or the risk of drought or flood, including restoring natural wetlands, construction or improving wetlands for treatment of irrigation water or stormwater flows, or otherwise using or restoring natural features to address water management issues.
  - Restoration projects that enhance commercial, recreational, subsistence, or Tribal ceremonial fishing, and river-based recreation.
  - Removing invasive species, protection against invasive species, and restoration of native species.
  - Forest management activities to protect water resources. Eligible activities include Fuels Management and Post-Wildland Fire Restoration.
  - Other restoration projects that will benefit ecological values or watershed health and have a nexus to water resources or water resources management.

## Applicant Eligibility

Eligible applicants are divided into Categories outlined below.

- Category A applicants: States, Tribes, irrigation districts, and water districts; state, regional, or local authorities, the members of which include one or more organizations with water or power delivery authority; and other organizations with water or power delivery authority.

- **Category B applicants:** Nonprofit conservation organizations, including watershed groups, that are acting in partnership with and with the agreement of an entity described in Category A. Category B applicants must include with their application a letter from the Category A partner stating that the Category A partner:
  - Is acting in partnership with the applicant;
  - Agrees to the submittal and content of the application; and
  - Intends to participate in the project in some way, for example, by providing input, feedback, or other support for the project.
- **Category C applicants:** Nonprofit conservation organizations submitting an application for a project to improve the condition of a natural feature such as wetlands on Federal land without a Category A partner must demonstrate that entities described in Category A from the applicable service area have been notified and do not object to the project.

Applicants must be located in the western U.S., which includes the states and territories of Alaska, Arizona, California, Colorado, Hawaii, Idaho, Kansas, Montana, Nebraska, Nevada, New Mexico, North Dakota, Oklahoma, Oregon, South Dakota, Texas, Utah, Washington, Wyoming, American Samoa, Guam, the Northern Mariana Islands, the Virgin Islands, or Puerto Rico.

A “watershed group,” as defined in Section 6001(6) of the Cooperative Watershed Management Act:

- Is a grassroots, non-regulatory entity that addresses water availability and quality issues within the relevant watershed;
- Is capable of promoting the sustainable use of water resources in the watershed;
- Makes decisions on a consensus basis; and
- Represents a diverse group of stakeholders, including hydroelectric producers, livestock grazing, timber production, land development, recreation or tourism, irrigated agriculture, the environment, municipal water supplies, private property owners, Federal, state and local governments, tribes, and disadvantaged communities.

## Funding

In FY 2023 an unspecified amount of funding is available to support approximately 20-40 awards of up to \$3 million through this program. Category B applicants may receive up to \$15 million if partnering with multiple category A partners. Category A applicants are limited to a total of \$5,000,000 in Federal funding through this program and the FY 2023 Drought Resiliency Projects, Water and Energy Efficiency Grants, and Environmental Water Resources Projects programs.

Projects are eligible for up to 75 percent Federal cost-share contribution (25% match), if the application meets the following requirements:

- The project must increase water supply reliability for ecological values. This may include projects that improve the timing or quantity of water available; improve water quality or temperature; or that improve stream or riparian conditions for the benefit of plant and animal species, fish and wildlife habitat, riparian areas, or ecosystems. This does not exclude projects expected to result in benefits to multiple sectors, such as projects or project components that benefit ecological values AND agricultural, municipal, tribal, or recreational water uses.
- The project must be developed as part of a collaborative process by a watershed group or by a water user and one or more stakeholders with diverse interests.

- The majority of project benefits must be for the purpose of advancing one or more components of an established strategy or plan to increase the reliability of water supply for consumptive and non-consumptive ecological values.

For projects that do not meet the requirements necessary to qualify for 75 percent Federal cost-share contribution, applicants must be capable of cost sharing 50 percent or more of the total project costs.

Applicants will be notified prior to selection if their project is being considered for award but does not qualify for the 75 percent Federal cost-share contribution. Such applicants will be given an opportunity to commit to a 50 percent non-Federal cost-share contribution or withdraw their application.

Projects may include activities to support monitoring of performance outcomes associated with on-the-ground implementation. Such costs may not exceed 25 percent of total project costs. At an applicant's request, the funding agency may also provide technical assistance, which must be accounted for in the budget.

Project must be completed within three years. Project construction must begin prior to September 30, 2023.

## Contact Information

Robin Graber

Reclamation Program Coordinator Contact

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303-445-2764

<https://www.usbr.gov/watersmart/ewrp/index.html>

## FEDERAL GRANT PROFILE



**Department:** U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

# FY 2024 North American Wetlands Conservation Act (NAWCA) Standard Grants Program

### Grant Overview

The NAWCA Standard Grants Program aims to support projects that involve the long-term protection, restoration, and/or enhancement of wetlands and associated uplands habitats for the benefit of all wetlands-associated migratory birds. Eligible applicants include State and local governments, special district governments, independent school districts, institutions of higher education, Native American tribal governments, nonprofits, and small businesses.

### Program History

	Total funding	Number of Awards
2023	\$50 million	30
2022	\$31 million	23

### Key Information and Tips

**Total Funding:** \$50 million

**Award Range:** \$250,001 - \$3 million

**Match:** One-to-one

**Solicitation Date:** April 19, 2023

**Proposal Due:** July 7, 2023

<https://www.fws.gov/service/north-american-wetlands-conservation-act-nawca-grants-us-standard>



### Awardee Profile

Open Space Institute (OSI)

**AMOUNT:** \$2,000,000

**YEAR:** 2022

OSI was awarded funding to permanently protect 2,340 acres of strategic wetlands on the northern coast of South Carolina, specifically expansive Santee River floodplain wetlands, known as the Santee River Wilderness Corridor, in the Santee Focus Area and Carolina bay habitat, expanding the Cartwheel Bay Heritage Preserve in the Little Pee Dee/Lumber Focus Area of the Atlantic Coast Joint Venture.

**Department:** U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS)

# FY 2024 North American Wetlands Conservation Act (NAWCA) Standard Grants Program

## Detailed Summary

The NAWCA Standard Grants Program aims to support projects that involve the long-term protection, restoration, and/or enhancement of wetlands and associated uplands habitats for the benefit of all wetlands-associated migratory birds. Funding under this program may be used to support the following activities:

- Land Acquisition
- Wetland Restoration
- Wetland Enhancement
- Wetland Establishment
- Prescribed Burn Activities
- Infrastructure
- Other Direct Long-Term Wetland Conservation Work

Projects should demonstrate the following qualities:

- Meet the national and regional objectives of the North American Waterfowl Management Plan (NAWMP), the Partners in Flight (PIF) plan, the U.S. Shorebird Conservation Plan (USSCP), and the North American Waterbird Conservation Plan (NAWCP)
- Include partners involved in wetlands conservation
- Contain adequate wetlands-associated uplands to buffer, protect wetlands, and meet the needs of wetlands-associated wildlife
- Have a specifically defined boundary that includes tracts in a geographic area affected by awarded funds and partner funds, sites that are part of a wetlands conservation plan, sites in the same wetlands system, sites that are managed to meet the same wetlands objectives, sites that are in proximity, and/or sites that provide direct benefits to each other
- Include public access on acquired lands to the extent that it is compatible with long-term conservation of fish and wildlife dependent on the area

Applicants for projects that involve multiple sites that are not specifically identified must provide an explanation of the method that will be used for selecting these sites.

## Applicant Eligibility

Eligible applicants include State and local governments, special district governments, independent school districts, institutions of higher education, Native American tribal governments, nonprofits, and small businesses.

Projects must include partners that are involved in wetlands conservation. Partner categories include state agencies, non-governmental conservation organizations, local governments, private landowners, profit-making corporations, Native American governments or associations, federal agencies, and/or other partner groups. Projects that include partners from more than one category will receive additional points during the application evaluation process.

Each project must have a designated project officer who is affiliated with the award recipient's organization and knowledgeable about the biological, partnership, and administrative aspects of the application.

If a new application requests funding for the same, ongoing work that was accomplished by a previously phased project, the applicant may request that the subsequent award be a continuation and expansion of the same award agreement, provided that the original award agreement is no more than 24 months old by the current, applicable proposal deadline. No more than two new proposals may be added to an existing award agreement, and these projects cannot extend for more than six years.

## Funding

In FY 2024, an estimated \$50 million is available to support an expected 25 awards ranging from \$250,001 to \$3 million through this program. Projects must involve work that has been completed within the past two years or can be completed in two years.

Applicants must provide at least a one-to-one match via nonfederal cash and/or in-kind contributions. Applicants that provide a match greater than the minimum required amount will receive additional points during the proposal evaluation process. In addition, projects that include partners providing at least 10 percent of the funding request will receive additional points during the proposal evaluation process. The contributions of multiple private landowners cannot be lumped to achieve the 10 percent match.

Matching contributions must be no more than two years old. In general, eligible and ineligible types of matching contributions will correspond to eligible and ineligible uses of awarded funds; however, the following ineligible project costs may be eligible as a match under certain circumstances:

- Stewardship costs
- Monitoring or evaluation costs
- Proposal planning and development costs, including experiments, studies, or other investigations
- Interest on a loan
- Administrative salary costs incurred prior to award execution and after the project period
- Costs related to the enrollment of participants in other federal conservation programs

## Contact Information

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<https://www.fws.gov/service/north-american-wetlands-conservation-act-nawca-grants-us-standard>



## FEDERAL GRANT PROFILE



**Department:** U.S. Department of Transportation

**Agency:** Office of the Secretary for Transportation Policy

# FY 2024 Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) Grant

### Grant Overview

Formerly known as the BUILD and TIGER grant programs, the RAISE Grant program supports surface transportation projects that will have a significant local or regional impact. Eligible applicants are state, local, tribal, and U.S. territorial governments, including special districts and public authorities with a transportation function, transit agencies, port authorities, and multi-state or multijurisdictional groups of eligible entities.

### Program History

	Total Funding	# of Awards
2023	\$1.5 billion	162
2022	\$1.5 billion	166

### Key Information and Tips

**Total Funding:** \$1.5 billion

**Award Range:** \$1 million - \$25 million (rural)  
\$5 million - \$25 million (urban)

**Match:** 20 percent (urban)

**Solicitation date:** November 30, 2023

**Proposal due:** February 28, 2024

- Funds must be obligated by September 30, 2028.
- Applications that includes right-of-way acquisition are classified as capital project.
- Awards will be announced by June 27, 2024

<https://www.transportation.gov/RAISEgrants/raise-nofo>



### Awardee Profile

City and Borough of Juneau, AK

**AMOUNT:** \$16,454,000

**YEAR:** 2023

The City and Borough of Juneau received funding to complete final design and document development for the Juneau Douglas North Crossing, a new bridge between Douglas Island and the Alaska mainland.

**Department:** U.S. Department of Transportation

**Agency:** Office of the Secretary for Transportation Policy

## FY 2024 Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) Grant

### Detailed Summary

Previously known as the Better Utilizing Investments to Leverage Development (BUILD) and Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery (TIGER) Discretionary Grants, the Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity, or RAISE Grant program, provides funding for surface transportation infrastructure that will have a significant local or regional impact. Supported projects should improve safety, equity, workforce development, job quality, wealth creation, climate and sustainability priorities.

This program seeks to fund projects that reduce greenhouse gas emissions in the transportation sector; incorporate evidence-based climate resilience measures and features; avoid adverse environmental impacts to air or water quality, wetlands, and endangered species; and address the disproportionate negative environmental impacts of transportation on disadvantaged communities. In addition, the funding agency seeks to award projects that proactively evaluate whether a project will create proportional impacts to all populations in a project area and increase equitable access to project benefits.

Eligible **capital projects** include but are not limited to:

- Highway, bridge, or other road projects eligible under title 23, United States Code
- Public transportation projects eligible under chapter 53 of title 49, United States Code
- Passenger and freight rail transportation projects
- Port infrastructure investments (including inland port infrastructure and land ports of entry)
- Surface transportation components of an airport project eligible for assistance under part B of subtitle VII of title 49, United States Code (see [Airport Improvement Program Handbook Appendix P](#) for details)
- Intermodal projects
- Projects to replace or rehabilitate a culvert or prevent stormwater runoff for the purpose of improving habitat for aquatic species while advancing the goals of the RAISE program
- Projects investing in surface transportation facilities that are located on Tribal land and for which title or maintenance responsibility is vested in the Federal Government
- Other surface transportation infrastructure projects that the Secretary considers to be necessary to advance the goals of RAISE such as public road and non-motorized projects that are not otherwise eligible under title 23, United States Code

The following projects are also eligible: public road and non-motorized projects that are not otherwise eligible under title 23, United States Code; surface transportation components of transit-oriented development

projects; and surface transportation components of mobility on-demand projects that expand access and reduce transportation cost burden. If an application includes right-of-way acquisition, the project will be considered a capital project.

Projects components that are presented together in a single application must ensure each component has independent utility and that there is a demonstrated relationship and connection between them.

Activities eligible for funding under RAISE **planning grants** are related to the planning, preparation, or design—for example environmental analysis, equity analysis, community engagement, feasibility studies, benefit-cost analysis, and other pre-construction activities—of eligible surface transportation capital projects. Eligible activities related to multidisciplinary projects or regional planning may include:

- Development of master plans, comprehensive plans, transportation corridor plans, and integrated economic development, land use, housing, and transportation plans
- Zero emissions plan for transit fleet
- Planning activities related to the development of a multimodal freight corridor, including those that seek to reduce conflicts with residential areas and with passenger and non-motorized traffic
- Planning activities related to zero emissions goods movement
- Development of port and regional port planning grants, including State-wide or multi-port planning within a single jurisdiction or region
- Risk assessments and planning to identify vulnerabilities and address the transportation system’s ability to withstand probable occurrence or recurrence of an emergency or major disaster

Research, demonstration, or pilot projects are only eligible if they will result in long-term, permanent surface transportation infrastructure that has independent utility.

Applicants for the FY 2024 RAISE program that have identical project scope to applications that were submitted and evaluated under the FY 2023 Reconnecting Communities Program and received the designation of Reconnecting Extra, will automatically advance for second-tier analysis if they receive an overall merit rating of “Recommended” and have at least one “High” rating in a priority criterion.

## Definitions

**Urban / Rural:** A project is designated as urban if it is located within (or on the boundary of) a area Census-designated urban that had a population greater than 200,000 in the 2020 Census. A list of urbanized areas can be found [here](#). A project is designated as rural if it is located outside a Census-designated urban area that had a population greater than 200,000 in the 2020 Census. Projects located in both an urban and rural area will be designated as urban if the majority of the project’s costs are spent in urban areas and vice versa. For RAISE planning grants, the location of the project being planned, prepared, or designed will be used for the urban or rural designation.

**Areas of Persistent Poverty (APP):** A project is located in an Area of Persistent Poverty if:

1. the **County** in which the project is located consistently had greater than or equal to 20 percent of the population living in poverty during the 30-year period preceding November 15, 2021, as measured by the 1990 and 2000 decennial census and the most recent annual Small Area Income Poverty Estimates; **OR**

2. the **Census Tract** in which the project is located has a poverty rate of at least 20 percent as measured by the 2014-2018 5-year data series available from the American Community Survey of the Bureau of the Census; **OR**
3. the project is located in any territory or possession of the United States.

A list of all counties and census tracts that meet this definition can be found [here](#).

**Historically Disadvantaged Communities (HDC):** Consistent with OMB’s Interim Guidance for the Justice40 Initiative, a project is located in a Historically Disadvantaged Community if:

1. Any census tract or tracts identified as disadvantaged in the [Climate & Economic Justice Screening Tool](#); **OR**
2. Any Federally Recognized Tribe or Tribal entity, whether or not they have land.

DOT will list all census tracts that meet this definition for Historically Disadvantaged Communities as well as provide an interactive map on the [RAISE website](#).

## Applicant Eligibility

Eligible applicants are States and the District of Columbia; any territory or possession of the United States; a unit of local government; a public agency or publicly chartered authority established by one or more States; a special purpose district or public authority with a transportation function, including a port authority; a Federally recognized Indian Tribe or a consortium of such Indian Tribes; a transit agency; and a multi-State or multijurisdictional group of entities that are separately eligible. Recipients of previous RAISE/BUILD/TIGER grants may apply for funding to support additional phases of a project previously awarded funding through this program.

Multiple States or jurisdictions may submit a joint application and should identify a lead applicant as the primary point of contact and identify the primary recipient of the award.

## Funding

In FY 2024, a total of \$1.5 billion of Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL) funding available to support awards through this program. For capital awards, the minimum award amount is \$5 million for projects located in urban areas and \$1 million for projects located in rural areas. There is no minimum award amount for planning awards. The maximum award amount for both capital and planning grants is \$25 million. Funds are available for obligation only through September 30, 2028. All funds must be expended (the grant obligation must be liquidated or actually paid out to the grantee) by September 30, 2033. Funds will be provided on a reimbursement basis.

Funding will be allocated as follows:

- Up to 50 percent of the total funding available, or up to \$750 million, will be allocated to rural projects
- Up to 50 percent of the total funding available, or up to \$750 million, will be allocated to urban projects, which, for the purposes of this program, are defined as census-designated urbanized areas that had a population greater than 200,000 in the 2010 Census
- At least 5 percent, or \$75 million, will be allocated for planning awards.

- At least 1 percent, or \$15 million, will be allocated to projects located in areas of persistent poverty or historically disadvantaged communities
- Up to 20 percent of the total funding available, or \$300,000, may be allocated to support the subsidy and administrative costs of projects receiving credit assistance under the Transportation Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Act (TIFIA) Program, or the Railroad Rehabilitation and Improvement Financing (RRIF) Program.
- No more than 15 percent of the total BIL funding available, or \$225 million, can be awarded to a single State.

## Matching and Cost Sharing

Applicants with projects located in urban areas must provide at least 20 percent of the total project costs non-federal cash match. For projects located in rural areas, historically disadvantaged areas, and areas of persistent poverty the Federal share may be up to 100 percent of the cost. Non-Federal sources include State funds originating from programs funded by State revenue, local funds originating from State or local revenue-funded programs, or private funds. Applicants may also be allowed to use select federal funds as part of matching funds including tribal transportation program funds, TIFIA program funds, and Railroad Rehabilitation and Improvement Financing program funds. DOT considers an applicant's cost share during the evaluation and selection process only to confirm eligibility for urban projects that are not located in an APP or HDC.

## Contact Information

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<https://www.transportation.gov/RAISEgrants/raise-nofo>

# RAISE Application Criteria

The Department of Transportation recommends that the maximum 30-page narrative follow the below outline to ensure all program requirements are addressed.

## Project Description

The first section of the application should provide a description of the project that is to be planned or constructed and should include a detailed statement of work that focuses on the technical and engineering aspects of the project, the current design status of the project, the transportation challenges that the project is intended to address, and how the project is expected address those challenges. This section should discuss the project's history, including a description of any previously completed components. The applicant may use this section to place the project into a broader context of other transportation infrastructure investments being pursued by the project sponsor. This file should also describe the project location in a narrative fashion, including a detailed geographic description of the proposed project and map(s) of the project's location, to supplement the geographic project map provided in the project location file. The project location description should narratively identify whether the project is located in an Area of Persistent Poverty, historically disadvantaged community or urban area including the relevant County and/or census tract(s).

## Project Location

Applicants should submit one of the following file types for project location identification: Shapefile (compressed to a .zip file containing at least the .shp, .shx, .dbf, and .prj components of the Shapefile), GeoJSON, KML, or KMZ. These spatial files should include only the direct physical location of the project, and not a broad service area or area of impact.

## Grant Funds, Sources and Uses of all Project Funds

This section of the application should describe the budget for the RAISE project (i.e. the project scope that includes RAISE funding). This budget **should not** include any previously incurred expenses. The budget should show how each source of funds will be spent. The budget should also show the **total project cost** broken into different funding sources by major project activity or cost classification and present those amounts in dollars and percentages. Funding sources should be grouped into three categories: (1) RAISE funding request; (2) other Federal funds; and (3) non-Federal Funds. Identify the specific funding amount, type (grant, loan, bond, etc.), and source of all funds. If multiple non-federal and other-federal funding are being utilized, identify each specific source by name and the amount that source will contribute to the project's budget. The RAISE project budget table should also show that the project satisfies the statutory cost share or non-federal funds matching requirements. If the project contains components, the budget should separate the costs of each project component. Narrative descriptions of the budget should include a discussion of sources, uses and availability of funds, contingency amount, level of design, cost estimates, cost share or non-federal funding match.

## Merit Criteria

Effectively explaining how a project responds to each Merit Criteria is a very important aspect of a RAISE grant narrative. Whenever possible, specific metrics on each benefit should be identified and baseline data

provided. For each merit criterion, the Department will consider whether the benefits are clear, direct, data-driven, and significant, which will result in a rating of “high,” “medium,” “low,” or “non-responsive.” The combination of individual criterion ratings will inform one overall merit rating: Highly Recommended, Recommended, Acceptable, or Unacceptable. A project that receives a “high” grade in at least six of the eight merit criteria, and none are non-responsive, will get a **Highly Recommended** rating. A project will receive a **Recommended** rating if it scores “high” on one to five merit criteria, and if it scores “low” on no more than three merit criteria, and “nonresponsive” on none of the merit criteria. Any project with three or more “non-responsive” grades will receive an **Unacceptable** rating. A project receives an **Acceptable** rating if it has a combination of “high,” “medium,” “low,” or “non-responsive” ratings that do not fit within the definitions of Highly Recommended, Recommended, or Unacceptable.

**Safety.** Applicants should include information on how the project targets a known safety problem and seeks to protect motorized or non-motorized travelers and communities from safety risks. Applicants are highly encouraged to include data-driven information when addressing the safety criterion such as the current and projected number or rate of crashes, fatalities and/or serious injuries among transportation users and how those compare to the statewide average; details about the transportation user that will reap the safety benefits such as whether the project addresses vulnerable roadway users or whether the project addresses inequities in crash victims. If applicable, applicants should describe how the project incorporates specific actions and activities identified in the Department’s National Roadway Safety Strategy, or Improving Safety for Pedestrians and Bicyclists Accessing Transit report, or FTA’s Safety Advisory 23-1: Bus-to-Person Collisions.

<b>High</b>	<p>Safety is a primary project purpose AND the project has clear, direct, data-driven (for capital projects only), and significant benefits that targets a known, documented safety problem, by doing one or more of the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Protect non-motorized travelers from safety risks; or</li> <li>• Reduce fatalities and/or serious injuries in underserved communities to bring them below the state-wide average; or</li> <li>• Incorporate and cite specific actions and activities identified in the Department’s <a href="#">National Roadway Safety Strategy plan</a> or <a href="#">Improving Safety for Pedestrians and Bicyclists Accessing Transit report</a>, or <a href="#">FTA’s Safety Advisory 23-1: Bus-to-Person Collisions</a>; or</li> <li>• Incorporate specific safety improvements that are part of a documented risk reduction mitigation strategy and that have, for example, port-wide or transit system impact.</li> </ul>
<b>Medium</b>	<p>The project has one or more of the following safety benefits, but safety may not be a primary project purpose or does not meet the description(s) of a ‘high’ rating:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Protect non-motorized or motorized travelers from safety risks; or</li> <li>• Reduce any number of fatalities and/or serious injuries</li> </ul>
<b>Low</b>	Application contains insufficient information to assess safety benefit
<b>Non-Responsive</b>	Application did not address the Safety criterion <b>OR</b> project negatively affects safety

**Environmental Sustainability.** Applicants are encouraged to include information demonstrating the extent to which the project incorporates considerations of climate change and environmental justice in the project planning or project delivery stage and how the project demonstrates environmental sustainability benefits. Applicants should include information on how the project will significantly reduce transportation-related pollution like air pollution and greenhouse gas emissions; aligns with the applicant’s State, regional, county or city carbon-reduction plan or the U.S. National Blueprint for Transportation Decarbonization; address the disproportionate negative environmental impacts of transportation such as exposure to elevated levels of air, water, and noise pollution; or implement transportation-efficient land use and design, such as drawing on the features of historic towns and villages that had a mix of land uses, compact and walkable development

patterns, accessible green space, and neighborhood centers that make it convenient to take fewer or shorter trips.

<p><b>High</b></p>	<p>Environmental sustainability is a primary project purpose AND the project has clear, direct, data-driven (for capital projects only), and significant benefits that explicitly considers climate change and environmental justice, by doing one or more of the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reduce transportation-related air pollution and greenhouse gas emissions in disadvantages communities; or</li> <li>• Address the disproportionately negative environmental impacts of transportation on local communities such as by reducing exposure to elevated levels of air, water, and noise pollution; or</li> <li>• Align with the applicant’s State Carbon Reduction Strategy, State Electric Vehicle Infrastructure Deployment Plan, or other State, local, or tribal greenhouse gas reduction plan; or</li> <li>• Align with the <a href="#">U.S. National Blueprint for Transportation Decarbonization</a>; or</li> <li>• Implement transportation-efficient land use and design, such as drawing on the features of historic towns and villages that had a mix of land uses, compact and walkable development patterns, accessible green space, and neighborhood centers that make it convenient to take fewer or shorter trips; or</li> <li>• Reduce vehicle miles traveled specifically through modal shift to transit, rail, or active transportation; or</li> <li>• Reduce emissions specifically by shifting freight to lower- carbon travel modes; or</li> <li>• Incorporate energy efficient investments, such as electrification or zero emission vehicle infrastructure; or</li> <li>• Improve the resilience of at-risk infrastructure to be resilient to extreme weather events and natural disasters caused by climate change, such as by using best-available climate data sets, information resources, and decision- support tools; or</li> <li>• Incorporate <a href="#">nature-based solutions</a> or <a href="#">natural infrastructure with the use of native plants</a>; or Incorporate <a href="#">nature-based solutions</a> or <a href="#">natural infrastructure</a>; or</li> <li>• Referenced in a <a href="#">Resilience Improvement Plan</a> or similar plan; or</li> <li>• Remove, replace, or restore culverts for the purpose of improving habitat for aquatic species; or</li> <li>• Avoid adverse environmental impacts to air or water quality, wetlands, and endangered species</li> </ul>
<p><b>Medium</b></p>	<p>Project has one or more of the following environmental sustainability benefits, but environmental sustainability may not be a primary project purpose or does not meet the description(s) of a ‘high’ rating:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reduce transportation-related air pollution and greenhouse gas emissions; or</li> <li>• Reduce vehicle miles traveled; or</li> <li>• Incorporate lower-carbon pavement/construction materials; or</li> <li>• Redevelop brownfield sites; or</li> <li>• Improve resilience of infrastructure to current and future weather and climate risks; or</li> <li>• Make basic stormwater improvements</li> </ul>
<p><b>Low</b></p>	<p>Application contains insufficient information to assess environmental sustainability benefits</p>
<p><b>Non-Responsive</b></p>	<p>Application did not address the Environmental Sustainability criterion <b>OR</b> project negatively affects environmental sustainability</p>

**Quality of Life.** Applicants should outline how the project will improve quality of life by increasing affordable transportation choices and expanding active transportation usage or significantly reducing vehicle dependence; reduce transportation and housing cost burdens by integrating mixed use development and a diversity of housing types (including affordable housing) with multimodal transportation infrastructure; coordinate and integrate land use, affordable housing, and transportation planning in order to create more livable communities and expand travel choices; reduce vehicle dependence and improve access to daily destinations such as jobs, healthcare, grocery store, schools, places of worship, recreation, or parks such as by adding new facilities that promote walking, biking; implement transit-oriented development that benefits existing residents and businesses; mitigate urban heat islands to protect the health of at risk residents, outdoor workers, and others; or proactively address racial equity.



<b>High</b>	<p>Quality of life is a primary project purpose AND the project has clear, direct, data-driven (for capital projects only) and significant benefits, by doing one or more of the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Increase affordable transportation choices by improving and expanding active transportation usage or significantly reducing vehicle dependence, particularly in underserved communities; or</li> <li>• Reduce transportation and housing cost burdens by integrating mixed-use development and a diversity of housing types, including by reducing barriers to such development and increasing the supply of affordable housing, with multimodal transportation infrastructure; or</li> <li>• Coordinate and integrate land use, affordable housing, and transportation planning in order to create more livable communities and expand travel choices; or</li> <li>• Improve access to daily destinations like jobs, healthcare, grocery stores, schools, places of worship, recreation, or parks through transit and active transportation; or</li> <li>• Implement transit-oriented development that benefits existing residents and businesses, low-income and disadvantaged communities, and minimizes displacement; or</li> <li>• Improve public health by adding new facilities that promote walking, biking, and other forms of active transportation; or</li> <li>• Mitigate urban heat islands to protect the health of at-risk residents, outdoor workers, and others; or</li> <li>• Proactively addresses equity.</li> </ul>
<b>Medium</b>	<p>Project has one or more of the following quality of life benefits but quality of life may not be a primary project purpose or does not meet the description(s) of a 'high' rating:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Increase affordability for travelers; or</li> <li>• Reduces vehicle dependence</li> </ul>
<b>Low</b>	Application contains insufficient information to assess quality of life benefits
<b>Non-Responsive</b>	Application did not address the Quality of Life criterion <b>OR</b> project negatively affects equality of life

**Improves Mobility and Community Connectivity.** This section of the application should describe how the project will increase mobility and expand connectivity for all users of a project, particularly how the project will address system-wide connectivity with access to transit, micro-mobility, and mobility on-demand; implement plans, based on community participation and data, that identifies and addresses gaps in the existing network; remove physical barriers for individuals by reconnecting communities to direct, affordable transportation options; include transportation features that increase accessibility for non-motorized travelers, such as through a Complete Streets approach; incorporate Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) or Universal Design improvements; directly increase intermodal and multimodal freight movement; or considers last-mile freight plans in a Complete Streets and multimodal approach.

<b>High</b>	<p>Mobility and community connectivity is a primary project purpose AND the project has clear, direct, data-driven (for capital projects only) and significant benefits, by doing one or more of the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Improve system-wide connectivity with access to transit, micro-mobility, and mobility on-demand; or</li> <li>• Implement plans, based on community participation and data, that addresses gaps identified in the existing network; or</li> <li>• Remove physical barriers for individuals by reconnecting communities to direct, affordable transportation options; or</li> <li>• Include transportation features that increase the accessibility for non-motorized travelers in underserved communities; or</li> <li>• Incorporate <a href="#">Universal Design</a> including details of how the improvements go beyond ADA requirements by designing environments to be usable by all people, to the greatest extent possible, without the need for adaption or specialized design such as a Complete Streets approach; or</li> <li>• Directly increasing intermodal and multimodal freight movement; or</li> <li>• Consider last-mile freight plans in a Complete Streets and multimodal approach</li> </ul>
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<b>Medium</b>	Project has one or more of the following mobility and community connectivity benefits, but mobility and community connectivity may not be a primary project purpose or does not meet the description(s) of a 'high' rating: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Increase accessible transportation choices; or</li> <li>• Include ADA improvements</li> </ul>
<b>Low</b>	Application contains insufficient information to assess mobility and community connectivity benefits
<b>Non-Responsive</b>	Application did not address the Mobility and Community Connectivity criterion <b>OR</b> project negatively affects mobility and community connectivity

**Economic Competitiveness and Opportunity.** The applicant should include information about how the project will improve economic competitiveness and opportunity. This includes how the project will improve intermodal or multimodal freight mobility, especially for supply chain bottle necks; facilitate tourism; include inclusive economic development such as the utilization use of Minority Business Enterprises, Minority Owned Businesses, Woman Owned Businesses, and Veteran Owned Businesses; promote wealth building; promote long-term economic growth and other broader economic and fiscal benefits; promote robust job creation by supporting good-paying jobs with free and fair choice to join a union in project construction and in on-going operations and maintenance; invest in high-quality workforce training programs such as registered apprenticeship programs to recruit, train, and retain skilled workers, and implement policies such as targeted hiring preferences that will promote the entry and retention of local underrepresented populations into those jobs including women, people of color, and people with convictions; improve travel time reliability; improve the movement of goods; or support logistic jobs related to terminal, warehouse, or manufacturing industries. DOT will evaluate the extent to which the project will promote greater public and private investments in land-use productivity, including rural main street revitalization or locally driven density decisions that support equitable commercial and mixed-income residential development.

<b>High</b>	Economic competitiveness is a primary project purpose AND the project has clear, direct, data-driven (for capital projects only), and significant benefits, by doing one or more of the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Improve intermodal and/or multimodal freight mobility, especially for supply chain bottlenecks; or</li> <li>• Facilitate tourism opportunities; or</li> <li>• Promote local inclusive economic development and entrepreneurship such as the utilization of Disadvantaged Business Enterprises or 8(a) firms; or</li> <li>• Promote wealth building; or</li> <li>• Promote long-term economic growth and other broader economic and fiscal benefits; or</li> <li>• Create good-paying jobs with free and fair choice to join a union including through the use of a project labor agreement; or</li> <li>• Adopt local and economic hiring preferences for the project workforce or include other changes to hiring policies and workplace cultures to promote the entry and retention of underrepresented populations; or</li> <li>• Promote greater public and private investments in land-use productivity, including rural main street revitalization or locally driven density decisions that support equitable commercial and mixed-income residential development</li> </ul>
<b>Medium</b>	Project has one or more of the following economic competitiveness and opportunity benefits, but economic competitiveness and opportunity may not be a primary project purpose or does not meet the description(s) of a 'high' rating: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Improve travel time reliability; or</li> <li>• Improve movement of goods; or</li> <li>• Create jobs related to the project's delivery and on-going operations</li> </ul>
<b>Low</b>	Application contains insufficient information to assess economic competitiveness and opportunity benefits
<b>Non-Responsive</b>	Application did not address the economic competitiveness and opportunity criterion <b>OR</b> project negatively affects economic competitiveness and opportunity

**State of Good Repair.** This section of the application should describe how the project will contribute to a state of good repair including how the project will mitigate current or projected system vulnerabilities; restore and modernize (such as through road diets and Complete Streets approaches) the existing core infrastructure assets that have met their useful life; reduce construction and maintenance burdens through efficient and well-integrated design; create new infrastructure in remote communities that will be maintained in a state of good repair; prioritize improvement of the condition and safety of existing transportation infrastructure within the existing footprint; conduct routine or deferred maintenance; create new infrastructure (not in a remote community) that will be maintained in a state of good repair; or identify the party responsible for maintenance and how the new or improved asset(s) will be maintained in a state of good repair.

<b>High</b>	<p>State of good repair is a primary project purpose AND the project has clear, direct, data-driven (for capital projects only) and significant benefits, by doing one or more of the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Restore and modernize (such as through road diets and complete streets approaches) the existing core infrastructure assets that have met their useful life; or</li> <li>• Reduce construction and maintenance burdens through efficient and well-integrated design; or</li> <li>• Create new infrastructure in remote communities that will be maintained in a state of good repair; or</li> <li>• Address current or projected transportation system vulnerabilities for underserved communities; or</li> <li>• Prioritize improvement of the condition and safety of existing transportation infrastructure within the <u>existing</u> footprint</li> </ul>
<b>Medium</b>	<p>Project has one or more of the following state of good repair benefits, but state of good repair may not be a primary project purpose or does not meet the description(s) of a 'high' rating:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Routine or deferred maintenance; or</li> <li>• Create new infrastructure (not in a remote community) that will be maintained in a state of good repair; or</li> <li>• Identify the party responsible for maintenance and describe how the new or improved asset(s) will be maintained in a state of good repair; or</li> <li>• Resolve the current or projected transportation system vulnerabilities</li> </ul>
<b>Low</b>	Application contains insufficient information to assess state of good repair benefits
<b>Non-Responsive</b>	Application did not address the State of Good Repair criterion <b>OR</b> project negatively affects state of good repair

**Partnership and Collaboration.** This section of the application should include information on how the project has or will collaborate with public and/or private entities; documents support from local, regional, and/or national levels; engage residents and community-based organizations to ensure equity considerations for underserved communities are meaningfully integrated throughout the project. Applicants should describe how the project incorporates specific actions and activities identified in the Department's Promising Practices for Meaningful Public Involvement in Transportation Decision-Making Guide; coordinate with other types of projects such as economic development, commercial or residential development near public transportation, power/electric infrastructure projects, or broadband deployment; partner with Disadvantaged Business Enterprises or 8(a) firms; partner with high-quality workforce development programs with supportive services to help train, place, and retain underrepresented communities in good-paying jobs or registered apprenticeships including through the use of local and economic hiring preferences, linkage agreements with workforce programs that serve underrepresented groups, and proactive plans to prevent harassment; partner and engage with local unions or other worker-based organizations in the development and lifecycle of the project, including through evidence of project labor agreements and/or community benefit agreements; or partners with communities, or community groups representative of historically underrepresented groups, to develop workforce strategies; or establish formal public-private partnerships or joint ventures to expand or create new infrastructure or economic development capacity. DOT will assess the level of detail and

description provided about the partnerships listed above. Applications that provide more details and descriptions about the project partnership will be rated higher than those that do not, in alignment with the merit rating rubric.

<b>High</b>	<p>Project has, or demonstrates plans to, support and engage diverse people and communities by doing one or more of the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Engage residents and community-based organizations to ensure equity considerations for underserved communities are meaningfully integrated throughout the lifecycle of the project, for example, by citing and describing how the project aligns with the Department’s <a href="#">Promising Practices for Meaningful Public Involvement in Transportation Decision-Making Guide</a>; or</li> <li>• Coordinate with other types of projects such as economic development, commercial or residential development near public transportation, power/electric infrastructure projects, or broadband deployment; or</li> <li>• Partner with Disadvantaged Business Enterprises or 8(a) firms; or</li> <li>• Partner with high-quality workforce development programs with supportive services to help train, place, and retain people in good-paying jobs or registered apprenticeships. These programs should have a focus on expanding access for women, people of color, and others that are underrepresented in infrastructure jobs (people with disabilities, people with convictions, etc.); or</li> <li>• Partner and engage with unions and/or worker organizations in the development of the project and the lifecycle of the project, including the maintenance or operation of the completed project; or</li> <li>• Partner with communities or community groups representative of historically underrepresented groups to develop workforce strategies; or</li> <li>• Establish formal public-private partnerships or joint ventures to expand or create new infrastructure or economic development capacity; or</li> <li>• Participate in the <a href="#">Thriving Communities Network</a></li> </ul>
<b>Medium</b>	<p>Project has one or more of the following partnership and collaboration benefits but partnership and collaboration may not be a primary project purpose or does not meet the description(s) of a ‘high’ rating:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Collaborate with public and/or private entities; or</li> <li>• Document support from local, regional, or national levels</li> </ul>
<b>Low</b>	Application contains insufficient information to assess partnership and collaboration benefits
<b>Non-Responsive</b>	Application did not address the partnership and collaboration criterion <b>OR</b> project negatively affects partnership and collaboration

**Innovation.** This section of the application should describe innovative strategies used and the anticipated benefits of using those strategies, including those corresponding to three categories:

- **Innovative Technologies:** If an applicant is proposing to adopt innovative technology or other innovative practices, the application should demonstrate how projects enhance the environment for connected, electric, and automated vehicles to improve the detection, mitigation, and documentation of safety risks. DOT will also assess the extent to which the project uses innovative technology that supports surface transportation to significantly enhance the operational performance of the transportation system.
- **Innovative Project Delivery:** If an applicant plans to use innovative approaches to project delivery, such as a public- private partnership, applicants should describe those project delivery methods and how they are expected to improve the efficiency of the project development or expedite project delivery.
- **Innovative Financing:** If an applicant plans to incorporate innovative funding or financing, the applicant should describe the funding or financing approach, including a description of all activities

undertaken to pursue private funding or financing for the project and the outcomes of those activities.

<b>High</b>	<p>Project has, or demonstrates plans for, one or more of the following innovative benefits.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Innovative Technologies <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Enhance the environment for electric, connected, or automated vehicles to improve the detection and mitigation of safety risks; or</li> <li>○ Improve safety using Advanced Driver Assistance Systems on public transit vehicles, including functions such as precision docking; lane keeping or lane centering; or</li> <li>○ Use sensors or small unmanned aerial vehicles to enhance infrastructure inspection and asset management processes; or</li> <li>○ Use sensors to monitor real-time conditions of pavement quality, signage, crosswalks, transit headways, or other public infrastructure; or</li> <li>○ Use low-carbon or other innovative materials; or</li> <li>○ Use caps, land bridges, or underdecks; or</li> <li>○ Use active grade crossing detection systems to enable responsive traffic management; or</li> <li>○ Use detection systems on railroads to target and deter trespassing; or</li> <li>○ Digitalize curb management to optimize use across purposes and modes, including freight, pick-up drop-off, and transit usage</li> </ul> </li> <li>● Innovative Project Delivery <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Use practices that facilitate accelerated project delivery such as single contractor design-build arrangements, <a href="#">Advanced Digital Construction Management</a>, <a href="#">Accelerated Bridge Construction</a>, <a href="#">Digital as-builts</a>, or an up-to-date programmatic agreement between an environmental resource agency and a state DOT, or other NEPA lead agency, that establishes a streamlined process for environmental consultations and permits for commonly encountered project types.</li> </ul> </li> <li>● Innovative Financing <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Secure TIFIA, RRIF, or private activity bond financing; or</li> <li>○ Use congestion pricing or other demand management strategies</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<b>Medium</b>	<p>Project has one or more of the following innovation benefits but does not meet the description(s) of a 'high' rating:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Deploy technologies, project delivery, or financing methods that are <u>new or innovative to the applicant or community</u>.</li> </ul>
<b>Low</b>	Application contains insufficient information to assess innovation benefits
<b>Non-Responsive</b>	Application did not address the innovation criterion <b>OR</b> project negatively affects innovation

## Project Readiness

Project Readiness will be assessed based on a Technical Capacity Assessment, Financial Completeness Assessment, and Environmental Risk Assessment.

### Project Schedule - Planning and Capital Project

The applicant should include a detailed project schedule that identifies all major project milestones. For capital projects examples of such milestones include State and local planning approvals (e.g., programming on the Statewide Transportation Improvement Program); start and completion of NEPA and other Federal environmental reviews and approvals including permitting; design completion; right of way acquisition; approval of plans, specifications and estimates; procurement; State and local approvals; public involvement; project partnership and implementation agreements, including agreements with railroads; and construction.

For planning projects, examples of milestones may include start dates, schedule for public engagement and completion dates. Include a clear statement that the project will be able to meet the obligation deadline of June 30, 2028 and funds will be expended by September 30, 2033. Demonstrated evidence of community input should be captured in this section.

### **Environmental Risk Assessment – capital projects**

This section of the application should include sufficient information for DOT to evaluate whether the project’s environmental approvals and likelihood of the necessary approval affecting project obligation funds will be spent expeditiously once construction starts, and results in a rating of “high risk,” “moderate risk,” or “low risk.”

**Required Approvals - Information about the NEPA status of the project.** If the NEPA process is complete, an applicant should indicate the date of completion, and provide a website link or other reference to the final Categorical Exclusion, Finding of No Significant Impact, Record of Decision, and any other NEPA documents prepared. If the NEPA process is underway, but not complete, the application should detail the type of NEPA review underway, where the project is in the process, and indicate the anticipated date of completion of all milestones and of the final NEPA determination. If the final agency action with respect to NEPA occurred more than 3 years before the application date, the applicant should describe a proposed approach for updating this material in accordance with applicable NEPA reconsideration requirements.

**Required Approvals - Information on reviews, approvals, and permits by other Federal and State agencies.** An application should indicate whether the proposed project requires reviews or approval actions by other agencies, indicate the status of such actions, provide detailed information about the status of those reviews or approvals and should demonstrate compliance with any other applicable Federal, State, or local requirements, and when such approvals are expected. Applicants should provide a link or other reference to copies of any reviews, approvals, and permits prepared.

**Required Approvals - Environmental studies or other documents.** Demonstrated through a link, that describe in detail known project impacts, and possible mitigation for those impacts.

**Required Approvals - A description of discussions with the appropriate DOT operating administration field or headquarters office.** Context regarding the project’s compliance with NEPA and other applicable Federal environmental reviews and approvals.

**Required Approvals - Right-of-way Acquisition Plans.** If applicable, a detailed schedule and compensation plan for right-of-way acquisition.

**Required Approvals - A description of public engagement.** Discuss the project that has occurred, including details on the degree to which public comments and commitments have been integrated into project development and design including the consideration of ensuring proportional impacts to all populations.

**State and Local Approvals – Receipt of Tribal government, State, and local approvals.** Discuss the schedule for anticipated (or secured) Tribal government, State, and local approvals on which the project depends. Consider State and local environmental planning approvals, and Statewide Transportation Improvement Program (STIP) or transportation improvement program (TIP) funding. Additional support from relevant State and local officials is not required; however, an applicant should demonstrate that the project has broad public support, including support from impacted communities.

### **State and Local Approvals - Federal Transportation Requirements Affecting State and Local Planning.**

Demonstrate that a project that is required to be included in the relevant State, metropolitan, and local planning documents has been or will be included in such documents. If the project is not included in a relevant planning document at the time the application is submitted, the applicant should submit a statement from the appropriate planning agency that actions are underway to include the project in the relevant planning document. To the extent possible, freight projects should be included in a State Freight Plan and supported by a State Freight Advisory Committee (49 U.S.C. 70201, 70202), if these exist.

**Assessment of Project Risks and Mitigation Strategies.** Project risks, such as procurement delays, environmental uncertainties, increases in real estate acquisition costs, uncommitted local match, unavailability of vehicles that either comply with Federal Motor Vehicle Safety Standards or are exempt from Federal Motor Vehicle Safety Standards in a manner that allows for their legal acquisition and deployment, unavailability of domestically manufactured equipment, or lack of legislative approval, affect the likelihood of successful project start and completion. The applicant should identify all material risks to the project and the strategies that the lead applicant and any project partners have undertaken or will undertake to mitigate those risks. The applicant should assess the greatest risks to the project and identify how the project parties will mitigate those risks.

### **Technical Capacity Assessment - planning and capital projects**

All applications should include a section in the Project Readiness file that demonstrates their technical capacity to successfully deliver the project in compliance with applicable Federal requirements including, but not limited to, compliance with Title VI/Civil Rights requirements and Buy America provisions. Applicants should discuss its experience implementing federally funded transportation projects; understanding of federal contract and procurement requirements, Buy America, Americans with Disabilities Act, Uniform Relocation Assistance and Real Property Acquisition Act, Davis Bacon Act, etc.; practice incorporating projects into long-range development plans or adding projects to the TIP/STIP through the MPO planning process; and examples of delivered projects of similar size, scope, and complexity. The Technical Capacity Assessment will assess the applicant's capacity to successfully deliver the project in compliance with applicable Federal requirements as well as the recipient's experience working with Federal funds, civil rights compliance, and previous experience delivering infrastructure projects. This review is partially based on information submitted with the application and partially based on DOT Operating Administration knowledge of the applicant's performance. Technical Capacity ratings will be one of the following: "certain," "somewhat certain," or "uncertain." DOT will assign the highest rating of "certain," if the application demonstrates that: the applicant has extensive experience with Federal funds; the applicant has extensive experience completing projects with similar scope; the applicant has the resources to deliver the project; and the project will comply with all applicable Federal requirements including, but not limited to, Buy America provisions, ADA regulations, Civil Rights requirements, Federal Motor Vehicle Safety Standards, and/or the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Regulations.

### **Financial Completeness - planning and capital projects**

The Financial Completeness Assessment reviews the project budget to confirm the availability of funding for the project and whether the applicant presented a complete funding package based on reasonable cost estimates. Financial Completeness ratings are: "complete," "partially complete," or "incomplete."

DOT will assign the highest rating of “complete,” if the application identifies all funding sources for the project budget, documents all funding is available and committed to the project, includes contingency amount in the project budget and describes a plan to address potential cost overruns, and cost estimates are no more than a year old or include an inflation factor. Planning grants are not required to include a contingency amount but must discuss a plan to address potential cost overruns.

Projects with funding estimates that are based on early stages of design (e.g., less than 30 percent design) or outdated cost estimates without specified budget contingencies will receive a lower rating. All applicants, including those requesting 100 percent grant funding, should describe a plan to address potential cost overruns.

## **Benefit Cost Analysis (BCA) – Capital Projects**

The purpose of the BCA is to enable the Department to evaluate the cost-effectiveness of the proposed project by comparing its expected benefits to its expected costs relative to the current problem often referred to as the “baseline” or “no-build alternative.” The baseline defines the world without the proposed project. Any benefits claimed for the proposed project, both quantified and unquantified, should be clearly tied to the expected outcomes of the proposed project. While benefits should be quantified wherever possible, applicants may also describe other categories of benefits in the BCA that are more difficult to quantify and/or value in economic terms.

There should be two BCA files included in the application: (1) a narrative description of the BCA; and (2) an unlocked spreadsheet revealing the underlying calculations.

**Narrative Description of Analysis** - The BCA narrative should describe the current baseline, the sources of data used to estimate the benefits of the project, document any assumptions, and the values of key input parameters. Applicants may also provide a table similar to the one shown below summarizing the impacts of the project and how those impacts would translate into expected benefits.

**Spreadsheet Revealing Underlying Calculations** - The BCA spreadsheet file should present the calculations in sufficient detail and transparency to allow the analysis to be reproduced by Department evaluators. While DOT does not have a prescribed format for the BCA spreadsheet submitted by the applicant beyond ensuring that it is unlocked, to allow review, the Department is also developing a new BCA spreadsheet template that will be available to assist applicants in structuring their analysis.

Applicants should review the Department’s detailed guidance on how to conduct a BCA. Both the guidance document and spreadsheet template will be available on the RAISE program [website](#).



## FEDERAL GRANT PROFILE



**Department:** U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

# FY 2023 Wetland Program Development Grants (WPDG) Region 3

### Grant Overview

The purpose of this program is to increase the quantity of wetlands in the United States by conserving and restoring wetland acreage and improving wetland conditions. Eligible applicants include states, territories, federally recognized tribes, non-WPP, local governments, interstate agencies, intertribal consortia, colleges and universities that are agencies of the state. Eligibility is limited to projects that will be performed within the funding agency's Region 3, which consists of Delaware, District of Columbia, Maryland, Pennsylvania, Virginia, and West Virginia.

### Program History

	Total Funding	# of Awards
2021	\$321,437	2

### Key Information and Tips

**Total Funding:** \$2.4 million

**Award Range:** \$200,000 - \$800,000

**Match:** A minimum 25 percent match is required

**Solicitation date:** September 28, 2023

**Proposal due:** November 13, 2023

- All applications submitted under this solicitation must be for projects that *develop or refine* wetland protection and management and seek to build wetland programs to incorporate climate change and environmental justice.

[Grants for your Region: Information that is specific to EPA Region 3 | US EPA](#)



### Awardee Profile

Maryland Department of the Environment

**AMOUNT:** \$72,101

**YEAR:** 2021

Funds were used to improve shoreline stabilization decisions in Maryland to protect MD's 3,000 miles of coastlines that are vulnerable to the effects of climate change. Funding was used to update the MD shoreline inventories and web-based maps showing suitability of shorelines for various types of stabilization practices coastal counties.

**Department:** U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

## FY 2023 Wetland Program Development Grants (WPDG) Region 3

### Detailed Summary

The purpose of this program is to increase the quantity and quality of wetlands in the U.S. by conserving and restoring wetland acreage and improving wetland conditions. In pursuing these goals, the funding agency seeks to develop the capacity of all levels of government to develop and/or refine effective, comprehensive programs for wetland protection and management. In addition to developing and/or refining wetland protection and management programs the funding agency seeks to build wetlands programs to incorporate climate change and environmental justice. For the purposes of this program, wetlands include swamps, marshes, bogs, and similar areas. Projects are meant to:

- Build the capacity of the applicants to conserve and restore wetland acreage and improve wetland conditions
- Use one or more of the following core elements to reach this goal:
  - Monitoring and assessment
  - Voluntary restoration and protection
  - Regulatory approaches, including Clean Water Act (CWA) Section 401 certification
  - Wetland-specific water quality standards

Support will be awarded in the following categories:

- Track One: Wetland Program Plan (WPP) projects that demonstrate how they will develop or refine a state, tribal, or territorial wetland program plan, or reference one or more funding-eligible actions from an EPA-approved Wetland Program Plan that they plan to undertake.
- Track Two: Non-Wetland Program Plan (Non-WPP) projects that will demonstrate how they will develop or refine a state/tribal/territory, or local wetland program, or undertake actions included in an EPA-approved state, tribal, or territorial wetland program plan.

Projects must address at least one of the following program priorities:

- Climate Change: Applicants are encouraged to consider their aquatic resources' vulnerabilities to climate change and how to address them as part of a strong wetland program.
- Justice40: Applicants submitting projects that benefit disadvantaged communities utilize the [Climate and Economic Justice Screening Tool \(CEJST\)](#) to describe the affected communities/area(s) and adverse conditions, as well as project tasks as well anticipated impact and benefits to these communities.

### Applicant Eligibility

Eligible applicants for Track One include:

- States, territories, and federally recognized tribes

Eligible applicants for Track Two include:

- Non-WPP
- Local governments
- Interstate agencies
- Intertribal consortia
- Colleges and universities that are agencies of a state

Eligibility is limited to projects that will be performed within the funding agency's Region 3, which consists of Delaware, District of Columbia, Maryland, Pennsylvania, Virginia, and West Virginia.

## Funding

In FY 2023, approximately \$2,400,000 is anticipated to be available for assistance agreements ranging from \$200,000 to \$800,000 through this program. Awards will be allocated as follows:

- Track One: Approximately \$1.7 million is anticipated to be available to support an estimated 3 to 9 awards.
- Track Two: Approximately \$700,000 is anticipated to be available to support an estimated 3 to 6 awards.

Project periods are anticipated to span one to three years and may last no more than four years.

## Matching and Cost Sharing

Applicants must provide at least 25 percent of the total project costs via cash or in-kind contributions, which may include salaries, equipment, or other verifiable costs.

## Contact Information

Margaret Zacharias

EPA Region 3

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[Grants for your Region: Information that is specific to EPA Region 3 | US EPA](#)